

A Tribute to the "Teacher of Soviet Teachers"

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Felix Aronovich Fradkin (1933-1993) was born in Baku in the family of agronomist. His mother, Yeugenia Babushkina was a teacher in a primary school.

F. Fradkin had lived a hard and happy life of a soviet scientist. He started his career as a teacher of Russian and Literature, then he worked as a school principal in Vartashan region (Azerbaijdzhan), a chief tutor in the Baku boarding-school, and at last he was a member correspondent of Russian Education Academy. At the same time he was a wonderful husband and father. With great respect for his profession, he never forgot the needs of teachers and always tried to be as helpful as possible looking for new effective forms of teacher education.

During his studies at Azerbaijdzhan pedagogical institute named after M.F. Akhundov and till his post-graduate studies in 1960 in Moscow Institute of Theory and History of Education of Russian Academy of Educational Science Fradkin's "cultural field" was centered in the circle of bright azerbaijdzha intelligentsia. Here his passion for poetry started to grow. Among his favorite poets were Blok, Yesenin, Mandelshtam, Akhmatova, Bagritsky, Voloshin.

In Baku Felix Fradkin was an active participant of elite circles. As he remembered he was often lucky in talented people. When he studied in Moscow he attended the seminars by G. Shedrovitsky and became his very active disciple.

Later Felix Fradkin began his rediscovery of M. Bakhtin's writings and was very interested in his circles and his theory of a dialogue.

His constant desire to communicate, to share ideas stimulated him later to organize a scientific "school" for young researchers in Vladimir and to participate in the activities of Vladimir Educational Society and to be the head of its section "Collective and Personality". Since 1966 Felix Fradkin had worked in Vladimir pedagogical institute first as an assistant of the department of education and psychology and later after his doctorate dissertation in 1986 as a professor.

The member of Scientific Council on the problems of theory and hysteria of education at

Russian Academy of Education and its Full Member, F. Fradkin made a great contribution to the history of Russian education and school reform at all levels.

His lectures -dialogues will be remembered by his students and researchers in Moscow In - Service Teacher Training Institute and in Vladimir Pedagogical University. He had more than 15 official post-graduate students and many disciples.

The scope of research problems that were in the focus of Fradkin's attention is rather wide. His first article, published in research journal "Azerbaijdzhan School" in 1965 had the title "Educational activity of outstanding soviet pedagogue S.T. Shatsky. As for other publications, it should be noted that its number is more than 230 works.

In one of the articles on Fradkin, his friend and colleague Y. P. Istratov wrote that among thematic "zones" of the scientist one should name the following:

1. The place and the role of "shatskism" in pedagogical science of the XX century.
2. Soviet educational imageology and mythology,
3. The principles of soviet education.
4. The interlinks of Russian and foreign education.
5. The methods of educational science.
6. The problems of collective and group.
7. A system approach to educational research.
8. School reform and new educational technologies.

F. A. Fradkin was a scientific reviewer of A.S. Makarenko's complete works published in 1984-1984. He was very active in the seminars on Makarenko and specially symposium discussions in Marburg.

A Search in Pedagogics, Discussions of the 1920s and Early 1930s. (Progress Publishers, Moscow 1990) that was printed in English as well as *The Roots of Soviet Experimentalism: the last years of S.T. Shatsky* made open to the world many "forgotten names" of Soviet Education. Its is remarkable that F. Fradkin's final work "Educational System of S.T. Shatsky" (Prometei, 1993) that was done in cooperation with G.A.

Malinin, was also devoted as well as the first one to "shatskism". That was not by chance to put the title "Felix Aronovich Fradkin- the 1960s one of S.T. Shatsky School" to the first article from the memorable collection "The Dialogue goes on ...", published in 1995 by F. Fradkins colleagues and disciples.

According to remark of Larry Holmes- an American historian and F. Fradkin's friend, "the death of the scientist pulled out from educational community an outstanding researcher of Russian pedagogy and education of the XXth century". It is hardly to be an exaggeration.

We think that our sacred duty and better memory for our colleague and teacher may be the further publications of his works -addressed to teachers and students, to all those who consider education to be one of the important human values. Felix Fradkin carried to all of us "the pedagogy of heart" based on the traditions of humanism and democracy.