

## TO A.N. LABUNTSOV'S 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: A.N. LABUNTSOV'S LETTERS TO ACADEMICIAN V.I. VERNADSKY (from the Archive of Russian Academy of Sciences)

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To the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of A.N. Labuntsov, the discoverer of the Khibiny apatite deposits, his letters to the academician V.I. Vernadsky of years 1935 – 1939 as well as referred documents are published for the first time, both having been found in the Archive of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS Archive).

4 figures, 9 references.

Keywords: A.N. Labuntsov, V.I. Vernadsky, Khibiny apatite deposits, Khibiny expeditions.

In September 2009, the exhibition devoted to the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov (Fig. 1, see also the article in this issue) was opened in Fersman Mineralogical Museum. A.N. Labuntsov was a disciple and a team-mate of his two prominent contemporaries, academicians V.I. Vernadsky and A.E. Fersman. In the process of the exhibition creation, we found, in the academician V.I. Vernadsky Archive (of RAS Archive), some letters from A.N. Labuntsov and documents that refer to the latter's scientific activities and have never been published before. With courteous permission of V.Yu. Afiani, the RAS Archive director, and with the assistance of I.G. Tarakanova, the head of the Archive reference room, we present these documents as the evidences of the heroic and tragic epoch that was fully reflected in the Alexander Nikolaevich's fate.

The letters to Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky refer to the period since 1935 to 1939. The two first letters are of purely scientific character. In them, the problem of the age of Karelian radioactive minerals as well as publication of an article on this topic is discussed. In the letter of 10 May 1935 the table with chemical analyses of some of these minerals (Fig. 2) is enclosed. It should be taken into account that A.N. Labuntsov as a mineralogist was supervising the works to determine absolute age in the Radium Institute of Academy of Sciences; the Karelian uraninite age was determined just on his materials (Shcherbina, Bonshtedt-Kupletskaya, 1963).

The letter of 26 November 1935 was apparently written as a reply to the V.I. Vernadsky's request. This letter contains a detailed description of the Khibiny apatite discovery and the Labuntsov's role in it (Fig. 3). He sets the facts rather modestly withholding these first expeditions' difficulties. For example, the narration of field work in the summer 1926 contains only few words about "the apatite rock distribution area

on the Rasvumchorr Mountain was extended up to 34000 square meters and the stratification depth was determined as over 20 meters". However, real events, as described by other participants (Kornetova, 1986) were much more dramatic. For example, the employed four bearers abandoned the party. So the three remaining expedition members, A.A. Saukov, a student (later the known geochemist, Academy of Science corresponding member), V.V. Lepishin, borer and firer, and A.N. Labuntsov had alone to carry 5 puds (80 kg) of apatite. To determine the stratification depth, A.N. Labuntsov makes a

*Fig. 1. Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov. 24 January 1964. Photograph from the Museum archive.*



У р а н и н и т ы					Г у м м и т ы			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
Хита-Остров кристаллы 100 и 110	Черная Салма кристаллы 100 и III	Синяя Мала кристаллы 100	Шар-озеро клет. образ 100?	Пандюмова вариа Силошине Видоудин с зерн. в чист.	Пандюмова вариа Варсиа Варсиа в. в. в. в. в.	Италовидин- красиво- оранжевый Пандюмова	Опаловидин- лимонно- желтый Пандюмова	
UO <sub>2</sub>		34,49	27,00	6,15	72,56.	—	—	
UO <sub>3</sub>		36,94	54,59	59,29		63,36 A)	61,12	
FeO	20,05	19,50	16,29	18,83	16,80	18,93	18,10	
ThO <sub>2</sub>		0,15						
Th <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		5,60			2,66.		1,40	
CaO		0,72			0,60	—	0,52	
Na <sub>2</sub> O		—			0,42	0,40	0,67	
K <sub>2</sub> O		—			0,52		1,50	
SiO <sub>2</sub> и кварц. ос.		0,53			0,76	0,98	6,68	
H <sub>2</sub> O		1,40			5,39	16,68	9,70	
Cl		0,23						
Сумма		99,56			99,71.	100,35	99,66	
Анализировано	К. А.	Неи	А. Д.	Ке	А. И.	Х. М.	А. Ту	Р. О. В.
Уг. в.	8,710	8,553	8,102	3)	6,613 3)	5,514 3)	4,380 3)	

1) Определены К. Д. Кедровым.  
 2) Уг. в. будет определено много, ~~и в том числе в нескольких образцах~~  
 3) Уг. в. определены М. В. Бузовым при анализе.

Fig. 2. The table with chemical analyses of uraninite and gummite from pegmatite veins of Northern Karelia. Attachment to the A.N. Labuntsov's letter of 10 May 1935.

Fig. 3. A.N. Labuntsov (front row, third from the left), B.M. Kupletsky (front row, first from the left), A.E. Fersman (stands in the center of second row) and other workers of the Kola Base. Photograph from the family archive. Published for the first time.



Fig. 4. A.N. Labuntsov's letter to academician V.I. Vernadsky of 15 July 1938.

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Титулованнейший Владимир Иванович!

Починаю Вам описание работ по хибинским апатитам. Не было и изложенных обстоятельств представления моего заключения и Твор. Ут. пока не был закончен; вера и середня очень много себя получило; раскатываю описание Вам это описание забвения. Копиями Твор. Ут. с моего заключения предостерегаю, так напр. вера несколько раз звонил из Удмурт. Аи Конки с вопросом «много ли оплатит мою работу. Копиями Твор. Ут. «Сол. Карелии» Твор. Ут. с со мной не менее работ Твор. Ут.». Дайте на это определенный ответ и не то не решится и оном разрешит его мне С. А. Карелии, кофетас поспешително. Сопит ред Твор. Ут. и предостерегаю. Копия с записки моего висертажен дирекции Ут. отпущен во оскон, - постому моя работа «Копиями Твор. Ут. «Сол. Карелии»» пока Вам не пошла.

Уважающий Вас. А. Лабунцов.

15/ VII 1938г.

risky decision to descend by the cord with meter marks down the Rasvumchorr Mountain steep. He could not descend below 20 meters as this was the cord length; however, he made sure that apatite was even farther along the steep. And this is not mentioning the difficulties to obtain money for this and other Khibiny expeditions. One can read more about them in his letter of 15 July 1938 (see also Labuntsova, 2001; Schpachenko, 2009; Makarova, 2009).

Labuntsov indicates at the end of his November letter that he participated, besides Khibiny, in numerous other expeditions: in the Sayan Mountains, Baikal Area, Northern Karelia, Pamir, Afghanistan, Vaigach Island etc. He has, everywhere, a series of scientific as well as practical achievements. He is preparing now a monograph on the minerals of the North Karelia pegmatites and should like, by the A.E. Fersman advice, to present it as his doctoral dissertation. Unfortunately, this was not to be.

The point is that after the death of S.M. Kirov who supported the Khibiny development works,

and after, according to the USSR Government decision, the Academy of Sciences movement to Moscow in 1934–1935, a hard time came for Labuntsov. From this period on, his name disappears from the publications related to the Khibiny expeditions; his merits in discovering, studying, and developing the Khibiny apatites being hushed up. Enemies appear to him and even to academician A.E. Fersman. Some problems arise in the "Apatit" trust that has been established on the Kola Peninsula as well as in the Kola Base (so was called the Fersman's "Tietta", the Khibiny Research Mining Station, renamed in 1934; Khalezova, 2001; see also the paper by Matvienko *et al.* in this issue) and in the Institute of Geological Sciences (Vernadsky, 2006, pp. 185, 385, 386; A.N. Labuntsov's letter of 21.03.1939). An elucidation should be made here. This Institute also included then the Mineralogical Museum as one of its sections, since the Institute itself (primary Lomonosovsky or Lomonosov Institute) has been established, in 1930, on the base of the Museum's

analytical laboratories organized due to the V.I. Vernadsky and A.E. Fersman's efforts. Academician A.E. Fersman who was the director of the Mineralogical Museum, became also the director of the new Institute. V.I. Kryzhanovskiy was charged to direct the museum section (see the letter of 21.03.1939). Therefore, all the workers of the Mineralogical Museum were officially itemized in the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGN) staff. Perhaps, this circumstance along with political atmosphere played certain role in the A.N. Labuntsov's troubles.

Anyway, the things proceeded as yet, in May of 1935, in their usual order. The Lomonosov Institute (LIGEM) and its Scientific Council under the chairmanship of A.E. Fersman asks the Qualifications Commission of the Academy of Sciences Geological Group to consider awarding the science-degree of candidate to Labuntsov due to the totality of his works (Extract of 26.05.1935), and the Commission accedes to this request (Extract of 22.12.1935). This is small wonder as the Labuntsov's merits and achievements are evident and doubtless (see Extract of 26.05.1935; Honorary Comment of 30.05.1925; Protocol of the Lenigrad District Council Meeting of 23.05.1930; Extract of the protocol of RSFSR Gosplan Presidium Meeting of 04.10.1929; List of works No. 1; List of articles No 2). Seemingly, the things finished well. However, this Qualifications Commission decision had to be upheld by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences; but LIGEM did not do this, and its deadline elapsed (see the letter of 21.03.1939). When in May 1937 the item of awarding science-degree to Labuntsov was at last introduced for consideration by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, the decision was not reached again, and the matter was returned to LIGEM to be re-considered. It is clear now from the Alexander Nikolaevich's letters of 1938–1939 that the things might be still more tragic in 1937 since it was mentioned at the Presidium session that he was former White Army officer and he was even named a "Kolchak's adjutant". Indeed, he was not one. In 1918, he was a student of the Ural Mining Institute in Ekaterinburg and entered the Kolchak army by force of circumstances (Labuntsova, 2001). As the result of that session, A.N. Labuntsov had to give up on his work at the Kola Base, and in June 1938 he was suddenly dismissed from the IGN on "reduction of personnel". His endeavors to get a job anywhere else were not successful; he only could work for a short time in the Academy Publishing House and, then, in the "Zolotorazvedka" (gold prospecting) Trust.

All the rest A.N. Labuntsov's letters of this period (July 1938 – March 1939) that are stored in the RAS Archive as well as the enclosed documents tell us about his hard struggle for his right to work in the Academy on the same position that he occupied last 8 years (since October 1930) – senior researcher with scientific degree (Fig. 4). Alexander Nikolaevich knows no fault of his own and boldly refers to every instance able to decide the question, up to prosecution office, and asks help and support from V.I. Vernadsky. At the moment of writing his last letter dated 21 March 1939, Labuntsov is still unemployed. However soon, yet in April 1939, he gets the possibility to return to his work in the IGN and Mineralogical Museum. Even now we do not know exactly what a fortune was the cause of this. A.N. Labuntsov's Personnel Action File was not found in the archives of the Museum and Institute (now Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry RAS). Academician V.I. Vernadsky alone elucidates a little this story. Here is what he writes on 7 April 1939: "The position of A.E. {Fersman} took a twist. The head of the Khibiny Combine (assistant to Kondrikov {former director of the "Apatit" Combine}...) in charge of the Council {apparently Murmansk District Executive Committee} came to him and indicated that it was now decided to increase and expand the North. A.E. said, of course, that he is always ready. This – {a place was left for the name; perhaps, for V.A. Prokopenko, director of the "Apatit" Combine} said that the A.E.'s forecasts acknowledged right. There are enormous possibilities there. When he {A.E. Fersman} said that the {scientific} workers have been dispersed, the other said that everything can be {settled} through him. Labuntsov gets the possibility to return to his job" (Vernadsky, 2006<sub>2</sub>, p. 52; *ibid*, see comments on pp. 48–49).

However, the A.N. Labuntsov's scientific degree was never upheld. His monograph "The North Karelia Pegmatites and Their Minerals", which he mentioned in his letters and designed as the doctoral dissertation, was, though behind time, published in 1939 and became, according V.A. Kornetova, a model not only to emulate descriptions of pegmatite deposits but mineralogical monographs in general (Kornetova, 1986).

The A.N. Labuntsov's merits in discovery and mastering the Khibiny apatites were only acknowledged after his death. To his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a street in the Kirovsk city was named in honor of geologist Labuntsov and memorial plaque was erected with his bas-relief and inscription: "Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov



(1884–1963), participant of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Khibiny expeditions, the discoverer of apatite deposits in Khibiny". Unfortunately, this plaque disappeared from the wall of former cinema, which was turned to a trade center (Shpachenko, 2009).

In the offered letters and documents, the author's and original spelling and punctuation are saved except for features of the A.N. Labuntsov's handwriting (hyphen after the end of some sentences) and small details of dates and names. In all cases, the initials from the family names were separated with gaps. Insertion in letters from above are not marked as they are rare and fitted in the text. Authentic signatures in documents are marked italics accompanied with in parenthesis – (signature). Explanations and additions inserted by the authors of this work are enclosed in square brackets. In citations of academician V.I. Vernadsky's diaries, the comments and additions of the compiler (V.P. Volkov) and the editors of mentioned publication were separated from the author's text with curly braces.

### The A.N. Labuntsov's letters to V.I. Vernadsky and enclosed documents from the Archive of RAS

*Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!*

*I handed over to you, for the "doklady Ak. Nauk", my paper on the age of radioactive minerals of Karelia, there was not in it a reference to the printed work by Konst. Avtonom. [Nenadkevich] and something else, therefore I send you the new exemplar whose title I have changed. I ask you, if possible, to set the paper last exemplar to printing. In order you would not worry, I send the paper second copy into the publishing house to M. Eizen, the editor, with the instruction, if there will be your confirmation, to publish in the "doklady" under the title "On the age of uraninite and monazite from the pegmatite veins of Northern Karelia".*

*Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov*

3/I 35

Moscow.

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 1.

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10/V. 35 Moscow

*Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!*

*The report on "the age of uraninite and monazite from the N. Karelia pegmatite veins" was printed in the A.S. Contributions for March of this year, No. 9; I send you 3 copies.*

*As to the Karelian uraninite which you need to obtain uranic lead from it, I can say as follows:*

*I have just a small quantity, about 30 g, of uraninite from the "Sinyaya Pala" veins, which I can send you.*

*As to the other veins, uraninite larger quantities are available, so I'm able to send you: from the "Khita-ostrov" and "Chernaya Salma" up to 100 g from each of them.*

*I send you, on the separate piece of paper, the available analyses of uraninite and gummite [see Fig. 2]. I should like to have else the uraninite analyses from the "Khita-ostrov" and "Chernaya Salma" veins which I told, in due time, to K.A. Nenadkevich who 2 1/2 years [ago] has promised to carry them out and took from me good and large pieces of pure uraninite from the "Chernaya Salma" but did not begin this uraninite analysis up to now. As judged by the paragenetic conditions of bedding and the crystal shapes, I expect that in the "Khita-ostrov" uraninite  $UO_2$  would prevail over  $UO_3$  as it gives fine crystals, namely cubes in combination with rhombic dodecahedron faces and has, according to my determinations, the highest density; after it, as expected, the "Chernaya Salma" uraninite that forms cubes with octahedral faces seems to be on the second place by the  $UO_2$  content; and the "Sinyaya Pala" uraninite (cubes) is expected to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.*

*I recently spoke with Konst. Avtonom. [K.A. Nenadkevich] and he promised to make the "Chernaya Salma" uraninite analysis in a short time; it would be good if you, too, ask him not to delay this; as to the "Khita-ostrov" uraninite, perhaps somebody else, in the Radium Institute, will take it to carry out its analysis.*

*At the moment, I only have remainders of carburan from the "Tedino" vein as a piece about 10 g; the same quantity may be scraped as a ground trifle mixed with muscovite and feldspar; I suppose, carburan can be easily separated due to its low density about 1.7.*

*I desire you to write me whether the denoted quantities of available uraninite and carburan are sufficient and should they be sent to you.*

*As to the organization of carburan mining this summer, I cannot answer you at the moment because it is not yet determined, through the unclarity of the housing question and other conditions of life, what a time would I be able to have this summer. It has been planned now that I will study, this summer, minerals of the River Tuloma area in the NW part of the Kola Peninsula and molybdenite in the Khibiny; probably I also ought to go once or twice to Karelia, to the NW of Kovdozero, for mineralogical consultation of the O.A. Vorobyeva team. In any case, I'll try to visit one or two of the main and richest*

in carburan Karelian veins ("Tedino", 8 km to the East of Polarnyi Krug Station and "Yelovyi Navolok" at the Loukhi Lake in 25 km to the East of the Murmansk Railway "Loukhi" station) and take carburan as much as possible.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 2–4.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

As to the discovery and study of the Khibiny I can inform you as follows:

The blocks of apatite-nepheline rock found by me together with other colleagues in 1923 in placers on the Rasvumchorr plateau in the Khibiny Tundras have intrigued me very much. When I worked again in the summer of 1925 in the Khibiny Tundras, I undertook a special investigation of the Rasvumchorr Mountain and managed to trace the apatite bedrock on the area over 10000 square meters. Attaching great [importance] to that, in January of 1926, I gave a talk about this deposit in the Institute of the North. However, as such rock was never fixed by geologists wherever in the world, my report, though it attracted some interest, at the same time arose doubts in possibility of such rock to exist anywhere and its distribution within a large area. None the less I raised the question of money assignment for the study of the apatite deposits to be continued; as the result of these efforts with acad. A.E. Fersman's support, the Colonization Department of the Murmansk Railway promised to dispense 8000 roubles for this aim; then, however, because of the money deficit I only has got, through the Institute of the North, 700 roubles, which were only sufficient for me to work in the Khibiny Tundras in summer 1926 for one month. As the result of this work, the apatite rock distribution area on the Rasvumchorr Mountain was extended up to 34000 square meters and the bedrock depth fixed at over 20 meters; besides, another two deposits were found, one of them on the "Apatitovyi Otrog" measuring 16875 square meters and another one, an enormous deposit on the Mount Kukisvumchorr (which is mining now). These results have been reported to acad. A.E. Fersman at the end of summer, and prof. R.L. Samoylovich, D.I. Shcherbakov and P.A. Borisov visited the Khibiny Tundras; unfortunately, snow came down in the mountains and did not let them examine the deposits in detail, so they could only visit the Mount Rasvumchorr.

My talk on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1926 in the Mineralog. Museum of the Acad. of Sciences in

your presence, as you remember, arouse a great interest and, at the same time, again arouse doubts in dimensions and apatite reserves in the deposits as well as miners' doubts in possibility to organize a mining enterprise in such a remote region. Nevertheless, it was possible, due acad. A.E. Fersman's support, to organize a high-quality study of the apatite ore and determination of its preparation characteristics in the Institute "Mekhanobr" and to send the ore samples, through the Murmansk Railway Colonization Department, to German company "Humboldt" to be tested in dressing by the flotation method, that we could not yet do here then. Both tests gave propitious results.

The question of organization of larger prospecting works on apatite that I raised in spring of 1927 was not settled, despite of the acad. A.E. Fersman's support, as neither Geol. Committee nor any other department believed in this matter; and, again, the Murmansk Railway Colonization Department alone promised 8000 roubles but then could not allocate more than 1000 roubles which was transferred to me through the Inst. of North. For this money, I could work, together with two students, in the Khibiny Tundras for one and a half month. The Kukisvumchorr deposit was investigated in detail and its continuation found on the Mount Yukspor; besides, the apatite rock new Western stripe on the Poachvumchorr Mountain was traced. I already have determined the apatite expected reserves as tens of million tons being based on the outcrops alone, which should be much increased after prospecting; at the same time, in my opinion, the Kukusvumchorr deposit is the largest, richest, and easiest to mine.

The later prospecting works in 1928 and, especially, in 1929, when Leningrad Region Ispolkom [Executive Committee] assigned 250000 roubles, and the Institute of Fertilizers was engaged, increased the apatite reserves still more, and the tests confirmed the apatite full applicability to produce superphosphate.

Therefore, there was dead certainty in autumn of 1929 about industrial meaning of the Khibiny apatites, and A.E. Fersman, who was very persistent and energetic in the promotion of the apatite problem (a series of his works of 1929) went to Moscow at the beginning of October, and there, as the result of his reports for the Committee for Chemization of National Economy and Gosplan, the government came to the decision to establish the "Apatit" Trust for the Khibiny apatites mining and exploitation. The "Apatit" Trust began to be organized in December 1929, and comrade V.I. Kondrikov,

the director, invited me to organize prospecting. I was working in the "Apatit" Trust from 15/XII 1929 until VIII 1934, as the head of the geological survey department at first, and then, after some mining engineers were engaged, as a consultant in scientific geology. While working in the Khibiny Tundras, I was lucky to find the new rare earth mineral "lovchorrite", which was named after the Mount Lovchorr; then the lovchorrite similar deposits were discovered by N.I. Gudkova, a researcher, on the Yukspor Mountain near the apatite deposits; these deposits are in operation now; then I found and studied deposits of pyrrhotite as a source of sulfur acid raw material; the deposits of sphene and molybdenite were found and investigated by me too. All the foregoing is highlighted in detail in the "Khibinskie Apatity", vol. I, 1930, as well as in the next volumes. My role and merits in the discovery and study of the Khibiny apatites were marked in 1929 in the Gosplan presidium (prot. of 4/X 1929), and in 1930 I was awarded a commendation and 2000 roubles of testimonial from Leningrad Council of Nat. Economy (prot. of 23/V 1930 No. 4239).

My scientific works concerning minerals and other investigations in the Khibiny Tundras were distinguished by the Rus. Mineralogical Society, and I was awarded with the "honorary comment" substituting for a golden medal.

Besides the works in Khibiny and the Kola Peninsula other parts I participated since 1922 every year as a team head in expeditions to various other regions of the Soviet Union, the main of which are: Sayan Mountains, Baikal Area, Northern Karelia, Pamirs, and Afghanistan (sending from Sovnarkom), Vaigach Island etc. There is a series of scientific and practical achievements of all these expeditions, therefore my printed works have the two areas of focus. In the recent years, I was mostly engaged in the studies of new minerals, radioactive and rare-earth ones, among which the Khibiny and Northern Karelia ones are the most interesting. In this year, I finish and prepare for publishing my monograph "The Minerals from Pegmatite Veins of North. Karelia". I should like, on acad. A.E. Fersman's advice, to present this work, in the beginning of 1936, as a doctoral geological dissertation.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

26 November 1935.

Concerning the radioactive and rare-earth minerals of N. Karelia, I can report that, after my discovery, in 1925, of the radioactive uranium ore and gummite, these minerals were in

the sequent years found out in a series of veins together with other radioactive and rare-earth ones like carburan, orthite, cyrtolite, monazite etc., which are the materials for your and special studies of the State Radium Institute in the recent years.

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 5–6.

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11/VII 38.

Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

Having remembered your sensitive attitude and support that you rendered me in hard moments of life, I decided now to address you again with the great request to help me to settle difficult problems: 1) to get the scientific degree and 2) to continue my scientific work as I was suddenly discharged (without any explanation of cause) from the Institute of Geological Sciences "on grounds of staff reduction". I pray, if you will soon visit Moscow, please assign me time to accept me or permit me to come to Uzkoe on some of these days. Tomorrow on 12<sup>th</sup> I'm going to call on my family at the dacha near the Istra town and will be back on 13<sup>th</sup> about 1 p.m. I beg you to send your reply through Alexander Pavlovich Vinogradov. I tried a few times to phone on you or Natalia Yegorovna but this was no-go; I beg your pardon for the disturbance.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 7.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

I send you the description of works on the Khibiny apatites. I could not yet finish my letter with the circumstance summary that preceded my dismissal from the Geological Institute; I feel very bad yesterday and today; hope to send it tomorrow. The troubles related to my dismissal go on; e.g., one phoned yesterday several times from the Academy of Sciences Publishing House with the question "whether is it possible to print my work on the pegmatites of Northern Karelia" in connection with "my dismissal from the Institute". Nobody ventured to make a definite reply, and S.A. Kashin alone could settle it, seemingly, positively. There is a series of other disagreeable stresses. The question of the defense of my thesis is postponed by the Institute administration till autumn; therefore I don't send you my work "The Pegmatites of Northern Karelia" for the moment.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

15/VII 1938

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 11.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

Concerning the discovery and studying the Khibiny Tundras apatite deposits I can tell you the following: Before 1923, apatite pieces have been found more than once in taluses of various locations during field prospecting; a few veinlets up to 10 cm thick were known as well. All those finds were of mineralogical and geochemical interest only.

In 1923, I together with E.E. Kostyleva, E.M. Bonshtedt, and B.M. Kupletsky, during our passing the Mount Rasvumchorr plateau, in the rain, found large pieces of the apatite-nepheline rock; some days later I made a special climb onto Rasvumchorr and could trace significant primary outcrops of this rock on the plateau steep in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Rasvumchorr Cirque. 1) At that moment, this find was not attached with great importance and even the possibility itself of such type of rock to exist was contravened. This find was only mentioned in the general review and in the report about field trip in 1923 as one in the list of various mineral deposits. 2) As far as the field mineralogical and petrographic investigation of the Khibiny Tundras was considered as finished, generally, in 1923, no further works were undertaken in 1924 and 1925. In the summer 1925, while working in North. Karelia, I made a short trip to the Khibiny Tundras to take, by the Mineral. Museum and Mineral Exchange Bureau of the Inst. Appl. Miner. order, about 10 puds [160 kg] of the new mineral lovchorrite that I found in 1923 on the Mount Lovchorr. During this trip, I visited the Rasvumchorr Plateau again and, having some tools and a demolitions expert, made a series of strippings of taluses and placers and was lucky to fix the primary outcrops [here the footnote placed in the letter end] to enlarge upon the area over 10000 m<sup>2</sup>.

In January of 1926, in spite of the critical relation to the existence possibility of such a rock and its bedding upon a vast area, I gave a special talk in the Institute of the North, where I had to defend the reality of the apatite deposit. After fruitless attempts to contest money allotment in the Academy of Sciences and Geol. Committee, I managed, with A.E. Fersman's aid, to get the consent from the Colonization Department of Murmansk (now Kirov) Railway to finance further investigations and searches. However, instead of promised 8000 roubles, the Coloniz. Dep. could only allot 1000 roubles of which only 700 roubles were allotted by the Inst. of the North for works, both in Karelia and Khibiny. In the second half of

summer I worked in Khibiny together with A.A. Saukov, a student, and Lepishin, a borer and a demolitions expert. As a result of works of 1926, the outcrop area of apatite rock on the Mount Rasvumchorr was broadened up to 34000 m<sup>2</sup> and bedding depth was traced up to over 20 m. Besides, two new deposits were found: one was on the Rasvumchorr Apatitovyi Branch and the other, the larger one, was on the Kukisvumchorr Mountain. The results of these successful works were reported in a letter to acad. A.E. Fersman; a special session was held in the Inst. of the North, and the Commission, which included R.L. Samoilovich, D.I. Shcherbakov and P.A. Borisov, went to Khibiny; unfortunately, they could not examine all the deposits in detail because of the first snowfall at the beginning of September, so they only visited the Mount Rasvumchorr and could stay there not longer than half an hour.

My talk about apatites in the Mineralogical Museum of the Academy of Sciences on 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1926 in your presence, as you remember, arose a great interest, though, but raised a doubt of many geologists both in the ore reserves quality that I indicated and, generally, possibility to organize mining beyond the Arctic Circle. Despite this, we were able, with the aid of acad. A.E. Fersman and Coloniz. Dep., to make analyses and investigations of beneficiation of the mined apatite rock; the results of beneficiation in the Mekhanobr and, especially, flotation in the "Humboldt" Company, Germany, gave good results.

Despite the Khibiny Apatite popularization in a series of magazines and the acad. A.E. Fersman's support, the question of organization of greater prospecting works and technologic tests that I raised at the beginning of 1927 got a favorable decision neither in the Geol. Committee nor in other agencies; nobody believed in this, and Coloniz. Department of the Murmansk Railways alone promised to give 8000 roubles; however, it could only allot 1000 roubles at the beginning of summer which I cashed through the Institute of the North. In 1927, this money let me and three students, Solovyev, Ryabov and Rozhentsev, work for 11/2 month. The large Kukisvumchorr Deposit, which was found in 1926, was surveyed in detail; a deposit was found on the Mount Yukspor as well as the new Western stripe (narrow) of deposits on Poachvumchorr. The apatite rock reserves were then estimated by me already as tens of millions tons. The Kukisvumchorr Deposit was the largest, richest in the apatite content and most accessible for exploitation. Generally, the results of the year 1927 were so



evident that no doubt was left in the great industrial value of the deposits. Nevertheless, it was not possible in 1928 to obtain money for industrial exploration and ore mining for the factory tests, and, again, the Coloniz. Department alone promised 8000 roubles instead of the necessary 200000. These 8000 were allotted by the Coloniz. Department for the Inst. of the North. At the beginning of 1928, the Acad. of Sciences sent me to the Pamirs as the head of the Mineralogical crew of the Soviet-Germany expedition and then to Afghanistan; as to Khibiny, the geologist V.I. Vlodavets, an Inst. of the North worker, was ordered there instead of me. The V.I. Vlodavets' field works and detailed testing fully confirmed my data on the ore reserves and high quality. However, these works were insufficient for industrial exploration and construction of a mine. After a series of reports in Moscow and Leningrad, acad. A.E. Fersman managed to gain recognition of great industrial significance of apatites. In 1929, the "Apatite and Nepheline Commission" was established at Leningr. District Executive Committee where the workers of Acad. of Sciences, Geol. Committee, Inst. of Fertilizers, GIPKh [State Institute of Applied Chemistry], Mekhanobr and other research institutes were invited. 250.000 roubles were allotted and industrial prospecting was organized as well as a series of technologic works. I took most active part in this work. At the beginning of October 1929, after the reports in the Comm. for Chemization and Gosplan, the decision was taken to establish the state trust "Apatit". I was invited (holding this job with the work in the Acad. of Sciences) to organize and direct the trust's prospecting section. In the "Apatit" I worked until 1933; then, having created a mighty enough section prospecting not only apatites but also other minerals of the Kola Peninsula, including pyrrhotite, sphene ores, and molybdenite that were found by me, I remained the trust consultant since 1933 till autumn of 1934 (until the movement to Moscow). — This is, in short, the history of my participation in the apatite business. — For my scientific works in the study of the Khibiny Tundras, the Russ. Mineralogical Society awarded me with the "Honorary Comment equivalent to the gold medal". Appendix 1. My participation and role in the discovery of the Khibiny Apatites have been marked by the Gosplan. Appendix No. 2. For the work energy and discovery of the apatite deposits I was awarded by Leningr. District Council of Nat. Economy a commendation and a bonus. Appen. No. 3. You will realize, Vladimir Ivanovich, how is it hurtful and

offensive for me that the accusation is now circulating of hardly not sabotage by mine at the apatite discovery, and I had to suffer both in getting a scientific degree and in my work in the Institute of Geol. Sciences; whereas all the circumstances of discovery, study and development of the apatite business could be checked easily. With the tr. "Apatit" former administrator Kondrikov, I had no commerce since 1934 (June), and he himself was already not in the "Apatit" but in the "Kolstroï". I enclose for you a copy of the "Karelo-Murmanskii Krai" magazine, 1929, No. 11–12, with my article "How Khibiny Apatite Was Discovered" and the book by acad. A.E. Fersman "The Apatite-Nepheline Problem of the Khibiny Tundras". Materials for the Chemization of the USSR Nat. Economy. 1929, where A.E. Fersman represents, in general terms, the gradual development of the Khibiny apatite investigation. About the discovery itself of apatite is written by A.E. Fersman more detailed in the "Khimiya i Khozyastvo" magazine No. 2–3, 1929 — "The Lessons of A Discovery", but I could not obtain this issue to the moment.

I wrote the following articles on apatites in 1926–1929

Apatite Deposits on the Kola Peninsula.

Osved. Byull. Akad. Nauk, 1926. No 8.

The Apatite Deposits in the Khibiny Tundras and the Possibility of Their Practical Usage. Gorn. Zhurn. 1926, No. 12.

The Report on the Business Trip into the Khibiny Tundras in the Summer of 1926.

Doklady Akad. Nauk SSSR. 1927. p.3.

Natural Resources of Khibiny Tundras and Kola Peninsula.

"Karelo-Murmanskii kraï" 1927. No 5–6.

The Studies in the Khibiny Tundras in 1927.

Osvedom. Byull. Akad. Nauk 1927. No 19.

Khibiny Apatites. "Karelo-Murm. Kraï" 1927. No 10–11.

On the Usage of Khibiny Apatite in Our Phosphate Industry. Gorn. Zhurn. 1928. No 1.

And a series of articles in the Geolkom Publ., "Apatity" collections of scientific papers and other magazines of 1929 and ensuing years.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

15/VII 1938.

<sup>1</sup> — "Khibiny and Lovozero Tundras", a monograph. Vol. I Routs. P. 150. <sup>2</sup> — Ibidem, p. 24.

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 8–10.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

Here is the information concerning my dismissal from the Inst. of Geologic. Sciences and

awarding a scientific degree. All the mentioned information and data can be confirmed with according documents or attested copies. I do not mention the circumstances of my repudiation of the combined job at the Kola Base of the Acad. of Sciences as, according the statement of S.D. Popov, the [Communist] Party organizer at the Inst. of Geologic. Sciences, and S.A. Kashin, the vice director of the Institute, the dealing with the Kola Base did not matter in my dismissal from the Institute. Though, this possibly should be included, too, for the purpose of the general analysis of the entire matter since the Kola Base Scientific secretary T.T. Baryshev (formerly member of the Acad. of Sciences personnel department), when he joined the Kola Base staff as the Scientific secretary, immediately took a spiteful position towards me as well as the majority of the Base old workers and got intention of their amotion.

I enclose my statement of 22/II of this year to the Committee of Bases that protests against my dismissal from the Base. I received no reply or decision for this statement and met no desire for the part of the Scientific Secretary P.I. Kolesnikov to clear up the mess; as to my ensuing appeals, I only got a reply that comr. T.T. Baryshev considered correct the formulation of my dismissal; when I said that I would contest this, P.I. Kolesnikov answered that "this is your right; however, you should have in mind that we will deal shortly with you if anything crops up". I know that after this a dishonoring message was sent in May or June to the Inst. of Geologic. Sciences; its exact contents is unknown for me.

I beg of you, Vladimir Ivanovich, for helping me in explanation of all these complicated questions that evidently root mostly, on the one hand, in the desire to get rid of a worker with bad past (a kind of insurance), though this should not be because yet in 1922, when I was entering the Acad. of Sciences, the Security bodies GPU which knew my past in detail – my military service in the Kolchak's Corps and voluntary surrender in Krasnoyarsk – confirmed that there was no obstacle for my job in the Acad. of Sciences from the Security's side. Besides, the same was confirmed by the Securities in October 1925, when they called me and put forward to ask "to strike off the register of former White officers, since, according to their information, I work honestly and conscientiously and there are good reports of me". On 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1925 I was stricken off the register of former White officers. After this, I twice underwent the purge and was allowed to work and occupy the same position.

Therefore, it was confirmed every time that my "past" cannot be an obstacle for my job in the Acad. of Sciences and for limitation or persecution for my past or limitation of my right for the scientific work and getting a scientific degree and title. It seems to me that with my honest work I'm atoning, to a significant extent, "my past", which I never forgot and try to atone it by the yielded benefit highly appreciating the credit that is rendered me by the access to the work in the USSR Academy of Sciences. What has changed? I do not feel any guilt of mine, I have reeducated myself, I take an active part in the social duty, I have grown in the scientific respect, and nevertheless I'm apparently not taken into confidence or, may be, this is an excess of caution which is explicable and well understood by me in view of those malicious sabotages that were elicited in the recent years. On the other hand, a certain point of my problem is, as well, the attitude towards me of some colleagues in the former Lomonosov Inst., in connection with their misunderstanding with acad. A.E. Fersman whose disciple I am. A series of cases made me sure that when I was charged by the A.E. Fersman or encouraged by A.E. Fersman's initiative or idea, I met no support, often an unfriendly relation, and for the part of the former vice-director I.F. Stashinsky [possibly I.K. Stashinsky, see Vernadsky, 2006<sub>1</sub>, p. 71 and 2006<sub>2</sub>, p. 111] even a hostile attitude. I hope very much that, thanks to a support of yours and higher Party officials, I will be able to rehabilitate myself in order to get a possibility to continue my scientific work and get the candidate scientific degree.

Faithfully yours and thankful for your countenance and assistance

A. Labuntsov

21/VII 1938

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 12–14.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

Acad. G.M. Krzhizhanovsky received me, took great interest in the apatite matter, and asked me about the Alexander Evgenyevich's role; did not hear me out and directed me with a note to the comrade Ivanov, the head of the staff department, with the request: to investigate thoroughly my problem and take down in a shorthand my report of apatites. The latter was done: comr. Ivanov inquired me in detail about my past and my job in the Inst. As to the job, he offered me to come to Stalinabad as the Scientific Secretary of the Ac. of Sciences Base, which I refused; then he said that he would negotiate in the Inst. of Geol. Sciences and

would call me about the job in general. As to the Acad. of Sciences support [in] the Institute in soliciting to consider my affair by the Higher Attestation Commission, he stated categorically that the Acad. of Sciences would do nothing and I have myself to appeal there everything having indicated that the materials are in the Acad. of Sciences Staff Department. After this, the statement for G.M. Krzhizhanovsky was left by me with the detailed summary of the problem and requests. However, there is nothing up to now since V.M. Kryzhanovsky [likely G.M. Krzhizhanovsky, see Vernadsky, 2006, p. 81] is on the Supr. Soviet session.

Faithfully yours A. Labuntsov  
11/VIII 1938.

P.S. Pray to return 2 books that I took in the library and the "Karelo-Murmanskii Krai" magazine.

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 15.

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Dear Vladimir Ivanovich!

In addition to available materials, I send you the documents on "the awarding me "the scientific degree of candidate of sciences". With these documents I was in the "VAK" (Higher Attestation Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles under the Committee on Higher School and Scientific Research Institutions); – the scientific secretary is now absent, I spoke with the secretary assistant who admonished me that there is a lot of obscurities and term and rule violations.

1) It is not clear for whatever reason the Institute submission and the decision of the Qualification Commission of 22/XII 1935 were not considered and not confirmed by the Presidium of the Acad. of Sciences during the year 1936 and up to 15/V 1937.

2) The resolution of 15/V 1937 of the Presidium of the Acad. of Sciences is, virtually, a refusal to confirm the Qualification Commission resolution of 22/XII 1935, but refusal with no reasoning: "proposition for the Institute to organize the defense [thesis presentation] and to solve, at the defense, the question of awarding the candidate either doctor degree" – is wrong, because there are different demands and defense conditions for candidate and doctor.

3) It cannot be understood why the Institute, with the Presidium of the Acad. of Sciences permission, did not use its right to confirm me in the candidate degree (at the Inst. Scientific Council) without the thesis defense before 1/VII 1938 (according to the "Directive instruction of the Committee on Higher School

confirmed by the Higher Attestation Commission 29/I 1938 § 27a.)

4) The reply of A.L. Bonkvitser, the OMEN [Section of mathematic and natural sciences] Scientific Secretary, though does not answer to the point of the matter that was taken up with the presidium of the Acad. of Sciences by the Institute, however correctly, from the official point of view, explains my situation, as the state in the capacity of the senior scientific researcher even during 8 years does not give the right to the scientific title of senior scientific researcher, which, according to the "Instruction on Scientific degrees and titles" of 20/III 1937, should be confirmed by the VAK for a person who has the "candidate of science" degree, and for those who does not – could be, by the Institute presentation, confirmed by the presidium of the Acad. of Sciences before 1/VII 1938 (on the ground of the Directive Decree of 29/I 1938). It is odd, why the Institute did not do this? But now, officially, not having the confirmed scientific title of "Senior Scientific Researcher", I have no right to defend both doctoral and candidate thesis without examinations.

As the way out of the situation, I was proposed in the VAK to do as follows:

1) The Institute's appeal to the VAK with the request to confirm me in the title of "senior scientific researcher" as an exceptional case with the reasoning of the passed term (until 1/VII 1938).

2) Also appeal to the VAK with the request to consider, as an exceptional case, the question of awarding the candidate title without thesis defense of as this question was raised before 1/I 1936; preferably, the presid. of the Acad. of Sciences would support the Institute presentation (since Presid. made [some – stricken out] its resolution on this in 1937, 15/V); as soon as this question was solved again positively, but the term 1/VII 1938 was missed.

3) For the defense then, by me, the doctoral thesis, it is necessary that the Institute asks the VAK's permission in the case I am not an Institute worker.

Therefore, some possibilities seem to be available to get [title – stricken out] candidate degree and [degree – stricken out] title of senior scientific researcher, if the Institute would "desire" this and the Acad. of Sciences presid. would support the Institute's presentation. However, I do not know if all this could be done as the vice-director A.S. Kashin went to the Urals for 2 months, and would the Institute administration undertake this without him?

I will speak today with the vice-director I.F. Grigoryev.

Yours faithfully A. Labuntsov

P.S. The vice-director of the Institute I.F. Grigoryev avowed the Institute's error and is willing to raise the questions of awarding me: scientific title of senior scientific researcher and scientific degree of candidate of science without thesis defense.

A. Labuntsov

[No date; probably 1939]

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 16–17.

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A.N. Labuntsov

I have been working at the Acad. of Sciences as a scientific researcher since 1922, besides I have been occupying senior scientific researcher position since October 1930.

13 XII 1935 Qualification Commission of the Acad. of Sciences on Geol. Sciences awarded me the scientific degree "candidate of sciences", which should be confirmed by the Acad. of Sciences Presidium. However, the Acad. of Sciences staff department, under the influence of Stashinsky, the Lomonosov Institute vice-director, consistently delayed and did not present this question for the confirmation by the Acad. of Sciences Presidium. No sooner than May 1937 (when the confirmation term was already missed) this question was presented to the Acad. of Sciences presidium; besides, academician Gorbunov (apparently based on the Stashinsky's reports through the staff department) probably negatively but not positively elucidated this question of the discovery by me of the Khibiny apatites, and I was named "the Kolchak's adjutant". In view of all this, the Acad. of Sciences Presidium proposed the Lomonosov Institute to clear out my role in the discovery of the Khibiny apatites and promotion the problem of their use and, correspondingly, to organize my thesis defense where to solve the question of awarding me the candidate or... doctor scientific degree! The "information" of me presented by academician Gorbunov became known, still more distorted at the oral reproduction, in the Lomonosov Institute and the Acad. of Sciences Kola Base, where I worked in summer 1937 (doing two jobs at a time), and this created very difficult work conditions. At the end of 1937, because of obstruction for work for the part of the Kola Base vice-director comr. Baryshev, I was impelled to refuse to work at the Kola Base, and when I tried to reveal to the Base director, acad. Fersman, as well as to the Base Committee, shortcomings of the comr. Baryshev's "guidance". The latter began to lay the

blame on me, and after two months since my voluntary termination, issued a new order of my dismissal [from work – striken out] for the "work derange". My appeals to the Base Committee lead nowhere. Nothing was undertaken in 1937 in the Lomonosov Institute concerning my scientific degree, and the relation to me of the former vice-director Stashinsky deteriorated still more at the same time, and, under his influence, the relation [for his part – striken out] to me changed also for the part of comr. Kashin, the Institute former Party organizer, and comr. Malyshev, the Geogroup former secretary. Moreover, the relationship of acad. Fersman (whose disciple I am) with these persons became strained uncommonly and acad. Fersman practically stopped his participation in the Institute management. Only due to my honest and persistent job and support of comr. Popov, the Party committee secretary, at the end of 1937 and at the beginning of 1938, I could remain in the Institute during the amalgamation of geological institutes of the Academy of Sciences. However, the problem of the scientific degree was left unsolved. In April 1938, the wholesome for me resolution was announced of the Committee on Higher School and Scientific Research Institutions. According this resolution the right was given to the Geologic. Institute of the Acad. of Sciences to settle, until 1/VII 1938 [the date is double underlined], the questions of scientific degrees for the time gone, if these questions arose before 1936 and were not still solved. However, despite of this and my statements, the problem of the scientific degree remained unsolved, and on 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1938 I was suddenly discharged "on grounds of staff reduction", and I was refused not only to work temporarily or in expedition at least but even the possibility was not given to finish (which needed about a month) the work that I did on "The Mineralogy of the USSR". My dismissal, inexplicable both for me and many others, created an impression that there was some special cause for this dismissal, so the latter became to be considered as "a displacement", this could be seen from the fact that everyone "was afraid" to bother about me; and even the printing of my work "The Pegmatites of Northern Karelia" was delayed in the Acad. of Sciences Publishing House. [Nevertheless – striken out] Only for the party of the Party secretary comr. Popov alone I met support, and thanks to him there were a good comment and a neutral characterization of my work, and the scientific degree question was promoted. At his insistence, on 27<sup>th</sup> of June the sitting of the bureau of the scientific workers' section was held, and there the positive



resolution to award me the candidate of sciences degree was accepted. However, in spite of certain instruction of the Higher School Committee, the Institute administration did not solve the question of confirming the degree itself, but appealed on 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the Acad. of Sciences presidium with the request to confirm me in the candidate degree having indicated: "that I am a highly qualified specialist – mineralogist who always can combine the questions of science and practice, and also my recent work "The Pegmatites of North. Karelia and Their Minerals" exceeds the demands to the candidate thesis. The entire folder of the documents on my scientific degree was received on 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1938 in the Acad. of Sciences secretariat; however, it was impeded by the Personnel Department and not admitted to the Acad. of Sciences presidium sitting until 1/VII. Thus the term 1/VII was missed; so the documents were returned, on 12<sup>th</sup> of July, to the Geol. Institute. My appeal to acad. Komarov at the beginning of July 1938 on the question of reconsideration of my dismissal from the Geol. Institute or the possibility of my job in the SOPS [Council for the Study of Productive Forces], where I was at first invited, led nowhere despite good recommendations of mine as well as acad. Komarov's (who was going to leave for the South on vacation) resolution; according to his secretary's report, "the attempt to come to an agreement with the Personnel Department on the question of reconsideration failed", and in eight days the SOPS denied me employment. My appeal to acad. Krzhizhanovsky, with your letter, led nowhere too. At the suggestion of acad. Krzhizhanovsky [G.M. Krzhizhanovsky] I presented a note that enlightened the question of discovery of the Khibiny apatites; however, the both questions of reemployment and of the scientific degree, the latter in spite of the Geol. Institute's repeated solicitation, were nowhere considered but passed to the Personnel Department to be settled. I received neither reply nor resolution for my statement, except of (after numerous appeals) oral "explanation" of comr. Ivanov, the personnel department head assistant, that "I bother acad. Krzhizhanovsky in vain, that the question of dismissal is the Institute's business, whereas the question of the degree, as far as the legal term is missed (1/VII), so it can be considered no more in the Academy, just the same, there is no reason to raise it the Higher Attestat. Commission [VAK] (as the Geologic. Institute asks).

Having lost any hope to continue my work in the Acad. of Sciences, I 1) presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August a statement on the question of the

degree in the Higher Attestat. Commission concerning which you, Vladimir Ivanovich, wrote then to Kaftanov, while 2) began to look for a job myself. – I had a temporary job in the Acad. of Sciences Publishing House, but soon I was given to understand that the question and the vagueness of my dismissal from the Geol. Inst. arouse excessive talks, and my job continuation in the Publishing House is "inconvenient".

As I raised yet at the beginning of 1937 the question of necessity to search diamonds, resting upon the possibility to use the newest methods (luminescence and fat beneficiation), which I presented a message in the Lomonosov Institute about. In 1938 "Zolotorazvedka" trust was engaged in this problem, so I related to the Trust in September 1938 and got an offer to work on diamonds. On 27<sup>th</sup> of September, I was employed in the "Zolotorazvedka" Trust and, at its suggestion, urgently left for the Urals. I replaced there the head of the diamond party, who turned sick, and worked for two months having given a boost to all the works and finishing them (with finding diamonds) as well as fulfilling also a series of additional jobs. On December 1st, 1938 I returned to Moscow and started the cameral treatment of materials. To the end of December I put together the estimating reports of the summer work, which were tested by the trust's production and planning departments, on which ground, in the Trust document, the work was acknowledged to be completed up to 102% with about 10% saving of expense. Despite this, I could make sure yet in December 1938 that the Trust Director was reported of "certain information of me" as I was declared a temporary worker, though was promised to give the possibility to finish the material treatment. However, I was dismissed on 8<sup>th</sup> after the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1939, when the former party head returned from the sanatorium after three months of absence (after my protest, the dismissal term was delayed up to 24/I, thanks to which I managed to process, though in a shortened version, the main data for the report, the diamond crystals alone were left not described and not measured; this work is now doing in the Inst. of Geol. Sciences of the Acad. of Sciences by the contract with "Zolotorazvedka"). The protests of the production department head, chief engineer and engineer-dispatcher against my dismissal led nowhere. – As you know, my appeal then in the Geologic. Institute (of Glavgeologiya) to acad. Usov with your letter about my employment, in spite of acad. Usov's consent as well as, seemingly, comr. Kostrov's, the vice-director, then under the influence of the telephone chats with comr.

Malyshev (in *Glavgeologiya*) and comr. Kashin from the Geol. Inst. (of the Acad. of Sciences) also led to the refusal of employment.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1939 I made a complaint to the Committee of Soviet Control concerning unjust dismissal and deny of employment in the Acad. of Sciences and, in connection with this, also in other institutions, and concerning not solving the question of the scientific degree. In the middle of February, the question of job was passed, at the suggestion of Committee of Soviet Control, to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Soviet Union. During this time, I tried to get job in the Moscow Geological Survey Institute, a contract job for the Ilmeny Reserve, in the Mineralogical Institute of the Acad. of Sciences [Mineralogical Museum] where V.I. Kryzhanovskiy would take me with great relish (he said me so); however, the Museum is subordinate of the same comr. Kashin and I could not manage even to get a temporary paid work in the Museum to look over, order and constrict the Khibiny collections — at last my appeal for a job for me on the "Soviet Union Mineralogy" [reference book] to the head of the mineral-geochemical sector of the Geol. Institute D.I. Shcherbakov and N.A. Smolyaninov, though was met compassionately by them and was supported by comr. Popov, the Partkom [Party Committee] secretary, was nevertheless declined categorically by comr. Kashin, the Institute vice-director, who said that "this will be a disguised work in the Institute", so comr. Kashin confirmed once more his opinion of "impossibility" of my job in the Inst., even a temporal one and by contract. In the Commission of Soviet Control (after making any kind of inquiries about my pleas on "job" and "scientific degree") I was informed that on 19 March all my documents were transferred for solving to academician O.Yu. Schmidt in the Acad. of Sciences; the same I was also told in the prosecutor's office, that through acad. Vyshinsky my documents were transferred to acad. O.Yu. Schmidt. In the prosecutor's office, my documents were firstly in the special section (apparently for checking data on my past), and then under general supervision.

Therefore, all materials of my matter are now with acad. O.Yu. Schmidt.

A. Labuntsov 21/III 1939.

I ask you very much, dear Vladimir Ivanovich, to help me and clarify the true situation to O.Yu. Schmidt, and to confirm what you heard on 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1937 at the sitting of the Presidium of the Acad. of Sciences, when acad. Gorbunov was reporting my matter of the scientific degree, and, also, if you consider this possible, portray that abnormal condition which

occurred in the former Lomonosov Institute by the intrigues of Stashinsky, former vice-director, concerning acad. A.E. Fersman as well as, in connection with this, a group of his old colleagues. This situation, properly, owing to Stashinsky, continues to be in the Inst. of Geol. Sci. of the Acad. of Sciences. Having felt deeply for the recent half a year quite undeserved and unfair dismissal of me from the Academy of Sciences, and deprivation of the senior researcher title (that I had for 8 years), as this title is now bound with the scientific degree of candidate of science, and, as well, after the dismissal from the Acad. of Sciences, feeling constantly that some slander follows me, whereupon I am related everywhere with suspicion, and they denies me of employment, I hope that now at last they, from the Academy of Sciences, would examine my question carefully and justly and give me a job in accordance with my avocation. I repeat once more that I always worked honestly and conscientiously, do not know any guilt of mine for the whole period of work under Soviet Power; therefore, it is unjust, after 19 years of honest work — to persecute me and deprive me of the right for job. I ask you, Vladimir Ivanovich, once more, to help me.

Yours faithfully and truly yours

21/III 1939 A. Labuntsov

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 1–4.

Copy

RUSSIAN  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Leningrad	HONORARY COMMENT
"30" May 1925	named after A.I. Antipov
№ 833	

By this comment, equivalent of the gold medal, Russian Mineralogical Society awards ALEXANDER NIKOLAEVICH LABUNTSOV for his studies in crystallography, mineralogy and petrography of the Khibiny Tundras, Kola Peninsula.

SOCIETY DIRECTOR, ACADEMICIAN —  
A. KARPINSKY  
SOCIETY SECRETARY — A. GERASIMOV

the copy is true: Arkhipova (signature)  
10/VII — 38.

Seal: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR.  
Institute of Geological Sciences

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 20.

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EXTRACT

From the protocol No. 88 of the Meeting of the  
RSFSR Gosplan Presidium on 4 October 1929.

"The Gosplan Presidium considers necessary to mark the merits of scientific workers who are engaged in the study of the Khibiny apatites, especially marking the role in this of geologist Labuntsov and academician Fersman as the head of these works.

Chairman R. Levin  
Secretary Gorbunova

The copy is true. A. Labuntsov

The copy is true. Petrov

[Handwritten by A.N. Labuntsov]

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 18.

\*\*\*

To comr. LABUNTSOV  
copy of copy

PROTOCOL No. 4239-c

of the meeting of the Leningrad District  
Council of National Economy (LOS NKh)

23 May 1930

HEARD:

About the results of prospecting works in the Khibiny Tundras, Kola Peninsula (Murmansk region), organized by the Leningrad District Sovnarkhoz (LOS NKh), in order of revelation of the apatite deposit capacity, and possibility of apatite use for the industry and export.

RESOLVED:

Noting that:

1/the studies of the Khibiny Tundras, first began by the geolkom [apparently, geologist] Ramsay, were continued highly successfully and widely developed by the expeditions organized by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the person of acad. A.E. Fersman;

2/these studies undertaken in extremely difficult conditions of polar region were crowned with brilliant discovery by geologist A.N. LABUNTSOV and, then, V.I. VLODAVETS of the wealthiest apatite and nepheline deposit;

3/the mentioned deposit is now of tremendous industrial value for the whole USSR economy thanks to the energy shown by the LOS NKh in the deed of organization of realization of all the necessary arrangements related to the prospecting the deposit and determination of its capacity.

4/All works that resulted in determination of the deposit capacity as one of largest world sources of phosphorous and other ores have been completed within utterly short terms – less than half a year.

Consider necessary:

a/For the exclusive energy in the mentioned hot job that let us, yet in the current year, organize the export of the apatite rock

and start its use at our factories in the production of superphosphate and phosphorus, instead of imported Moroccan phosphorite.

TO AWARD A COMMENDATION TO:

1/ Acad. A.E. Fersman

2/ Geologist A.N. Labuntsov

3/ " V.I. Vlodavets

4/ Member of the scient. inst. of fertilizers eng. M.P. Fiveg

5/ " " " " prof. S.I. Volkovich

6/ " of Mekhanobr eng. Sheblovinsky.

To award prizes to the following persons:

1/ Acad. A.E. Fersman 3.000 roubles

2/ Geologist A.N. Labuntsov 2.000 roubles

3/ " V.I. Vlodavets 1.000 roubles

4/ Prof. S.I. Volkovich 1.000 roubles

5/ Eng. M.P. Fiveg 1.000 roubles

6/ eng. N.I. Sheblovinsky 1.000 roubles.

Signed S. Afanasyev.

(Place of Seal) "certified true copy":

On behalf of Chief of secret section LOS NKh  
(signature)

It is true (Petrov)

This is a true copy: Arkhipova (signature)

10/VII 38. Seal: USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. Institute of Geological Sciences

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 3. D. 916. L. 19.

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COPY

26/V-1935.

TO QUALIFICATION COMMISSION  
OF GEOLOGICAL GROUP OF  
THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR.

The scientific specialist of the Lomonosov Institute A.N. LABUNTSOV has the 13 – [the figures are several times recorrected with pencil, in the document of RAS Archive the figures on the margins in brackets handwritten 13 years once more, corrected for 16, however, Labuntsov could not enter the Academy for job earlier than 1921, see Labuntsova, 2001] year period of scientific work in the system of the Academy of Sciences.

The A.N. Labuntsov's scientific work, mostly mineralogical, proceeded in two fields:

1. Scientific theoretical work for the study of minerals and mineralogy of the Soviet Union various regions, connected with wide expeditionary activities. Since 1922, LABUNTSOV participated, year over year, in expeditions to the Sayan and Baikal Area, Khibiny Tundras and other parts of Kola Peninsula, Karelia, Pamirs, Afghanistan, Vaigach Island etc. As the result of materials treatment and more fundamental comprehensive study of minerals, [crossed] 25 [numerals handwritten on mar-

gins] scientific works /see the List of works/ No. 1 [No. 1 is written by ink, blurred] were written by LABUNTSOV, of which the main ones refer to the study of minerals and their deposits: the Botogolsky Golets, Khibiny Tundras where new minerals fersmanite and titanoeplidite [titanoelpidite] were found and researched; North. Karelia that gave the first mineralogical description of the pegmatite veins of this area with their uranium and rare-earth minerals; Western part of Pamirs, Badakhshan Province in Afghanistan; Vaigach Island etc.

For his scientific activity, LABUNTSOV was bestowed in 1925 of the Honorary Comment, equivalent of the gold medal, by Rus. Mineralogical Society for the works on study of the crystallography and mineralogy of the Khibiny Tundras; in 1925, he was elected as a member of the Scientific Council of the State Radium Institute; in 1927, he was the scientific secretary of the 1st All-Union congress of mineralogists.

2. The mineralogical work of applied character, related to industrial exploration of mineral raw materials: the study of the graphite deposit on the Botogolsky Golets, the discovery and study of apatite, molybdenite, pyrrhotite, sphene and other deposits of the Khibiny Tundras, sulfide ores of Vaigach etc. Due to these works, A.N. LABUNTSOV in various times was elected in the Academy of Sciences as a member and consultant of various commissions. In [corrected by pencil] 1929 the Gosplan marked special merits of LABUNTSOV in the discovery and study of the Khibiny apatite deposits, and Lenoblispolkom [Leningrad District Executive Committee] and LOSNKh awarded him the commendation and the money prize. Since 1929 until moving to Moscow, A.N. LABUNTSOV was a consultant of the State Mining-Chemical Trust Apatit by scientific and prospecting questions; in 1931, he was elected, from the Academy of Sciences, a member of the Leningrad Bureau of NIS NKTP; in 1932, he was elected member of the Karelo-Myrmansk Committee at Lenoblispolkom and consultant in mineral raw materials; in 1932 he was elected member of Len. District Committee for Chemiz[ation] of Nat[ional] eco[omy] and the Chairman assistant of the Raw Materials section.

LABUNTSOV wrote [crossed] 36 [the number is written by ink] articles in various scientific, industrial and other journals, collection of scientific articles, handbooks etc., where [where – written by pencil] the questions of industrial importance and utility of mineral

raw materials using are discussed /see list of articles/ No. 2 [No. 2 is written by ink].

On the ground of the foresaid, the Scientific Council of the Lomonosov Institute asks to consider the question of awarding the scientific degree of candidate of science to A.N. LABUNTSOV, considering for its own part that by the assemblage of his works he deserves thoroughly this degree without a thesis defense.

Chairman  
of Scientific Council LIGEM  
academician A.E. Fersman.  
Scientific secretary: A.V. Pek.

It is true:

26/V 1935 [the date is written by ink, by A.N. Labuntsov handwriting]

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 7.

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Draft No. 1

[It is written by A.N. Labuntsov with ink]

LIST

[MAIN – crossed] SCIENTIFIC WORKS  
[BY SCIENTIFIC SPECIALIST – crossed]  
by senior researcher [insert with ink] of the  
LOMONOSOV INSTITUTE OF THE USSR  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES –  
A.N. LABUNTSOV.

1. Khibiny and Lovozero Tundras /description of traverses/. Acad. A.E. Fersman, Ed. Vol. 1, 1925.

2. In association with E.E. Kostyleva. On the mineralogy of the Botogol Golets. Coll. Materials for study of Russian graphite. Mat. KEPS, 1925, No. 52, p. 93.

3. Natrolite from the Khibiny and Lovozero Tundras. Trudy GMM. 1925, v. V, issue 2.

4. In association with V.I. Kryzhanovskiy – The report of a scientific trip to Altai in 1921. DAN. 1926. p. 69.

5. Ilmenite from the Khibiny Tundras. Trudy MM. 1926. Vol. 1 p. 35.

6. On titanium elpidite from Khibiny Tundras and its paragenesis. DAN. 1926. p. 39.

7. Zeolites of Khibiny and Lovozero Tundras. Trudy MM. 1927. Vol. II. p. 91.

8. Apatite. – In "Fosfor" ("Phosphorus"), a monograph. Geol. Com. publishing. 1927.

9. Apatite. – In "Nerudnye Iskopaemye" ("Non-metallic minerals"), Vol. III, KEPS, 1927. p. 491.

10. [Khibiny and Lovozero Tundras. Vol. II] /description of deposits/. Acad. A.E. Fersman, Ed. 1927.

11. For the mineralogy of Northern Karelia. IAN. 1927. P. 609.

12. Fersmanite, new mineral from Khibiny Tundras. DAN. 1929. P. 297.



13. Apatite. — In "Nerudnye Iskopaemye" ("Nonmetallic minerals"), Vol. IV, KEPS, 1929.

14. Geological and mineralogical studies in the Western Pamirs and the Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan, in 1928. Proc. Pamir. Expedition, AN, 1929.

15. The molybdenite deposits in Khibiny Tundras. DAN. 1929. P. 455.

16. Apatite prospecting in the Khibiny Tundras, up to 1929. — In "Khibinskie apatity", Vol.1. Committee of Chemization by Sovnarkom of the USSR, 1930.

17. Geochemical and prospecting investigations in the Takhtarvumchorr area in Khibiny Tundras and other regions of Kola Peninsula in 1930. — In "Khibinskie apatity", Vol. II. Com. Chem. Nat. Econ. VSNKh SSSR, 1932.

18. The mineral resources of the Khibiny Tundras and their practical importance. A guide to the Khibiny Tundras. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Akad. Nauk. 1932.

19. The works of the Central geochemical party of the Kola Expedition of the Academy of Sciences. 1931. — In Materials for petrography and geochemistry of the Kola Peninsula, part. II, p. 5. SOPS Akad. Nauk. 1933.

20. Pyrrhotite from the Khibiny Tundras. — In "Rare elements and pyrrhotites from Khibiny". Leningrad, NKTP, p. 180.

21. Mineralogical survey in the Khibiny Tundras central part. — In "Khibinskie apatity". Vol. VI. NKTP, 1933.

22. Apatite and its world deposits. — In "Khibinskie apatity" Vol. VII. NKTP, 1934.

23. The molybdenite deposits in the Khibiny Tundras. Proc. Kola Base of the Academy of Sciences, 1935.

24. On the age of uraninite and monazite from pegmatite veins of North. Karelia. Doklady Ak. Nauk. 1935 [written by ink]. No. 9, 646.

25. "Apatit" — Encyclopedia. "Nemetallicheskie iskopaemye SSSR" (Nonmetallic ores of the USSR). Akad. Nauk, 1936.

26. The minerals of the Khibiny Tundras. Collective work. A monograph. In English 1937 and in Russian 1937. (22 minerals are described).

ALabuntsov (signature) A. Labuntsov.

27. "The pegmatite veins of North. Karelia and their minerals". In print. "Pegmatity Soyuza". Vol. II. 1938.

28. "Anatase". Prepared for printing in "Mineraly SSSR" (Minerals of the USSR). — 1938.

29. "Brookite" — Prepared for printing in "Mineraly SSSR" — 1938.

30. "Rutile" — Prepared for printing in "Mineraly SSSR". — 1938.

[To the left of Nos. 25, 26 and, probably, 27 (the edge of the paper sheet is failed) there are checks written by ink. The entries beginning from No. 26 were also made by A.N. Labuntsov with ink and, apparently, later, as the text of No. 26 was over the Labuntsov's signature.]

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 9.

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No. 2

[the number is written with ink, A.N. Labuntsov's handwriting]

LIST

OF ARTICLES IN VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER JOURNALS, COLLECTED BOOKS, HANDBOOKS etc.

BY A.N. LABUNTSOV

1. The results of the expedition in the Eastern Sayan. DAN. 1924, p. 192.

2. A description of the Aliber Mine. Materials for studying Russian graphite. Mat. KEPS 1925, No. 52, p. 38.

3. The deposits of uranium compounds in the Karelian Republic. DAN 1925, p. 113.

4. In association with A.E. Fersman — The report of scientific trip to the uranium deposits of Karelia. DAN — 1925, p. 147.

5. The deposits of uraninite/pitchblende/ in North. Karelia. Gornyi Zhurnal, 1925, No. 10, p. 846.

6. The results of the errand to the Khibiny Tundras in summer 1925. DAN, 1926, p. 15.

7. The Mineralogical museum of the Academy of Sciences — "Priroda" (Nature). 1926. Nos. 1–2. p. 119.

8. The apatite deposits in the Khibiny Tundras and the possibility of their practical use. Gorn. zhurn. 1926. No. 12, p. 796.

9. The apatite deposits of the Khibiny Tundras. Osvedomit. Byulleten' Osob. Komit. po issl. soyuzn. i avt. resp. /OKISAR/. 1926. No. 8.

10. The report of the errand to the Khibiny Tundras in summer 1926. DAN. 1927. p. 5

11. The mineral resources of the Khibiny Tundras, Kola Peninsula. "Karelo-Murmanskii Krai" 1927. Nos. 5–7, p. 7.

12. The Mineralogical Museum. Nauchnye uchrezhdeniya Akademii Nauk (The scientific institutions of the Academy of Sciences), 1917–27. p. 54

13. The pegmatite veins of North. Karelia. — Osvedom.Byullet.OKISAR. 1927. Nos. 15–16.

14. The mineralogical studies in Khibiny Tundras in 1927. Osvedom. Byullet. "OKISAR" 1927. No. 19.

15. The Khibiny apatite. "Karelo-Murmanskii Krai" 1927. No. 11, p. 34.

16. On the use of Khibiny apatite in our phosphate industry. *Gornyi Zhurnal*. 1928. No. 1. p. 32.

17. The conference on the feldspar raw materials, 5–7 Dec. 1927. *Gornyi Zhurnal*. 1927. No. 2. p. 126.

18. Materials of the second conference on the feldspar. I.I. Ginzburg and A.N. Labuntsov, Eds. *Mat.KEPS*, 1927. No. 71.

19. First All-Union congress of mineralogists in 1927. A Report about scientific and technical works. *Republ. Scien. Chemic. Techn. Publish. Hause*, issue XXIII. 1928.

20. On the zirconium industry. "Mineral'noe syr'e" (Mineral raw materials). 1929. No. 3.

21. The works of the Pamir Expedition mineralogical party. *Osvedom.byulleten' KEI*. 1929. No. 7.

22. The journey to Afghanistan at the end of 1928. *Priroda* 1929. No. 4, p. 346.

23. The mineralogical trip to North. Karelia. *Osved.byul. KEI* 1929. No. 20.

24. The prospecting works in the Khibiny Tundras. *Osved.byullet. KEI* 1929. No. 21.

25. The Khibiny nepheline-apatite deposits. *zhur. "Khochu vse znat'"* ("To know everything" magazine) 1929. No. 10.

26. How the Khibiny apatite was discovered "Karelo-Murm. Krai" 1930. No. 11–12.

27. The mineral resources of the Khibiny Tundras. *Gornyi Zhurnal* 1930. Nos. 7–8.

28. The materials on the apatite-nepheline deposits of Khibiny Tundras as the base of raw materials for producing phosphorous fertilizers and the comparison of apatite-nepheline rock with the phosphorites of the Union. The manuscript in materials for the technical and economic feasibility of investigation, mining and processing the Khibiny apatite-nepheline rock. Leningrad section of Khimtrest Vsekhimprom. July 1930.

29. The mineral resources of the Khibiny Tundras and their use in industry. A Guide to the Khibiny Tundras. *Izd. AN* 1931.

30. The routes of the Khibinogorsk station. Nefelin, Apatitovyi mine, Loparskii pass. Umbozero. A Guide to the Khibiny Tundras. *Izd. AN* 1931.

31. "Apatite". Collected book of raw and combustive resources of Leningrad district. *Izd. Lenkhimsektor*. 1932. p. 1.

32. Titanite /sphene/. *Ibidem* p. 97.

33. Titanomagnetite. *Ibidem* p. 99.

34. Titanium raw materials. *Proc. of the 1st All-Union conference of Paint and coatings industry*. 1932.

35. The journey to the Kildin Island. *Vestn.Akad.Nauk. Special No*. 1932.

36. The Arctic outpost of the socialist construction /to five years developing of the Kola

Peninsula resources/. *Zhurn. Nauka i Tekhnika* ("Science and Technics" magazine) 1934. No. 23.

Labuntsov (signature) A. Labuntsov.

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 8.

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EXTRACT  
FROM THE PROTOCOL OF THE  
QUALIFICATION COMMISSION ON  
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF THE USSR  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

22/XII–35.

There were the chairman acad. A.A. BORISYAK; commission member acad. A.D. Arkhangelsky and scientific secretary P.I. LUNIN  
HEARD:

Awarding scientific degrees without thesis presentation in geological sciences.

RESOLVED:

Award a scientific degree of candidate of geological sciences without thesis presentation to the following scientists:

45. LABUNTSOV A.N. Award the scientific degree of candidate of geological sciences in the geochemistry section without thesis presentation, on the basis of all his works.

signature, seal. Chairman of Qualification Commission on geol. sciences of the USSR  
Academy of Sciences  
(ac.Borisyak)

member of commission: acad. Arkhangelsky  
Scientific Secretary (Lunin)  
true (signature)

certified copy: respons. offic. on staff  
(signature)

Seal: USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.  
Institute of Geological Sciences

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 6.

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Labuntsov [signed with pencil]  
HIGHER ATTESTATION COMMISSION  
FOR ACADEMIC DEGREES AND TITLES  
OF THE ALL-UNION COMMITTEE  
ON HIGHER SCHOOL UNDER  
THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS  
(SNK) OF THE USSR

Moscow, Kuibyshev str. 21 Telegraphic address:  
Moskva, KOMSHKOL.

EXTRACT  
from protocol No. 4 of "29" January 1939.

(The original resides in the Higher Attestation Commission)

HEARD:

§ 73. The solicitation of the Moscow  
Institute of Geological sciences of the USSR

*Academy of Sciences for revision of resolution concerning LABUNTSOV A.N.*

*By the resolution of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences of 15/V-37 the solicitation for confirmation of LABUNTSOV Alexander Nikolaevich in the scientific degree of candidate of geological-mineralogical sciences without thesis presentation was denied.*

**RESOLVED:**

*Confirm the resolution of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences of 15/V-37.*

CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGHER ATTESTATION COMMISSION  
FOR ACADEMIC DEGREES AND TITLES –

*S. Kaftanov*

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY – *A. Platonov*

*True: Scientific Secretary of the Higher*

*Attestation Commission*

*(signature)*

*/A. Platonov/*

*Seal: All-Union Committee on Higher School under the SNK of the USSR*

*27 February 1939*

RAS Archive. F. 518. Op. 5. D. 84. L. 5.

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In conclusion, the authors and the directorate of Fersman Mineralogical Museum thank the RAS Archive, its director Vitaly Yuryevich Afiani, and the head of the reference room of RAS Archive Irina Georgievna Tarakanova for their assistance in preparing of the A.N. Labuntsov's letters to academician V.I. Vernadsky for publication. We also appreciate Vladislav Pavlovich Volkov, who has found these letters in RAS Archive.

## References

*Khalezova E.B.* Khibiny – fabulous land of my childhood // *Sredi mineralov. Almanakh.*

M.: Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS. **2001**. P. 112 – 120. (in Russian).

*Kornetova V.A.* In memoriam of Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov (To 100 years from his birthday) // *Novye dannye o mineralakh.* **1986**. Issue 33. P. 158 – 162. (in Russian).

*Labuntsov A.N.* The pegmatites of Northern Karelia and their minerals // *Pegmatity SSSR. M.-L.: AN SSSR.* **1939**. Vol. 2. 260 p. (in Russian).

*Labuntsova M.A.* Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov. To 115 years from his birthday // *Sredi mineralov. Almanakh. M.: Fersman Mineralogical Museum RAS.* **2001**. P. 90 – 100. (in Russian).

*Makarova E.I.* The story from the archive documents: Report about summer work in the Khibiny Tundras by the scientific specialist of the Lomonosov Institute of the Academy of Sciences (LIGEM) A.N. Labuntsov, who worked here in 1934 according to the the Khibiny Research Mining Station of the Academy of Sciences (KhIGS) regulation // *Tietta.* **2009**. No 3(9). P. 81 – 85. (in Russian)

*Shcherbina V.V., Bonshtedt-Kupletskaya E.M.* Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov // *ZVMO.* **1963**. Part XCII. Issue 6. P. 751 – 752. (in Russian).

*Spachenko A.K.* Alexander Nikolaevich Labuntsov – the Khibiny legend // *Tietta.* **2009**. No 3(9). P. 75 – 80. (in Russian).

*Vernadsky V.I.* The Diaries, 1935 – 1941 / The Library of academician V.I. Vernadsky's Works / *Complier V.P. Volkov. M.: Nauka,* **2006**<sub>1</sub>. Book 1: 1935 – 1938. 444 p. (in Russian).

*Vernadsky V.I.* The Diaries, 1935 – 1941 / The Library of academician V.I. Vernadsky's Works / *Complier V.P. Volkov. M.: Nauka,* **2006**<sub>2</sub>. Book 2: 1939 – 1941. 295 p. (in Russian).