Early Russian Organic Chemists and Their Legacy

David Lewis
Professor
Department of Chemistry

The organic chemists of Russia during the pre-revolutionary period included some of the most creative and talented chemists of the 19th and early 20th centuries. From the founding of the Academy of Sciences until the early 19th century, Russian organic chemistry was largely in the hands of foreign scientists. Its Russification reached its zenith during the last half of the 19th century, with vibrant schools of chemistry arising in the eastern city of Kazan, at Moscow and St. Petersburg. By the end of the century, Russification was complete. In this SpringerBrief, the contributions of these organic chemists to the field are discussed.