



Photograph of Academician A.V. Venediktov  
(Early 1950s. Anonymous photographer.)

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# Celebrating a Star in the Legal Firmament of Russia: The CXXV Anniversary of the Birth of Academician A.V. Venediktov

Zlata E. Benevolenskaya\*

## 1. Introduction

A distinguished group of international experts in Russian law gathered on 26 October 2012 at the Law Faculty of Saint Petersburg State University (*SPbGU*) at the invitation of the Faculty's Professor of Civil Law, Dr. Nataliia Rasskazova—the convener of an International Conference on “The Academic Heritage of Academician A.V. Venediktov and the Present Day” in celebration of the CXXV anniversary of his birth. This provided members of the Russian and foreign scholarly and practicing communities with an excellent opportunity to discuss and review the controversial legal institution under which state-owned-entities hold property in Russia: “operational management” (*operativnoe upravlenie*), originally developed by Academician Venediktov. During the Conference, a number of contentious issues were mentioned on which Academician Venediktov had worked: the law of pledge (*pravo zaloga*), the legal status of state enterprises, state ownership, shared ownership, and banking transactions.

## 2. Who was Anatolii Venediktov?

Anatolii Vasil'ievich Venediktov (1887–1959) was a renowned jurist with a string of honors. He was elected Academician of the USSR Academy of Science on 20 June 1958, and at the beginning of December of that same year he received a Doctorate in Law *Honoris Causa* from Warsaw University.<sup>1</sup> His *kandidatskaia stepen'* (first post-graduate) degree was in Economics, and from 1939 to 1942 he held a Chair at the Institute of Planning. He went on to become Doctor of Juridical Science, and subsequently Professor; from 1944 until 1949, he held the post of Dean of the Law Faculty of Leningrad State University. In that position, he led the Faculty on its reinstatement after a fourteen-year break which hiatus

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<sup>1</sup> “V Leningradskom Universitete”, *Pravovedenie* (1959) No.1, 173-174.