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**SamplePrep**  
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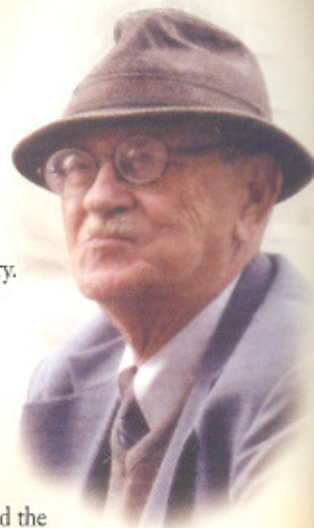
# handbook

## OF SAMPLE PREPARATION AND HANDLING

Biotechnology  
Pulverizing and Blending  
Pressing and Pelletizing  
Fusion  
XRF Accessories



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**George Chaplenko**  
**1924 - 2004**



George Chaplenko was an integral figure at SPEX Industries, Inc. and its successor companies for forty years, or 80% of our company's entire history. During this time he was involved in the conception, design, trouble-shooting, and service of almost every instrument made by the various divisions of the company. This included SPEX mills and presses in the early days, then a whole family of SPEX spectrometers. George is perhaps best known for inventing the 6700 Freezer/Mill, a unique cryogenic mill that is still the best in the world. George designed the circuitry and controls, built the prototype, and ground the first samples: his own fingernail clippings, and hair from Bingo, the company dog. At age 80, when he died, George was still working three days a week as head of the SPEX SamplePrep Service Department, and among his last projects was a new vial for the current model, the 6750 Freezer/Mill.

George was ingenious and inexhaustible, always probing and testing. He was intensely practical, but a daring explorer in the world of ideas. We, his colleagues, all believed he was as indestructible as he was indomitable. He was active and alert and fully engaged in his personal life and his work up to the day of his death.

When he came to the United States in 1955 as a Ukrainian refugee, George had survived World War II and a DP (Displaced Persons) camp in Augsburg. With him was his first wife, Tanya, the daughter of Yukhym Mykhailiv, a Ukrainian Symbolist painter who had been sent to Siberia by Stalin. When George and Tanya left Ukraine, they reputedly rolled up her father's paintings and smuggled them out under a barbed wire fence; thereafter they hung in the Chaplenko home in Edison, N.J. Tanya was also known for her expertise in creating Pysanky, Ukrainian Easter Eggs. After her death George married Dr. Tamara Bulat, a musicologist and co-author of *The History of Ukrainian Music*. George was the son of Vasyl Chaplenko, a prominent Ukrainian writer and linguist who had also emigrated to the U.S. Though George was trained and employed as an engineer, he was a poet, a translator, a writer of science fiction, and a noted amateur astronomer and telescope designer who was an influential member of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. and had close connections with the Sperry Observatory at Union College. He was active in the local Ukrainian community, and at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A., in New York City.

Here at SPEX SamplePrep, George Chaplenko was our creative genius and the man who could fix anything. He was our teller of tales, and embodied our institutional memory. Like other great and unique men, he is irreplaceable. He will be greatly missed by the multitude of colleagues, customers, family, and friends whose lives he touched.

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# handbook

## **OF SAMPLE PREPARATION AND HANDLING**

### **Ninth Edition Contributing Editors**

Ralph H. Obenauf, Ph.D

Darlyn Nash

John Martin

Richard Bostwick

Mena DeStefano

Jeffrey Akers

Keith Tucker

### **SPEX SamplePrep, L.L.C.**

203 Norcross Avenue

Metuchen, NJ 08840

1-800-LAB-SPEX • 732-549-7144

Fax 732-906-2492

E-mail: [sampleprep@spexcsp.com](mailto:sampleprep@spexcsp.com)

Website: <http://www.spexcsp.com>

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