The *Voprosy psixologii*, 1969,6, contains a report by I. I. Ivanova of a meeting held, apparently in Moscow, on the 16th of last June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Birth of S. L. Rubinskij (1889-1960). The speakers at this colloquium were E. V. Šoroxova, B. G. Anan’ev, N. A. Menčinskaja, E. A. Budilova, K. A. Slavskaja, A. V. Brušlinskij, K. K. Platonov, A. M. Matjuškin and M. I. Smirnov. Anan’ev’s paper was published in *VP* 1969,5 as were articles by Budilova, Slavskaja and Brušlinskij which are probably substantially the same as the papers they read at the colloquium.

The significance of the colloquium is that it is a clear indication of the growing appreciation among Soviet philosophers and psychologists of Rubinskij’s contributions to psychological theory. In recent years there has been evidence of a growing interest in Rubinskij’s work. Not only are his works widely quoted in psychological and philosophical literature but his ideas have been the subject of at least one lengthy study by R. G. Balinčivadžė and a long article by E. V. Šoroxova in *VP* 1967,5. Moreover, in 1966 a long extract from an unpublished manuscript by Rubinskij entitled ‘Man and the World’ appeared in the *VF* accompanied by a commentary by K. A. Slavskaja.

To judge by the résumés by I. I. Ivanova of the papers read at the colloquium, nothing new emerged from the meeting. Most of the speakers confined themselves to rather prosaic accounts of Rubinskij’s contributions to different areas of psychology. This was only to be expected as there have been no major developments in Soviet psychology since 1962 when the All Union Session on the philosophical questions of the physiology of higher nervous activity and psychology mitigated the extreme ‘Pavlovism’ which had been dominant in Soviet psychology since the Pavlov Conference of 1950. As Budilova pointed out in her paper, it was due in no small measure to the theoretical work of S. L. Rubinskij that Soviet psychology survived the concerted effort made at that time to reduce it to a mere branch of physiology. Though he did not live to see it,
the conference of 1962 represented the triumph of his ideas and the colloquium of July 1969 pays due tribute to his contribution.

In her paper, E. V. Šoroxtova spoke of Rubinštejn’s importance as a theoretician of psychology saying that “the unified plan for the construction of Soviet psychology is realized in his works”. Šoroxtova went on to discuss the major problems dealt with by Rubinštejn in his works: the psychic as process, the unity of consciousness and behaviour, the theory of determinism, the problem of personality, etc. It is to be regretted that Šoroxtova’s paper has not been published. A former pupil of Rubinštejn, E. V. Šoroxtova is a psychologist of some note and has published a number of important works on psychological theory.

Anan’ev’s paper, “the Creative Path of S. L. Rubinštejn”⁵, claimed, with some justification, that Rubinštejn’s “biography is organically interwoven with the biography of Soviet psychology”. Anan’ev traced the development of Rubinštejn’s thought from 1915 when he began his “pedagogical activity” in Odessa but made no mention of his early education in Germany or of the change which occurred in his thought in the early 1950’s.

E. A. Budilova spoke of Rubinštejn’s work at the Institute of Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., where he headed the section for psychology from its foundation in 1945 until his death. According to Budilova, the principal task confided to the section for psychology was the elaboration of a dialectical-materialist theory of psychology. In the work of the section the accent was placed on the philosophical problems of psychology and special attention was paid to the implications of the theory of reflection for psychology.

Budilova went on to discuss Rubinštejn’s contributions to psychology in the years immediately following the Pavlov Conference when “a false interpretation of the relation between psychology and physiology led to the denial of the independent status of psychology as a science”. During this period, Rubinštejn continually defended the autonomy of psychology from the point of view of its method and object. Moreover, Budilova claims that he played a leading part in the theoretical and organisational preparations for the conference of 1962.

In her paper on Rubinštejn’s unfinished manuscript, ‘Man and the World’, K. A. Slavskaja drew attention to the continuity in Rubinštejn’s thought as manifested in his works. Slavskaja seems to have been the only speaker at the colloquium to mention Rubinštejn’s early studies in