

PERSONALIA

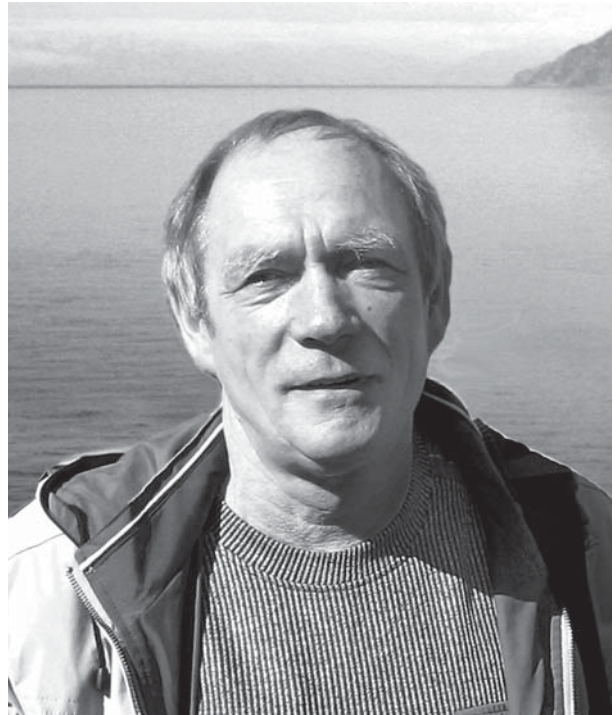
A Peer of the Victory (V.V. Bobrov is 75)

The 5th of June 2020 was the 75th birthday of Vladimir Vasilievich Bobrov, Doctor of Historical sciences, Professor, renowned Russian scholar, and a leader of the Kemerovo archaeologists. V.V. Bobrov is the trustworthy friend and colleague for the authors of this essay, and the teacher for some of us. We are connected with him by implementation of major scientific projects, such as writing the new version of “The History of Siberia”, carrying out joint field works in Aidashinskaya Cave, Shestakovo, Lake Tanai, and Baraba forest-steppe. For years we have been working together and sharing the pleasures of scientific achievements, as well as the severity of loss of friends and colleagues... That is why we want to pay tribute and express our love and respect to Vladimir Bobrov.

V.V. Bobrov’s anniversary contemporized with the 75th anniversary of the Victory of our people over fascism in the Great Patriotic War. This juxtaposition is quite appropriate, because his parents—Vasily Ivanovich and Nina Egorovna—were front-line soldiers. They tied their destinies to the active army, and the birth of Vladimir only one month after the end of the war was undoubtedly the best present for the happy parents. Vladimir has always been proud of his parents.

Vladimir’s school-years were typical for children of the military personnel. He attended several schools at his father’s duty stations in Ukraine, Germany, and later in Kemerovo. Siberia and Kuzbass became native for him. Already in high school, the young man decided to devote himself to archaeology.

In 1962, V.V. Bobrov went to the History and Philology Department of the Kemerovo State Pedagogical Institute (subsequently, Kemerovo State University), to which his creative life is still connected. Upon graduation in 1966, V.V. Bobrov was recruited as an assistant at the Department of General History of the Faculty of History. It was quite unusual, because all graduates of the pedagogical institutes were subject to distribution to schools; only really outstanding students could have been employed at institutes of higher education. During his student years, Vladimir annually worked on archaeological expeditions. Anatoly Ivanovich Martynov, subsequently a Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, was his first tutor. They have been and still are good friends and collaborators.



Another important milestone in V.V. Bobrov’s life is his military service in the Soviet armed forces, which took place in Sakhalin and where he spent two difficult years. Our hero has always cherished warm memories about those days. It is impossible not to mention another most important event in his life. After returning from the army, Vladimir Bobrov married an amazing girl, with whom he has been walking hand in hand for 50 years! Natasha, Natalia Aleksandrovna is his faithful companion and friend. They endured both difficult Siberian expeditions and everyday joys and hardships together. This is support and maintenance, which V.V. Bobrov has always been provided with.

The first independent scientific topic of Vladimir Vasilievich was portable art of the Early Iron Age. He elaborated this topic in his candidate dissertation entitled “Reindeer in the Scytho-Siberian Animal Art Style (Tagar Culture)”, which was successfully defended in 1973. It should be mentioned that the issues of the primitive art and irrational behavior of ancient humans of the Neolithic and Bronze Age are among the major fields of V.V. Bobrov’s scientific interest.

In his university years, Vladimir Bobrov took part in various field archaeological studies carried out in Siberia and the Russian Far East. Vladimir Bobrov believed that participation in the archaeological expedition in the Amur region headed by A.P. Okladnikov was one of his most important experiences. Aleksey Okladnikov became his supervisor in the post-graduate studies.

Vladimir Bobrov started his independent field studies in 1973. He mainly surveyed Kuzbass; performed excavations in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Tomsk Region, and the Baraba forest-steppe. V.V. Bobrov still actively works in the field today! The range of his scientific interests is extremely wide (from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages), but the preference is given to the Neolithic and Bronze periods. One of his most important achievements is his research of the Tanai archaeological microdistrict, located on Lake Tanai, on the borderline between the Novosibirsk and Kemerovo regions. These studies lasted for 20 years (1986–2006). The findings included not only the new data sources, but also the original scientific theories concerning particular periods of the Bronze Age in this specific region of Western Siberia. During the same period of his scientific activity, V. Bobrov worked out a concept of development of the historical-cultural processes in the Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Kuzbass-Salair mountain region, which region was practically unexplored from this point of view before. He presented this concept in his doctoral dissertation “Kuznetsk-Salair Mountain Region in the Bronze Age”, which he successfully defended in the form of scientific report in 1992. This research can undoubtedly be attributed to the creative achievements of the scholar. It is still frequently referred to in the works of researchers of the Siberian Bronze Age.

In the 2000s, V.V. Bobrov investigated the Neolithic settlement sites in the Baraba forest-steppe. Large-scale excavations were carried out at the site of Autodrom-2. The accumulated materials allowed the scholar to substantiate the trends of development of the Neolithic cultures in the region, and to draw up comprehensive characteristics of the Late Neolithic Artyn culture. Vladimir Bobrov, with his colleagues and students, were the first to identify the Neolithic flat-bottomed pottery in the Baraba forest-steppe.

Having defended his doctoral dissertation, V.V. Bobrov becomes increasingly engaged in the issues of development of the Humanities in Kuzbass. In 1995, a Joint Kuzbass Laboratory for Archaeology was established on the initiative of Academician RAS A.P. Derevianko (Head of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS) and Corr.-Member RAS Y.A. Zakharov (Rector of the Kemerovo State University). V.V. Bobrov was the head of this Laboratory till 2018. According to the Charter of the Siberian Branch of

the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Laboratory was territorially assigned to the Kemerovo Scientific Center SB RAS, and Vladimir Bobrov became a member of its Presidium. The Laboratory was the first research institution for the Humanities in Kuzbass.

In 2004, V.V. Bobrov was admitted to the Institute of Human Ecology of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which was founded on the initiative of the SB RAS Presidium, as a Scientific Deputy Director, and headed its Department for Humanities Research. In fact, Vladimir Bobrov took part in the organization of the Institute. In 2016, the Federal Research Center for Coal and Coal Chemistry of SB RAS was established, which included the Institute of Human Ecology. V.V. Bobrov retained the position of the Head of the Department for Humanities Research.

For 20 years, Vladimir Bobrov has been a member of the Joint Scientific Council of SB RAS, which is of paramount importance for the coordination of research across the humanities in Siberia. In Kuzbass, V.V. Bobrov for almost 10 years headed the expert council of the regional branch of the Russian Foundation for the Humanities; and since 2017, he has been a deputy chairman of the regional branch of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. Currently, the scholar is involved in creating a department for the social sciences and humanities in the world-class scientific and educational center “Kuzbass”. This decision was made at the Council for Science, Education and Technologies under the President of the Russian Federation on May 8, 2019.

Teaching has always been and remains a special and really favorite activity for V.V. Bobrov. Since 1994, he has been a professor at the Department of Archaeology at the Kemerovo State University, and since 1998, has been heading the Department. He runs a number of courses and directs field archaeological practice of students. V.V. Bobrov supervised 17 candidate dissertations and was a scientific consultant in the preparation of three doctoral dissertations.

Vladimir Bobrov is the author and co-author of 440 scientific publications, including 12 monographs. Notably, some monographs show multidisciplinary approach. The monographs addressing the issues of the Late Bronze Age (Irmen culture) and bronze casting in the Lugavskoye culture in Southern Siberia are of special interest.

The high scientific rating of V.V. Bobrov is evidenced by the constant support of the projects under his supervision by leading domestic funds: Russian Foundation for the Humanities, Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Federal Target Program “Integration”, Federal Target Program of the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Russian Federation. His scientific authority among the colleagues is evidenced by his long-term membership in the editorial council of the international

Journal *Archaeology, Ethnology and Anthropology of Eurasia*, editorial boards of the periodicals *Kemerovo State University Herald* and *Irkutsk State University News*. Vladimir Bobrov repeatedly was a member of the program organizing committee of international and all-Russian scientific conferences, and all-Russian archaeological congresses (2006 in Novosibirsk; 2008 in Suzdal; 2017 in Barnaul-Belokurikha). He is a member of several scientific councils for candidate and doctoral dissertation defense.

Professor V.V. Bobrov was awarded the title “Honored Employee of the Higher School of the Russian Federation” by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation for his significant contribution to the development of science and education. He was awarded the title of “Honorary Professor of Kuzbass” by the administration

of the Kemerovo Region. Vladimit Vasilievich has won many regional and departmental awards, including “Kuzbass Development Medal”, classes III and II, Certificates of Honor from the Presidium of RAS and SB RAS.

On his 75th anniversary, our Peer of Victory is full of energy and creative plans. He has the psychology of the winner! We have no doubt that V.V. Bobrov will achieve remarkable results yet more than once!

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