

PERSONALIA

We Just Dream of Rest... Academician A.P. Derevianko's 80th Birthday

Anatoly Panteleyevich was born on January 9, 1943, in the Kozmo-Demiyanovka village, Tambovsky District, Amur Region, in a working-class family. His father, Panteley Alekseevich, and mother, Evdokiya Semenovna, raised their three sons in the spirit of diligence and kindness, and instilled in them a sense of responsibility for themselves and their loved ones, and deep love for the Motherland and their people. These qualities formed the basis of the character of Anatoly Panteleyevich. In the difficult post-war years, at the age of nine, he began to earn his “daily bread”, and at the age of 11 he already became a full-time worker to earn his living. Anatoly learned to read and write very early on, reading was his favorite pastime. His inclination for the humanities, especially history, was manifested while studying at school, and after he participated in a geological expedition, he developed an interest in working in the field.

After graduating from high school, A.P. Derevianko entered the Department of History and Philology at the Blagoveshchensk Pedagogical Institute. A turn in the life of a young student was determined by a meeting with the famous scientist Alexey Pavlovich Okladnikov. After completing an accelerated degree program and graduating from the institute with honors in 1963, A.P. Derevianko entered the postgraduate school of the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, where Academician A.P. Okladnikov became his leading professor and research advisor.

Thanks to the participation in the expeditions under the leadership of the outstanding scientist and excellent teacher, discussion with him of key problems of archaeology and ancient history, A.P. Derevianko, as a postgraduate student, developed the broadest outlook and creative approach to solving the issues of archaeology, a serious attitude to the sources, and the ability to work in difficult field conditions. As early as 1963, A.P. Derevianko already conducted his first independent excavations at the Neolithic settlement of Novopetrovka on the Amur. The results of these studies served as a basis for identifying the Novopetrovka archaeological culture. Commitment to the archaeology of the native Amur region, which developed at that time, permeated his entire creative biography.



In 1965, A.P. Derevianko brilliantly defended his Candidate Dissertation entitled “Ancient Cultures of the Middle Amur (the Stone Age)”. In 1970, his first monograph “The Novopetrovka Blade Culture in the Middle Amur” was published, which was awarded the Lenin Komsomol Prize—the country’s highest award for young scientists.

At that time, in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok (Academic Town), the center for the humanities in Siberia was formed under the leadership of Academician A.P. Okladnikov. The stake was placed on talented young people, capable of formulating and solving complex scientific problems. It was in these conditions that the outstanding qualities of the creative personality of A.P. Derevianko were revealed. In just five years, Anatoly Panteleyevich rose from Junior Researcher to Deputy Director for Research at the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of

the USSR Academy of Sciences. At that time, his research was devoted to the study of sites and artifacts of various cultures and eras on the territory of the Amur region. In 1971 (at the age of 28!), A.P. Derevianko defended his Doctoral Dissertation entitled “The Amur Region in Antiquity (Before the Common Era)”. Based on the results of comprehensive studies of multiple archaeological sites of the Russian Far East, Anatoly Panteleyevich wrote the monographs “The Early Iron Age of the Amur Region” and “The Amur Region in the 1st Millennium BC”, which are still in demand by researchers in the region today.

The rich career path of Anatoly Panteleyevich includes not only his large-scale scientific and organizational, but also social and political activities. In 1976, he was elected secretary of the Komsomol (All-Union Leninist Young Communist League) Central Committee, and after that, in 1979–1980, he worked as Secretary of the Novosibirsk Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This field of activity allowed A.P. Derevianko to improve his organizational skills. Responsible work on a national scale took almost all the time and effort, but Anatoly Panteleyevich invariably spent his vacations in archaeological expeditions to the Far East, and all his spare time he devoted to scientific research. It was at this time that one of his most famous popular science books, “In Search of the Golden Antlers Deer”, was written, dedicated to the legendary life story of his teacher, Academician A.P. Okladnikov. The book was translated into several European languages and published abroad.

In 1979, Anatoly Panteleyevich’s contributions to science of our country were recognized: at the age of 36, he was elected a Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Shortly after this event, A.P. Derevianko returned to his native Akademgorodok and became the Rector of Novosibirsk State University. Since 1983, A.P. Derevianko again works in the system of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Becoming the successor to A.P. Okladnikov as Director of the Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in a short time he significantly strengthened the scientific potential of the institute and turned it into one of the largest academic centers for humanitarian research in the country. One of his main activities in these years was the study of the first peopling of the territory of North, Central and East Asia. As before, Anatoly Panteleyevich spent a lot of time in archaeological expeditions through different regions of Siberia, the Far East, and Mongolia. He discovered hundreds of unique archaeological sites, and headed the large-scale stationary excavations of many of them. The outstanding achievements of this period of creative activity were duly appreciated by the scientific community: in 1987 Anatoly Panteleyevich

was elected to become a Full Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the turbulent 1990s, a most difficult period for Russian science, A.P. Derevianko proved himself to be an outstanding administrator, a far-sighted, sensitive, and committed leader. On his initiative, the Joint Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the SB RAS was divided into four thematic institutes, with established scientific schools and the necessary staff. Thus, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography became an independent institution within the system of the SB RAS. Essentially, A.P. Derevianko created a new institute with a modern infrastructure, which included, in addition to scientific divisions, a restoration and research department provided with the latest instruments and high-performance scientific equipment, a publishing and printing center with a first-class printing base allowing for the production of high-quality full-color publications, a transportation department with a fleet of expedition vehicles ensuring the simultaneous work of more than 40 archaeological teams, as well as a scientific and educational department with joint laboratories based on large universities in Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Tobolsk, Kemerovo, Barnaul, Blagoveshchensk, Khabarovsk, and Voronezh.

It was during these years that the Institute launched the international scientific tourism system and organized several international exhibitions in the Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, directing the earned funds to scientific activities and support of its employees.

In the 1990s, the staff of the Institute implemented a large-scale project to create Russia’s largest archaeological research station “Denisova Cave” in the Altai. It marked the beginning of long-term complex interdisciplinary studies of the most informative stratified Paleolithic sites of Siberia.

The undoubted merit of Anatoly Panteleyevich is the organization, based on the Institute, together with the Institute of Geology and Geophysics and the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, of the Center for Collective Use “Cenozoic Geochronology”. It united the efforts of experts in the natural and human sciences in conducting interdisciplinary research in the field of archaeology and paleogeography, paleoclimatology, paleoecology, chronostratigraphy, anthropology, etc. An inter-institutional laboratory of paleogenetics was created jointly with the Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the SB RAS.

An important stage in the activities of A.P. Derevianko became the organization of the Institute’s museum complex. The pearl of the Open-Air Museum is the Zashiversk Church of the Transfiguration of Our Savior, recreated thanks to the perseverance and organizational talent of Anatoly Panteleyevich. The Museum of the History and Culture of the Peoples of Siberia and the

Far East exhibits unique artifacts of various eras—from the Paleolithic to the ethnographically modern period, obtained through large-scale expeditionary activities of the Institute's staff. In recent years, the Institute has been widely presented in many domestic and foreign exhibition halls.

A.P. Derevianko invested a lot of effort in the organization and development of the Institute's rescue and conservation activities. Large-scale studies were carried out in the beds of the reservoirs of the Boguchanskaya and Bratskaya hydroelectric power stations, in the areas of development of oil and gas complexes in the northwestern Siberia, and in the zone of construction of modern transport infrastructure in Khakassia.

It is difficult to overestimate the scientist's contribution to the development of research publishing in Siberia. Anatoly Panteleyevich was the initiator of the creation and editor-in-chief of the unique series of books "Folklore Heritage of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East". In 2002, for the publication of the first ten volumes, the team of authors headed by Anatoly Panteleyevich was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation in the field of science and technology. On his initiative, the international academic journal *Archaeology, Ethnography and Anthropology of Eurasia* was founded, which is published in Russian and English. The journal is included in the largest bibliographic domestic and foreign databases and takes leading positions in the ratings of specialized scientific periodicals. Anatoly Panteleyevich has been the Editor-in-Chief of this journal for more than 20 years. A.P. Derevianko initiated the work on the preparation and publication of the four-volume "History of Siberia", which reflects modern concepts of the development of this greatly important region from antiquity to the present. Two volumes of this unique edition already came out.

Anatoly Panteleyevich Derevianko is one of the leaders of world science, an outstanding researcher of the ancient history of Eurasia. Among the priority areas of his scientific research are the fundamental issues of modern archaeology: the first peopling of Eurasia, interaction between ancient humans and the natural environment; reconstruction of historical processes in the territory of North, Central and East Asia from the Paleolithic to the Middle Ages. A.P. Derevianko plays a leading role in the organization of interdisciplinary studies of ancient archaeological sites, in the study of paleolandscapes and paleoclimates, in the development of chronostratigraphy and correlation of ancient cultures of Siberia, the Far East, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Dagestan. Under his leadership, dozens of scientific discoveries were made, which are among the outstanding achievements of Russian and world archaeology. They fundamentally changed the ideas about the time and ways of the first peopling of Central, North and East Asia.

The main scientific achievements of A.P. Derevianko are the development of the chronology of the most ancient sites of Northern Eurasia, reflecting the first habitation of the continent in the Lower Paleolithic at the stage of early hominins; substantiation of the earliest manifestation of the Upper Paleolithic culture 50 thousand years ago; reconstruction of the models of the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in Africa and Eurasia. Anatoly Panteleyevich proposed a new concept for the formation of anatomically modern humans: *Homo sapiens* evolved simultaneously both in Africa and in Eurasia, where *Homo erectus* settled and where the process of their evolution towards physically modern humans took place independently.

Under the leadership of A.P. Derevianko, in Denisova Cave in the Altai, anthropological materials were discovered; paleogenetic study of the finds revealed a distinct hominin, previously unknown to science, called the Denisovan. This discovery was included in the top three world's most significant scientific events in 2011 and 2012, according to *Science*. In 2012, Academician A.P. Derevianko was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation for the outstanding results in the study of ancient history of mankind.

A.P. Derevianko made a great contribution to the development of the humanities in Russia. He successfully implemented many years of experience as an administrator of science, working as the Academic Secretary of the Department of Historical and Philological Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2002–2013. During these years, he was also a member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences. For more than 30 years, A.P. Derevianko has been a member of the Presidium of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, being a head of the United Scientific Council of SB RAS for the Humanities. A.P. Derevianko was elected co-chairman of the Russian Historical Society. On his initiative, in 2021, a regional branch of the Russian Historical Society was established in the Novosibirsk Region.

With such a large administrative and organizational workload, A.P. Derevianko always finds the time for scientific work. The findings of his research have been published in dozens of books and hundreds of articles. He is the author of over 1200 scientific publications, including over 100 monographs published in 14 languages. Anatoly Panteleyevich spent 57 field seasons in Eurasia, from the Adriatic and Caspian Sea to the Far East and Southeast Asia and America. One of his main achievements was the creation of a brilliant scientific school based on the multidisciplinary approach to the study of Paleolithic sites. Among his direct students, there are more than 60 doctors and candidates of historical sciences.

A new stage in the creative activity of Anatoly Panteleyevich is the preparation of a multi-volume

fundamental work “Three Global Human Migrations in Eurasia”, six volumes of which have already been published and have been met with great interest from the world scientific community. The multiregional model of anatomically modern human origin, proposed by A.P. Derevianko, reflects the great range of the research scope, the originality of the scientist’s thinking, and his deep understanding of the topic.

The international recognition of the scholar is evidenced by the election of A.P. Derevianko as a Foreign Member of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (1998), of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (2008), of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2013), as a Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute (1984), a Member of the UNESCO Intellectual Forum (since 1992), Scientific Advisor of the Research Center for Ancient Civilizations of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (2001), Honorary Professor and Doctor of Science at a number of prestigious foreign and domestic universities.

The merits of Anatoly Panteleyevich Derevianko to the Fatherland and science are marked by high government awards and prestigious prizes, including foreign. He is a

holder of the Orders of the Red Banner of Labor (1982), Honor (1998), “For Merit to the Fatherland” IV degree (2002), “Polar Star” (Mongolia, 2006), Friendship (2012), Alexander Nevsky (2018). A.P. Derevianko is a laureate of the Lenin Komsomol Prize (1972), twice a laureate of the State Prize (2002, 2013), the Demidov Prize (2004), the Academician Lavrentiev Prize (2005), “Triumph” Prize (2005), laureate of the Lomonosov Gold Medal (2014).

Anatoly Panteleyevich’s whole conscious life is devoted to serving science. This is evidenced by his annual expeditions to the Altai, where the search for traces of early human habitation is ongoing; by daily desk work, where new ideas, articles and books are born; and finally, by his most beloved creation—the Institute, whose prosperity gave meaning to his whole life!

With all our hearts, we wish him health, inspiration, and great creative ideas for the benefit of domestic science.

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