

PERSONALIA

Vladimir Pavlovich Mylnikov (in Honor of his 75th Birthday)

V.P. Mylnikov, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Leading Researcher at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS, a prominent scientist, a recognized expert in the field of ancient wood-processing technologies, was born on October 27, 1948, in a family of native Novosibirsk residents. He grew up in a working-class family, which moved from Novosibirsk to the construction of Akademgorodok in early 1958. Vladimir studied in school and began his career in the town of scientists, which was built before his eyes. In 1967, he worked as a communications technician at a local telephone exchange where he met Academician A.P. Okladnikov and the family of A.P. and E.I. Derevianko. In 1968, V.P. Mylnikov got a job of an electrical mechanic at the Institute of Economics and Organization of Industrial Production of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and established close ties with archaeologists at the Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Friendship with the people of an extraordinary profession determined his future destiny. The next year, Vladimir Mylnikov started his work in the photo laboratory of this research institute, which became his home for all the subsequent years. Here he turned into a professional photographer. His scientific photographs illustrate many field reports and well-known monographs prepared by the researchers of the Institute, as well as textbooks on archaeology.

The enthusiasm for archaeology and expeditionary research inspired Vladimir Mylnikov to get a degree at the History Department of the Kemerovo State University in 1983–1989, and to begin a career as a scientist. He went through a long and difficult path from a Senior Laboratory Assistant in the Archaeology Department to a Chief Researcher and Head of the Museum Studies Department.

Academician A.P. Okladnikov, during the twelve-year long joint work with V.P. Mylnikov, had a favorable effect on growing the personality of the future scientist. Vladimir Mylnikov was lucky to participate in annual field studies of archaeological sites of almost all eras—from the Old Stone Age to the ethnographically modern period; the field works were carried out in the Far East, Transbaikalia and Cisbaikalia, Western and Eastern Siberia, Tuva, Altai, Kazakhstan, the Urals, and Mongolia.



Vladimir also benefited from the participation in the work of archaeological teams of other Institute scholars, and in international expeditions with colleagues from Mongolia, USA, Germany, and Kazakhstan.

In 1995, V.P. Mylnikov successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled “Wood-Processing by the Carriers of the Pazyryk Culture” and his doctoral dissertation “Woodworking in the Late Bronze Age (Northern Asia)” in 2003. He developed and introduced a new method for express reconstruction of funeral wooden structures during excavations of archaeological sites with ancient wood in the Altai Mountains, Tuva, and Mongolia. The findings of traceological and experimental studies provided the good grounds for him to identify the types of tools and working techniques and to reconstruct the chains of operations in manufacturing the main categories of wooden items. V.P. Mylnikov distinguished three main branches in woodworking during the Late Bronze Age in North Asia: construction, carpentry/joinery, and carving—simple, complex, and artistic. On the basis of functional analysis of artifacts, he identified the main types of wooden items produced by particular working

methods. The scientist has also identified and classified the main types of burial structures and funerary beds.

V.P. Mylnikov is the author of the guidebook “Methods for the Study of Wooden Archaeological Items During Field and Laboratory Work”, developed and put into practice in 1994. Since then, this book has been successfully used in the archaeological studies in Russia, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan. The large-scale analytical works at the world-famous site of Pazyryk-5 were carried out in 2017–2019 using the above methods, and the long-lasting debate concerning the attribution of the internal burial constructions has been resolved.

V.P. Mylnikov is the author and co-author of more than 200 scientific articles, including 27 monographs, and four learning guides. His papers have been published both in Russia and abroad. Being a talented researcher, professional photographer, active popularizer of science, he has prepared a number of popular science works.

Vladimir Mylnikov is an experienced scientific coordinator and organizer. From 1988 to 1994, he headed the Seminsky Archaeological Team; in 2004 and 2006, he acted as a deputy head of the International Russian-German-Mongolian Archaeological Expedition in Mongolia; and in 2005, he was the leader of this Expedition. In 1978–1984, V.P. Mylnikov was the head of the photographic laboratory of the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences; in 2003–2005, he headed the Department of Museum Technologies and Restoration of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS; in 2005–2013, Mylnikov headed the Museum Studies Department at the Institute. In 2006–2013, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Scientific Council for Museums of the SB RAS. From 2007 to 2018, Vladimir Mylnikov taught a special course “Fundamentals of Conservation and Restoration of Archaeological and Ethnographic Items” for students of the Institute for Humanities of the Novosibirsk State University.

V.P. Mylnikov has been working for the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences for 55 years.

He is an Honored Veteran of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has diplomas from the local Komsomol Organization in Novosibirsk; letters of gratitude from the administration of the Sovetsky District of Novosibirsk and the Ministry of Culture of the Altai Republic. Mylnikov was awarded the honorary badge “Silver Sigma” of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, memorial signs “For Work for the Benefit of the City” of Novosibirsk, and the medal of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation “For Impeccable Work and Distinction” of the 3rd degree. He has been awarded a Letter of Gratitude from the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences for the many years of fruitful work for the benefit of science; Certificate of Honor from the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Council of the Trade Union of Workers of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Vladimir Mylnikov has a wonderful, friendly family of like-minded people. His wife Lyudmila is an archaeologist, Doctor of Historical Sciences. Beautiful daughters, who took part in archaeological expeditions in Western Siberia, the Far East, and the Altai, together with their parents, from the early childhood. Although the daughters did not become archaeologists, they retained the affection for this difficult but romantic profession for their lives, and try to instill it in their growing children.

At his anniversary, V.P. Mylnikov is full of creative ideas. He is a unique specialist, perhaps the only one of his kind, and he will certainly continue to delight the scientific community with new discoveries, monographs, and articles.

Friends and colleagues warmly congratulate our dear Vladimir Pavlovich Mylnikov, wish him many years of life and creative success in all his endeavors.

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