

# PERSONALIA

## The Double Anniversary of T.A. Chikisheva

The year 2024 marks a double anniversary for Tatyana Alekseevna Chikisheva—the anthropologist, Doctor of Historical Sciences, the Leading Researcher of the Department of Metal Ages Archaeology, the Head of the Division of Anthropology. First, it is her birthday, and, second, the round-number anniversary of her professional activity at our Institute.

In 1984, she joined the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, now the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAET SB RAS). By that point, Tatyana Alekseevna had already been an established scientist. She had graduated from the postgraduate studies at the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Biology of the Lomonosov Moscow State University (1979–1982). She had also defended her dissertation for the Candidate degree on the topic “Study of the Relationship Between the Anthropological Features of the Population and the Environmental Conditions of the Human Habitat (the Case of the Altai-Sayan Region)” under the scientific supervision of the future Academician RAS T.I. Alekseeva and B.V. Lavryashin. While working in Siberia, Tatyana Alekseevna has become a leading anthropologist not only at the Institute, but also in the Trans-Urals as a whole. First of all, she has systematized the numerous anthropological collections stored at the IAET SB RAS.

The scope of Tatyana Alekseevna’s professional interests is diverse and has been expanding from year to year. It comprises various aspects of the Eurasian paleoanthropology: study and systematization of the anthropological composition of ancient populations; reconstruction of biological and cultural origins based on skeletal morphology, fluctuating asymmetry and pathological changes, traumata, surgical and ritual manipulations. The scientific works of Tatyana Chikisheva cover a wide chronological range—from the Paleolithic to the Modern Age.

Tatyana Alekseevna has studied the ancient population of Siberia on a particularly large scale.



As a result, a paleoanthropological database of the indigenous peoples of the region and the adjacent territories has been created. In 2010, she brilliantly defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic “Dynamics of Anthropological Differentiation of the Population of Southwestern Siberia in the Neolithic to Early Iron Age”, which formed the basis of the monograph (2012) that was the fruit of many years of her labor. The monograph has provided a unique chronological range of materials. Analysis of numerous paleoanthropological remains has led to the important conclusion that the skeletal morphology of Eurasian populations in the Neolithic to Early Iron Age revealed evolutionary conservatism, evidenced by incomplete east-to-west differentiation. One of these lineages is represented in different anthropological variants in the northwestern taiga zone of Eurasia.

Developing V.V. Bunak's concept of human origins, Tatyana Chikisheva proved the old age of the Northern Eurasian anthropological formation and outlined its area: from the Onega region, the south of the White Sea, the northern forest zone of the East European Plain up to the Baraba forest-steppe.

Another unconsolidated cranial complex—the Southern Eurasian formation—was identified by T.A. Chikisheva on the basis of the Neolithic to Early Iron Age materials from the Altai-Sayan region. Being extremely fruitful, the idea made it possible to explain morphological features and anthropological similarity of carriers of the Okunev and Karasuk cultures, as well as the so-called Andronovo-type cultures of Western Siberia, the early nomads of the intermountain basins of the Altai-Sayan highlands, and the mountain systems of Dzungaria and Tien Shan. Judging by the unique Caucasoid-Mongoloid intermediacy of the ancient protomorphic anthropological communities of Eurasia, the similarity of spatially distant groups can be interpreted as a consequence of not only migrations, but also of the convergence of similar sets of traits.

The value of Tatyana Chikisheva's study lies in providing the comprehensive cranial and dental data, as well as the cultural and historical interpretation of the paleoanthropological findings. No wonder that this monograph has become a handbook for all those dealing with the issues of archaeology, ethnography, and history of this gigantic territory of Eurasia.

The scope of Tatyana Alekseevna's research makes her one of the leading anthropologists in our country. As a scientist, she holds the highest level of professionalism and the ability to see real people behind the anthropological evidence, which proves her talent and is very rare among the anthropologists. T.A. Chikisheva's works always act as an impetus for archaeological research. Many achievements of our Institute would not have been possible without her studies.

Tatyana Chikisheva is the author and co-author of more than 150 scientific works, including

13 monographs. Noteworthy is the multidisciplinary nature of her research.

The high academic ranking of T.A. Chikisheva is evidenced by the constant support of her projects by the leading scientific funds (Russian Foundation for the Humanities (RFH), Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), "Integration", and now—Russian Science Foundation (RSF)). The great authority of Tatyana Alekseevna among the colleagues is confirmed by her long-term work as an editorial board member of the journals of *Archaeology, Ethnology and Anthropology of Eurasia* and *Bulletin of Moscow University*. She is a member of the Dissertation Council and the Academic Council of the IAET SB RAS. For many years she was an expert of the RFBR.

Tatyana Alekseevna is in demand not only as a professional, but also as a real teacher. She has a deep understanding and insight of empirical and theoretical knowledge, which she generously shares with her students. She has supervised the preparation and defense of a great number of graduation papers, master's theses, and the dissertations for the Candidate degree. Indeed, through her efforts, the anthropological school in Siberia has been created.

We express our warmest and heartfelt congratulations to the anniversary celebrant, a person of deep spiritual wisdom and the highest professionalism. We wish Tatyana Alekseevna further creative success, good health, talented students, and new achievements in the science to which her whole life is devoted.

*A.P. Derevianko, V.I. Molodin,  
A.I. Krivoshapkin, N.V. Polosmak,  
M.V. Shunkov, I.V. Salnikova,  
L.N. Mylnikova, V.P. Mylnikov,  
T.I. Nokhrina, D.V. Pozdnyakov,  
S.P. Nesterov, A.V. Tabarev,  
A.I. Solovyev, and A.P. Borodovsky*