

PERSONALIA

Walking the Paths of the Past. To the 80th Birthday of Professor V.V. Bobrov

Vladimir Bobrov was born on June 5, 1945 to a family of war veterans Vasily Ivanovich and Nina Egorovna. His school years were typical of the children of military servants. He studied in his father's places of service—the Ukraine, Germany, and later in the city of Kemerovo. Siberia and Kuzbass became his home. Already in high school, the young man decided to commit to archaeology.

In 1962, Vladimir Bobrov entered the Department of History and Philology at the Kemerovo State Pedagogical Institute (since 1974, Kemerovo State University). After successfully completing his studies in 1966, he became an Assistant at the Division of General History of the same department. In those years, this was an exceptional case for a graduate. The gift that V.V. Bobrov's destiny gave him was his outstanding teachers. A.I. Martynov—later, Doctor of Historical Sciences and Full Professor—laid the knowledge foundation and unleashed the potential of V.V. Bobrov's organizational talents. The scholarly supervisor of the already postgraduate student was A.P. Okladnikov, Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who shaped the breadth of V.V. Bobrov's thinking. Vladimir Bobrov went through the school of field research of both these great teachers. His development was also influenced by M.P. Gryaznov, who, like no one else, was able to penetrate the essence of the source under study.

An important milestone in the life of Vladimir Bobrov was his service in the Soviet Army on Sakhalin. One of the most important events in Bobrov's life happened after the military service—he married an amazing girl. Vladimir Bobrov's wife Natalya—a true companion and friend for over 50 years—shared both difficult Siberian expeditions and life's joys and hardships with him.

In 1972, V.V. Bobrov received his first state permit for excavating a Tagar burial mound near Lake Berchikul, in the Tisulsky District, Kemerovo Region. In the same year, he was elected to the position of Senior Lecturer. In 1973, Vladimir Bobrov defended his doctoral dissertation, *Deer in Scythian-Siberian Art of the Animal Style (Tagar Culture)*, and became an Associate Professor.



In 1975, the Department of Archaeology was opened at the Kemerovo State University, and in 1977, Bobrov was appointed the Deputy Head of this department. Looking ahead, we should say that in 1998 he would become its head until 2022. In 1992, the scholar brilliantly defended his post-doctoral dissertation *Kuznetsk-Salair Mountain Region in the Bronze Age*, and in 1994 he was awarded the academic title of full professor.

Vladimir Bobrov has made a great contribution to education. The topics of the lecture courses that he taught in different years are wide and include “Problems of Siberian Archaeology of the Stone and Bronze Ages”, “Prehistoric Art”, “Archaeological Source Studies”, “Siberia in the Bronze Age”, etc. Over 80 graduate theses of students specializing in archaeology of Eurasia were prepared under the supervision of Bobrov. For many decades, he has been supervising archaeological practical training of students.

Vladimir Bobrov proved himself to be a talented organizer; under his supervision, the Department of

Archaeology at the Kemerovo State University has reached the pinnacle of its development. In 1999, V.V. Bobrov raised money and resumed the tradition of publishing the collections of articles and monographs of the department employees. Vladimir Bobrov actively supports the research areas in the scope of the department's work. In 2009, the Kemerovo State University Academic Council approved the status of the scholarly archaeological school "Study of Culture and Art of Ancient Societies at the Junction of Northern and Central Asia (Traditions and Innovations)". In 2004 and 2009, under the supervision of V.V. Bobrov, professors and students of the department prepared and held the XLIV and XLIX Regional Archaeological and Ethnographic Conferences of Students and Young Scholars, which were attended by young researchers from Siberia, the Far East, Central Russia, and neighboring countries.

In 1995, a joint Kuzbass Laboratory of Archaeology was established on the initiative of A.P. Derevianko, Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS, Academician of the RAS, and Y.A. Zakharov, Rector of the Kemerovo State University, Corresponding Member of the RAS. V.V. Bobrov headed the laboratory since its creation until 2018. According to the Charter of the SB RAS, the laboratory territorially belonged to the Kemerovo Scientific Center, and thus Vladimir Bobrov was incorporated into its Presidium. The laboratory's activities included studying various issues of demographic and social processes in ancient societies of Siberia, as well as mechanisms of cultural interaction and their historical importance; special attention was paid to identifying the features of historical and cultural processes in the mountain ecosystem of Southern Siberia.

In 2004, the Institute of Human Ecology of the SB RAS was founded in Kemerovo on the initiative of the Presidium of the SB RAS, with direct participation of V.V. Bobrov. Vladimir Bobrov was appointed its Deputy Scientific Director and headed the department of research in humanities. In 2016, the institute became a part of the newly formed Federal Research Center for Coal and Coal Chemistry of the SB RAS.

Scholarship has always been and remains the main calling of Professor V.V. Bobrov. He is the head of the Kuzbass Archaeological Expedition at the Institute of Human Ecology of the SB RAS and Kemerovo State University, whose work is associated primarily with his native Kuzbass. The range of V.V. Bobrov's research concerns various areas of ancient human activities from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages.

Important results were obtained during the fundamental study of the Tanai Archaeological Microdistrict on the border of Novosibirsk and Kemerovo regions (1986–2006). In the same years, Vladimir Bobrov elaborated the concept of development of historical and cultural processes in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages in the Kuznetsk-Salair Mountain Region.

Since 2003, every July, the Kuzbass Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of Human Ecology of the SB RAS and Kemerovo State University, under the leadership of Professor Bobrov, has been carrying out archaeological works at the sites near the village of Vengerovo in the Novosibirsk Region. In this area, V.V. Bobrov's research works focus on Neolithic settlement complexes. Vladimir Bobrov and his colleagues and students are the discoverers of the Early Neolithic flat-bottomed pottery in the Baraba forest-steppe. Unique items of production and household types were found and studied at the Late Bronze Age settlement of Lozhka-6.

Today, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Vladimir Bobrov is known as an outstanding archaeologist of Siberia. He is the author and co-author of over 440 scholarly works, including 12 monographs. Eighteen doctoral dissertations were defended under his supervision; he was a scholarly consultant in preparation of three post-doctoral dissertations.

High scholarly rating of V.V. Bobrov is evidenced by the constant support of his projects by the leading Russian foundations. His great authority in professional circles is confirmed by his long-term participation in the editorial board of the international journal *Archaeology, Ethnography and Anthropology of Eurasia*, and editorial boards of the *Bulletin of the Kemerovo State University* and *Bulletin of the Irkutsk State University*. He is a member of several dissertation councils.

The work of V.V. Bobrov has been highly appreciated by the federal and regional governments. He was awarded medals "For Special Contribution to the Development of Kuzbass" of the II and III degrees (2003, 2007), is an honored employee of higher education of the Russian Federation (2002), Honorary Professor of Kuzbass (2008), Honored Professor of Kemerovo State University (2021), etc.

The hero of the day has new expedition roads, new discoveries, books, and articles ahead. Let us wish Vladimir Bobrov bright achievements, interesting, bold ideas, and creative happy moments in the field and at the desk.

*A.P. Derevianko, V.I. Molodin, N.V. Polosmak,
L.N. Mylnikova, M.S. Nesterova, Y.N. Nenakhova,
V.P. Mylnikov, and A.I. Solovyev*