

## PERSONALIA

### Sergei Pavlovich Nesterov

On April 10, 2007, Sergei Pavlovich Nesterov, Doctor of Historical Sciences and one of the greatest scholars of ancient cultures of the Amur region, turned sixty.

Sergei Nesterov was born in the Moshkovsky District of the Novosibirsk Region. In 1974, he finished secondary school in Novosibirsk, and in 1975, entered the Department of Humanities of Novosibirsk State University. The school teacher of history fostered Sergei's interest in archaeology, and he chose it as his major subject.

The first expedition of Sergei Nesterov at the famous sites under the Mount Tepsei in Krasnoyarsk Territory was led by Y.S. Hudiakov. The topic of Nesterov's further research was determined during that expedition. Subsequently, it became the subject of his Ph.D. dissertation entitled, "Horse in the Cults of the Turkic-Speaking Tribes of Central Asia in the Early Middle Ages" (supervised by the Academician A.P. Derevianko), which Sergei Nesterov successfully defended in 1987. After graduating from the university in 1980, Sergei Nesterov started his work in the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Academician A.P. Okladnikov included him into the group of E.I. Derevianko, who conducted her research in the Amur region in the Far East. Since that time, the scholarly interests of Sergei Nesterov have been associated with the Far Eastern archaeology, although in 1982–1983 he took part in the studies of Denisova Cave and Okladnikov Cave in the Altai.

In 1987, when the Bureya Dam was started to be built in the eastern part of Russia, S.P. Nesterov was sent there to investigate the archaeological sites in the area of the future reservoirs, and became the leader of the Bureya archaeological expedition.

In 2001, Sergei Nesterov defended his doctoral dissertation entitled, "Ethnic and Cultural History of the Amur Region Peoples in the Early Middle Ages". He leads the Amur team of archaeologists who excavate the following sites of the Neolithic, Early Iron Age, and Middle Ages: Gromatukha, Novopetrovka III, Chernigovka-on-Zeya, Troitskoye cemetery, Osinovoye Ozero, Ozero Dolgoye, Gora Shapka, etc. Sergei Nesterov heads the joint international Russian-Korean expeditions which have been working in the Amur Region for five years. By the invitation of his foreign colleagues, he has been participating in field archaeological works in



Japan and Korea. Using the materials from the sites of the Amur Region, in particular the Bureya valley, he clarifies and supplements the cultural and chronological scale of the history of the population that inhabited the Western Amur region from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. S.P. Nesterov has identified two previously unknown archaeological cultures: the Talakan culture, belonging to the second stage of the Early Iron Age, and the Mikhailovskoye culture of the Early Middle Ages. According to him, the vector of the ethnic history of the peoples inhabiting the Western Amur region was determined by the change of the Mongolian-speaking populations by the Tungus-speaking migrant Mohe people.

Sergei Nesterov is the author and coauthor of 13 monographs and over 170 research articles. His studies always provoke great interest of Russian national and international scholarly community; dozens of his works have been published internationally in Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam, Italy, and the USA. Sergei Nesterov is an active participant of many Russian and international scientific conferences, symposia, and congresses.

In the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS, S.P. Nesterov was involved in the training of doctoral students in archaeology. For many years, he was a member of the examination committee for the admission into the doctoral program. Three of his doctoral students have successfully defended their Ph.D. dissertations.

Currently, Sergei Nesterov is the Head of the Department of the Archaeology of the Bronze and Iron Age in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS, the Head of the Amur Laboratory of Archaeology and Ethnography, the member of the Academic Council of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS, the Executive Secretary of

the Journal *Archaeology, Ethnology and Anthropology of Eurasia* (since 2003), the curator of the archaeological section in the Journal *Gumanitarnye Nauki v Sibiri* ('Humanities in Siberia'), and a member of editorial boards in a number of periodicals, including international journals.

We wish our celebrant new expeditions and creative achievements!

*A.P. Derevianko, V.I. Molodin, E.I. Derevianko,  
V.P. Mylnikov, L.N. Mylnikova, N.V. Polosmak,  
T.A. Chikisheva, A.I. Soloviev, A.P. Borodovsky,  
A.V. Tabarev, Y.S. Hudiakov*