

PERSONALIA

Always Moving Forward: On the Seventy-Fifth Birthday of A.P. Derevianko

Anatoly Derevianko was born on January 9, 1943, in the village of Kozmo-Demyanovka in the Amur Region. His parents played a major role in the formation of his character. Simple workers, they raised him to be industrious, strive for knowledge, and love his Motherland. The childhood of Anatoly was during the Second World War and the post-War years. At the age of nine, he started to work at a construction site to help his parents. Already at the age of eleven, he became a foreman; at the same time, he was a good school student and liked to read.

After graduating high school in 1959, Anatoly entered the Blagoveshchensk Pedagogical Institute. He already started publishing his first novels in a district newspaper, and wanted to become a journalist. At the same time, Anatoly was fascinated by the allure of the search. While still a school student, he had a chance to work in a geological field party; thus, he happily joined an archaeological expedition headed by the outstanding scholar Alexey Okladnikov. The year 1961 became decisive in the life of young Derevianko: he became fascinated with archaeology, to which he would dedicate his entire life.

In 1963, Anatoly Derevianko received an external degree with honors from the Pedagogical Institute, and entered the Doctoral Program under the supervision of Alexey Okladnikov. During the program, saturated with months of expeditions to various parts of Siberia, the young archaeologist received an invaluable experience as a field researcher.

Already at this early stage of his scholarly career, Anatoly Derevianko manifested his marked abilities. He conducted independent excavations at the Neolithic settlement of Novopetrovka in the Amur region, and identified a previously unknown Neolithic culture, using the materials of his excavations. In 1965, ahead of time, Anatoly Derevianko defended his dissertation, *Ancient Cultures of the Middle Amur (The Stone Age)*. That study clearly revealed his skills to accumulate representative sources and innovatively conduct their interpretation. In 1970, his first monograph, *The Novopetrovka Blade Culture on the Middle Amur* was published, which in 1972 was awarded the prestigious Lenin Komsomol Prize.

An energetic and talented young scholar entered the Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.



Working in the Institute, in just five years, he went from Junior Researcher to Deputy Director for Science. This was the time when the center for academic humanities in Siberia was organized under the leadership of Alexey Okladnikov, and the time of large-scale archaeological research in the Asian part of Russia—the time of “filling the blanks” on its map.

At that period of his life, Anatoly Derevianko studied the sites of various periods and cultures in the Amur region, which was the contact zone between the north and south of the Far Eastern region. In 1971, he brilliantly defended his post-doctoral dissertation, *Amur Basin in Ancient Times (Before the Beginning of Our Era)*. His monographs, *Early Iron Age in the Amur Basin* and *The Amur Basin (First Millennium BC)* became

the results of his analysis of enormous material on the Russian Far East.

By the age of thirty, Anatoly Derevianko was already a well-known archaeologist, Deputy Director of the Institute, Professor at the Novosibirsk State University, author of numerous scholarly works, including nine monographs. In 1974, Anatoly Derevianko was elected the Chairman of the Council of Young Scientists at the Central Committee of the Komsomol, in 1976 the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Komsomol, and later the Secretary of the Novosibirsk Regional Communist Party Committee. This was a completely new field of work, in which he acquired the knowledge and skills of a manager on the national scale.

In 1979, Anatoly Derevianko became a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the youngest among the scholars in humanities, and returned to Novosibirsk Akademgorodok. He was first appointed the Rector of the Novosibirsk State University, and after the demise of Academician Alexey Okladnikov in 1983, the Director of the Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

A new stage in the activities of Anatoly Derevianko was associated with one of Russia's largest academic centers for research in humanities. In this period, the institute increased its scholarly capacities; the priority areas of research were established and successfully developed. As before, Derevianko spent much time in archaeological surveys and excavations in various regions of Siberia, Far East, and Mongolia. His expeditions went thousands of miles on difficult routes through vast expanses of North and Central Asia. Anatoly Derevianko discovered hundreds of unique archaeological sites; many of them were studied through excavations. In the late 1980s, fundamental research started in the Altai: in Denisova Cave and in multilayered Paleolithic sites in the vicinity of the cave, discovered by the expedition of Anatoly Derevianko. Outstanding achievements of those years were duly noted by the scholarly community, and in 1987 Anatoly Derevianko was elected a full member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

In the 1990s, when Russian science was subjected to serious challenges, Anatoly Derevianko showed himself as originator of bold ideas, as well as sagacious, talented, and strong-willed leader. On his initiative, the United Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy was divided into four thematic institutes with the appropriate human resources and already established scientific schools. In this way, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography became an independent organization in the system of the SB RAS. Essentially, Anatoly Derevianko established a new institute with modern infrastructure. In addition to basic scholarly departments, the institute included a museum and restoration department, publishing

and printing center, transportation department, as well as research and educational department with joint laboratories in several large Siberian universities, which clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of integrating academic and university science. During these years, the institute established and strengthened wide scholarly contacts with foreign colleagues, conducted international conferences, implemented joint international projects, and arranged exhibitions outside of Russia.

Employees of the institute have been carrying out a large-scale project of creating the largest in Russia archaeological research complex in the Altai—"Denisova Cave". The project involves long-term interdisciplinary studies of the most informative Paleolithic complexes of Siberia—primarily, Denisova Cave and Karama, the earliest Paleolithic site in North Asia.

An important task of Anatoly Derevianko was to establish the first in Russia "Geochronology of the Cenozoic Era" Center for Collective Use, at the premises of the institute. The center includes several well-equipped laboratories, where research is conducted in the field of paleogeography, paleoclimatology, chronostratigraphy, anthropology, paleontology, and other related scientific disciplines. A paleogenetic laboratory was created jointly with the Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the SB RAS. The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography is active in the field of rescue archaeology. Large-scale research has been conducted in the reservoir of the Boguchany Dam, in the areas of oil and gas development in the north of Western Siberia, and in the zone of construction of a modern transport infrastructure in the Crimea.

Anatoly Derevianko invested much energy in creation of the museum complex of the institute. The Transfiguration Church, which was brought from the town of Zashiversk on the Indigirka River in Yakutia, was reconstructed through his will and perseverance. Today, the church embellishes the architectural museum under the open sky, which also exhibits a part of the Kazym fortress with watchtowers, and over a hundred stone sculptures from the Bronze Age to the Old Turkic period; an original pavilion with the reconstructed funeral complex in a burial mound of the Pazyryk culture was also recently created. The Museum of History and Culture of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East, which is part of the structure of the institute, houses unique exhibits from various periods and cultures from the Paleolithic to the ethnographic modernity.

Anatoly Derevianko is the initiator and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal *Archaeology, Ethnology and Anthropology of Eurasia*, published in Russian and English languages. Currently, the Journal has the highest rating in its field among the specialized academic periodicals in Russia; its English version is indexed in the Web of Science.

Many times Anatoly Derevianko showed himself as a generator of creative ideas. He was one of the authors of

the Russian Foundation for the Humanities. The support of the foundation gave an opportunity for Russian scholars in the humanities to implement many field research and publishing projects. Anatoly Derevianko came forward with the initiative to publish the multivolume collection of the monuments of folklore of the peoples of Siberia and the Far East. For the first ten volumes, the team of editors headed by Anatoly Derevianko was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation in 2002.

In recent years, the main efforts of Anatoly Derevianko have been focused on the development of large-scale field research in the territory of Eurasia, from the Adriatic and the Caspian to the Far East and Southeast Asia. Dozens of scientific discoveries, which rightfully represent the outstanding achievements of Russian and international archaeology, have been made under his leadership. They have significantly changed the knowledge on the time and routes of the initial human populating of Central, North, and East Asia, as well as the development of the earliest historical processes in these territories.

A landmark event in the scholarly life was the discovery of the remains of a previously unknown fossil hominin, who subsequently received the name of the Denisovan, in Denisova Cave in the Altai, where Anatoly Derevianko has been leading the excavations for almost thirty years. According to the journal *Science*, this discovery was among the ten most important scientific discoveries in the world in 2010–2012.

In 2012, for outstanding research in the earliest history of mankind, Academician Anatoly Derevianko was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation. In 2014, together with the paleogeneticist, Professor Svante Pääbo, Anatoly Derevianko was awarded the highest award of the Russian Academy of Sciences—the Lomonosov Grand Gold Medal.

The invaluable experience of the organizer of science has been accumulated by Anatoly Derevianko as the Academician-Secretary of the Department of History and Philology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which he held from 2002 to 2013. During this period, he was also a member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and for over thirty years, a member of the Presidium of the SB RAS and the Chairman of the Joint Scientific Council of the Humanities of the SB RAS. While holding these positions, Anatoly Derevianko successfully directed his institute and spent much time in expeditions.

Academician Anatoly Derevianko brilliantly used his rich experience of the organizer of science during the reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Having

become the Scientific Director of the institute, Anatoly Derevianko has managed to find the optimal solutions to organizational problems, in particular, to successfully rejuvenate the institute management.

The next upturn in his creative activity happened in this period. Anatoly Derevianko wrote first two volumes of the fundamental study on the earliest history of mankind. With his participation, the Lower Paleolithic sites in Vietnam have been discovered. Anatoly Derevianko pays much attention to expanding the collaboration of the RAS and the Federal Agency for Scientific Organizations, aimed at improving the organization of science in Russia. Under his supervision, several major international symposia on the problems of the Paleolithic and development of modern humans have been conducted, and also the All-Russian archaeological congresses.

Anatoly Derevianko has reached his next anniversary celebration with brilliant creative results. Suffice it to say that he is the author and co-author of over 1200 scholarly works, including over 100 monographs. Anatoly Derevianko is the founder and creative driving force of a scholarly school, which is well-known in the world—over sixty doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations have been defended under his supervision.

Anatoly Derevianko is a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia, Montenegro, and Kazakhstan, corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute, honorary professor of several foreign and Russian universities, and a member of several major international commissions.

Anatoly Derevianko has been twice awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation in the field of science and technology (2002, 2012); he is the holder of the highest award of the Russian Academy of Sciences—the Lomonosov Grand Gold Medal (2014), the Demidov Prize (2004), the M.A. Lavrentiev Prize (2005), and the Triumph Prize (2005). He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor (1982), Order of Honor (1998), Order IV Class “For Merit to the Fatherland” (2002), Order of Friendship (2012), and many medals. In 2017, he was awarded the title of the “Honorary Citizen of the Novosibirsk Region”.

Anatoly Derevianko is an ardent researcher, organizer, and generator of ambitious projects. He is a brilliant example of a selfless worker, who devoted his life to learning about the history of mankind. We wish him health, inspiration, and new creative victories.

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