

## PERSONALIA

### To the 70th Birthday of Vyacheslav Ivanovich Molodin

At the end of September, 2018, an outstanding representative of Russian historical studies, archaeologist, Academician Vyacheslav Ivanovich Molodin celebrated his 70th birthday. His life is a vivid example of selfless service to Russian scholarship.

Vyacheslav Molodin was born in the family of a military border guard officer in the village of Orkhovo (Domachevsky District, Brest Region, Byelorussian SSR). He spent his childhood in military bases on the border. Vyacheslav has absorbed many of the best traits of his parents Vera Mikhailovna and Ivan Gavrilovich. In 1966, after graduating from high school in Novosibirsk, where the Molodin family moved after the completion of military service by Ivan Gavrilovich, Vyacheslav entered the Department of History and Philology at Novosibirsk State Pedagogical Institute. Student years of Vyacheslav Molodin were saturated with archaeology, which he was learning under the guidance of Professor Tatyana Nikolaevna Troitskaya. In this period, he actively participated in field research, gave papers at scholarly student conferences in various cities of the Soviet Union, and published his first scientific papers. After graduating the Institute with distinction in 1971, the young specialist was sent to work in a school in the village of Elban, in the Maslyaninsky District, Novosibirsk Region. The same year, he entered the Doctoral Program at the Institute of History, Philology, and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, where the outstanding archaeologist Academician A.P. Okladnikov became his supervisor.

Since December 1973, the career of V.I. Molodin has been ultimately connected with scholarly activities. He started to study the ancient history of Western Siberia, primarily the forest-steppe zone of the Ob-Irtysh region, and soon this topic became the main focus of his scientific work. Thanks to the studies of Vyacheslav Ivanovich in the Baraba forest-steppe, archaeological sites of the now extinct group of the Ugrian population (the southern Khanty) have been identified. V.I. Molodin also succeeded in tracing the history of the Baraba inhabitants until the beginning of the Middle Ages, associated with the change of the populations after the Great Migration Period and the beginning of the ethnogenetic interaction between the Ugric, Samoyedic, and Turkic-speaking peoples. Most importantly, many years of archaeological research by V.I. Molodin resulted in his concept of cultural and historical development



of the population inhabiting this territory from the prehistoric period to the Modern Age. Despite a small number of Late Paleolithic sites in the Ob-Irtysh region, Vyacheslav Molodin has managed to find the evidence of continuity between the industries of the final stage of the Upper Paleolithic and the Early Holocene technologies of the ancient population of the region. He has assembled an extensive corpus of sources, and has traced the trajectories of the development of cultures in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Upper Ob basin and Baraba forest-steppe. His PhD dissertation, "The Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Steppe Belt of the Ob-Irtysh Interfluvium" (1975) and Postdoctoral dissertation, "Baraba in Antiquity" (1983) were devoted to this topic. Relying on the materials of large-scale field studies of the funeral rituals and settlement complexes of Baraba, V.I. Molodin has created a model of ethnic genesis, which was of mosaic nature, constituting the interaction of several cultural traditions on this territory in the late 6th to 5th millennium BC, as well as possible

coexistence of complexes of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the area. The development of the ideas embodied in that model has been successfully continuing until now. Recently discovered Early Neolithic materials have made it possible to identify a new culture of the Early Neolithic—the Baraba culture.

V.I. Molodin always conducts his research in several areas. During the preparation of his doctoral dissertation, he performed excavations at the sites of Russian settlers—the Kazymsky and Ilmsky forts, and participated in the expedition of his teacher Academician A.P. Okladnikov in the Gobi desert and Trans-Baikal region. His work on the postdoctoral dissertation Vyacheslav Molodin combined with the studies of archaeological sites in Cuba.

Scholarly interests of V.I. Molodin include the issues of the history of archaeology, integration of academic and university research, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, and auxiliary historical fields. One of such fields is staurography. His monograph on pectoral crosses from the Ilmsky fort, and study manual on staurography have become popular not only among narrowly focused specialists, but also among a wide circle of historians, archaeologists, art historians, and regional historians.

Since the second half of the 1980s, the archaeological complexes of the Altai Mountains have been attracting attention of Vyacheslav Molodin. He directed the first systematic excavations of the Holocene sediments in Denisova Cave, which later became internationally renowned as a unique multilayered archaeological site. These studies resulted in creating a cultural and chronological sequence from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages, which was presented in a monograph written in collaboration with A.P. Derevianko. Simultaneously, V.I. Molodin conducted excavations of burial mounds located in the vicinity of the cave, and was engaged in studying the ritual complex of Kuilyu on the Kucherla River. Under his leadership, burials with mummies of the Pazyryk culture were investigated in the highland Altai zone, on the Ukok Plateau, and the archaeological map of this hard-to-reach area was created, showing over 400 sites of various periods. The earliest rock paintings in Ukok, in the Mongolian Altai, in the valley of the Biya River, as well as Cis-Baikal and Trans-Baikal regions were also the objects of his research interest.

Academician V.I. Molodin pays great attention to organizing interdisciplinary research in Siberian archaeology with participation of geophysicists, paleogeneticists, biologists, chemists, and representatives of other natural sciences working in the institutes of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as specialists from international scientific organizations. The examples of such cooperation are comprehensive joint studies of unique Scythian burials

in permafrost in the northwest of Mongolia and the proto-town of Chicha in the south of Baraba, conducted with German and Mongolian scholars. V.I. Molodin maintains active international scholarly contacts. Thanks to his initiative, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the SB RAS has been successfully cooperating with the German Archaeological Institute for over 20 years. Since 2015, Vyacheslav Molodin has been the head of a joint Russian-French laboratory for the study of prehistoric art, established at Novosibirsk State University.

The scholarly school of Academician V.I. Molodin is widely known. 13 doctors and 37 candidates of historical sciences have been trained there. Two more of his students, who successfully defended their dissertations, became the candidates of biological sciences.

Vyacheslav Molodin devotes much of his efforts to pedagogical activities. For many years he lectured in his native Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University as a Full Professor. Since 2008, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees in that university, and since 2012, he has been an Honorary Professor of Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University. For a number of years, he headed the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography of Novosibirsk State University, and gave specialized courses on the archaeology of Siberia. V.I. Molodin is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Research Tomsk State University—the oldest higher educational institution in Siberia.

Brilliant discoveries and studies by Vyacheslav Molodin have been presented in numerous publications. To date, his bibliography contains over 1450 scientific works, including 65 monographs.

Multifaceted scholarly and organizational activities of V.I. Molodin were highly appreciated by the scientific community and the Russian state. In 1987, he was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and in 1997, a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2000, he was awarded one of the most prestigious international scholarly awards—the Alexander Petrowitsch Karpinskij Preis (Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S., Germany). In 2005, Vyacheslav Molodin, together with his wife, the Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences N.V. Polosmak, was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation in the field of science and technology. In 2016, for outstanding achievements in the field of archaeology and prehistory of the peoples of Siberia, V.I. Molodin received the Demidov Prize.

For his great achievements in the development of Russian scholarship, V.I. Molodin was awarded the Order of Friendship (1999), Order of Honor (2007), and Order “For Merit to the Fatherland” of the 4th class (2014). In 1996, V.I. Molodin was awarded the medal “300 Years of the Russian Fleet” for patriotic education

of youth, as well as his activities in science promotion. The contribution of V.I. Molodin in the Russian-German scientific cooperation was awarded in 2012 by the Officer's Cross of Merit, 1st class of the highest order of the Federal Republic of Germany, "Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany". Since 1996, Vyacheslav Molodin is a corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute. V.I. Molodin was awarded the Medal of Friendship of the Mongolian People's Republic, and the honorary title, "Honored Scientist of the Republic

of Sakha (Yakutia)". V.I. Molodin also received many regional and institutional awards.

New expeditionary roads and thus new discoveries, books, and articles are ahead of the celebrant. We wish Vyacheslav Molodin inexhaustible thirst for knowledge, inspiration, and creative happy moments in the field and at his desk.

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