

## EDITORIAL

*Kantorovich A.R.\**

### Message to the reader

Meetings of the Round Table "Problems of the Scythian-Sarmatian and Ancient Archeology of Eastern Europe" dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the birth of Boris Nikolaevich Grakov took place on December 14, 2019 at the Faculty of History of Moscow State University. B.N.Grakov (1(13).12.1899–14.09.1970) was an outstanding scientist and a lecturer, a prominent Scythologist and antiquity scholar, professor at the Department of Archeology of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University (1941–1969) and founder of the Department of Scythian-Sarmatian Archeology of the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The event was organized by the Department of Archeology of the Faculty of History of Moscow State University and the Department of Scythian-Sarmatian Archeology of the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The participants of the Round Table discussed the key problems of modern Scythian-Sarmatian and ancient archeology in accordance with the main scientific interests of B.N. Grakov and the authoritative scientific school he created.

The grandson and great-granddaughter of Boris Nikolaevich Grakov took part in the Round Table. Grandson of B.N. Grakov a well-known biologist and genealogist Andrei Valentinovich Sviridov shared his most interesting memories about Boris Nikolaevich, his ancestors and analyzed in detail the genealogical roots of the Grakov family.

The following issues were discussed during the roundtable meetings:

1. Scientific heritage and the phenomenon of the scientific school of B.N. Grakov
2. The main problems of the archeology of the Eastern European cultures of the Scythian circle (Scythian and "Sauromatian" cultures)
3. Key problems of Sarmatian archeology
4. The most important problems of ancient archeology of the Northern Black Sea region

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Reports were made on each item of the agenda of the Round Table. On the first item of the agenda A.R. Kantorovich (Moscow State University) and A.A. Malyshev (Institute of Archeology RAS) made a report: "Boris Nikolaevich Grakov: scientific heritage and the phenomenon of the scientific school."



Fig.1. A.R. Kantorovich gives a presentation

On the second item of the agenda the reports by V.I. Gulyaev (Institute of Archeology RAS) "Actual problems of Scythian archeology in view of modern data" and S.V. Sirotin "The current state of research in the field of "Sauromatian" culture" were heard.

On the third item of the agenda A.S. Skripkin (Volgograd State University) made a report "Sarmatian archeology from Boris Nikolaevich Grakov to the present".

On the fourth item of the agenda a report by E.A. Popova (Moscow State University) "The most important problems of ancient archeology of the Northern Black Sea region" was made.



Fig.2. Participants and guests of the Round Table

A number of reports were accompanied by co-reports including speeches by V.I. Katz (Saratov State University) on the topic "The current state of ancient ceramic epigraphy", Yu.P. Zaitsev (Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve "Scythian Naples") on the topic "Archaeological research of the royal Scythian burial mound Tuak-Oba in the Piedmont Crimea", N.S. Saveliev (Institute of History, Language and Literature of the Ufa Federal Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences) on the topic "Mugodzhar group of early nomads of the Southern Urals of the Scythian-Sarmatian time", S.Yu. Saprykin (Moscow State University) on the topic "Key problems of ancient archeology of the Northern Black Sea region" etc.

As part of the reports and co-reports new, including sensational, results of excavations were presented, traditional historical and archaeological concepts were discussed, new approaches, methods and research methods were substantiated. A detailed and interested discussion of the heard reports and co-reports was held.

In general the round table was attended by about 50 scientists - well-known Scythologists, Sarmatologists and antiquities, representing such institutions as: Moscow State University, the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Archeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the State Academic University for the Humanities of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of History , Language and Literature of the Ufa Federal Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian State University for the Humanities, Saratov State University, Southern Federal University, Volgograd State University, Crimean Federal University of V.I.Vernadsky, the State Historical Museum, the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, the State Museum of the East, the Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve "Scythian Naples", the Yalta Historical and Literary Museum etc.

Following the results of the Round Table a number of its participants on the basis of their reports prepared articles and notes that are offered to the attention of the readers of the journal "History Studies".