

# THE CENTER OF NATIONAL ETHNOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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by Acad. Valery TISHKOV,  
Director of the RAS Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology;  
Yelena PIVNEVA, Cand. Sc. (History),  
Academic Secretary of the same institute

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**In 2013 the RAS Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (IEA) marks its 80th anniversary. During this period the institute acquired an excellent reputation in the world scientific fellowship and has become a leading research center in the sphere of ethnology, sociocultural and physical anthropology in Russia.**

**The bibliography of scientific works of the institute's staff members only in a period of 1992-2012 includes more than 1,000 titles and presents an impressive picture of research works both in subject range and concrete results. The basic and applied research covers traditional historico-ethnographical problems and also studies of the current situation, from the basic standards of conduct, ceremonial life and religious beliefs to interethnic relations, conflicts and ethnic policy of the state. Studies of this ethnocultural diversity of Russia and the world as a whole is of special value in the conditions of Russian transforming society, cultural interaction and globalization.**



*The 10th Congress of Ethnographers and Anthropologists of Russia. Moscow, 2013.*

Let us note at once that IEA has one of the highest ratings among the country research institutes, immense popularity with the multinational Russian people and wide publicity in the world. Due to high scientific standards and permanence of scientific subjects, the works created by its staff members in the course of many decades have not lost their importance even today. The present jubilee has a wonderful history dating back to the times of the Cabinet of Curiosities established by Peter the Great. By the way, it gave birth to the institute together with the Russian Academy of Sciences.

On February 15, 1933, the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences ruled creation of the Institute of Anthropology, Archeology and Ethnography in Leningrad, which later served as a basis for the Moscow Institute of Ethnography, renamed subsequently into the RAS Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology. Today it is the RAS Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology named after Miklukho-Maklai, a federal state-financed scientific institution decorated with the Order of Peoples' Friendship.

Many outstanding scientists were connected with to this institute, first of all, its directors—the RAS Corresponding Member Sergei Tolstov (1942-1965) and Acad. Yulian Bromley (1965-1989). At different times the famous ethnographers and anthropologists Sergei Tokarev, Nikolai Cheboksarov, Mark Kosven, Pavel Kushner, Maxim Levin, Viktor Bunak, Georgy Debets, Valery Akekseev, Igor Kon and others worked at the institute. Today the institute's staff comprises more than 140

research fellows, including Acad. Valery Tishkov, Corresponding Members Sergei Arutyunov and Yurik Arutyunyan, above 120 Doctors and Candidates of Sciences. Our activity was always of a high scientific and public value. In 1983 the institute was granted government award—the Order of Peoples' Friendship, which testified to the outstanding contribution of our group.

The major lines of activities still are studies of the history and ethnography of the Russian people, small peoples of the Russian North, Far East and Siberia, peoples of Caucasia, ethnic minorities of Russia and the world and problems of the Russian speaking population abroad. The team work *The Russians: History and Ethnography* (Moscow, AST, Olymp, 2008) under the editorship of Irina Vlasova and Valery Tishkov, the most detailed historico-ethnographic description of the largest people of our country, ran into several editions. How did the Russian people arise and what it its essence? How do Russians differ from other peoples? What personal and life peculiarities helped the Russians master vast territories of the Eurasian continent and contribute greatly to the development of human civilization? These and many other urgent problems are a subject of a careful attention of scientists. They are interested in the mechanisms of formation of historical self-consciousness of the Russian people and cultural memory of major events and heroes of our national history. Large-scale studies of the national Orthodox culture are in progress. The work *Russian Folk Clothes. Historico-Ethnographic Essays* (Moscow, Indrik, 2011), presenting the richness and diversity of Rus-



Staff members of the IAE, RAS, during their trip to Uglich.

sian folk clothes, was published for national designers and museum workers. Books on Russian ceremonial and holiday culture, bread, drinks and food traditions, as well as a phenomenon of Russian baths, also came off the press. The institute's publications on national skills, artistic trades and handicraft industries, on economic experience in different natural conditions are of considerable educational importance. The two-volume book on Russians of the Ryazan territory (Moscow, Indrik, 2009) studies of museums and archives, summarized multi-year expeditions, which is a worthy example of regional research.

The publications of the *Ethnographic Album* series contain valuable information on cultural diversity and wealth of the Russia peoples. In recent years books were published on traditional arts of Russians in the European North, peoples of Western and North-Eastern Siberia and other regions. In this series were also published photographs (from glass negatives of the 19th century) of materials of the ethnographic expeditions headed by Count Alexei Bobrinsky and photographer Nikolai Bogoyavlensky to Central Asia and Persia, which became

a scientific sensation. This collection was lost and now is published for the first time.

Among the institute's traditions we would like to single out the historico-ethnographic and encyclopaedic publications *The Peoples of Russia*, *Peoples and Religions of the World* (a group of authors was granted RF State Award in the sphere of science and technology in 2001 for this cycle of works) and *The Peoples of Russia. Atlas of Cultures and Religions*. The work is in progress on a multi-volume historico-ethnographic series *Peoples and Cultures* from the beginning of the 1990s. For the last five years the series was supplemented with ten volumes (*Turkic Peoples of Eastern Siberia*, 2008; *The Kalmycks*, 2010; *The Moldavians*, 2010; *Peoples of North-Eastern Siberia*, 2010; *The Gagauzes*, 2011; *The Uzbeks*, 2011; *The Armenians*, 2012; *The Ossetians*, 2012; *The Chechen*, 2012; *The Yakuts*, 2012). The publications present a complete collection of knowledge of a particular ethnic community and are authored by scientists representing each such community. This academic publication in its form is easily understood by all sections of the population. Therefore it enjoys enormous popularity among the