

EDITORIAL

THE FOUNDING of a major new archaeological quarterly is of significance to archaeologists everywhere. We have generously been given permission to reprint the following important discussion of our Soviet colleagues' past problems and future goals. Such a statement is instructive in numerous ways. It is obvious that many of their aims are similar to ours — prompter publication of new archaeological findings, coordination of activities among numerous institutions with rapidly expanding archaeological programs, more effective use of neglected museum collections, strengthening of public appreciation of archaeological finds, increase of international exchange of archaeological data, and development of closer working relationships with other scholarly disciplines — to mention a few of the more concrete. In these and other goals which we share as students of man's past, we wish the editors and staff of the new journal success.

ON THE TASK OF THE JOURNAL "SOVIET ARCHAEOLOGY"

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THE YEAR 1957 marks the beginning of the publication of the journal *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia*, which will appear quarterly.

The development of archaeological investigations in the USSR, directed to the study of the most ancient history and culture of the peoples of our country, has currently demanded the institution of such a central periodic publication to assist in the consideration of the most important questions and the publication of the latest discoveries.

The journal *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia* is the successor to the collections published under the same name by the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences, USSR; but its tasks are considerably broader, and the possibility of realizing the development of historical science considerably greater.

The Soviet archaeologist is above all a historian. The primary task of Soviet archaeology and the respective journal published by archaeologists is elucidation of the chief theoretical and concrete problems of the history of pre-capitalist formations and the study of the regularities of historical phenomena.

It is natural that in an archaeological journal the greatest prominence should be given to those questions the solution of which is based

primarily on archaeological materials. Here it would be impossible to give a list of all the specific historical problems which may be elucidated on the pages of *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia*, but attention should be drawn to a few of them. Thus, for example, questions of the economy of ancient societies to which archaeologists constantly return nevertheless remain inadequately investigated, in particular the question of the origin and early phases of pastoralism, early agriculture in Europe and Asia, and so on. In recent years we have dealt but little with problems of primitive thought and art, problems of ancient cultural connections and influences. Archaeologists may have a word to say about the treatment of such problems as the origin and developmental forms of slave-owning society in central Asia, the rise of Russian feudalism, and the like.

It is absolutely necessary to deepen and perfect the treatment of problems of theory and practice in archaeological investigation. The great number of new finds by Soviet archaeologists, the increased quantity of materials, which can help to solve the solution of important historical problems, demand a great creative effort of the scholar in the direction of maximum precision in historical inferences.

Well-developed methods of investigation must be mastered for these ends.

Marxism is the only correct ideological base of the archaeological and other historical investigations of Soviet scholars. However, creative Marxism demands not a declared avowal of this or that principle, but its concrete application to the given branch of science. The achievements of Soviet archaeology which concern the theoretical foundations of science are far lower than the achievements in the field of concrete historical themes. During the first decades of existence of Soviet archaeology a sociological schematism arose, the clearest expression of which were the theories of the schools of M. N. Pokrovsky and N. Y. Marr; many were the scholastic battles and attempts to replace theory by different explications of the expressions of the classics of Marxism. This hindered the treatment of the theoretical bases of archaeology, and we have few works in this field. Meanwhile the definition of object and methods in archaeology, the solution of questions on the limits of knowledge based on archaeological sources, on the justice of different social, historical and historico-ethnographic reconstructions based on these sources, and similar questions are not abstractly theoretical, but have great significance for the practical work of archaeologists. The existence of a journal permits a broad discussion of theoretical problems of archaeology and will assist in the mastery of the Marxist-Leninist method of investigation.

On the basis of the study and mutual informing of the vast materials excavated over decades of archaeological field work, Soviet scholars have provided a series of valuable generalizing works summing up the results of investigations of individual important themes on broad geographic regions. However, in recent years a tendency has arisen, not always prescribed by scientific purposes, to stimulate generalizing works not primarily for scientific purposes, and to retard the works which are source probing. This has led to "generalization" running ahead of publication, and at times even ahead of the study of the very materials on which alone they should be founded. An urgent necessity has arisen to bring the plentiful and variform archaeological materials into strict order and scientific system. The Institute of the History of Material Culture to this end is preparing to institute the publication of the *Corpus of Archaeological*

Sources of the USSR. The journal is called upon to play a large role in the preparation of this publication. The pages of the journal will be devoted to [the consideration of] questions of methods, dating, typological investigations, and so on. It is of moment to correct the already extant classical systems of Montelius, Déchelette, Gorodtsov, Spitsyn, and others, as has been done hitherto. But it is also important, by applying and improving the old, to cultivate new, more precise methods of dating objects, founded on archaeological data, and on the achievements of physics and other natural sciences. Chronology and cartography, that is, the definition of time and place of historical phenomena, are the principal elements of archaeological investigation, and demand special attention and scientific treatment. Needless to say, methods of archaeological field work and the further processing of excavated materials in the laboratory will also have to be considered in the pages of our journal. These are very important questions, to which we have been giving much attention in recent times. The technical equipment of expeditions and laboratories, the adoption of the latest achievements of science and techniques in archaeological work is not only a material problem, but also a scientific methodological one. The new techniques demand new methods of work.

Much has been written by archaeologists in the postwar years about the ethnic identification of archaeological cultures. This is an important theme closely connected with questions of ethnogenesis, being resolved by archaeologists together with linguists, ethnographers, and representatives of other social sciences. However, this theme should not obfuscate others which are now being little studied, for instance, questions of the economy of ancient societies, stages of the cultural development of different territories, and so on. The acquisition of cultural-stratigraphic cross sections of considerable territories will permit a more objective solution of questions of ethnogenesis on the basis of archaeological data, liquidate preconceptions in certain minds, and permit a decision in each specific instance as to what the archaeological cultures are: ethnic or historical commonalties, economic-culture types, historical ethnographic regions, or specific stages of cultural development.

Soviet archaeology has passed through a certain period in its growth in which materials

excavated on the territory of the USSR were examined in isolation from the data of European and world archaeology. Contributing to this was the support of hypertrophic forms of the theory of autochthonism and negation of external connections and influences, the recognition of which might somehow diminish the achievements of the peoples of the USSR. Needless to say, these false principles impeded the development of our science and diminished the role which Soviet scholars could play in the development of archaeology the world over. The absence of practical contacts with world science also did considerable harm. For this reason the tasks of the journal must be not only to examine the facts of national history on the broad scale of world history, but also to provide a constant source of information to the Soviet archaeological community on archaeological work abroad. The main achievements of world archaeology should be well known to the Soviet archaeologist and historian. The editors will be happy to provide space in the journal for the work of archaeologists of the people's democratic countries, and of progressive scholars of capitalist countries, which will strengthen scientific cooperation. It must not be forgotten that the Soviet scholars and many scholars of bourgeois countries have ideological positions which differ in principle. A great conflict of ideas must lead to strengthening not only of method but of factual material.

Special attention must be paid to the section on critique and bibliography. Both national and foreign archaeological literature should be fully and objectively elucidated. In this connection it follows that reviews of books should not have a guiding and reference character, such as has often been the case with us, but should expound a deep scientific analysis of the work under review. Remarks directed to the author of a book gain scientific value only when the reviewer can oppose the author's conception with a well-argued point of view.

Together with reviews and critical surveys the journal will publish bibliographic reports, annotations, and short references to book publications.

Discussions, of course, will be held not only on the pages of the critique section, but may also take place in each investigatory article. But in addition the editors intend to develop

for special consideration a series of controversial archaeological issues.

Dozens of archaeological expeditions are at work annually in our country. In addition to the Institute of the History of Material Culture and the archaeological institutes of the union republics, much archaeological work is conducted by museums, universities, and pedagogical institutes. Many of the archaeological finds are made by persons without professional archaeological training. The accumulation of new data in archaeology proceeds at an extraordinarily rapid rate; the sooner they are in the possession of science, the sooner many controversial and unclear issues will be resolved. Therefore the publication of the results of archaeological excavations of all the latest discoveries in the journal will in a short time place the accumulated scientific treasures at the actual disposition of science. It is necessary to cast systematic light on the achievements of our own and world science in the accumulation of new archaeological data, in filling in the blank spots on the archaeological map of the world. To this end we will publish regional surveys of different territories and countries.

The tasks of the journal should be not only to inform about excavations and activities of archaeologists of our country; no less important is the aid to the various institutions which conduct archaeological investigations, the coordination of their activity, the elaboration of the plan of further work.

One of the tasks of the journal is museum relations. Museum workers participating in investigations may in part, with the help of the journal, publicize museum collections which, unfortunately, often remain long outside general scientific circulation. This will be aided by the presence of a section of the journal, "Short Articles and Notes," in which the most variegated materials—newly discovered as well as long preserved in museums, small scale investigations, and informational communications can be published.

The chronicle section of *Sovetskaiia Arkh-eologiiia* will comprise communications about results and achievements of archaeological institutes, local museums, as well as local societies in pedagogic institutes and schools, about plenary sessions and conferences considering archaeological problems, and about the work of archaeological institutions, archaeological facul-

ties of universities, and archaeological laboratories.

In addition, questions of teaching of archaeology in universities and pedagogic institutes should fall within the purview of the journal, as well as questions of popularization and propagation of archaeological knowledge.

Acquaintance with state archaeological reserves and monuments of the past protected by law, questions of restoration and protection of these monuments, and the participation to this end of sectors of the population, all depend to a high degree on the activity of archaeologists and their scientific publicists, educating and strengthening the respect for the native past.

In order to facilitate the spread of such publicity, as well as for fuller and wider popular utilization of the achievements of archaeological science, the editors of *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia* are preparing the publication of a series of articles to help the teacher of history and the student of local lore. This will not only make possible the improvement of history instruction, making it more attractive through the adduction of new archaeological data, but will permit the treatment in popular form of these data.

The editors readily offer the pages of the

journal *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia* to representatives of such auxiliary historical disciplines directly touching on archaeology, as numismatics, sphragistics, and epigraphy, as well as to representatives of other disciplines (physical anthropology, ethnography, geology, and so forth) in their investigations which touch on archaeological data.

We would wish that the journal *Sovetskaia Arkheologiia* might be not only a scientific organ of interest to a narrow circle of scholar-specialists, but also a publication of interest to all those who hold the achievements of archaeology near and dear — a publication read not only by professional archaeologists but by scholars working in other fields of science, teachers of history, students of local lore, museum workers, and other representatives of the Soviet intelligentsia.

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