

Preface

Some years ago, I was contacted by the Cultural Affairs Officer of the Consulate General of Finland in St. Petersburg. I still clearly remember where I was when I received the call; visiting the pioneer museum of Miehikkälä and negotiating its transfer to Hämeenlinna. Indeed, the purpose of that call I received was to bring Finnish and Russian archaeologists back together to reflect on common issues from a scientific perspective.

Professor Kirpichnikov, Dr. Nosov and Dr. Saksa, all of whom are known in Finland, are the founding fathers of the concept of a modern Finnish-Russian archaeological symposium. They all played a key role in the initial stages of the history of the symposium back in the 1970s. In the same decade, the Finns involved in this matter were Professor of Archaeology Carl-Fredrik Meinander from the University of Helsinki, Head of Department Torsten Edgren from the National Board of Antiquities, and Professor of Archeology Unto Salo from the University of Turku. As some of us remember, the first Finnish-Russian archaeological symposium was held in 1976.

Both of the topics discussed that day in Miehikkälä have been realised. The museum has been moved to Hämeenlinna, where it is now situated near Häme Castle. But for us, the most important thing is that the Finnish-Russian archaeological symposium has been reorganized, and in the beginning of October 2019 we had the possibility of opening the third modern Finnish-Russian archaeological symposium in Hämeenlinna. We met in Helsinki for the first time in 2014, then again in Novgorod, and now in Hämeenlinna.

Last time we shared these thoughts in Russia in Novgorod two years ago, in 2017. As a result of a relatively short preparation

period we obtained Hämeenlinna symposium, which now returns to its roots, but I hope this will create entirely new scientific cooperation between Russia and Finland. I am glad that all Finnish universities involved in archaeology research and teaching are among the participants, and that there is also a large number of Russian archaeologists attending this event.

When it comes to Finnish archaeologists, a complete generational change has occurred in the intervening decades. Now there are only a few people left who even remember the early stages in some way. Most of us were young and full of hope for the future in the late 1970s. Perhaps we remember the early stages of this cooperation. While some of us have remained close to science all these years, I instead lost sight of it and became increasingly involved in administrative matters. The young generation is now in a key position to create this archaeological cooperation in spite of the difficult global political and economic situation.

In this context, also, I would like to thank Professor Vladimir Lapshin (chair), Evgeniia Tkach and Dr. Alexander Saksa on the initiative of the symposium, as well as Dr. Petri Halinen, Dr. Päivi Maaranen and Mervi Suhonen for arranging the symposium. I would also like to thank the Finnish Antiquarian Society for the cooperation with the organisation and the City of Hämeenlinna for the warm hosting of the symposium.

Generations have passed and will continue to pass also in the Finnish-Russian co-operation. The activities in the coming years will be observed by several retired persons who remain active, such as Dr. Torsten Edgren, Dr. Pirjo Uino and Dr. Paula Purhonen, to name but a few. The Hämeen-

linna symposium was the last time I hosted this kind of co-operation. In the beginning of 2020 I retired and have become a researcher again. For me personally the reinitiating of the cooperation was important. That is why I will continue to follow what you do. Generational change is a good thing, after all. It is a necessity in this life cycle. The entry of young researchers to this joint action is an indication of the growing interest in the prehistoric cultures of the Finnish-Russian region.

To our grief, the ‘grand old men’ of the Finnish-Russian archaeology symposia have passed away. Professor Evgeniy N. Nosov (1949–2019) passed away just before the Hämeenlinna symposium. Shortly after our symposium in October 2019, another Russian ‘grand old man’ passed away. Professor Anatoliy N. Kirpichnikov (1929–2020) died in the beginning of 2020. Both of them had been involved in the entire period of cooperation. Professor Unto Salo, who was in-

involved in the cooperation in the 1970s and 1980s, died in autumn 2020. We warmly remember them all for valuably maintaining and promoting the cooperation.

Through all these years, one visible result of the Finnish-Russian meetings has been the publication of articles. It has been, and hopefully will continue to be, a tangible imprint regarding the cooperation, which can still be evaluated after all these decades. I want to thank the Chief Intendant, Dr. Petri Halinen, for editing the publication, and for giving me the honour of writing ‘as my last job in office’ this greeting. I also want to thank Intendant Jouni Taivainen for helping to edit this publication, and several archaeologists in Finland and abroad for participating in the peer review process. I am grateful to all Russian and Finnish researchers who have submitted their presentations for publication for the sake of everyone who is interested in Finnish and Russian archaeological research.

Juhani Kostet
Docent, Director general emeritus