

Introduction

Finnish-Soviet archaeological co-operation, both on the personal level as well as between institutions, has long traditions dating to the early stages of archaeological research.

The working group for archaeology of the Finnish-Soviet committee for scientific-technical co-operation was founded in 1969. Established procedures for its work were developed in the 1970s and the early 1980s have signalled deeper and more varied forms of co-operation. It was in this connection that the first joint research projects were begun.

Co-operation within archaeology is guided and regulated by five-yearly agreements, the present one being for the period 1982–1986. The main items of the agreement deal with the exchange of researchers, participation in excavations arranged by the co-signing party, joint research projects and symposiums. Although the exchange of researchers has achieved importance, symposiums and the excursions arranged in connection with them have become the form of co-operation facilitating the exchange of ideas and personal contacts with colleagues on a broad scale.

Four symposiums have been arranged so far. The theme of the 1976 symposium in Leningrad was »The Finno-Ugric and Slav Tribes of Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages». The 1978 Helsinki symposium convened to discuss the theme »Cultural Relations of the Peoples and Countries of the Baltic Region in the Iron Age and Early Middle Ages». The subject of the 1981 symposium arranged in Leningrad was »The Ancient History of the Tribes of the North-West Part of the Soviet Union and Finland». The most recent symposium, held in Helsinki in 1983 centred on the theme »Trade, Exchange and Cultural Relations of the Peoples of Fennoscandia and Eastern Europe».

Both parties have also arranged the publication of the papers presented at their respective symposiums. »Finno-ugri i slavjane» (Leningrad 1979) and »Fenno-ugri et slavi 1978» (Helsinki 1980) have thus far appeared. The publication of the 1981 symposium is due to be published this year under the title of »New Results of Archaeology in USSR and Finland». The publications have raised a great deal of interest among archaeologists and are good examples of active co-operation. It is to be hoped that also the present publication will inform the reader of Finnish-Soviet co-operation in archaeology and of the latest finds and achievements in the discipline.

Both parties have arranged for the translation of their papers and the editorial staff has made only slight changes to them. The papers are published in the order that they were given in the symposium programme. The arrangers have also offered certain colleagues the possibility of having their symposium papers published in this connection even though they were not able to deliver them at the actual symposium.

As chairman of the archaeological working group of the Finnish party I wish to thank all contributors for giving their texts to the disposal of the arrangers. I also wish to thank Ms. Paula Purhonen, Intendant, who in the capacity of secretary of the working group devoted herself to the editorial work. Thanks are also due to the Finnish Archaeological Society for including the publication in its series »Iskos» and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for covering the printing costs.

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