

Finnish-Soviet/Russian Scientific Cooperation in Archaeology: Results of the Journey 1969–2014

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Abstract

After World War II, a Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology between the USSR and Finland was founded in 1955, based on an agreement between the two countries. The committee included a working group for archaeology, founded in 1969, which provided an operational environment for scholarly cooperation: symposia, projects, exchange of researchers, and so on. In Finland, the working group operated within the frame of the Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology of the Foreign Ministry, while in the USSR it operated under the Academy of Sciences. The activities were planned in the sphere of the history of the Finno-Ugrian peoples and their relations with the Slavs, as well as investigations into the ethnogenesis of Slavs, Finno-Ugrians, and Balts in the 1st millennium AD. Also the subject of Russian-Finnish relations in the 8th–14th centuries was involved. The breakdown of the USSR in 1991 terminated the strictly institutional model of cooperation. The Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology between the USSR and Finland, as well as the working groups, were dissolved in 1992. A new organisation, the Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Finland and Russia, was established. The new situation provided opportunities for a new kind of activity based on a broader multi-disciplinary concept, while, on the other hand, the financing of symposia and other activities met with difficulties because there were no longer any established channels for financing. However, the Academy of Finland and the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) took care of the exchange of researchers between our two countries for some time and also provided funds for one symposium held in Helsinki. After 2004, there was a 10-year break in the tradition, as the Finnish party could not arrange a symposium because of various difficulties. Finally, in 2014, a 14th symposium was arranged in Helsinki. This article summarises the activities connected to the archaeological cooperation referred to above.

1 Introduction

After World War II, interaction between Soviet/Russian and Finnish archaeologists restarted already in 1955, when the Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology (Fi. *Tieteellis-teknillinen yhteistoimintakomitea*, called the TT Committee) between Finland and the Soviet Union was founded, based on an agreement between the two countries. In the latter part of the 1950s and in the 1960s, the first mutual visits of scholars were arranged in an atmosphere of exploring budding possibilities for interaction.¹ This article gives a summary of activities connected to the archaeological cooperation starting from 1969 based on the publications produced as a result of the cooperation, listed at the end of the article, and relevant archival sources kept at the National Board of Antiquities and the Russian Academy of Sciences, not listed here.

In 2014, forty-five years had passed since the time when, in 1969, a joint working group was organised for Soviet-Finnish cooperation in archaeology as a result of an agreement between the Archaeological Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the TT Committee operating within the frame of the Foreign Ministry of Finland. This initiative was based upon a promising program of cooperation in the sphere of natural sciences and the humanities approved in the USSR and Finland. In Finland, cooperative activities were carried out by a working group for archaeology appointed by the TT Committee and representing the National Board of Antiquities (until 1972 the Archaeological Commission) in addition to the Archaeological Departments of the Universities of Helsinki and Turku. The secretariat of the TT Committee and the scientific secretary appointed by the Committee, MA Paula Purhonen, then Curator, later Head of Unit at the National Board of Antiquities, were responsible for the practical arrangements. In the USSR, the corresponding working group operated within the frame of the Archaeological Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Academician Boris A. Rybakov (deputised by

Dr Anatoliy N. Kirpichnikov) and Professor Carl Fredrik Meinander (1969–1981) / Dr Torsten Edgren (1981–1992), Department Director at the National Board of Antiquities, acted as co-chairmen for the working group.

According to B. A. Rybakov's and C. F. Meinander's proposition and with the participation of N. N. Gurina, then heading the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Archaeology (LOIA) AS USSR, the first Soviet-Finnish archaeological symposium took place in Leningrad in November 1976 on the subject of Finno-Ugrian and Slavic tribes in eastern Europe and Finland during the medieval period. Fifteen scholars from Helsinki, Turku, Leningrad, and Moscow read their papers.

The main responsibility for these activities was laid on the Sector (now Department) of Slavic and Finnish archaeology at LOIA AS USSR instituted in 1974. The activities of the Sector were planned in the sphere of the history of the Finno-Ugrian peoples and their relations with the Slavs, as well as investigations into the ethnogenesis of Slavs, Finno-Ugrians, and Balts in the 1st millennium AD. Also the subject of Slavic/Russian-Finnic relations in the 8th–14th centuries was involved.

2 Working group

The international meeting of 1976 proved to be successful. It started cooperation between scientists in the two neighbouring countries. At the same time, a working group was organised for the planning of joint studies. The group for archaeology provided an operational environment for scholarly interaction up to the end of the Soviet Union. Also connections with the archaeologists of the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Soviet Republics were handled through this system. This was a very important point for Finnish archaeology, because direct communication over the Gulf of Finland had not been possible since the war.

No other sphere of knowledge in the humanities demands as intensive a communication between the scientists of our two countries as archaeology. We need an equal dialogue as



Figure 1a. A joint meeting of the working groups for archaeology in Leningrad in 1981. From left to right: Unto Salo, Aarni Erä-Esko, C. F. Meinander, N. V. Khvoshchinskaya (by the window), B. A. Rybakov, Ella Grönholm, A. N. Kirpichnikov, and Torsten Edgren. In the front, turned away from the camera, Paula Purhonen.



Figure 1b. Anatoliy N. Kirpichnikov and Boris A. Rybakov in Leningrad in 1981.

well as a mutual understanding. Naturally, there are certain differences in the approach to the methodology of historical studies in our countries. However, of most importance is not that which separates our positions but that which unites us and thus yields positive results. The cooperation between Soviet and Finnish archaeologists was dictated by the inherent needs of the development of historical science and corresponded entirely to the neighbourly relationship then established between the USSR and Finland. C. F. Meinander justly noted during the first symposium in Leningrad that no problem in Finnish archaeology could be solved without studying materials and conclusions of Soviet archaeologists. The settlement history of the Finnish people and the evolution of Finnish culture at all times was closely tied with the history of the neighbouring lands – the White Sea, Onega, and Ladoga regions, as well as the entire eastern Baltic coast. In some of the studies we consider the middle reaches of the Volga and in other ones the Arctic regions. In turn, Soviet/Russian researchers need equally much knowledge about Finno-Ugric finds and comparison of their conclusions with those of Finnish scholars.

In Finnish science, a solid tradition of archaeological knowledge has been established. Such famous scholars as Aarne Michaël Tallgren, Johan Reinhold Aspelin, Alfred Hackman, Julius Ailio, Aarne Ayräpää (A. Europaeus), and Carl Axel Nordman were familiar with materials from eastern Europe, the Baltic region, and Karelia and employed them in their studies. They considered Russian antiquities beginning with the Stone Age. The first Finnish archaeologists visited the far eastern region in the upper reaches of the Yenisei in search of the historical roots of the Finns. As Torsten Edgren justly noted in his opening address at the fifth symposium in 1986, *The Trends and Forms of the Finnish-Soviet Cooperation in the Sphere of Archaeology*, ‘movement of man in the prehistoric period was not limited by any state borders. It was possible to make long-distance journeys through vast territories.’ This approach was held by the best representatives of Finnish science. The contacts that they had established with archaeologists, museums, and various organisations in Russia were of extreme importance for the development of archaeology in Finland.



Figure 2. A joint meeting of the working groups for archaeology in Leningrad in 1984. From left to right: Torsten Edgren, Paula Purhonen, Aleksandr I. Saksa, Nina N. Gurina, and Oleg V. Ovsyannikov. Photo: A. N. Kirpichnikov.



Figure 3. The participants of the symposium held in Leningrad in 1981 made an excursion to Staraya Ladoga. On the walls of the Ladoga fortress, from left to right: Tuukka Talvio, Aarni Eä-Esko, Tapio Seger, V. A. Tyulenev, T. V. Volkovich, Unto Salo, Torsten Edgren, Elvi Linturi, Ella Grönholm, Pirkko-Liisa Lehtosalo-Hilander, Anna-Liisa Hirviluoto, Jukka Vuorinen (behind), C. F. Meinander, Jukka Luoto, V. A. Nazarenko, and Paula Purhonen.

The efforts of Finnish scientists and their Soviet colleagues prepared the period of convergence in the humanities between the specialists of the two countries as soon as it became politically possible. The alienation between our two states caused by war conflicts and differences in social systems had a negative impact upon the development of international science and connections between scientists. ‘As recently as ten years ago’, said the Finnish archaeologist Aarni Erä-Esko at the second symposium on archaeology in Helsinki in May 1978, ‘we avoided studying Karelian culture, but now these apprehensions are past.’ A certain isolation and suspiciousness were replaced by a springtime of hope.

Closer scientific relations, although belatedly, became a reality in the 1970s. It turned out that for a long time, Soviet and Finnish scholars had been working in parallel on solv-

ing a series of similar historical problems. They had been studying cultures of the Neolithic period and the Bronze Age, the origins and settlement of Slavic and Finno-Ugrian tribes, their handicrafts, trade, and international relations, the contacts between Novgorod and the Chud’, the early history of the Karelians, and the town of Korela. Both in the USSR and Finland, researchers paid a considerable amount of attention to the identification of Scandinavian influences on the cultures of the Finno-Ugrians and Slavs, the classifications, semantics, and ornamentation of archaeological finds, and the formation of urban settlements. The established cooperation intensified the solution of all these urgent problems. In the opening address at the first symposium in 1976, printed in 1979, C. F. Meinander noted as his opinion that human and professional contacts of this kind ‘are also of political importance. The more often we or-

ganise mutual meetings, the stronger will be the bonds of friendship between our countries and the peace and cooperation between all peoples.' Further developments have lived up to these expectations.

Regular contacts among the joint working group for scientific cooperation in archaeology proved successful. It became possible to organise the mutual exchange of researchers, to carry out research projects, and to promote financing of Finnish-Soviet symposiums. In Finland, the management of the collaboration was under the responsibility of the TT Committee and a secretary based at the National Board of Antiquities, while in the USSR, it was under the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences. Actually, in the USSR, and then in the Russian Federation, the main activities were conducted by the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Archaeology AS USSR (in 1991 reformed into the independent Institute for the History of Material Culture

RAS), and within the latter, the Department for Slavic and Finnic Archaeology, centrally financed via the Academy of Sciences. In connection with the symposia, joint meetings of the working groups were arranged in order to discuss the forms of cooperation and the division of financing and to sign agreements related to these matters. In addition, the chairmen had separate meetings. Plans were worked out for five-year periods.

The extension of scientific relations in archaeology aroused so wide a social interest that its discussion was submitted to the XXXth session of the Committee for Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology between Finland and the Soviet Union. The latter took place in Helsinki in June 1984. Concerning the activities of the joint working group for archaeology, the following resolution was adopted:

Soviet and Finnish scientists actively collaborate in studying cultures of the Neolithic pe-



Figure 4. The participants of the symposium held in Helsinki in 1983 are looking at the Stone Age rock paintings at the site of Astuvansalmi in Ristiina. From left to right: K. A. Smirnov, Unto Salo, Ari Siiriäinen, unidentified, L. P. Khllobystin, V. V. Sedov, Ella Grönholm, E. A. Ryabinin, and Torsten Edgren. Photo: L. Söyrinki-Harmo.



Figure 5. A seminar concerning the Volosovo phenomenon in Leningrad in 1984. From left to right: J.-P. Taavitsainen, Matti Huurre, Unto Salo, Jukka Luoto, C. F. Meinander, Lembit Jaanits, E. A. Savelyeva, V. A. Nazarenko, E. A. Rjabinin, Priit Liigi, and Ēvalds Mugurēvičs.

riod, the Bronze and Iron Ages, and the Middle Ages. This collaboration takes place in the form of participation in joint expeditions and the exchange of literature and scientific information. The joint working group for archaeology regularly organises symposiums. The lectures delivered at these symposiums are always published. The joint work of the scientists of the two countries has a positive impact upon our understanding of similar historical problems concerned with the studies of social, ethnic, and demographic processes that took place in the territories of the two countries beginning with the Stone Age. Due to this cooperation, both in the USSR and in Finland, interest in studies in the sphere of archaeology increased.

The activities of the working group were recognised as the most effective among about 20 groups realising collaboration in different spheres of knowledge between the USSR and Finland.

3 Symposia and publications

Since the first symposium in 1976, the symposia were held every two or three years alternately in the USSR and Finland. Helsinki,

Leningrad/St Petersburg, Vyborg, Tallinn, and Pushkinskiye Gory were the sites of these meetings, in which 15–30 lecturers participated. Also archaeologists from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, DDR, Sweden, and Denmark were sometimes invited to participate in the symposia. Time was always reserved for a cultural programme with visits to different cities and towns, settlement sites, burial grounds, fortresses, and so on (Turku, Eura, Raseborg, Hämeenlinna, Savonlinna, Mikkeli, Lappeenranta, Imatra, Porvoo; Vyborg, Pskov, Izborsk, Novgorod, Oreshek, Staraya Ladoga, Gorodets, Vel'ye, Saaremaa, etc.). Modern foreign scientists had never had an opportunity to visit some of these sites for several recent decades because of the administrative bans practiced in the USSR for a long time.

These scientific meetings were multi-purpose but united into certain semantic blocks. This is evidenced through the themes of the symposiums held. Already their simple listing appears eloquent. The first symposium was mentioned above. The second one dedicated to the subject *The Cultural Relations between the Peoples and Countries of the Baltic Area during the Iron Age and the Early Middle Ages* took place in Helsinki in May



Figure 6. On the excursion organised after the symposium held in Helsinki in 1988, the participants visited the excavations of the Varikonniemi site in Hämeenlinna. From left to right: A. I. Saksa, Hans-Peter Schulz, unidentified, Elvi Linturi, V. V. Sedov, and Helena Taskinen. Photo: A. N. Kirpichnikov.

1978. A meeting of the *Comité Exécutif* of the International Union of Slavic Archaeology (UIAS) took place in Helsinki in connection with this symposium.

The third symposium *Archaeology of the North-Western Regions of the USSR and Finland* took place in Leningrad in May 1981. The fourth, *Trade, Exchange and Cultural Relations of the Peoples of Fennoscandia and Eastern Europe*, was held in Helsinki in May 1983. Part of the papers read at this symposium dealt with questions related to the Volosovo phenomenon. ‘The Volosovo phenomenon as a factor in the formation of the Finnic peoples’ was a common project of the working groups, in Finland financed by the Finnish Academy in 1983–1986. A seminar on the project was arranged in Leningrad in 1984, but the planned publication was not realised.

Until the end of the 20th century, the themes of the symposia somehow repeated the initial theme covering the material culture, ethnogenesis, and cultural connections of the Finno-Ugrians and the Slavs. The fifth symposium was held in Leningrad in May 1986, and the scientific excursion was directed southwards, to Pskov. The accident at the Chernobyl’ nuclear power plant further south a couple of weeks earlier cast a dramatic shadow over the trip. The sixth symposium held in Helsinki in 1988 was followed by the seventh, exception-

ally held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1990, as a result of the activity of Estonian colleagues. In May, the islands of Saaremaa and Muhu with many ancient monuments in a charming natural environment provided all participants with unforgettable memories, as well as the demonstration for the promotion of independent Estonia on top of Toompea hill in Tallinn, in which several participants of the symposium took part. Later, the political change enabled also Baltic archaeologists to establish direct contacts with colleagues in other countries.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, symposia were arranged as follows: (8th) Helsinki 1992, (9th) Vyborg 1994, (10th) Helsinki 1997, and (11th) Pushkinskye Gory 1999. The 12th symposium in Helsinki in 2002 was focussed on *Dating and Chronology*, which was in many respects an important and topical theme. The book of the 13th symposium held at Pushkinskye Gory in 2004 (printed in 2006) was dedicated to 30 years of friendly cooperation between archaeologists of the USSR/Russia and Finland. The symposia have played an important role in crossing the mutual language barrier. Unfortunately, the language barrier did not completely break down, as most of the articles in the proceedings published in Finland were in English or German and most of those published in the Soviet Union/Russia were in Russian only. The audience of the joint



Figure 7. At the National Board of Antiquities in 1988. From left to right: E. N. Nosov, Matti Huurre, Paula Purhonen, Torsten Edgren, A. N. Kirpichnikov, Anu Rämä, and Olli Perheentupa.

lectures seemed rather unusual in terms of its interests, uniting people of different age and status. Of note was the presence of numerous young people. Our mutual relations were not reduced to strict science alone.

The materials of the symposia were published without fail alternatively in each of the hosting countries. By now, 13 volumes have been published. Before our very eyes, the first unique international collection of editions on archaeology and ancient history has appeared in the scientific practice of the two states. In addition, we attempted to present each of the mutual meetings in the journalistic press. In connection with this, it is noteworthy that the proceedings of the first symposium, *Finno-Ugrians and Slavs*, published in Leningrad in 1979, was honoured by thanks of the president the Republic of Finland, Urho Kaleva Kekkonen, and the next president of the Republic of Finland, Mauno Koivisto, wrote the following words about the book 'New archaeological discoveries in the USSR and Finland' in a letter of 17 January 1985, sent to the Academician B. A. Rybakov,

'I wish you the utmost success in your scientific studies, the joint research of Finnish and Soviet scientists, the fruitfulness of which is evidenced by your substantial collection of works.' The letter cited reflects justly and exactly that seriousness and carefulness that the two collaborating parties pay to the realisation of the scientific and organisational programmes they have adopted.

The participating parties have published a joint summary work, *Finns in Europe, VI–XV Centuries: Archaeological-historical Studies on the Balto-Finnic Peoples* (Vols. 1 & 2). This publication is concerned with studies of the culture and population of the north-western areas of the USSR and Finland during the period of the early and advanced Middle Ages. It was a great period of change accompanied by the appearance of states, the formation of new social relations, more rapid social and economic processes, and the foundation of towns and fortresses. According to the preface of the publication, it can be stated with confidence that neither wars nor class and ethnic antagonisms, but basic economic and social reasons

determined the development of the established Slavic-Finnic world. This interpretation was compliant with a jargon emphasising peaceful coexistence. In the volumes mentioned, the problems of the origin of the (Balto-) Finnic peoples are discussed. An integral history of the provinces of ancient Finland, such as Varsinais-Suomi, Häme, Satakunta, Ostrobothnia, Savo, and Karelia, as well as such ethnic formations as Vod', Izhora, Korela, Chud', and Lop', is first presented. Published in Russian, the contents have had limited significance for Finnish archaeologists. An idea was proposed to translate this two-volume edition from Russian to English, but these plans have not been realised.

The subjects of the lectures at the symposia are impressive in terms of their diversity and novelty. Finnic, Slavic, Karelian, Scandinavian, and Baltic relations were considered within the boundaries of Fennoscandia and the entire eastern Europe. The peoples concerned were the Chud' tribes, the Est', Lop', Vod', and Ves', the Baltic peoples, Volga Bulgars, Slavs, and the ancient Russian population. The new materials were represented by finds from excavations of such centres as Staraya Ladoga, Ryurik Gorodishche, Velikiy Novgorod, Ko-

rela-Käkisalml, Vyborg, Izborsk, Timerëvo, Iskorosten', Birka, and Häme Castle. Due consideration was paid to sites of the Neolithic period and the Bronze and Iron Ages, as well as to fortified and unfortified settlements and burial grounds of the major historic epochs. Areas for discussion included the development of the populations of Finland and the Karelian, Novgorod, and Pskov regions. A number of lectures were dedicated to analysis, chronology, and classification of such finds as ornaments, weaponry, and coins. Of interest were reconstructions of clothing of ancient people. Neither problems of economic development nor those related to the characterisation of the natural environment were left disregarded. The range of topics considered seems indeed infinite here.

Numerous items of Soviet and Russian archaeological literature were presented to our Finnish colleagues. In turn, we have received reciprocal donations. Thus, in 1984, Torsten Edgren gave over 30 copies of 19th-century drawings of buildings of the Valaam Monastery to the Institute of Archaeology AS USSR. These copies are helpful for the restoration of the architectural complex of the monastery. The National Board of Antiquities also copied, for Aleksandr I. Saksa, the archival



Figure 8. The 13 earlier proceedings of the Finnish-Russian archaeological symposia. Photo: C. Carpelan.

Figure 9. On the walls of the Ladoga fortress during the excavations of Staraya Ladoga in 1986: A. N. Kirpichnikov, Pirjo Uino, A. A. Peskova, V. A. Nazarenko, in the front D. I. Fonyakov with Nazarenko's dog 'Right', V. A. Bulkin (behind). In the background, the Volkhov (Olhava) River.



and photographic materials relevant to the ceded territory of Karelia. These materials helped the young researcher to write a dissertation on the Karelia of the chronicles.

4 Exchange of researchers and fieldwork

Due to the position of the TT Committee in the organisation of the Foreign Ministry, the cooperation enjoyed rather good resources in Finland. Generous funds, as well as various kinds of support by the secretariat of the TT Committee, were available for operation. The cooperation was based on reciprocity, which meant, among other things, that each party, while hosting a mutual activity in their own country, took care of the expenses of the other party due to cooperation.

Besides symposia, the exchange of researchers was one of the most important forms of cooperation. It provided individual archaeologists with opportunities to visit institutes, collections, archives, and libraries of the fellow country and also to participate in archaeological fieldwork there without personal costs. Apparently the exchange of researchers satisfied a big need, as the number of days for each country increased from 60 days in the beginning to 90 days in 1976 and to no less than 120 days in 1986.

Although not without some difficulties, it

proved possible to organise joint participation of representatives of the two countries in excavations and surveys both in the USSR/Russia and Finland (Korela/Käkisalmi/Kexholm, Vyborg, the Karelian Isthmus, Ryurik Gorodishche, Novgorod, Staraya Ladoga, Kirillov, Arkhangel, Nar'yan-Mar, Mari El, Varikonniemi at Hämeenlinna, etc.). It seemed logical to propose the organisation of an international archaeological expedition with the right to conduct excavations at historical sites in our two countries.

The first Finnish archaeologist to participate in fieldwork in the USSR within the frame of the working group for Soviet-Finnish cooperation in archaeology was Leena Söyrinki-Harmo, who got the chance to take part in the Novgorod archaeological excavations in 1977. The activities of the collaborating parties promoted the appearance of fundamental studies on Karelian-Finnish antiquities. Starting in 1984, Pirjo Uino took part in the investigations of the Staraya Ladoga archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology AS USSR (now Institute for the History of Material Culture RAS). It proved to be very difficult to organise these visits. In post-war times, Leningrad oblast was closed to foreigners. A special resolution of the Council of Ministers was needed in order to allow breaking this rule. The written petitions to the 'High Level' for permitting such repeated visits to Ladoga

were submitted by Academicians I. A. Glebov, B. B. Piotrovskiy, and D. S. Likhachyov.

Academician B. A. Rybakov, who initially supported this application, later changed his opinion and warned A. N. Kirpichnikov about the troubles threatening the latter because Ladoga was not a place for tourists. Despite this warning, A. N. Kirpichnikov convinced Academician D. S. Likhachyov to write, on 2 September 1988, a letter to the Council of Ministers containing the following lines: ‘I solicit, in the interests of international cooperation and the popularisation of the national cultural heritage, for prolongation of the permission to show Staraya Ladoga to a foreigner in 1989–1991 with official registration of the visit there in the established order.’ We were greatly surprised when the government department in Moscow unexpectedly informed the Leningrad Scientific Centre RAS that the entry of foreigners to Staraya Ladoga and Volkhov district is

entirely open and, moreover, indefinitely. Soon the ban for visiting Leningrad oblast by foreigners was cancelled completely. Thus, the situation with Pirjo Uino has helped to open historically rich Staraya Ladoga to the world’s scientific community.

In 1988, it was possible to begin archaeological cooperation on the Karelian Isthmus on a multidisciplinary basis. Fieldwork activities at the fortress of Käkisalmi/Kexholm and some other sites were carried out under the leadership of A. I. Saksa. The significance of Saksa, an expert on the archaeology of the Karelian Isthmus and all of north-western Russia, as partner was very important. In 1998, he submitted his doctoral thesis ‘Karelians in the Iron Age and the early stages of the development of the population of ancient Karelia’ to the trial of Finnish experts at the University of Joensuu. He defended the same dissertation, although somewhat modified, in St Petersburg in 2007 for the degree



Figure 10. The excavations inside the courtyard of the fortress of Käkisalmi/Kexholm in 1989–1990 were headed by A. I. Saksa (in the front). The research was a multidisciplinary Soviet-Finnish cooperative project. The museum building in the background. Photo: P. Uino.



Figure 11. On the Karelian Isthmus, a Stone Age dwelling depression was first excavated in June 2002 jointly by Finnish and Russian researchers at the Juoksemajärvi Westend (Bol'shoe Zavetnoe 4) site, in the former Räsälä municipality (now Mel'nikov). The fieldwork also included training for students of archaeology from the University of Helsinki. Photo: P. Uino.

of Doctor of History. In Russian we quipped to him: 'Well, now you are a Doctor squared!' Indeed, among the Ingermanland Finns, of whom he is a relative, he has proved to be the only one with two doctoral diplomas. Naturally, 'our doctor' wields Finnish with excellent proficiency and acts as interpreter when needed.

5 New prospects for cooperation

The working group for cooperation had been acting until the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The TT Committee between Finland and the USSR was dissolved in 1992, and a new organ, the Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Finland and Russia, was established. A system that made it possible to apply for financing, exchange experts, arrange symposia, and so on was created for a period of transition. The exchange of experts took place within the frame of the new Commission according to the agree-

ment between the Academy of Finland and the Russian Academy of Sciences on the exchange of researchers. After the previous Committee, the financing of symposia gradually met with difficulties because there were no more established channels for funding. The funding only covered part of the expenses earlier covered by the TT Committee. The purpose was to facilitate a gradual transition from international agreements to independent forms of cooperation, that is, practices prevailing between institutes and individual researchers in Finland and other countries at least within the humanities. At this stage, language formed one of the biggest problems, as money was no longer available for simultaneous interpretation at the symposia.

The Academy of Finland provided funds for the general expenses of the 12th symposium, held in Helsinki in May 2002, from its appropriations for international meetings. As said above, the 13th symposium was held in

Pushkinskye Gory in October 2004. This was followed by a 10-year break in the tradition as the Finnish party could not arrange a symposium because of several difficulties.

However, the Russian-Finnish contacts continued and not only retained their scientific depth, but, moreover, acquired new forms. Several expeditions launched by the Russian Academy of Sciences have cooperated with Finnish universities and museums especially on the Karelian Isthmus and along the north-western shore of Lake Ladoga since the 1990s, and many scholars have launched very successful surveys and multidisciplinary research projects in the neighbourhood of Finland, but also further in various parts of Russia, such as in the Volga region and in the Arctic of the European part of Russia. The Universities of Helsinki and Turku, as well as the Museum of Lahti, have cooperated very actively in various regions. Despite the difficulties, the needed funds were found and publishing of the proceedings of the symposiums continued. All of us dreamed about the complete revival of our friendly scientific relations that had developed so successfully for many years.

On 4 June 2013, a meeting of Finnish and Russian experts took place in the Consulate General of Finland in St Petersburg with the goal of continuing the traditional bilateral symposiums. Cooperation in the form of scientific meetings may be compared with a child who eventually attains puberty, but as a young man still needs care to retain vitality. We have agreed on mutual practical movement towards our goal, as was reported to the National Board of Antiquities. On 21 January 2014, a meeting took place in Helsinki headed by Juhani Kostet, Director General of the National Board of Antiquities. It was decided to reconstitute the joint working group for archaeology. E. N. Nosov (co-chairman), A. N. Kirpichnikov, N. V. Khvoshchinskaya, V. A. Lapshin, and A. I. Saksa were selected as members on the Russian side (Institute for the History of Material Culture at the Russian Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg). Juhani Kostet and Pirjo Uino (National Board of

Antiquities), Mika Lavento (University of Helsinki), Kerkko Nordqvist (University of Oulu), Juha Ruohonen (University of Turku), and Hannu Takala (Lahti City Museum) were selected from the Finnish side. A. I. Saksa and Mervi Suhonen were invited to serve as secretaries. The Russian participants suggested that Juhani Kostet would act as co-chairman on the Finnish side of the group.

At this sitting, fairly large-scale scientific tasks of the working group were defined involving all the prehistoric periods, the Middle Ages, and the modern period. Publishing and information activities, as well as the organisation of symposiums alternatively in each country, were planned. The next symposium was fixed for 2014 in Helsinki. A trip to Lahti was intended. Thus our cooperation had not ended but was far-sightedly revived. As it seems, the unanimous approval of these resolutions was welcomed by all present.

6 Closing words

Having passed an early institutional phase, the cooperation in the field of archaeology, in the 1990s, began to grow on the grounds of personal acquaintance leading to warm and straightforward collegial contacts. It is valuable to see that scientific and cultural cooperation has remained alive in spite of political and social changes.

In summary, the results of the work carried out are encouraging and allow us to anticipate the future optimistically. As has been testified by the accumulated useful experience, both sides have resolved to do all in their power in order to take care of and develop further the scientific cooperation that is unique in the history of our nations.

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Literature

The Proceedings of the Soviet/Russian-Finnish and Finnish-Soviet/Russian Symposia in Archaeology

- (1) *Финно-угры и славяне.* [Suomalais-ugrilaiset ja slaavilaiset; Finno-Ugrien und Slawen.] Доклады первого советско-финляндского симпозиума по вопросам археологии 15–17 ноября 1976 г. (ed. B. A. Rybakov). Ленинград: Наука, 1979.
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Note

- 1 On the early mutual visits, see Edgren, T. 2013. *Carl Fredrik Meinander: Arkeolog med perspektiv.* Museiverkets publikationer 1. pp. 253–260.

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