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IN HONOREM

To the anniversary of Professor S.A. Skoryi

This year marks the 75th birthday of the famous Ukrainian archaeologist Serhii Anatoliiovych Skoryi, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Early Iron Age Archaeology Department at the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The scientist was born on December 14, 1949, in the town of Saryi Krym in the family of Anatolii Skoryi and Yevheniia Hordieieva. Since childhood, the boy was interested in various antiquities.

After graduating from an eight-year school in 1966, he entered Feodosia Polytechnic College. In 1970, he worked as an electrical technician at a forging and stamping plant in Tokmak. Since 1970, he served in the army, working as a correspondent for a military newspaper. Upon completion of his service in 1972, he got a job at a military unit in Sudak.

However, the young man's thirst for historical research was still burning in his soul. In 1973, he managed to get acquainted with the Crimean archaeologist M.A. Forondzhulo, and then, under his guidance, took part in the archaeological excavations of the Genoese fortress in Sudak. Later, communication in the archaeological environment gave the young researcher an acquaintance with well-known specialists A.O. Shchepynskyi and T.M. Vysotska. Later he got acquainted with V.O. Kolotukhin, in whose expedition he participated, excavating mounds in Eastern Crimea.

In 1975 S.A. Skoryi became a student of the History Department of Simferopol State University. At that time, a team of creative young archaeologists was formed there, who later became famous researchers. Among them were V.O. Kutaisov and V. M. Mits. They founded the student archaeological club "Eos" and organized regular archaeological expeditions to explore Scythian Naples, the Ust-Alma settlement, mounds on the Kerch Peninsula, and a Bronze Age settlement near Feodosia.

Already during his university years, Serhii Anatoliiovych decided on his future specializa-



Professor S.A. Skoryi.

tion, Scythian studies. He published articles in *Soviet Archaeology*, the central Soviet specialized journal of those years. In 1978, his report on Scythian swords at the All-Union Student Archaeological Conference was highly praised. Already at that time, the specialist got acquainted with the experts of Scythia studies B.M. Mozolevskyi and E.V. Chernenko who influenced development of his scientific career.

In 1979, the young researcher entered the postgraduate studies of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. He works under the guidance of the prominent Scythia researchers V.A. Illinska (1979), O.I. Terenozhkin (1979-1981), and E.V. Chernenko (1981-1982). He conducts a scientific dialogue with leading experts in the study of the Early Iron Age in the south of Eastern Europe: B.A. Shramko, A.I. Meliukova, K.F. Smirnov, L.K. Halanina, G.I. Smirnova, which greatly expands his scientific outlook.

The topic of the candidate's dissertation "Scythian-type weapons in Central Europe (to the question of the connections between Scythia and the population of Central Europe)" was not the easiest one, as it required a good knowledge of Eu-



With friend and colleague O.G. Levitskii.

ropean literature, which was notoriously difficult in Soviet times. However, diligent and consistent work is known to overcome all obstacles. The thesis was prepared and successfully defended in 1983.

In 1982, Serhii Skoryi got a job at the Early Iron Age Archaeology Department of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, where he has spent his further scientific life. He worked there as a junior researcher, researcher, senior researcher, and head



With archaeologist O.B. Suprunenko.

of the Department. Skoryi was a member of the research team that worked on the study of early Iron Age antiquities of the Dnipro Right-Bank Forest-Steppe region, headed by H.T. Kovpanenko. The specialists are actively engaged in field works on the monuments of the Ukrainian Right-Bank Forest-Steppe. The specialist works as a team leader and deputy head of the expedition. The generalization of excavation materials, analysis of the works of predecessors, made it possible to prepare and publish in 1989 a collective fundamental monograph devoted to the monuments of the Scythian period of the Dnipro Forest-Steppe Right Bank region.

Having work experience in both the steppe and forest-steppe regions, S.A. Skoryi is interested in the relationship between Scythian nomadic and aboriginal settled tribes of the Northern Black Sea region, and Scythian expansion into the forest-steppe region. This is how the topic of his doctoral theses “Nomads of the Pre-Scythian and Scythian Periods in the Dnipro Right-Bank Forest-Steppe region (issues of Ethnocultural History)” was formulated. After fruitful work, the author successfully defended his doctoral thesis in 1997. The coverage of the issues of interaction between ethnic groups, the waves of nomadic expansion to the north, into the environment of the forest-steppe aboriginals, was highly appreciated by experts and is invariably and widely used in their own archaeological research. In 2008, for his outstanding scientific achievements and organizational and educational work, Serhii Anatoliiovych Skoryi was awarded the high academic title of “Professor”.

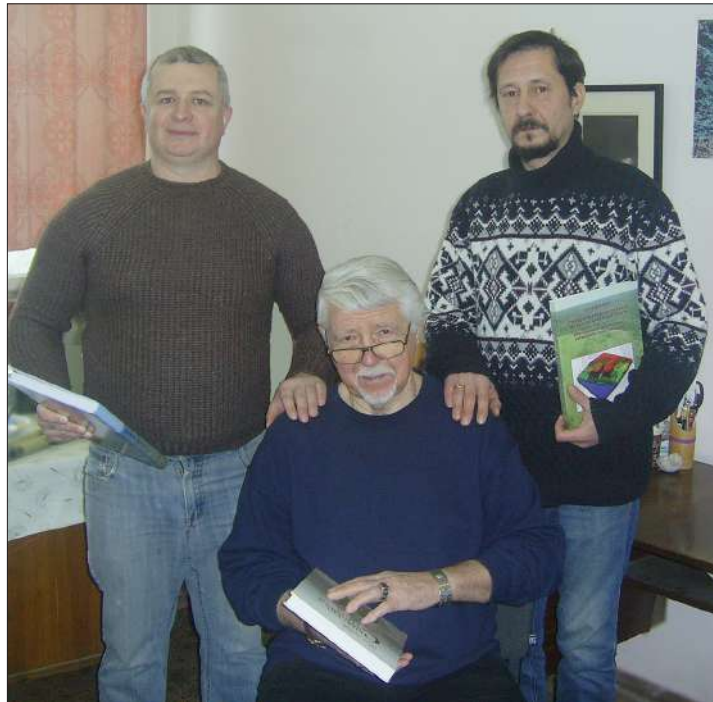
In 2002, the staff of the Scythian-Sarmatian Archaeology Department elected S.A. Skoryi to head this unit, and the Directorate approved him. For more than two decades, he has been fruitfully leading this department. Scientific and organizational work has been intensified. Specialized scientific conferences are held regularly. The work of the predecessors – outstanding specialists in Early Iron Age archaeology I.V. Fabrytsius, E.F. Pokrovska, O.I. Terenozhkin, V.A. Illinska, B.M. Mozolevskyi, E.V. Chernenko, V.P. Bilozor, S.S. Bessonova – is honored and continued. Many young scientists joined the department, and a number of theses were defended under the guidance of the professor. Among them are the works



With Professor I.T. Nikulitse.

of O.D. Mogylov, D.V. Karavaiko, S.A. Zadnikov, O.V. Romashko, M.M. Darahan. His current students are V.M. Okatenko and R.V. Zymovets.

S.A. Skoryi was and remains an active field researcher. Since independence, expeditions led by him have explored a number of significant archaeological complexes. Among them are the excavations of the elite Scythian Great Ryzhanivka Barrow, carried out in 1995-1998 by a joint Ukrainian-Polish expedition in collaboration with his friend and colleague, Polish Professor J. Khokhorovsky. This creative tandem continued their research in 2000-2003 at the Motronynske hillfort in Cherkasy region, during which large-scale excavations were carried out at the defensive structures and settlement sites of this outstanding monument. They also excavated the necropolis of the settlement, where, among other things, the large mound Scythian Grave was unearthed. It is one of the largest mounds excavated in Ukraine since independence and an outstanding burial of horsemen of the fifth century B.C. For many years, work continued on one of the greatest monuments of the Early Iron Age in Europe – Bilske hillfort in Poltava region. They studied the settlement structure and funeral rituals of the population of this complex. In the last decade, the researcher has been actively working on excavations of Early Iron Age burial sites in Kharkiv and Kirovohrad regions. Of particular importance are



With representatives of his scientific school at the Institute of Archeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.



Review of archaeological materials. From right to left: Professor S.A. Skoryi, Professor Takahama Shu (National Museum, Tokyo, Japan), Yu.Yu. Lyashko (Head of the Historical Museum of the Kamianka State Reserve), O.D. Mogylov (Head of Skifska Right Bank Expedition).

the studies near the village of Zhabotyn in Tyas-myn region, where a low pre-Scythian mound was excavated, and the key monument of the Scythian Archaic period, mound no. 524, was re-examined.

S.A. Skoryi is the author of about 400 different scientific works (including 16 monographs). His scientific heritage is diverse. Among his works

are generalizations of materials from well-known monuments of the Scythian period: the mounds near Ryzhanivka, Stebliv, Perepiatykha, Scifska Mogyla, Bilsk hillfort. There are also generalizing works devoted to important issues of Early Iron Age archaeology in the south of Eastern Europe: the cultural genesis of the Scythian tribes in the Dnipro Right-Bank Forest-Steppe region, the presence of Cimmerians and Scythians in the Ukrainian Forest-Steppe and their interaction with local aboriginal tribes.

The professor is an active publisher. He has edited more than 40 monographs and scientific collections, periodicals, and is a member of the editorial boards of many Ukrainian and foreign scientific journals, and has been an opponent in the defense of a number of theses. S.A. Skoryi is actively interested in art. Among his many hobbies is poetry. He is the author of wonderful poems and prose and has published 8 collections of his literary works. Serhii Anatoliyovych is spending his eighth decade in the prime of his creative life.

We wish him realization of his creative plans!



Speech at a literary gathering.

Oleksandr Mohylov