

*CHRONICLE*

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**VTYURINA EKATERINA ALEKSEEVNA**  
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**S.M. Fotiev**

*Earth Cryosphere Institute, SB RAS, P/O box 1230, Tyumen, 625000, Russia; kriozem@gmail.com*

The article presents materials about the life and work of Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina, an outstanding researcher of seasonal cryogenic rocks.

*Geocryology, seasonal cryogenic rocks, ground ice*



On January 20, 2017, approaching her ninetieth anniversary, Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina passed away – a doctor of geography and an authority in the area of investigating seasonal cryogenic rocks. She was a recognized authority among colleagues studying permafrost. Her works are widely known not only in Russia but abroad.

In 1952, Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina graduated cum laude from the geography department of the Moscow Potyomkin Pedagogical Institute and started working in the Obruchev Permafrost Research Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. After that, she worked in the Research and Production Institute for Engineering Survey in Construction of Gosstroy of

the USSR for more than 40 years. Being a persistent and curious person, Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina successfully studied and deepened the fundamentals of the permafrost science. Working in different expeditions of the Permafrost Research Institute, Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina organized and conducted geothermic observations, carried out geocryological survey and took part in compiling geocryological maps.

In 1955–1958, Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina combined studies as a graduate student with expeditions and research work in different regions of Transbaikalia. In 1963, she defended a candidate's thesis for her work "The Permafrost Rocks of South-Eastern Transbaikalia".

In the subsequent years (1959–1977), Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina became focused on the study of the regularities of ice formation, the cryogenic structure and formation of seasonal cryogenic rocks. Based on the results of winter stationary, semi-stationary and field studies of seasonal cryogenic rocks in the north of the European part of Russia, in Western Siberia and in Primorye, she had a number of fundamental papers published and wrote a doctorate thesis. In 1986, for her work “Underground Ice of Seasonal Cryogenic Rocks”, Ekaterina Alekseevna was awarded a doctorate degree in geography. The most significant monographs Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina wrote were the following: “Cryogenic Slope Processes”, 1966; “Ice Formation in Rocks” (co-authored with B.I. Vtyurin), 1970; “The Cryogenic Structure of Rocks of the Annual Thawed Layer”, 1974; “The Terminology of Periglacial Geomorphology” (co-

authored with D.A. Timofeev), 1983; “Seasonal Cryogenic Rocks”, 1984; “The Glaciological Dictionary” (co-authored with a team of authors), 1984.

Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina was awarded the medals “For Valiant Labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945”, “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945” and “Labor Veteran”.

The papers and the monographs written by Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina set forth the mechanism and the regularities of ice formation in rocks, reveal the major regularities of the cryogenic structure of the annual thawed layer rocks and of underground ice and focus on the necessity of the comprehensive study of the processes of freezing and thawing. The works of Ekaterina Alekseevna Vtyurina are fundamental for a large number of specialists involved in the study of seasonal cryogenic rocks.