

*CHRONICLE*

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On January 11, 2020, Vladimir Viktorovich Baulin, an outstanding permafrost scientist, doctor of geological and mineralogical Sciences, professor, and academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, passed away. His work formed the scientific direction of research of space-time patterns of formation and distribution of permafrost in Western Siberia.

*Vladimir Viktorovich Baulin, permafrost science, PNIIS, Western Siberia*



On January 11, 2020, at the age of 88, Vladimir Viktorovich Baulin, an outstanding permafrost scientist, doctor of geological and mineralogical sciences (1979), professor (1989), academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, died.

Vladimir Viktorovich was born in 1932 in the village of Pavlovskaya Sloboda, Moscow Region. In 1949, he graduated the high school and entered the Geological Faculty of the Lomonosov Moscow State University. He studied at the Department of Engineering Geology, but the last two years specialized at the Department of Geocryology, established in 1953. That was the first department in the world, which specialized in the training of specialists in the study of frozen grounds.

V.V. Baulin had graduated from the Geological Faculty of the Moscow State University with a degree in geocryology-geologist in 1954. Formally, that was the second graduation of the Geocryology Department, but, in fact, it was the first one. Since that graduation, students underwent full-fledged training in the field of permafrost studies for two years. The students were taught by such outstanding scientists as V.A. Kudryavtsev, B.A. Dostovalov, N.F. Poltev, B.A. Savelyev et al. The course of geocryology in 1954 had been completed by 4 students. Two of them, Vladimir Viktorovich Baulin and Mikhail Mikhailovich Koreisha, subsequently protected their doctoral thesis. Then they worked together for many years at the Institute of PNIIS and made an out-

standing contribution to the development of permafrost science.

After graduation, Vladimir Viktorovich entered a post-graduate school at the Geocryology Department. Already in 1954, he participated in the first sub-faculty expedition, and in 1955, under his leadership, field work was carried out to study the permafrost-geological conditions of the territory of the proposed Salekhard hydroelectric station. As a result of those works, a scientific direction has been actually formed for studying of the spatial-temporal patterns of the formation and distribution of the Western Siberia permafrost and the history of its development in the Quaternary. Based on the results of those works, a classic set of geocryological and engineering geocryological maps of a scale of 1:25 000 was compiled for the first time. The methodological principles of those works have formed the basis of the training course "The Methods of permafrost survey", have entered into general practice and are the basis of modern regional geocryological and paleogeocryological studies.

In 1959, under the guidance of V.A. Kudryavtsev V.V. Baulin defended a Ph.D. thesis on the topic of "The History of the Permafrost Development in the Area of the Lower Reaches of Ob River at Quaternary". That was one of the first dissertations, prepared entirely at the Geocryology Department. In 1963, Vladimir Viktorovich, as a promising young scientist, was invited to work in the newly formed Production and Research Institute for Engineering Surveys in Construction (PNIIS) of the Gosstroy of the USSR. The geocryological direction in PNIIS was formed on the basis of the Department of General Permafrost Science of the Obruchev Permafrost Science Institute. Almost all his labor and creative life Vladimir Viktorovich has spent at PNIIS. He has gone from a researcher to the general director of the institute. He began work in the Department of Geocryological Research under the guidance of an outstanding scientist I.Ya. Baranov, the author of the first geocryological maps of the territory of the USSR. A whole galaxy of outstanding permafrost scientists worked together (and then under his leadership) with V.V. Baulin, among them were S.M. Fotiev, T.N. Kaplina, S.E. Sukhodolsky, N.S. Danilova, E.A. Vtyurina, B.I. Vtyurin, M.M. Koreisha, E.B. Belopukhovaa, V.P. Chernyadiev, R.M. Sarkisyan, G.I. Dubikov and many others. With a light hand of S.E. Sukhodolsky, collaborators of the Department of Geocryological Research (headed by Vladimir Viktorovich from 1973 to 1988) called him Kormchiy (Helmsman).

Vladimir Viktorovich continued the researches on the formation of frozen ground and in 1979 he defended doctoral dissertation "Geological-Tectonic and Paleogeographic Patterns of the Formation of Permafrost Grounds of Young Platforms (on the Example of Western Siberia)". Basing on the huge factual material on geocryology of Western Siberia,

which he had begun to collect from his student years, V.V. Baulin substantiated for the first time a clear pattern of the unique structure of frozen ground of different ages in the young West Siberian platform, giving a clue to the alternation of negative and positive temperature horizons in a vertical section of a thick sedimentary cover of that structure. Designed by V.V. Baulin's principle formed the basis and was further developed in a number of subsequent works.

Vladimir Viktorovich was an outgoing person. In the PNIIS, holidays were organized with his active participation. Everyone who was somehow connected with the work of the institute, including students engaged in practical work, was invited to take part. In each of the departments of the institute, a tableful-feast was organized. Then everyone congratulated colleagues. And finally, all gathered in the assembly hall, where dances and joint singing of expedition songs under the piano were organized, on which the staff of the institute accompanied the general choir. On March 8, Vladimir Viktorovich certainly went around the whole institute with a huge bouquet and gave flowers to every woman. In 1960–1970s, the geocryological balls were organized at the PNIIS, to which all permafrost experts were invited, and some of them specially came to Moscow from other cities.

In the very difficult 1990s, when often there was no money to pay salaries to employees, to support his subordinates Vladimir Viktorovich issued intra-institution money, which employees immediately called 'baulinkas'. Those were squares printed on plain paper and printed in the printing house of the PNIIS, on which stood the date, price (1 ruble) and the signature of Vladimir Viktorovich. The part of the lunch in the PNIIS buffet could be paid by the 'baulinkas'. 'Baulinkas' were distributed among departments every week and thus many people were supported in these difficult times.

In 2001, Vladimir Viktorovich, remaining the director of the institute, again headed the Department of Geocryological Research and did everything possible to preserve the traditions and scientific potential of the department. During that period, from 2001 to 2004, a unique set of engineering-geocryological studies on transcontinental trunk oil pipelines in the European North, Central and Eastern Siberia, West Pre-Baikal region and Transbaikalia, in Mongolia was carried out the foundations of advanced complex engineering-geocryological modeling for construction in difficult environmental conditions have been elaborated.

In 2003, the first Geocryological Dictionary (edited by V.V. Baulin and V.E. Murzaeva) containing more than 400 articles on the systematization of terms and concepts in geocryology and related disciplines was released.

In the last decades of his activity V.V. Baulin paid great attention to the issues of engineering-geological support for the safety of construction, he

headed the Gosstroy RF Scientific and Technical Program “Construction in the Areas of Development of Dangerous Geological Processes” (1991–1998). Since 2005 V.V. Baulin taught and worked at the Department of Geocryology of Geological Faculty of Moscow State University, where he had begun his scientific career. Since 1997 V.V. Baulin was a member of the editorial board of the journal “Earth’s Cryosphere”, the main scientific journal of our country on geocryology.

V.V. Baulin has been awarded many state and departmental awards and titles: Laureate of the USSR State Prize (1977), Laureate of the State Prize of Russia (1993), Holder of the Order of Honor (1995), Honorary Builder of Russia (1998), Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation (2000), Honorary Builder of the Moscow Region (2002). In the Russian architectural and construction encyclopedia (RASE, 2001, vol. VII) V.V. Baulin is represented as the leader of the scientific school “Engineering-geological problems in construction”.

The main works of V.V. Baulin are ‘Geocryological conditions of Western Siberia’ (et al.), 1967;

‘Methods of reconstruction of paleoclimates’ (et al.), 1984; ‘Map of zoning of the West Siberian Plain by thickness and structure of the frozen strata (with explanatory note), scale 1:2 500 000’, 1984; ‘Permafrost grounds of the oil and gas regions of the USSR’, 1985; ‘Map of geocryological zoning of the West Siberian Plain along the upper horizon of the frozen strata (with an explanatory note), scale 1:500 000’, 1985; ‘Geocryology of the USSR. Volume 2. Western Siberia’ (et al.), 1989; ‘Geocryological conditions for the development of the Bovanenkovo field’ (et al.), 1996; ‘Fundamentals of geocryology. Part 3’ (et al.), 1998; ‘Geocryological Dictionary’ (et al.), 2003; ‘Geocryological conditions of the Kharasavey and Kruzenshtern gas condensate fields (Yamal Peninsula)’ (et al.), 2003.

Everyone who worked and collaborated with Vladimir Viktorovich knew him as a talented leader, a person of high erudition and great tact. V.V. Baulin’s memory will remain in hearts of his students and followers for a long time.

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