

CHRONICLE

ON THE 90th ANNIVERSARY OF IGOR VLADIMIROVICH KLIMOVSKY

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On August 19, 2024, Igor Vladimirovich Klimovsky, a famous Russian permafrost scientist, leading researcher at the Melnikov Permafrost Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a Candidate of Geographical Sciences, and author of major monographs and maps on permafrost, as well as historical and biographical books about permafrost researchers, celebrated his 90th birthday.

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On August 19, 2024 Igor Vladimirovich Klimovsky, a Candidate of Geographical Sciences and a leading researcher at the Melnikov Permafrost Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, celebrated his 90th birthday. We warmly and heartily congratulate our dear colleague on his anniversary and wish him health, optimism, and success in his endeavors.

I.V. Klimovsky (Fig. 1) was born on August 19, 1934 in Yakutsk. In 1953, he graduated from the city's secondary school No. 9 with a silver medal and entered the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University, where he specialized in the Geography of Northern and Polar Countries (Fig. 2). After graduating from one of Russia's leading universities, I.V. Klimovsky returned to Yakutsk. Since 1958, only one organization is mentioned in his employment book – the Permafrost Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where he has been working for 66 years.

His entire subsequent creative life was inextricably linked with Yakutia and geocryological science. This remarkable devotion to the institute was undoubtedly rooted in his love for geocryology and the romance of scientific inquiry. During the first thirty years of his work at the institute, Igor Vladimirovich went on expeditions almost every year. The romance of challenging fieldwork captivated him, built his character, and, most importantly, shaped his understanding and vision of natural processes and phenomena, which could not be acquired in the quiet of his office. The geography of his field research is very impressive: the glaciers of the Suntar-Khayata Ridge, the Yakutian diamond-bearing province, Kotelný Island in the Laptev Sea, northern Transbaikalia, the

Western Sayan Mountains, the Cheremukhovskiy coal basin, the Baikal-Amur Mainline zone, the Buor-dakh mountain-glacial massif, and elsewhere... Based on the results of his field studies I.V. Klimovsky wrote dozens of scientific and technical reports and published more than 110 scientific papers and monographs, such as *Permafrost of the Stanovoy Highlands and the Vitim Plateau* [Nekrasov, 1967], *The Last Glaciation and Permafrost in the Southern Verkhoyansk*

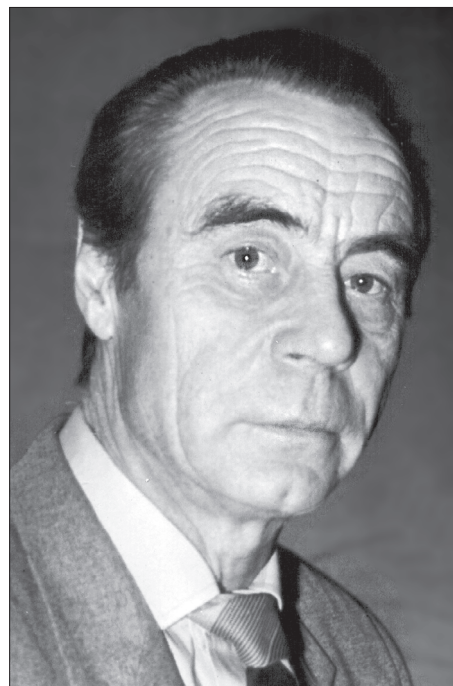


Fig. 1. Klimovsky Igor Vladimirovich.



Fig. 2. Group of students of the Department of Geography of Northern and Polar Countries, Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University.

In the first row, on the left is I.V. Klimovsky (Moscow, 1956).

Range [Nekrasov et al., 1973], *Permafrost Landscapes of Yakutia* [Fedorov et al., 1989], and *Permafrost of the Yakutian Diamondiferous Province* [Klimovskiy, Gotovtsev, 1994].

With his active participation, the following fundamental collective cartographic and monographic scientific generalizations were compiled and published: *Permafrost along the BAM (Baikal-Amur Mainline)* [Nekrasov, Klimovskiy, 1978], *Catalogue of Glaciers of the USSR* [Nekrasov, Sheinkman, 1981], *Permafrost Landscape Map of the Yakut ASSR* [Fedorov et al., 1991], and *Academic Geocryology in Yakutia* [Kamenskiy, 1997].

In recent years, unable to take part in expeditionary work for health reasons, he pays great attention to studying the history of geocryological science, writes essays, brochures, and books about prominent permafrost researchers. In this field, no less important for the development of any science, Igor Vladimirovich has proven himself a thorough, objective, and scrupulous researcher. Thus, in 2008, his book about the founder of the Yakutian geocryological scientific school, Academician P.I. Melnikov was published [Klimovskiy, 2008] (Fig. 3). The book received many enthusiastic reviews from fellow permafrost scholars. The author deeply analyzed a huge factual material collected in the archives of Yakutsk, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen.

I.V. Klimovsky devoted considerable attention to teaching and training future researchers. For 25 years, without interruption from work at the institute, he trained scientific personnel, lectured on general permafrost science to students of the Biological, Geographical, and Geological Exploration faculties of



Fig. 3. Delegates of the VIII Geographical Congress of the USSR (Kiev, 1986).

From left to right: Ph.D. S.E. Mostakhov, Academician P.I. Melnikov, and Ph.D. I.V. Klimovsky.

Yakutsk State University (YaSU), conducted student practices, and supervised a number of theses. Being the chairman of the State Examination Commission of the Faculty of Biology and Geography of YaSU, he received the academic title of associate professor in 1986. Many of his students became prominent scientists and specialists. Some of them are candidates of science and are now successfully working in the field of permafrost studies.

For his achievements in the development of scientific research, scientific-organizational, pedagogical, public, and outreach activities I.V. Klimovsky was awarded three medals, as well as the badges "Honored Veteran of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences", "Veteran of Labor", etc. In 1985, he was awarded the honorary title "Honored Worker of the National Economy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)", and in 2000, the Russian Geographical Society issued him a diploma for outstanding achievements in the field of geography.

It is worth noting that even the most dedicated scientists are not immune to the passage of time. We

would like to wish Igor Vladimirovich strength and perseverance in overcoming this inevitable challenge and many more years of active service to Russian permafrost science.

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