

STANISLAV ALEKSEEVICH LAUKHIN
(23.11.1936–04.06.2021)

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On June 4, 2021, Stanislav Alekseevich Laukhin, a recognized specialist in Quaternary geology of the North of Russia, professor of the Department of Engineering Geology of the GGF MGRI, Doctor of Engineering Sciences, an unusually purposeful and tireless person, passed away.

Key words: *geocryology, Quaternary geology, Stanislav Alekseevich Laukhin.*



Stanislav A. Laukhin was born on October 23, 1936 in the city of Pushkino, Moscow region. After graduating from high school in 1954, he began studying for his master's in geoscience at the Faculty of Geology, Lomonosov Moscow State University. His own commitment to excellence, good teachers, and fieldwork in the Western Sayan helped Stanislav, then a student, to identify his core research interests. What really attracted him was Quaternary geology and biostratigraphy of Siberia. However, prompted by contemporaneous science developments and industry demands, his research focus had slightly changed and in 1967 he defended his PhD thesis on the Late Cenozoic stratigraphy and paleogeography of the North Angara region.

Later, while still holding on the cherished ambition of his attempt to draw nearer to Quaternary re-

search, S.A. Laukhin had had to change jobs several times incidentally solving different tasks. Among other things he conducted various-scale geological survey of Cenozoic deposits in Siberia and the Far Eastern North; examined cascade of the Lower Angara hydropower stations and provided geological and geomorphological justification of the related projects; was engaged in forecasting and searching for placer deposits, from study of gold-bearing provinces in Cenozoic depressions in Northeast Russia). His involvement in these fields of research often provided an opportunity to explore new geographical areas and allowed Stanislav to be exposed to a huge amount of new factual material on Quaternary geology, which he collected and studied, and eventually developed a passion for a new frontier in geology – geoarchaeology.

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In the 1980–1990s, S.A. Laukhin studied the history of Paleolithic humans, their movements driven by climate changes, and the emergence of the Bering Land Bridge. Stanislav A. Laukhin discovered Kymyneikey site in Chukotka, the latest explored at that time (1987), and participated in the commencement of systematic geoarchaeological investigations of the Kurtak Archaeological Region (upper Yenisei River in the south of the Krasnoyarsk Region) for which he built the first ever paleotemperature curve spanning most of the Cenozoic of the Northeast Asia (1993)*.

The wide geography of S.A. Laukhin's fields of research encompasses regions from the Urals to the Bering Strait and from Tiksi to Tuva.

In total, he authored more than 500 publications, including 11 monographs (with coauthors) and 40 articles published in the Transactions (Doklady) of the USSR/Russian Academy of Sciences. As many as 97 of his articles have been published or translated and reissued abroad in 23 countries (USA, England, France, Spain, Germany, China, etc.).

Stanislav A. Laukhin was a full member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, a member of the Commission on Paleogeology and Human Evolution within the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the INQUA Subcommittee on Paleolithic Geoarchaeology. As a committed scholar, he considered his lifelong love of science and research work to be a major asset to him and tried to dismiss everything that distracted him from his passion.

In 1996, S.A. Laukhin successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "The Plio–Pleistocene

geological history of North Asia and stages of its populating by Paleolithic humans".

S.A. Laukhin's achievements in the field of archeology, paleogeology were highly commended by the scientific community, the Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Geology of the USSR. A novel mollusk *Gibbulnopsis (Primipupilla) lauchini* Popova was named after him. As a member of Organizing Committees, S.A. Laukhin was awarded a Golden badge and a Diploma of the USSR Mingeo (Ministry of Geology) for organizing and conducting the 11th INQUA Congress and the 27th International Geological Congress (Moscow, 1984). In 2000, he was awarded a State scientific scholarship, and Honorary Diploma of the Presidium of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2006.

Stanislav A. Laukhin's teaching career, which began in 1963, was interrupted for only brief periods and lasted until the end of his life.

The academic courses taught by S.A. Laukhin include: "Practical course of the USSR geology" and "Quaternary geology with introduction to paleontology" at Moscow State University; "Geology of placer deposits" at the Institution of Additional Professional Training affiliated with Mingeo, USSR; "Engineering geology" at Moscow Institute of Municipal Economy and Construction; "The Earth's cryosphere" as academic subject, and his own original course "Paleogeocryology" at Russian State University for Geological Prospecting (MGRI). Already seriously ill during the past few years, Stanislav A. Laukhin delved into teaching, however, always found time for science and with all his extraordinary perseverance continued to keep up his favorite research.

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* Pushkar, V.S., 2016, Stanislav Alekseevich Laukhin: From the Mediterranean to Chukotka and from Tiksi to Macau. *Tikhookeanskaya geologia [Russian Journal of Pacific geology]*, 35 (5), 117–118.