
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF VALENTINA GORYACHEVA



Valentina Goryacheva at the archaeological base for the expedition at Krasnaya Rechka, 2009

MOST Central Asian scholars and archaeologists need no introduction for the Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Valentina Dmitriyevna Goryacheva. Archaeologists dealing with the medieval period of Central Asia know her very well as a major specialist on the urban culture of Zhetysu (*Semirechye* in Russian).

She was born in October 1939 in the town of Rybachye (modern Balykchy) along Lake Yssyk-Köl in Kyrgyzstan. In 1959, she entered the Central Asian State University later named the Tashkent State University the following year. She began her scientific career in the field of architectural archeology, which reflects the great influence and charm of Galina Anatoliyevna Pugachenkova, Valentina's first mentor during

her student practicum in 1960 at the excavations of Khalchayan during the restoration of sculptures from the palace of the Kushan rulers. Later, her passion for architecture prevailed in her activities. That passion was on full display during her diploma work while excavating of a wealthy person's inhabitation in Old Merv on Sultan-Kala under the leadership of Svetlana Borisovna Lunina. By assignment of the university and at the request of the Ministry of Culture of the Kirghiz SSR, Valentina was sent to Frunze, present-day Bishkek, in 1964.

At first, she worked as an inspector for museums and the protection of monuments at the newly opened division under the Department of Cultural and Educational Institutions. It was there that she

was noticed by the Minister of Culture, the legendary Kuluypa Konduchalova, who recommended her for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the Central Council of the Kirghiz Republic's Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1966-1970). During Goryacheva's work there, she traveled all over the republic, became familiar with the main monuments and took part in cataloging them. In those years, Valentina Goryacheva participated in the development of the state plan for the restoration and display of architectural monuments and archaeological sites on the territories where they were located. Goryacheva moved to the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz SSR in the early 1970s. At the same time, she began to work at the Uzgen settlement, and then at another monument of medieval architecture, the Mausoleum of Safed-Bulan (located at the Shakh-Fazil Archaeological Complex).

Simultaneously with those studies, she took part in the excavations at the Burana settlement, which were then led by Dmitriy Fedorovich Vinnik. With the assistance of Valentina's participation, they discovered ruins of medieval mausoleums and examined the lower sections of the minaret. In 1972 and 1974 a manor in the *rabat* (a residential suburb of the city) was studied. At the same time, she proposed and substantiated the identification of the Burana settlement with the capital of the Karakhanid and Kara-Khitans state, which at that time was known as Balasagun, which is now generally accepted. As a result of all those excavations, Goryacheva defended her thesis as a Candidate of Sciences in 1977, and later she published her monograph *Medieval Urban Centers and Architectural Ensembles of Kirghizia* (Frunze, 1983), which was for a long while a bibliographic rarity, but is now available in digital format. She devoted a separate book to the study of Burana which was published in a collaboration with her teacher, the Academician Mikhail Evgeniyevich Masson, who visited and worked at the Burana settlement in the 1920s.

Another topic of investigation involved Valentina's research at the Krasnaya Rechka (Red River) site (1978-2001). Thanks to her efforts, this site has become widely known to the scientific community. More than just experts read her popular science book *The City of the Golden Camel* (Frunze, 1988), which was dedicated to the memory of M.E. Masson. In an entertaining and intelligible way, this book reveals the essence of the ancient sites which are considered as historical sources of the cultural and spiritual material of early medieval cities. Archeological data from this book is supplemented by information from ancient and medieval sources about the life of these cities along the Great Silk Road; the settlement of tribes and nations; along with their customs, morals, cults, and rituals. Her fellow archaeologists and architec-

tural historians discovered new scientific data on the objects of her study, such as temple architecture, burial complexes of an urban necropolis, handicraft production, and the historical topography of permanent valley settlements.

It should be noted that Goryacheva, deliberately only worked on medieval monuments that were highly eroded or that were threatened with complete destruction in the course of agricultural work or construction. She explained that this approach was justified due to the problem within the country with the preservation of monuments following their complete exposure and subsequent cataloging. Therefore, she continued her study of several manor houses, a necropolis, and a second Buddhist temple, which to one degree or another had been subject to future construction or excavations by previous researchers. In the early 1980s, Kazakhstani archaeologists also worked at the Krasnaya Rechka settlement under the leadership of the Professor Karl Moldakhmetovich Baipakov, who studied the citadel of the settlement for several seasons.

Her most significant research at Krasnaya Rechka involved those of the necropolis, the second Buddhist temple, the country palace, and some other sites. The urban necropolis was a very complex site in terms of methodology. Nevertheless, in the process of the excavations, its stratigraphy was established, as well as various types of burials were identified from the ethnically and religiously diverse population of the medieval city. Moreover, Goryacheva almost fully completed the study of the second Buddhist temple and as a result she clarified the phases of the building and its floor plan. The entirety of the cultural material collection, enabled Goryacheva to identify the Krasnaya Rechka settlement with the medieval town of Navekat (Nevkat, Sin-cheng), known from historical sources.

A significant part of her research materials was published in the first volume of the new edition of *The History of the Kirghiz SSR* in five volumes (1984-1990). Since 1983, Valentina was actively engaged in the all-Union publication entitled *The Code of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Kirghiz SSR*, for which a special department was created for its implementation. As a result of the department's activities, a large amount of material was collected on all historical eras. Unfortunately, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, that volume turned out to be irrelevant, and its financial support evaporated. However, Goryacheva, in collaboration with Svetlana Yakovlevna Peregudova and Vladimir Ivanovich Deyev, managed to publish a volume on the monuments of Bishkek, and also in co-authorship with Svetlana Peregudova, on the monuments of the Talas Valley in northwest Kyrgyzstan.

In 1995, Valentina began teaching at the Kyr-

gyz-Russian Slavic University (KRSU) where she worked for twenty years until she emigrated to Russia. She completed her archaeological fieldwork in 2001, but continued her research within the framework of lecturing at the departments of history and cultural studies of the university from 1995 to 2009, and on world cultures and religions for UNESCO from 1999 to 2015. She also taught the philosophy of science from 2009 to 2015. In 2002 she was awarded the medal for the State Prize of the Kyrgyz Republic and given the title of Laureate of the State for her work on a series of history textbooks on the Kyrgyz and Kyrgyzstan together with a team of co-authors.

After defending her doctoral dissertation in 2011 which summarized the study of the medieval urban culture of the Turkic Khaganates of the Tian Shan region over the past several decades, she continued to participate in the public life of the university and the country. As a prominent scholar and a promoter of science and culture, she was a member of a number of governmental commissions and international projects on the preservation of cultural heritage and on religious policy in Kyrgyzstan. At the same time, she was a member of academic councils in all the organizations where she worked, including her positions of a full-time scientific secretary of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz SSR

(1974–1978); a scientific secretary of the Dissertation Council at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University for the specialties of National History and Political Science; and a member of the Dissertation Council on the specialties of Archeology and Ethnology at the Balasagyn Kyrgyz State University; and at the Institute of History and Cultural Heritage of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Valentina Dmitriyevna Goryacheva now lives in Krasnodar, Russia, but she has not lost ties with her native Kyrgyzstan and is highly respected by her friends, colleagues, and former students. Her kindness and cordiality towards them are well known. Therefore, on their behalf, we congratulate Valentina Dmitriyevna on her birthday and wish her many years to come, good health, inexhaustible energy, and further creative success.

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LYDIA LVOVNA RTVELADZE (BUKINICH) – ARCHAEOLOGIST, HISTORIAN, ARCHIVIST

LYDIA LVOVNA RTVELADZE was a renowned expert on archeology, archival studies, and the history of Central Asian architecture and restoration. She was born on March 8, 1942 in the Turkmen village of Darvaza, now lost to the Karakum Desert, her birthplace no longer exists. Her maiden name, Bukinich, was well known in scientific circles. Her great uncle Dmitriy Demyanovich Bukinich (1882-1939) was a famous Central Asian explorer who discovered many archaeological sites, including the ancient agricultural settlement of Namazga Depe in the foothills of the Kopet Dag. This site eventually became the symbol for stratigraphy in the region. By that time, the Bukinich family were already indigenous Turkestan residents, since their ancestors moved to the Turkestan region (first to Kazalinsk, and then to Tashkent) in the second half of the 19th century.¹

Lyalya (which is what her family called her), was born to a mother with different roots. Elizaveta Arkhipovna Shcherbakova was Ukrainian, from the city of Berdyansk by the Sea of Azov. After graduating from high school in Charkiv, she was sent to Tashkent by assignment where fate brought her together with D.D. Bukinich's nephew – Lev Bukinich. Lev was a mining engineer, or a mine surveyor, as they were then known at the time, with very high qualifications. During World War II, he was sent to work in the Turkmen SSR, where Elizaveta gave birth to his daughter, Lydia. In 1946. Following completion of his work in the salt mines, the family returned to Tashkent in modern day Uzbekistan.

¹ *Rtveladze E.V. Lydia Lvovna Rtveladze (Bukinich). Biographical Travels // Life, Science, Family. The manuscript of the book, which is being prepared for publication in Tashkent in 2020.*