

IV INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY CONFERENCE “KONDAKOV’S READINGS”

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IV МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ НАУЧНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ «КОНДАКОВСКИЕ ЧТЕНИЯ»

The IV International Scholarly Conference “Kondakov’s Readings” was held on October 12–13, 2013 in Belgorod. The project began in 2004 on the initiative of the History Department of Belgorod National Research University. The conference takes place every three years and offers a forum for scholarly research related to the work of academician N. P. Kondakov (1844–1925), native of Belgorod region, in such themes as the history and archaeology of Antiquity, the Byzantine Empire, and Ancient Rus’.

The conference included representatives from many of the scientific centers of Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhnii Novgorod, Tula, Belgorod), Ukraine (Kiev, L’vov, Khar’kov), Belarus (Minsk), and Israel (Haifa).

Plenary reports addressed the central themes of the conference. N. N. Bolgov, the head of the Department of World History and International Area Studies, offered a review of the yearlong research activities of the “Classical and Byzantine tradition” program at the university. D. E. Bogdanov and M. I. Dorokhov provided information on the youth wing of this program. D. S. Gordienko (Kiev) dedicated his speech to the scholarly research of N. P. Kondakov, with a focus on evaluating the works of academian M. S. Grushevskii.

The following scholars presented papers on the problems of classical antique history: A. A. Kleimenov (Tula), “Phalanx peculiarities in Sparta and Macedonia,” A. V. Kleimenova (Tula), “Roman legions in Britain,” K. I. Kuibida (L’vov), “Animal depictions in the Homeric epic,” E. A. Semicheva (Belgorod), “The Other’ at Ammianus Marcellinus,” D. E. Bogdanov, “Years 395–410: the breakup of the empire,” and others.

N. P. Kondakov's first scientific research concerned the northern Black Sea region and its material culture. This theme attracted the attention of many scholarly participants: S. V. Iartsev (Tula), "Filimer's campaign and the downfall of the Crimean Scythia," A. L. Ermolina (Haifa)—"The Bosphorans in antique toreutics," M. V. Fomina (Khar'kov), "The 'Kingdom of God' in the early Christian art of Chersoneses", I. A. Fomina (Khar'kov), "The iconographic program of four-apsidal cathedral in Chersoneses", A. N. Domanovsky (Khar'kov), "Bread for the pope: The exile letters of Martin I regarding the food trade in Byzantine Chersoneses during the Dark Ages," and others.

In accordance with the evolution of N. P. Kondakov's scientific interests, the section dedicated to the problems of Byzantine history and culture occupied the leading position at the conference. In his presentation, A. A. Torkanevskii (Minsk) considered the problem of "The second bonds" of Paul the Apostle. M. V. Gratsianskii (Moscow) presented on the papacy's position under the Byzantine Empire's downfall in central Italy in the eighth century. A. A. Romenskii (Khar'kov) spoke about the complex circumstances of the power struggle in the Byzantine Empire at the end of the 980s between Basil II and Bardas Phokas. N. I. Bystritskii (Moscow) reported on the informational base for the "Byzantine Vremennik." A. M. Bolgova explored the history of high schools in early Byzantine Palestine. I. V. Denisova addressed reasons for Slavic assimilation in Byzantine Greece. A. V. Kurbanov (St. Petersburg) provided some observations on textual criticism of the "correspondence between Barsanuphius of Palestine and John the Prophet" in the historical context of monastic life in sixth-century Gaza. Additional reports were made by young scholars and graduate students of the University: "Antique vestiges in everyday life and the morals of early Byzantine towns" (Iu. N. Agarkova), "Female monkhood in early Byzantine Palestine" (A. Iu. Ryshkovskaia), "The Christian concept of imperial power in 'A panegyric to Anastasius I' by Priscian" (K. N. Bolgov), "Goths in Constantinople" (O. V. Golovina), "The Byzantine books of 'Chronographia' by John Malalas" (A. V. Kobzeva), "John the Lydian: Byzantine antiquarian and bureaucrat of the sixth century" (M. M. Sinitsa) and others.

The section on Ancient Rus' History, Culture and Heritage has become an equally vibrant portion of the conference. V. V. Kornienko (Kiev) discussed the "High ecclesiastical altar of St. George in the side chapel of Sofia of Kiev, according to epigraphics." In his report, "The ghost of Oleg the Seer," L. V. Voitovych (L'vov) suggested a new detailed reconstruction of problems concerning the ancient Russian prince. Ia. V. Litvinenko (Kiev) reviewed graffiti in the Kiev Caves Monastery from the twelfth through the twentieth century. E. V. Pitateleva (Kiev) offered an interesting "Excursus into the iconography of Saints Cyril and Methodius, based on examples of Eastern and Central European visual art." The report by A. B. Golovko, "Rulers of Southwestern Rus' at the beginning of

the thirteenth century: Prince Mstislav Mstislavich the Bold and Daniel Romanovich," was the result of many years of research on this topic. M. E. Domanovskaia (Khar'kov) and A. A. Mavrin (Kiev) gave historiographical papers on "Byzantine art and archaeology at the Twelfth Archaeological Congress in Khar'kov" and on "The second Ukrainian-Armenian session of 1962 from the letters of Y. R. Dashkevich." P. S. Al'boshchii (Belgorod) presented a detailed report on the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Belgorod and recent archaeological excavations on its territory.

A concluding session of the conference summarized its findings and gave recommendations as to the further development of research under consideration.

The conference included the dedication of a N. P. Kondakov Lecture Room, which was established in 2013 in the Department of History and Philology at Belgorod National Research University.

Conference proceedings were published at the end of 2013.

Translated from Russian by Natalia V. Grigorenko