

## Foreword

On November 8—12, the city of Yalta will host the VII International Scientific Conference “Dialogue of Urban and Steppe Cultures in the Eurasian Space. Historical Geography of the Golden Horde”, dedicated to the memory of an outstanding figure of the Russian science: an archaeologist, historian and numismatist, founder of the Golden Horde archaeology, Moscow State University Professor German Alekseevich Fyodorov-Davydov.

The conference has been repeatedly held since 2001; in different years, its organizers were various organizations that collaborated with German A. Fyodorov-Davydov, or his students and colleagues. In 2001, it was conducted in Nizhny Novgorod (Nizhny Novgorod State Pedagogical University); in 2003 — in Kazan and Yalchik (Mari State University); in 2006 — in Moscow (State Historical Museum); in 2008 — in the city of Azov, Rostov Oblast (Azov Historical, Archeological and Paleontological Museum Reserve); in 2011 — in Selitrennoye village, Astrakhan Oblast (Astrakhan State University), and in 2013 — in Bolgar city, Spassky District, Republic of Tatarstan (Bolgar Museum Reserve under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology named after A. Kh. Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences). The purpose of these international conferences is to coordinate the work of national and foreign researchers specialized in various aspects of history of the Golden Horde and the Mongol States’ wide international influence in the medieval world.

It was not by chance that the Crimean Peninsula was chosen as a venue for the VII Conference. In the sphere of G.A. Fyodorov-Davydov’s scientific interests and in the framework of the general prob-

lems related to the Golden Horde, the territory of the Peninsula occupies a key place at the crossroads of East and West, North and South, with its impressive number of multicultural sites dating back to the Golden Horde and the Crimean Khanate epoch.

The organizers of the VII International Scientific Conference on “Dialogue of Urban and Steppe Cultures on the Eurasian Space. Historical Geography of the Golden Horde”, dedicated to the memory of German A. Fyodorov-Davydov are: A. Kh. Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences; the Institute of Archaeology of the Crimea, Russian Academy of Sciences; the Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University; Mari State University; Department of Archaeology of M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, with support from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research.

The VII International Conference will be attended by 95 researchers from 6 countries with reports covering the entire territory of the Mongol Empire from the Pacific Ocean to the Danube. The seven panels of the scientific forum — the Far East; Siberia and the Trans-Baikal area; Central Asia; the Middle Volga; the Lower Volga; North Caucasus and Transcaucasia; the Northern Black Sea area, and the Crimea — are based on the geographical principle, so as to clearly illustrate the extension of the Mongol Empire from East to West, as well as the diversity of archaeological studies of the Golden Horde.

The subject division of the present collection of the materials contributed to the VII International Scientific Conference fully complies with the panels of the forum. The proposed publication is

aimed at elucidating the issues related to the study of historical geography of the regions dominated by the Golden Horde and other states formed by the Mongols, and territories adjacent to them, as well as their role and place in the medieval world. An important role in the framework of this scientific publication is played by the materials associated with the multidisciplinary approach and scientific methods of archaeological research in order to determine major trade routes and commodity flows through the Golden Horde territory, the extent of home handicraft and agricultural products distribution, life support systems within the huge medieval cities, and involvement of the steppe nomadic sub-

culture in the processes mentioned above. In line with these objectives, materials on historical topography of separate archaeological sites in the territorial and chronological framework under study are offered for a scientific discussion.

The editors of the present collection and the Organizing Committee of the VII International Conference hope that the published materials will serve as a good basis for fruitful discussions at the forum, and that they will be useful to the colleagues in their further daily scientific research, the progress of our studies being the most vivid manifestation of our respect to the memory of German Alekseevich Fyodorov-Davydov.

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