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# CHRONICLE OF SCIENTIFIC LIFE

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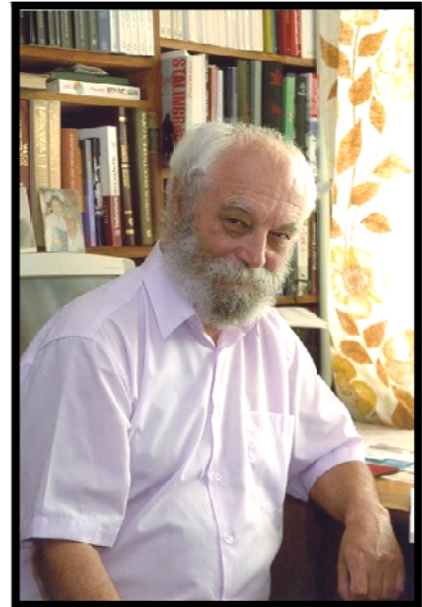
## **To the memory of A.I. Boroznyak: International scientific conference in Lipetsk**

On 16–17 February, the Russian-German Conference ‘Coping with the past in Germany and Russia: Experience and lessons for the future’ devoted to Aleksandr Ivanovich Boroznyak, Doctor in History, professor, who passed away on 21 December 2015, was held in Lipetsk State Pedagogical University (LSPU) named after P.P. Semenov-Tyan-Shan.

Several Russian and German scholars, who had known A.I. Boroznyak for many years personally, professors and students of the University, who shared their memories about their cooperative work, communication and studies together with the well-known scientist and a talented teacher, took part in the conference.

N.V. Fedina, acting rector of LSPU, gave a welcome speech to the organizers and participants of the conference. She mentioned the merits of professor Boroznyak in the scientific and social life of the University. “The German-Russian contacts have been developing for many years with the direct involvement of this talented scholar”, Doctor N. Katzer, Director of German Historical Institute Moscow noted in his speech. As a researcher, he contributed considerably to the historical studies of German fascism as well as to understanding the problems of coping with totalitarianism in Germany and Russia. A.I. Boroznyak’s books, articles and publications found acknowledgment not only among the researchers but also among the ordinary readers and history lovers.

The plenary meeting was opened by Doctor in Historical Sciences, professor of LSPU N.E. Vashkau, who followed the traditions established by A.I. Boroznyak and became head of German Center of Historical Research. In her presentation ‘Historical memory of Russian Germans as a warning to modern times’ she spoke about the difficult fates of Soviet Germans who experienced injustice in the years of Stalinism but remained loyal to socialism. It was followed by ‘A word on a teacher and a colleague’ submitted as addressed to the conference from V.V. Ishchenko, Deputy Director of international communication of the Institute of World History of Russian Academy of Science and a presentation of the well-known German professor B. Bonwetch ‘Double coping with the past in Germany: in 1945 and 1990’. L.N. Kor-



neva, professor of Kemerovo State University, spoke about the activities of Western Siberia Center for German studies, where A. I. Boroznyak regularly participated in its scientific work. The participants of the conference listened with interest to the presentation of LSPU professor V.B. Tsarkova about Lev Kopelev's Wuppertal project which A. I. Boroznyak was directly involved in.

After the plenary meeting, a presentation of B.V. Petelin, Doctor in Historical Sciences, professor of Cherepovets State University, 'Vologda in the life and scientific activities of Aleksandr Ivanovich Boroznyak' was made. The chosen topic was not a mere coincidence (the presentation can be found on the web-site: [www.vereinigung.ru](http://www.vereinigung.ru)). In the early 1970s, professor A.S. Blank established the association devoted to studying problems in German History in Vologda State Pedagogical Institute, where A.I. Boroznyak actively participated in its activities. "He had special relations with Vologda", B.V. Petelin maintained. "He liked coming there, meeting the scholars, professors and the students. He shared his encyclopedic knowledge with them. He supported Vologda historians V.B. Konasov and A.L. Kuzminykh in their studies of such a difficult problem as military captivity".

The presentation of Doctor J. Zaruski (Institute of Contemporary History Munich – Berlin) focused on changing memory in the German society related to comprehension of the war past, based on the analysis of watch count for viewing the exhibition 'Exterminatory war'. It is natural for people to forget. "But do we have 'a right to forget' in the contemporary culture of memory?", a rhetorical question was posed by the associate fellow of RAS L.P. Repina. "To cope with the past" does not mean to forget it. "We have to learn the lessons from the past, which is actually not that easy". One of Aleksandr Boroznyak's topics for scientific work related to the studies of German Resistance to Hitler, which he constantly covered in his publications. "Whereby his works became known and acknowledged in Germany", as B.L. Khavkin, Doctor in Historical Sciences, professor of RSHU, mentioned in his speech.

M.P. Lapteva, associate professor of Perm State National Research University, spoke about A.I. Boroznyak as an interesting and intellectual personality. She analyzed the epistolary legacy of the scholar. M.N. Orlova, a member of the Board 'Kopelev-Forum: Cologne' (Moscow) spoke about the correspondence with A.I. Boroznyak that was also important and interesting for the audience. The general German topics were mentioned in the presentations of S.I. Dankovtsev, PhD in Philosophy and of N.P. Timofeeva, a well-known researcher from Voronezh. The subject-matters from the history of the World War I that were reflected in the Russian satirical editions of 1917–18 were presented by T.V. Filippova, a leading researcher of IWH RAS.

The presentation of Doctor J. Morre, Director of German-Russian museum Berlin-Karlhorst, was very informative. "The changed conditions have definitely varied a lot in the work of the museum and its expositions", he said. "New exhibitions do

not neglect the importance of the victory over fascism, however the war is presented as a ‘crime’ on part of all its participants”. The topic of the war was announced in the presentations of E.V. Ogarkova, PhD in Historical Sciences, associate professor (Volgograd), E.V. Zagorodneva, PhD in Philology Sciences, associate professor (Lipetsk), E.V. Obraztsova (Voronezh).

V.G. Baev, Doctor of Law, professor of Tambov State Technical University devoted his presentation to the history of the Weimar Republic and its collaboration with the Soviet Russia in culture. N.Y. Vasilieva, PhD in Pedagogy Sciences, associate professor of LSPU, focused attention in her presentation on the literary images of Russia in the German literary read. V.L. Chernoperov, Doctor in Historical Sciences, professor (Ivanovo) and A.M. Kozhevnikova, PhD in Historical Sciences, assistant professor (Novorossiysk) shared their memories about A.I. Boroznyak regarding the significance of his research works.

The all-round activities of the professor A.I. Boroznyak were reflected in the presentations of L.N. Belenikina, PhD in Philology Sciences, associate professor of LSPU, A.A. Lyulyushin, PhD in Philology Sciences, associate professor of LSPU, L.A. Maslakova, a student of LSPU, who spoke on various trends in educational and cultural work of the University.

A round-table discussion was held for the teachers and professors of educational institutions of Lipetsk with the participation of B.L. Khavkin, Doctor in Historical Sciences and N.E. Vashkau, Doctor in Historical Sciences, where the Soviet-German interaction in the field of school education was discussed. B.L. Khavkin, who is a research worker of the journal ‘Recent and contemporary history’, commented on A.I. Boroznyak’s activities as a member of the editorial board of the journal and as the author of many publications in the said journal. All the participants of the conference had an opportunity to get acquainted with the exhibition of personal documents and professor’s academic papers. The conference attendees visited the city cemetery and laid flowers on the grave of the well-known Russian scientist Aleksandr Ivanovich Boroznyak.

Following the results of the conference, a book of conference presentations will be published.

*B.V. Petelin*