
CHRONICLE OF SCIENTIFIC LIFE

International scientific conference ‘V.V. Vereshchagin and the Orient: anticipation of Eurasianism’

On 26–28 October and 14–25 November 2016, an international scientific conference ‘*V.V. Vereshchagin and the Orient: anticipation of Eurasianism*’ took place in Cherepovets, devoted to the 174th anniversary of the great Russian artist of the latter part of the 19th-early 20th century. The conference was arranged by the Department of History and Philosophy of the Institute for Humanities of Cherepovets State University in collaboration with the Vereshchagin House Museum, Cherepovets Museum Association and the Department of Cultural Affairs of Cherepovets city administration and was conducted with the financial assistance of Russian Foundation for Humanities (project No.16-01–14039).

The work of the conference was arranged into two parts. The first part included the plenary and section meetings. The reports devoted to the key issues of the considered topic were made at the plenary meeting on 26 October. **Doctor of Philology Sciences, professor A.V. Chernov (Cherepovets)** in his speech addressed the problem of the Orient reflection in the authorial identity of V.V. Vereshchagin in the context of anticipated Eurasianism. Having considered its different aspects, the contributor made quite a well-founded conclusion that “the constant and keen interest of the artist in the Orient, his contribution to the acquaintance of the Russian society with the different images of the Orient could rightly play its role in the appearance of the Eurasian problematics”. **Doctor of Philosophy Sciences, professor S.T. Makhlina (St. Petersburg)** considered the question on the reflection of the Orient topic in the creative legacy of V.V. Vereshchagin. As the speaker noted, when touched upon his main artistic paintings related to the above-mentioned subject theme, “the Orient has always been attractive for the Russians – this was the unexplored, mysterious, strange and tempting trend of emerging interests and aspirations. And it is not without reason that Vasily Vasilyevich Vereshchagin was interested in the Orient as he devotedly luxuriated in the beauty of life...” In the report of **Doctor of Philology Sciences, professor of Cambridge University F.I. Melville (United Kingdom)** presented at the conference, it was noted that despite the keen interest of V.V. Vereshchagin in the ‘multifaceted’ Orient, one of the most central parts in his creative activities is taken by the ‘Russian Orient’– Central Asia. Whereby, as the author points out “in Vereshchagin’s creativity, ‘Russian Asia’ is not simply an orientalist theme but rather a whole ideology, which can be defined as the ‘battlism of a pacifist’: this was shaped whilst working in the genre aimed at praising the glory of the national armaments, he started showing his audience the contrary meaningful and violent atrocities of any

war, making an advantage of mostly the local realia”. *Art History PhD E.V. Kim (Rostov)* noted that during the first trip of Vereshchagin to India (1874–76), he created approximately 150 sketches, of which only 87 are known nowadays. Thus, as the speaker noted, almost half of the works of the said series disappeared from the view of contemporary researchers. At the example of one of the sketches of the said series – ‘Morning in Kashmir (lakes and mountains)’, which is kept now at Rostov museum, E.V. Kim talked in details about the creativity of the artist. *The research scientists of the State Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow) V.M. Yegorova, E.A. Terkel and L.A. Chetvertukhina* in their report addressed the topic ‘Japan in the life and creative activities of V.V. Vereshchagin’ and considered the materials (travel essays, including unpublished scenic sketches) related to the trip of the artist into the Land of the Rising Sun. In the final report of the plenary meeting, *Doctor of Historical Sciences, leading research worker of the Institute for Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow) E.G. Zadorozhnyuk* analysed the main approaches to the consideration and interpretation of Eurasianism, having pointed out that “in its positive part, this is the new vision of history and the fates of Russia at the centre of Eurasia” and that the appeal to the creative work of V.V. Vereshchagin constantly reminds us “of the Eurasian nature of the Russian civilisation”.

After that, the work of the conference was continued in its sections. In the *section 'The Orient in the creative work of V.V. Vereshchagin and his contemporaries'* (the section moderators: Art History PhD E.B. Kim; professor, member of Union of Russian Artists V.I. Philippova) nine reports were presented. *The consultant of the university RNB Global University in Rajasthan (Bikaner, India) S. Kumar and Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor Z.V. Antonova (Cherepovets)* devoted their report to the Indian impressions of V.V. Vereshchagin, embodied into his paintings, as well as conducted an analysis of the painting ‘Suppression of the Indian riot by the Englishmen’ (1884), from the point of view of the execution depicted in it (the so-called ‘devil wind’); the accent was made on the historical situation in India during the first and the second trips of the artist. *The senior research fellow of Cherepovets Museum Association A.A. Kozlov (Cherepovets)* in his report made a review of the least known paintings of V.V. Vereshchagin from his Indian trips, which are in the private collections, and the *Candidate of Historical Sciences, associate professor K.A. Demichev (Nizhny Novgorod)* considered the historical realia, which found their reflection in the famous artist’s painting ‘English execution in India’. *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor S.S. Kasatkina (Cherepovets)* in her report paid attention to the specific embodiment of the images of the oriental cities in the creative work of V.V. Vereshchagin. *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor A.E. Novikov (Cherepovets)* appealed to the analysis of the oriental images in the notes, memoirs and letters of V.V. Vereshchagin. *Doctor of Historical Sciences, associate professor M.K. Gogitidze (Tbilisi, Geor-*

gia) and the *senior specialist of Telavi Iakob Gogebashvili State University (Telavi, Georgia)* in the review of the life and activities of the artist, paid attention to ‘Georgian’ pages of his biography, having noted that V.V. Vereshchagin devoted a considerable amount of time to “acquaintance with the life of the Georgian and other Caucasian peoples”.

The reports of *professor V.I. Philipova, Art History PhD, associate professor S.N. Galukhina and student of Cherepovets State University D.N. Kalinina (Cherepovets)* were devoted to the peculiarities of the graphic mastery of V.V. Vereshchagin and the developing of the theme of the Orient in his creative activities and in the works of his contemporaries (V.D. Polentov and V.Y. Yakobi). The topic of Crimea, images of Chufit-Kale in the paintings of the artists of the 19th–early 20th century (K.F. Bogayevsky, V.K. Yanovsky, A.P. Mogilevsky and others) was reflected in the report of *Candidate of Historical Sciences, senior research scientist D.A. Prokhorov (Simferopol, Republic of Crimea)*.

At the section *'Russia and the Orient: cultural-religious and social-economic aspect of interrelation'* (section moderators: Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor E.M. Ivanova; Candidate of Philosophy Sciences, associate professor Y.L. Balyushina), nine reports were presented. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, associate professor N.V. Aleksyeva (Cherepovets)* considered in her report the question of influence of the Greek Church on the formation of the institution of spiritual eldership in the Russian Orthodox religion. *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor E.M. Ivanova (Cherepovets)* considered the possibility of using ‘Central Asia texts’ of the Russian ‘travelling’ literature (firstly, the essays of V.V. Vereshchagin) in the process of teaching Russian as a foreign language. *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor A.V. Sedov (Cherepovets)* noted that “L.N. Tolstoy is rightly the first Russian thinker who tried to understand the spiritual legacy of the Orient on a large scale and within multilateral context” and considered his ‘Calendar of Wisdom’ in the context of Chinese philosopher Laozi. *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor E.N. Semykina and student of Belgorod State University Y.S. Kirichenko (Belgorod)* addressed the interpretation of the Indian motives in the creative work of K.D. Balmont. Samarkand impressions of the duchess P.S. Uvarova reflected in the essay “The trip to Tashkent and Samarkand” (1891) were considered in the report of *Candidate of Philology Sciences, associate professor R.G. Nazaryan (Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan)*, whereas *Candidate of Historical Sciences A.S. Vdovin and PhD student of Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University E.I. Kochkin (Krasnoyarsk)* in their report touched upon some aspects of Russian-Chinese scientific relations at the end of the 19th century. *PhD student of Cherepovets State University D.V. Golovanova (Cherepovets)* analysed the usage of the oriental theme on the pages of problem arithmetic books of the late third of the 19th–early 20th century). *Doctor of Economy Sciences, professor A.A. Bessolitsyn*

(*Moscow*) focused his attention on the peculiarities and problems in the development of export of domestically produced flour into the countries of the Orient at the turn of the 19th–20th centuries and early 21st century. *Candidate of Philosophy Sciences, associate professor Y.L. Balyushina (Cherepovets)* in her report paid attention to the social-philosophical aspect of usage of the elements of the oriental cultures in the everyday life of the modern provincial towns.

At the section '*Eurasianism as a phenomenon of social-humanitarian thought*' (section moderator: Doctor of Historical Sciences, senior research scientist E.G. Zadorozhnyuk), five reports were presented. *Candidate of Philosophy Sciences, associate professor O.V. Kozlova (Cherepovets)* in her report correlated the ideas of Eurasianism with the modern social-political situation in the world. *Candidate of Philosophy Sciences, associate professor L.E. Loiko (Minsk, Republic of Belarus)* pointed out the important role that V.V. Vereshchagin played in the creation of the integrated image of the Eurasian culture into the Russian public conscience of the 19th century: he was among the first cultural professionals thinking through the growing meaning of spiritual connections of the Russians with India; his interest to the topic of integral perception of the Eurasian culture was also connected (in the presenter's opinion) with the artist's travelling to China, Philippines and Japan. *Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor A.N. Yegorov (Cherepovets)* turned to the polemics with the Eurasians centred around the circles of Russian emigration of 1920-30s on the pages of the journal 'Contemporary notes'. *Doctor of Philosophy Sciences, professor I.N. Tyapin (Vologda)* considered in his report the interrelation of geopolitical formation of Eurasianism and political ethics of the Russian idea in the context of history and modern times, whereas *Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor B.V. Petelin (Cherepovets)* referred to the analysis of geopolitical realia of modern Russia, among which the Eurasian factor has a significant meaning.

At the section '*Oriental vector of Russian geopolitics and history: past, present and future*' (section moderator: Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor D.V. Aronov), four reports were presented. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, associate professor O.V. Nesterova (Michurinsk, Tambov region)* considered the doctrine of 'open door policy' in China suggested by the USA in 1899 and the position of the Russian diplomacy towards it. *PhD student of Cherepovets State University A.S. Borzykh (Cherepovets)*, using the memoirs of V.V. Vereshchagin and other eyewitnesses (V.I. Nemirovish-Danchenko, N.V. Maksimov), tries to recreate a more complete and precise picture of life and work of sisters of mercy during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, associate professor D.V. Shchukin (Yel'ts)* analysed the main aspects of oriental trend in the political practice of the Party of People's Freedom and its faction during the III State Duma of Russia in early 20th century, whereas *Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor D.V. Aronov (Orel)* refers

to the understanding of problematics of the Slavonic unity in the external political position of cadets in the context of Bosnian crisis of 1908-09.

On the second day of the conference, 27 October, the work of four sections took place. The following sections continued their discussions *'Russia and the Orient: cultural-religious and social-economic aspect of interrelation'* and *'Oriental vector of Russian geopolitics and history: past, present and future'*, as well as another section was arranged – *'V.V. Vereshchagin. The identity of the artist in the context of the epoch'*.

At the section *'V.V. Vereshchagin. The identity of the artist in the context of the epoch'* (section moderator: Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor O.Y. Solodyankina), six reports were presented. *Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor O.Y. Solodyankina (Cherepovets)* in her report covered the paradox nature of the identity and creative activity of V.V. Vereshchagin. *Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor V.A. Koshelev (Veliky Novgorod)* considered the inter-relations of two great contemporaries – V.V. Vereshchagin and I.S. Turgenev – through the prism of their mutual estimations. The peculiarities of the activity of V.V. Vereshchagin in his counteraction towards war through the artistic depiction of violent realia of the war time reflected in his works, were covered in the reports of *professor, member of Union of Artists of Russia V.I. Philippova (Cherepovets)* and *Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, associate professor V.A. Androshchuk (Cherepovets)*. *Doctor of Philosophy Sciences, professor A.I. Loiko (Minsk, Republic of Belarus)* in his report pointed at the role of V.V. Vereshchagin in the accomplishment of the mission of intercultural dialogue by the creative art. *Senior specialist of Cherepovets Museum Association, honoured cultural worker of the Russian Federation E.P. Rimmer (Cherepovets)* considered the peculiarities of the identity and fate of V.V. Vereshchagin-the elder (the artist's father), making a significant influence on the formation of the personality of V.V. Vereshchagin-the younger – the future artist).

On 27 October, the section *'Russia and the Orient: cultural-religious and social-economic aspect of interrelation'* continued its work (under the guidance of Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor R.S. Kolokolchikova). On the second day of work, 12 reports were presented. *Doctor of Psychology Sciences, associate professor, senior research scientist M.R. Arpentyeva (Kaluga)* compared the indigenous and transcultural psychometrics of spiritual development applied in the East and West. *Candidate of Political Sciences, associate professor V.A. Matvienko (Yelets, Lipetsk region)* considered some aspects of all-faith interactions of Russian and the Orient. *Head of Memorial House-Museum of the Vereshchagin's L.Kh. Malikova (Cherepovets)* told about the specifics of economic ties of Russia and the Caucasus in early 20th century, which were formed at times in a rather peculiar way, sometimes acquiring semi-detective nature, to which the story of kefir appearance in Central Russia testifies, for example, per the presenter. *Doctor of Historical Sciences, pro-*

fessor R.S. Kolokolchikova (Cherepovets) noted that labour migrations (including from the east of the country) in the 1970s–early 1980s found their reflection in the ethnic structure of the population in Cherepovets. The report of *Candidate of Biology Sciences, associate professor N.Y. Poddubnaya (Cherepovets)* was devoted to the activity of N.P. Kolomiytsev in the research of the ornithofauna of Central Asia and the Far East. *Candidate of Philology Sciences E.V. Shalashov* considered the specifics of using the oriental motives in the literary works of A.A. Kondratyev. *PhD student of Department of Russian Studies BUFS Liu Wenjia (Beijing, PRC)* in her report presented the review of translations of the literary works of N. Rubtsov in Chinese and the research of the creative work of the poet in China; and *PhD student of Bashkir State University G.A. Ibragimova (Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan)* told about the development of Buddhism in the sociocultural space of contemporary Russia. *Doctor of Philology Sciences, professor L.E. Bezhenary (Iasi, Romania)* in her report addressed the understanding of the traditions of a family, dynasties and motherhood in the oriental (Azerbaijan) culture. The report of *PhD candidate of SISU Yao Chunhui (Shanghai, People's Republic of China)* contained information about the tutorial ‘Outstanding leaders of the Western culture: which names are worth mentioning in China’, which created quite an unusual range of information for a European, and which gives a chance to look at the Western culture (where Russia belongs) through the eyes of a Chinese. *The judge of the Moscow District Court N.A. Burdanova (Saint-Petersburg)* considered the peculiarities of gaining the legal status of parents’ rights in Russia in the context of various cultural connections of its peoples. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, research scientist of the RAS Siberian branch A.A. Suleimanov (Yakutsk, the Republic of Sakha)* in his report presented information on the mutual Russian-Japanese research conducted on the territory of Yakutia at the end of the 20th century–early 21st century, which allowed to fill in a whole range of previously existing research lacunas, prepare more tenable hypotheses regarding climate changes, and on the whole to broaden the scientific beliefs on the evolution of climatic processes on the Earth.

At the section '*Oriental vector of Russian geopolitics and history: past, present and future*' that continued its work on 28 October (section moderator: Doctor of Political Sciences, professor E.A. Markov), four reports were presented. *Doctor of Political Sciences, professor E.A. Markov (Cherepovets)* considered the problems in the relations of Russia and Slavonic countries in the context of their interaction with the East and the West. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, senior lecturer D.V. Tumakov (Yaroslavl)* presented the review of the events of the First Chechen War of 1994–96. *Candidate of Historical Sciences, senior research scientist of the Far-Eastern Division of the Russian Academy of Science V.A. Gaikin (Vladivostok)* in his report compared two Eurasian projects: the project ‘Tumangan’ favoured by the United Nations and related to the creation of the Eurasian Land Bridge bypassing Russia, and

the concept of Eurasian Union put forward by Russia, almost simultaneously (in early 1990s). *Candidate of Historical Sciences, senior research scientist of Iran sector, the Middle East Research Centre, RAN Institute of Oriental Studies L.M. Ravandi-Fadai (Moscow)* in her report considered the various aspects of modern Russian-Iranian relations.

At the concluding plenary session, the results of the first part of the conference were summed up. It was noted that the presentations of the participants were accompanied by fruitful discussions and live disputes of the reports. At the conference, various theoretical-methodology approaches were piloted and endorsed, which appeared in the existing socio-humanistic scientific tradition when reflecting upon the issues of the interaction of cultures, studying cultures of the Orient countries, the ideas of the artistic legacy of V.V. Vereshchagin, the role of the Orient in his biography and artistic activity, ideas related to the Eurasian component of the domestic philosophical and social and political policy. New approaches regarding solution of the issues related to the interaction of Russian and the Orient have been suggested, as well as those in the development of the dialogue of cultures.

The second part of the conference included master-classes for the students of Chepovets State University *on the topic 'Traditional culture of the Orient and artistic activity' by the leading designer of Fab Lab company (Milan, Italy – Moscow, Russia) D.I. Solovyova*, which took place during the period of 14–25 November.

On 22 November, a round-table discussion was held on the topic *'Influence of historical-philosophical ideas of the Orient on the modern artistic activity'*, during which the questions of influence of different philosophical traditions of the Orient were discussed (Vedism, Confucianism, Legalism and others) on the development of the modern public philosophical ideas and the artistic tradition. The oriental ideas, motives and images take even more significant space in the contemporary culture, and the historical-philosophical ideas related to it require deeper and multilateral understanding.

Thus, more than 50 researchers participated in the work of the conference – among them there were research scientists, museum employees, Higher Education staff, PhD students, master's degree students and undergraduates – from different cities of Russia and from abroad (China, Romania, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Italy, India, Georgia and Belarus). Based on the results of the conference, the collection of articles was prepared and published.

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