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**A NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF "ARCHAEOLOGY AND STEPPE CIVILIZATION"**

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**Открыт новый Научно-исследовательский институт
«Археология и степные цивилизации»**

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**Открыт новый Научно-исследовательский институт
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Due to KazNU named after al-Farabi rector's initiative, academician of the NAS of the RK, Professor G. Mutaov scientific research institute (Archaeology and Steppe Civilizations) was opened in 2nd December 2017. Its activity aimed at coordinating, integrating and disseminating the results of scientific research of topical problems in archaeology of Kazakhstan. The main tasks of the Research Institute on contemporary stage of modernization of National science as follows: studying of a steppe ecosystem and problem of interaction between biosphere and culture genesis, evolution of steppe architecture, model of steppe horse breeding, sociocultural and spiritual and sacral values of the steppe world, a study of nomadic culture from the origins of Botay's culture to addition of nomadic and ethnographic modernity, a study of the interaction in settled civilizations and nomadic cultures during the antiquity and the middle ages, a decision on the initial stage of proto-urban civilization of Kazakhstan in the contact zones of sedimentation and nomadic, calendar annual cycles of carriers of ancient and medieval culture as a determinant of the formation of ethno-cultural unity of the steppe world (historical value

of Shezhire), a study of laws of historical process in the territory of Kazakhstan on the basis of complex research of archaeological cultures and monuments from the stone age to the late middle ages, problems of studying, preservation of cultural heritage and scientific and survey works on creation of museums, museum-reserves, it is important for the scientific organization to solve a number of applied problems, to ensure the participation of faculty and students in announced research projects, grants and competitions and preparation of tender documents for them, to attract additional and extra-budgetary funds for the activities of Institute, an improvement of scientific and methodological support of the educational process, testing and implementation of scientific results in the form of seminars and lectures for faculty, undergraduates and students of the University, Museum workers, scientific consultants, experts of the inspection for the protection of historical and cultural monuments, a preparation for publication of materials reflecting the results of scientific research, establishment of contacts and development of cooperation with leading foreign and domestic research organizations in the field of archaeology, ethnology, anthropology

and history, improving the rating and reputation of KazNU named after al-Farabi as a leading research institution of the country through the publication of the created intellectual product in the world's leading rating magazines.

According to the rector opinion, this Institute should be an academic type scientific institution, recognized as a centre of primitive history, the largest international archaeological research centre. Therefore, administration of the University decided to invite a venerable scientist, a major specialist-archaeologist, doctor of historical Sciences, Professor Victor F. Seibert to the post of Director of the Research Institute "Archaeology and steppe civilizations".

In 1977-1980, he studied at the Institute of archaeology of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He had his thesis on "Neolithic Northern Kazakhstan", where the materials of the Stone Age singled out "Atbasar archaeological culture". In 1992, V. F. Seibert defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Eneolithic of Ural-Irtysh interfluvium", where he introduced a new "Botay culture" into science. Therefore, his thesis contains an important historical and cultural context and paleo-ecological model of formation and development of early horse breeders of Eurasia. The above-mentioned archaeological culture was at the origin of the formation of steppe civilization in the Ural-Irtysh interfluvium. The results of studies of a homonymous settlement and several other open facilities Krasny Yar, Roshhinskoe, Vasilkivka, etc. by him was opened Eneolithic Botay culture. The main object of the settlement Botay is in Aiyrtau district of North Kazakhstan region near the village of Nikolskoye. Realizing the importance and uniqueness of the opened object, the Botay settlement was named after the eponymous names of the station and village of Botay which is located in the same area. In the past 2017 year, he found other monuments of Botay culture, but in Kostanay region. Thus allocated in due time to scientists an area distribution of Botay's culture within Ural-Irtysh interfluvium is filled with concrete monuments. A lot of work were done to them in the preparation of the museumification of Botay settlement to the opening of the state museum-reserve «Botay». Botay settlement is included in the list of sacred geography of Kazakhstan. According to V. F. Seibert Botay culture in the process of propagation of breeding on the territory of Eurasia, was influenced by a contact culture and especially in the field of architecture. In various regions in the Anterior, Central, South-East Asia, Caucasus, Pamir, Altai preserved in ethnographic constructions typical

Botay architectural techniques in the construction of capital dwellings.

Thus, for half a century the main sphere of scientific interests of Viktor Fedorovichis archeology – in particular, questions of the Stone Age and paleometal. He introduced into scientific community not only the above-mentioned archaeological cultures of the primitive era, but also engaged in the study of monuments (the burial ground of Baykar, etc.) of the early Iron Age. V. F. Seibert lectured and organized exhibitions in the near and far abroad (Cambridge, Belfast, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cairo, Ashgabat, Moscow, Yekaterinburg, etc.). His scientific discoveries are interesting all over the world. It is impossible not to mention his scientific works, the number of which exceeds more than 100 publications, in which topical problems of archaeology and ancient history of Kazakhstan were raised. All of them arouse interest among researchers not only in humanities, but also in natural sciences.

Immediately after the opening of the institute, plans for research activities were developed, a preparation of an office for work began, organizations and institutions for the creation of joint domestic and foreign programs on the subject of the Institute have already identified.

In a short period, a staff of the research Institute "Archaeology and steppe civilizations" signed a cooperation agreement with some scientific centers. For example, the Ministry of culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan has reached an agreement on the participation of the Institute "Archaeology and steppe civilizations" in the project "Research and reconstruction of socio-economic and ideological contexts on the materials of Botay culture monuments (Botay and Krasny Yar settlements)" for 2018-2020. According to the directions and plans of the research activities of the Institute, the Director and scientific staff of the Institute Seibert V.F., Sala, R., J. M. Deom, Namen A. B. participated in the international scientific conference "Ancient DNA" in the Institute of General genetics and Cytology. The result of participation in conference on problems paleogenetic of Kazakhstan on the basis of archaeological materials, there was an deal on the conclusion of a trilateral agreement on a joint research in the field of archaeology and genetics between research institutes "Archaeology and steppe civilizations", Institute of General genetics and Cytology, Kazakhstan and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (Germany) in 2018-2020 and to publish a paper in a ranked journal about the results of the genetic study of the anthropological material from Botay's culture.

The first scientific trading in magazines with a high impact factor has already appeared. We especially want to mention one of the F. Seibert's publications in the journal "Science" in 2018 under the title "Ancient genomes revisit the ancestry of domestic and Przewalski's horses". In this article, Viktor Fedorovich, together with his colleagues from other countries to raise the problems of horse breeding. The authors investigated the genomes of 42 horses (including 20 Botays' horses), who lived in the paleometal period. They found that some of the ancient genes have similarities with modern Przewalski's horses. The authors of the article have built a phylogenetic tree, according to which, horses living in Eurasia for the last 4 thousand years, including modern breeds, do not come from horses of Botay culture, but from an unknown population of horses. The phenomenon of domestication of horses

in the territory of Kazakhstan has a resonance in public organizations of the world, not only scientific. In fact, according to experts, the Przewalski's horse is still not as a species but as a subspecies of the "domestic horse" or "wild horse". Therefore, we think that the scientist and his colleagues have new horizons of research ahead, as there are all conditions for development: the advanced strategy of the university management in the development and support of historical science of Kazakhstan, the material base, personnel potential, the connection of science with practice and with the General public.

We expect from the Institute new research, discoveries, publications.

There is a real opportunity to better understanding the processes that determine the development of ancient Kazakhstan, to identify their new changes in broader intellectual and cultural contexts.