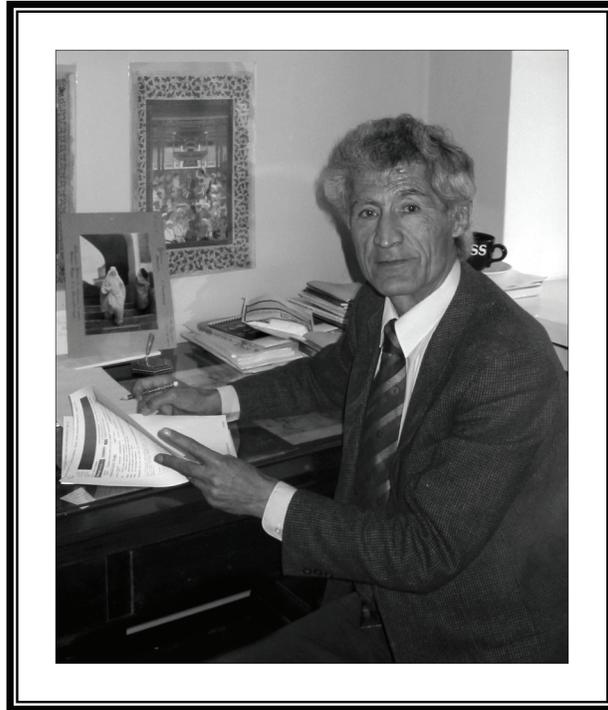

RAHMAT RAHIMOVICH RAHIMOV (1938—2013)



May 15th, 2013 was the day that brought along the sad news that Rahmat Rahimovich Rahimov passed away. His passing took place on the last day of the Lavrov Readings, a conference that he was in charge of for many years.

Rahmat Rahimovich Rahimov was born in Panjakent District of Tajikistan. In 1965 he graduated from the Department of Iranian Philology, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Leningrad State University. For several years to come he worked in the Tajik Academy of Sciences and then he returned to Leningrad, where he worked for over forty years in the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the RAS. He had been working there since 1972 and until the day he died.

Over the course of his time in the Museum, he worked his way up from research and development worker to Chief scientific worker and the head of a department. In 1977 R. R. Rahimov defended his PhD thesis on the issues of traditional institutions of social organization of the Tajik. In 1999 he defended his DPhil “Traditional Worldview of the Tajik: Issues of Images and Symbols in the Culture”.

In his study of spiritual culture of the settled population of Central Asia on the territory of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan R. R. Rahimov was mainly attending to the issues of the pilgrimage practice and the cult of saints as well as to the issues of women's piety. He published over 150 works on various aspects of the culture and religion of the Tajik. Among these works are two particular monographs: 1. “Men's Houses” in the Traditional Culture of the Tajik” (Leningrad, 1991); 2. “The Qur’ān and the Pink Flame (Reflections on the Tajik Culture)” (St. Petersburg, 2007).

R. R. Rahimov took an active part in the scientific and museum activity of the Kunstkamera as well. He was well-versed in collections; he was conducting the scientific attribution of material culture, was a scientific consultant and curator of many an exhibition, and authored two large-scale exhibition projects of the Museum: “The City and the Steppe on the Silk Road” (1991) and “Silk Fabrics from the Palace Treasuries” (1996).

It was a very complicated timeframe for Russian science when he became the head of the department of Central Asian ethnography, which at the time was on the brink of breaking up. Rahmat Rahimovich did not only manage to preserve it, but having emphasized the restoration of traditions of Central Asian ethnography he managed to arouse interest among young orientalist scholars and even draw them in as new employers of the Museum. In the years to come it was under his guidance that proper scientific school of Central Asian ethnography was formed in the Department. Many young scholars from Russia and the CIS countries are proud to have been his students. For ages to come