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## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Famous Ethnographer-Tungusologist Tatyana Yur'evna Sem

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October 2017 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tatyana Yur'evna Sem, the well-known ethnographer-historian, Candidate of Historical Sciences, leading research scientist of the Department of Ethnography of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East in the Russian Ethnographic Museum (St. Petersburg). She was born on October 22, 1957 in Vladivostok in the family of famous in the Far East scholars. In 1980 she graduated from Leningrad State University with a degree in history, pedagogics, ethnography. In 1988 T.Yu. Sem finished the postgraduate course in the Institute of Ethnography (IE) RAS (Kunstkamera), specialising in the sector of Siberia. In 2001 she had an internship at the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (MAE) to write her candidate's thesis. In 2007 she defended her thesis at the Institute of the Peoples of the North (Herzen State Pedagogical University). The topic was: "The supreme pantheon of the Tungus-Manchu peoples (19-20<sup>th</sup> centuries): typology and semantics of images". Her scientific supervisor was A.M. Reshetov, the leading research scientist of the MAE RAS.

From September 1979 to the present (2017) T.Yu. Sem has been working at the Russian Ethnographic Museum in the Department of Ethnography of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East. In 1991 she became a senior researcher. Since 1991 for 20 years already T.Yu. Sem has been a curator of the hard fund (metal, wood, ceramics, glass, etc.) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of the Department of Siberia and the Far East. She has been supervising storage of 11.5 thousand items and 15 thousand objects. Since 2013 she has held the position of a leading researcher.

T.Yu. Sem is the author of more than 170 scientific works, including 3 individual monographs, several collective monographs, as well as scientific-methodical and scientific-practical publications, including 17 foreign articles and catalogues.

The main topics of T.Yu. Sem's research interests include theory and methodology of ethnography studies of the peoples of Siberia, problems of ethnoarcheology, ethnogenesis and culture genesis, mythology, shamanism, worldview, folklore and rituals of the Tungus and Manchu peoples of Siberia and the Far East, peoples of adjacent territories (including the Ainu and Nivkh peoples), as well as problems of art, religious beliefs, burial and memorial rites and related beliefs, the semantics of ritual objects. Besides, T.Yu. Sem participated actively in Russian and regional scientific and practical conferences (REM, MAE, Institute of Peoples of the North RSPU, Saint-Petersburg, Moscow, Yakutia), as well as foreign conferences and seminars on the spiritual culture of the Tungus-Manchu peoples and peoples of the Far East (Poland, USA, Estonia, Spain).

T.Yu. Sem took an active part in 10 ethnographic expeditions to study the peoples of Siberia and the Far East (the Evenkis in Olenyok and Kharyalakh rural localities in the Olenyok District of the Yakut ASSR in 1988-1990; the Evens in the Kolyma District of the Yakut ASSR in 1982; the Oroks and the Upper Negidals in 1986; the Nanais in Sikachi-Alyan, Sheremetyevo, Kharyalakh rural localities on the Ussuri River in 1970, in Naykhin in 1981, in Bolon, in Upper Nergen, in Upper Ekon in 1972; the Udege people in the Bikin River basin in 1975 and the Khor River basin in 1981); the Kirghiz people and the Dungans in Central Asia, when she was fourth year student in 1979. As a result of her trips, she collected about 500 ethnographic items belonging to the peoples of Siberia and the Far East for REM.

T.Yu. Sem made a great contribution to the educational and methodological work of the Russian Ethnographic Museum, for more than 10 years she has been in charge of guided tours of the museum's expositions (highlight tours and exhibitions featuring different regions, excursions with religious focus). She has been a visiting lecturer and founded a project to create an exposition in the regional museum of Olenyok, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (1988-1990); together with V.V. Gorbacheva she developed the design of a historical and ethnographic museum in Lensk (Yakutia) (2001). Also, T.Yu. Sem developed a guidelines for lecturing in REM on Evenki culture.

Apart from that, T.Yu. Sem played a major part in creating exhibitions in the museum. The researcher is the co-author of the concept of several exhibitions, including those of the culture and art of the peoples of Siberia, the Yakuts, the Ainu people, and shamanism, followed by publications in Russian and foreign journals (Netherlands, USA, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan). T.Yu. Sem participated in the reconstruction of the exposition "Peoples of Siberia" (the Evenks section). She is the initiator, the author of the ideas and themes of new museum projects on the shamanism of the Siberian peoples (co-authored with K.Yu. Solov'eva and V.V. Gorbacheva) and on Buddhism of the Siberian peoples (coauthored with M.V. Fedorova and S.V. Romanova).

For 20 years from 1989 to 2009 T.Yu. Sem worked at the Department of Culture of the Peoples of the Far North, then she was a senior lecturer at the Department of Ethnoculturology in the Institute of the Peoples of the North of the Russian State Pedagogical University named after A.I. Herzen, in 2007 she got a position of an associate professor. T.Yu. Sem gave lectures on mythology, traditional beliefs and folk knowledge of the Peoples of the Far North, ethnology and ethnography of different groups concerning life world, history and ethnography of the Peoples of the Far North,

ethnographic museology, as well as on traditional culture of the Peoples of the Far North and their folklore.

T.Yu. Sem received a number of official awards: letters of acknowledgement from the Ministry of Culture to thank her for decades-long conscientious work in the Russian Ethnographic Museum (2001), a Certificate of Honour from the Institute of the Peoples of the North of the Russian State Pedagogical University named after A.I. Herzen for many years of dutiful work on the organization of training, methodical and research work with students (2004), award for the best edition of 2006 from the Ministry of Culture for the album “On the verge of worlds. Shamanism of the Siberian peoples” (as a co-author, 2006). In 2012, she was awarded the anniversary badge of honour “380 Years of Yakutia with Russia” from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) for constant contact with the Yakut creative culture, publications dedicated to the peoples of Yakutia and the preparation of three joint exhibitions together with the United Regional Museum of the Peoples of Yakutia and the Russian Ethnographic Museum. In 2016, T.Yu. Sem was awarded a badge of honour “100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Petersburg Datsan” for compiling an album “Buddhist culture of the peoples of Russia” together with the representatives of the Department of Siberia and the Far East of the REM and organising the eponymous exhibition in the REM, and also for the publication of a collaborative album “Buddhism of Russia” in English in Delhi, and for scientific articles on the Buddhist-shamanic syncretism among the Tungus-Manchu peoples of Siberia and the Far East.

To sum up, T.Yu. Sem is a major museum specialist, a recognized expert in ethnography of the Tungus-Manchu peoples and a promising investigator who takes advantage of modern methods of scientific research.

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## **К 60-летию известного этнографа-тунгусоведа Татьяны Юрьевны Сем**

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*Данная публикация посвящена 60-летию известного ученого-тунгусоведа Т.Ю. Сем. В статье описывается вклад Т.Ю. Сем в этнографическую науку, приводится список основных трудов ученого.*

*Ключевые слова: тунгусоведение, Российский этнографический музей, этнография народов Сибири.*

*Научная специальность: 24.00.00 – культурология.*

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