

To the anniversary of the journal “Vestnik of NEFU”

I. I. Mordosov

M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia

In November 2003, I was working on an article about the mammal ecology of the Lena-Amga interfluvium, and I needed to find a paper by Prokopy Dmitrievich Larionov on the small mammals of the Megino-Kangalassky district, published in the “Scientific Notes of the Yakutsk Pedagogical Institute” in 1954, vol. 3. As I leafed through the issues of the journal, I noticed that the Scientific Notes were not published on a regular basis.

In 2003, the YSU had postgraduate programmes in various scientific fields, and several dissertation councils had been opened for the defence of candidates.

I knew from my own experience and that of postgraduate and doctoral students at the Faculty of Biology and Geography that dissertation defenses were usually delayed due to the lack of scientific publishers. I had the idea to organise a periodical scientific journal for postgraduates, applicants and university staff. I spent a few days thinking about how to name the journal and looking at those published by other universities in the country. Personally, I thought that “Scientific Notes” was a rather inappropriate name for a modern scientific journal. My choice stopped at the name “Vestnik of Yakutsk State University”, which was more relevant for publishing sources, including new scientific discoveries and researches of scientists.

I approached V.Y. Fridovsky, the Vice-rector of Science of YSU, and A.N. Alekseev, the Rector of YSU, with the initiative of starting a scientific journal. My proposal was accepted, and the Rector instructed me and V.Y. Fridovsky to begin preparatory work on the establishment of the journal. Valery Yuryevich entrusted me with the formation of the editorial board and other organisational matters. I began my work.

The first thing to do was to find an executive editor of the journal, and then I prepared a list of members of the editorial board, including well-known scientists from YSU. A.Y. Romanova, Cand. Sci. (Biology), a researcher of the YSU Botanical Garden, agreed to work as the executive editor, G.P. Keleberda, an employee of the University Publishing House, as the technical editor. V.Y. Fridovsky agreed with all the proposed choices.

There was a question about the number of issues per year: I suggested 4 issues (i.e. one issue per quarter) and Valery Yuryevich suggested 2 issues. The question was resolved by the Rector - 4 issues per year. In March 2004, the Academic Council of the YSU decided to establish the scientific journal “Vestnik of Yakutsk State University”. The first Editor-in-Chief was the Rector A.N. Alekseev, V.Y. Fridovsky and I.I. Mordosov were the Deputy Chief Editors, the Executive Editor - A.Y. Romanova, Technical Editor - G.P. Keleberda. The editorial team was approved.

The next step for the journal team was to develop ‘Rules for Submission of Scientific Articles’, which were approved by the Editorial Board. From then on, the work on collection of scientific articles began. The small editorial team worked on a voluntary basis, and all our activities were aimed at establishing the journal and its recognition in the scientific community. Romanova and Keleberda did a great job – they were communicative, able to build a dialogue with any author, very efficient, which was especially important in this initial period. They put a lot of effort and heart into the creation of the journal, without them we could not have gained recognition from the scientific community in such a short time. The University Publishing House has made a major contribution to the issues of the journal, providing the layout, artwork and timely publication of the issues.

The first issue was published in the end of 2004. We worked hard to make this happen, and the feeling of holding in your hand a fresh published journal was incredible! The journal has been published regularly since 2005, despite the fact that we have rarely been able to collect a sufficient number of articles. Back then, we used to dream about a time when our editorial

portfolio would be filled with articles not only for the current issue, but also for future ones. Little by little, our dream came true. I want to mention the most involved authors, whose articles were dedicated to the relevant issues of a modern science: Dr. S. in Biology, Prof. N.S. Danilova, Dr. S. in Philosophy, Prof. N.N. Kozhevnikov, Dr. S. in Philosophy, Prof. V.S. Danilova, Cand. S. in History, Prof. I.S. Sivtsev, Cand. S. in Biology N.P. Prokopyev, Dr. S. in Philology, Prof. A.A. Burtsev, etc.

Throughout these years, we repeatedly raised the issue of providing staff units for a technical editor, proofreader and typesetter, but this was rejected due to lack of funds. Nevertheless, the issues of the journal continued to be published almost without delay. After Aida Yuryevna Romanova passed away, Galina Petrovna Keleberda was appointed as the periodical's Executive Editor.

In 2006, the "Vestnik of YSU" was firstly recognised. The YSU Publishing House sent "Vestnik of YSU" to the 10th Far-Eastern Fair of scientific periodicals "Printing House" in Vladivostok, where our journal won a nominee in the competition "The best scientific book".

The further development of research work at the university required that certain scientific fields, in which scientific articles are published in the journal, could be included in the list of the HAC (Higher Attestation Commission) of the Russian Federation, and first all of those in which dissertation councils were opened at YSU. This was achieved in 2008, when Vestnik of YSU was included in the list of journals recommended by the HAC of the Russian Federation, in which scientific articles are published in the following fields of science: biological, medical, physical and mathematical, philosophical, pedagogical, humanitarian.

In 2009, the Vestnik of YSU was fully included in the list of the HAC of the RF. This was achieved thanks to the great organisational work and consistency of published articles with strict high scientific standard. The recognition of the journal by the HAC was the merit not only of the editorial board, but also of all authors who took part in the creation of the journal.

In 2010, the Yakutsk State University changed its status and became the M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University. It was necessary to change the name of the academic periodical and save it in the HAC list. Again, we had to face many challenges to solve organisational issues and to process a lot of documentation. But together with G. P. Keleberda we managed it successfully and as a result the journal was renamed "Vestnik of North-Eastern Federal University" and kept the status a periodical included in the list of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

In 2011, 2 editorial positions, 0.5 proofreading positions and 1 layout assistant position were allocated to the journal. Unfortunately, G.P. Keleberda retired and moved out of the Republic in that year. The following employees took part in the further work of the journal: E.E. Borisova – Executive Editor (2011-2013); N.V. Dmitrieva and A.P. Vasilieva – technical editors, N.Y. Pechetova, Associate Professor of the Russian Language Department, – proofreader, and V.A. Maksimova – layout designer. All of them are dedicated specialists who put a lot of labour and energy into preparing articles for printing.

The progressive development of the University's scientific activities, the receipt of a large number of articles from different cities of the Russian Federation and foreign countries required the introduction of new ideas in the work of the journal. In 2012, at the meeting of the Editorial Board, on our initiative, it was decided to publish six issues per year and to increase the volume of the journal. This was successfully implemented.

The issue of the Vestnik of the North-Eastern Federal University reaching the international level was also raised. This is a requirement of the time, as the Concept of Modernisation of the System of Attestation of Scientific Personnel of Higher Qualification in the Russian Federation (2013) introduced stricter requirements for publication and discussion of the main scientific results of dissertations and scientific works. In this regard, the indexing of scientific publications in Russian was introduced, as well as regular monitoring of the quality of scientific publications. This required even greater responsibility in the editing of scientific articles submitted to the

journal's editorial office. Therefore, scientific editing, which is entrusted to the Deputy Editor-in-Chief, continues to be of great importance in maintaining and developing the scientific potential of the journal. In recent years, in accordance with the requirements of the development of scientific research and the arrival of a large number of articles, some scientific areas began to publish their own series.

At this present time, the periodical's team is working in a renewed composition. The establishment and productive activity of the journal have made a great contribution to the development of scientific research, improvement of the level of scientific qualification of university staff and scientific organisations of RS(Y) and other regions. I wish the journal "Vestnik of North-Eastern Federal University" further success and an endless motivation!