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Российской академии наук
The Institute of Archaeology
of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Научная конференция
Academic conference

31 марта – 1 апреля
march, 31 – april, 1

2026



Tuesday, March 31, 2026

10:00

Morning session

Greeting

Belova Galina Aleksandrovna (Centre for Egyptological Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

A Bathhouse Complex on the Site of the Palace of Apries (Kom Tuman, Memphis)

Kolosov Vladimir Pavlovich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg):

On the chronology of the defensive system of Hellenistic Myrmekion

Aibabin Aleksandr Ilyich (V.I. Vernadsky Crimean University, Research Centre for the History and Archaeology of Crimea, Simferopol), Khairedinova Elzara Aiderovna (Institute of Archaeology of Crimea, Russian Academy of Sciences, Simferopol).

Architectural features of the burial structures in the necropolis of the city on the Eski-Kermen plateau

Mayko Vadim Vladislavovich (Institute of Archaeology of Crimea, Russian Academy of Sciences, Simferopol)

On the dating of the church at the Dimitraky site near medieval Sugdeya and the development of ecclesiastical architecture on the peninsula

Coffee break

Yanovskaya Ekaterina Gennadievna (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

Mortars from St. Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod: A Reassessment of the G.M. Shtender Collection

Yakovlev Dmitry Evgenyevich (Central Restoration and Design Workshops, Moscow)

The Facade Reliefs of the Dormition Cathedral in Vladimir and the Building Activity of Andrei Bogolyubsky

Zykov Petr Leonidovich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg)
Zherve Aleksey Vladimirovich (The Museum of the History of Religion, Saint Petersburg)

The Floors of the Cathedral of the Nativity in Vladimir: A Reconstruction from Architectural and Archaeological Fieldwork

Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

A Stone Church of the 12th–13th centuries on the Pyatnitsky Stream in Smolensk

15:00

Evening session

Milovanov Sergey Ivanovich, Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow).

The growth of Vladimir in the 12th and 13th centuries: Archaeological and Architectural Evidence

Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich, Vdovichenko Marina Viktorovna, Kudriavtsev Andrey Alekseevich, Prorokova Evgenya Nikolaevna (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

Beneath a Monastic Cell at the Yuriev Monastery near Novgorod: Stratigraphy, Structures and Finds

Zubavichus Evgeny Yanovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

Fragments of Facial Painting from the Excavations of the Church of the Annunciation at the Gorodishche: Results of Non-Destructive Technological Examination

Coffee break

Koval Vladimir Yurievich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The Detinets of Smolensk on Sobornaya Hill

Matveev Vasily Nikolaevich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg)

The Floors of Pre-Mongol Churches in Ryazan

Zykov Petr Leonidovich (The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg), Leontyev Andrey Evgenyevich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Torshin Evgeny Nikolaevich, Frenkel Yakov Viktorovich (The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg)

The 13th century Church of SS Boris and Gleb in Rostov: Results of Recent Fieldwork

Antipov Ilya Vladimirovich (St. Petersburg University, St. Petersburg) Zherve Aleksei Vladimirovich (Museum of the History of Religion, St. Petersburg)

The Church of the Nativity “Na Senyakh” (1362) at the Novgorod Archbishop's Court

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

10:00

Morning session

Vinogradov Andrei Yurievich (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)

The Restoration of Rostov Cathedral: Its Dating and the Antimension from Sknyatinovo

Evdokimov Georgy Stanislavovich (Central and Restoration Workshops, Moscow)

The Dormition Cathedrals of 1326–27 and 1472–74 in the Moscow Kremlin: A Synthesis of Field Research from the 1960s to the 2020s

Prorokova Evgenya Nikolaevna (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The Stone Floors of Novgorod Churches in the 14th–15th Centuries

Dubuis Kamila Vilgelmovna (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow)

Boat-Shaped Sarcophagi at the Arkazhy Monastery: Topography, Architectural Context and Principles of Classification

Coffee break

Nikolaeva Maria Valentinovna (Research Institute of the Theory and History of Fine Arts, Russian Academy of Arts, Moscow)

The Dormition Cathedral of the Zheltikov Monastery in Tver: the 1635 survey, the 1701 description and the 2017 excavations.

Petrov Dmitry Arkadyevich (Classica Architectural Studios Ltd, Moscow), Yakovlev Dmitry Evgenyevich (Central Restoration and Design Workshops, Moscow)

Architectural Elements of the Annunciation Tower of the Moscow Kremlin, 1485–1487

Ovcharenko Ksenia Alekseevna (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow)

The Church of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple in the Antoniev Monastery, Novgorod (1533–1536): a new-style building

Sivozhelezov Ignat Vladimirovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The 2025 Excavations at the Ascension (Naugolnaya) Tower of the Vologda Fortress

14:30

Evening session

Iordanskaia Nadezhda Ivanovna (State Historical Museum, Moscow)

The Ceramic Chronicle of the Cathedral of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God on the Moat

Rumyantsev Ivan Sergeevich (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow)

The Ascension Cathedral of the Pechersky Monastery in Nizhny Novgorod: The Revival of the Four-Pier Monastic Cathedral in the Seventeenth Century

Novikova Vera Dmitrievna (Stroganov University of Design and Applied Arts, Moscow)

Facade Ornament on 17th-Century Churches in Kargopol: Towards a Typology

Akhmetgalin Farid Albertovich, Sitdikov Ayrat Gabitovich (Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan)

Preliminary Results of Archaeological Fieldwork at the Presumed Mausoleum of Kasimov Khan Arslan ben Ali in the Stary Posad of Kasimov

Coffee break

Badeev Denis Yurievich, Koval Vladimir Yurievich, Yunkin Zhamil Alievich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

A second bathhouse-hammam from the territory of the Naryn-Kala citadel in Derbent

Bashkirova Maria Andreevna (Grabar Art Conservation Centre, Moscow)

The Bethany Cathedral and Oval Burial Churches in Russian Architecture of the late 18th – early 19th century

Kudriavtsev Andrey Alekseevich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Vasilieva Anna Vladimirovna (Moscow University of Civil Engineering, Moscow)

Architectural and Archaeological Fieldwork at the Roman Catholic Church of SS Peter and Paul in Veliky Novgorod in 2025

Okseniuk Anatoly Anatolyevich (Shchusev Museum of Architecture, Moscow)

Restoration work and architectural-archaeological study of the Cathedral of St George in Yuriev-Polsky in the 1920s–1940s. A Chronicle of P.D. Baranovsky's Campaigns

Panchenko Viktoria Borisovna, Zherve Maria Borisovna (The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg).

Frescoes from the Voronin and Rappoport Excavations in Smolensk: Their Path to the Hermitage and Prospects for Research

Belova Galina Aleksandrovna (Centre for Egyptological Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

A Bathhouse Complex on the Site of the Palace of Apries (Kom Tuman, Memphis)

From March to April 2023, the Centre for Egyptological Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences continued its archaeological work at the site, which is referred to in scholarly literature as the 'Palace of Apries and Military Camp' (Kom Tuman, Memphis). Excavations in the north-eastern part of the site that season revealed a number of structures built of both mudbrick and fired brick, including fragmentary walls. Several baths were installed within the rooms and were linked to one another by water channels. The building clearly served as a bathhouse.

However, the exact dimensions of the structure and its original layout cannot be established due to the damage sustained by the site. It was most probably rectangular in plan. The discovery of a bath complex close to the royal palace in the Egyptian capital is unique.

Kolosov Vladimir Pavlovich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg):

On the chronology of the defensive system of Hellenistic Myrmekion

The paper addresses the ongoing disagreement regarding the dating of the fortifications of Myrmekion, a city located on the Bosphorus. Starting from the sharply divergent conclusions reached in recent scholarship, the paper considers the underlying methodological conflict between two archaeological approaches: stratigraphic dating, which relies on contextual finds, and typological dating, which is based on architectural parallels. The discussion demonstrates how this controversy highlights a broader issue: the criteria by which we judge the reliability of historical reconstruction. The author argues for the priority of stratigraphy and proposes a revised chronology for the Myrmekion fortifications from the 4th to the 2nd century BC, together with a reassessment of their historical significance.

Aibabin Aleksandr Ilyich (V.I. Vernadsky Crimean University, Research Centre for the History and Archaeology of Crimea, Simferopol), Khairedinova Elzara Aiderovna (Institute of Archaeology of Crimea, Russian Academy of Sciences, Simferopol).

Architectural features of the burial structures in the necropolis of the city on the Eski-Kermen plateau

The inhabitants of the fortress, which was constructed on the Eski-Kermen plateau at the end of the 6th century, buried their dead in several necropolises. The largest of these was in use until the end of the 9th century on the southern and south-eastern slopes of the plateau. Burials were made here in simple earth-cut graves, undercut graves ('podboi'), and rock-cut tombs. These tombs were hewn into the marl at depths of 2.0-4.0 metres and were T-shaped in plan, comprising a dromos and a chamber connected by a short corridor.

The chambers of certain tombs replicate the form of dwellings, with straight, smooth walls and a vault that imitates a gabled roof with a ridge. Some tomb chambers have niches cut into their walls for child burials. A burial vault dating to the 8th–9th centuries stands out in terms of its construction due to the presence of a rock-cut bench.

From the 10th to the 13th century, burials took place in small necropolises located within and adjacent to quarter chapels, cave churches and above-ground churches. The burial structures fall into three main types: 1 - shallow, oval or rectangular graves hewn into the rock floor; 2 - deep, chambered graves cut into the rock with a small, rectangular entrance at the top; and 3 - built tombs made of large stone blocks and attached to church walls.

During the 14th century, in the final phase of the city's existence, a small necropolis operated opposite the city's main church. The sides of the graves excavated here were lined with and covered by large, closely fitted, carefully dressed rectangular limestone slabs. Stone enclosures were also found, and in some cases, stone cairns were present.

Mayko Vadim Vladislavovich (Institute of Archaeology of Crimea, Russian Academy of Sciences, Simferopol)

On the dating of the church at the Dimitraky site near medieval Sugdeya and the development of ecclesiastical architecture on the peninsula

The monastery, which was built around a large church, lies to the west of medieval Sugdeya on the coast. The church and the wider complex have been studied since 1910. The site has long been dated to the mid to late 12th century and associated with Constantinopolitan builders. However, analysis of the archaeological material, and above all the architectural detail, suggests a date no earlier than the mid 13th century, most probably the third quarter. Construction of the church appears to have been contemporaneous with that of another large church excavated at the foot of Mount Kilisa-Kaya. There is good reason to connect the structural features of both churches with the Trapezuntine architectural school of the second half of the 13th century. This school emerged after the completion of the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Trebizond in 1263, and also influenced the Church of St Andrew in Constantinople, rebuilt in the third quarter of the same century.

Yanovskaya Ekaterina Gennadievna (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

Mortars from St. Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod: A Reassessment of the G.M. Shtender Collection

This paper reviews mortar samples from the collection assembled by G. M. Shtender during his architectural and archaeological fieldwork in 1962. Comparison of the cathedral's mortars with those from 12th-century buildings in Novgorod has made it possible to identify samples that belong to the original phase of construction. These fragments are characterised by varying proportions of clay binder, setting them apart from mortars of late date. The findings of this study corroborate Shtender's own conclusions regarding the cathedral's original construction.

Yakovlev Dmitry Evgenyevich (Central Restoration and Design Workshops, Moscow)

The Façade Reliefs of the Dormition Cathedral in Vladimir and the Building Activity of Andrei Bogolyubsky

The galleries of the Dormition Cathedral in Vladimir display a series of reliefs, the principal elements of which are mascarons with lion heads and angel faces - commonly referred to as female masks - placed in the upper portions of the wall bays above and to either side of the windows. This paper addresses the question of the origin and original placement of these reliefs, and their dating in relation to comparable reliefs at Bogolyubovo and the Church of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God on the Nerl.

According to the view established in the scholarship by N.N. Voronin, these reliefs were removed from the upper parts of the façade bays of the first Dormition Cathedral of 1160 and set into the masonry of the new galleries when they were constructed in 1186 - 1189. It has been assumed that the arrangement of individual reliefs upon the façade plane was first employed on the walls of Andrey Bogolyubsky's original Dormition Cathedral, and that this scheme was subsequently adopted for the façades of the cathedral at Bogolyubovo before reaching its fullest expression on the façades of the Church of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God on the Nerl. All later examples, from the end of the 12th to the first third of the 13th century, represent a reworking and development of the decorative system that took shape during the 1160s. Thanks to fresh evidence of the 12th-century building history of the Dormition Cathedral, obtained in the course of recent architectural and archaeological fieldwork, it has become possible to revisit this long-standing hypothesis and to put forward an alternative view of the date of appearance, formation and development of sculptural façade decoration on the churches of the Suzdal lands, within the context of a revised understanding of the building practice of Prince Andrey Bogolyubsky.

Zykov Petr Leonidovich (*The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg*)
 Zherve Aleksey Vladimirovich (*The Museum of the History of Religion, Saint Petersburg*)

The Floors of the Cathedral of the Nativity in Vladimir: A Reconstruction from Architectural and Archaeological Fieldwork

Architectural and archaeological fieldwork at the Cathedral of the Nativity in Vladimir conducted from 1997 to 2001 yielded exceptional material relating to the history of the construction of this now-lost monument of late 12th century architecture in North-Eastern Rus'. Despite the cathedral having been dismantled twice, the excavations succeeded in recovering not only the plan of the original church, but also elements of its interior decoration. Notably, sections of the original flooring were found to have survived over a considerable area within the main body of the building. Drawing on these findings, a number of reconstructions of the cathedral's pre-Mongol interior embellishments are presented.

Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich (*Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow*)

A Stone Church of the 12th–13th centuries on the Pyatnitsky Stream in Smolensk

In 2013, excavations directed by the author uncovered a stone church, designated the church on the Piatnitsky Stream to distinguish it from the stone Church of St Paraskeva (Pyatnitsa) discovered much earlier. The core of the building proved to belong to the Smolensk architectural tradition of the second half of the twelfth century. It was a four-pier church, apparently with three apses and a single dome, constructed without a narthex and built of plinth bricks laid in regular courses.

The façades were articulated by lesenes with attached half-columns in the central bays. The church had a brick floor; glazed tiles were also found, though these may have belonged to adjoining parts of the structure. The interior was painted. In the thirteenth century, galleries were added to the north and south sides. The church collapsed at some point between the 14th and 15th centuries. In the 16th century, the stone walls of Smolensk were laid out across its easternmost part, by which time the site of the church had already been forgotten.

*Milovanov Sergey Ivanovich, Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich
(Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow).*

The growth of Vladimir in the 12th and 13th centuries: Archaeological and Architectural Evidence

This paper presents new data on the development of Vladimir's urban planning, challenging the model proposed by N.N. Voronin in the mid-twentieth century. Stratigraphic evidence has enabled the town's defences to be re-dated, and the chronological distribution of stone buildings across the city provides further insight into its topography. Together, these data provide a revised picture of how the city developed. Vladimir originated in the west and then spread to the central area, where the detinets was established, before extending further east. However, by the fourteenth century, the inhabited area had shrunk to roughly a third of its former size.

*Sedov Vladimir Valentinovich, Vdovichenko Marina Viktorovna,
Kudriavtsev Andrey Alekseevich, Prorokova Evgenya Nikolaevna
(Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)*

Beneath a Monastic Cell at the Yuriev Monastery near Novgorod: Stratigraphy, Structures, and Finds

In 2022–2023, a trench opened to the north of the Cathedral of St. George at the Yuriev Monastery revealed a rectangular cellar hewn into the natural subsoil. Once the fill had been removed, the charred remains of timber constructions came to light, consisting of a row of vertical planks and parts of a floor. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the timbers, combined with an analysis of the small finds and the bulk pottery, date the building to the period from the second half of the 12th to the 14th century. The structure is most plausibly interpreted as an individual monastic cell.

Zubavichus Evgeny Yanovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

Fragments of Facial Painting from the Excavations of the Church of the Annunciation at the Gorodishche: Results of Non-Destructive Technological Examination

This paper presents the results of a study of fragments of mural painting depicting faces and garments that were uncovered during excavations at the Church of the Annunciation on the Gorodishche, directed by VI. V. Sedov. These fragments date to the early 12th century. The study was carried out using non-destructive methods: optical microscopy, Raman spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF). The results provide unique evidence of the materials employed and the painters' working processes.

Koval Vladimir Yurievich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The Detinets of Smolensk on Sobornaya Hill

The location of the medieval detinets of Smolensk on Sobornaya Hill has never been seriously questioned, yet earlier excavations failed to produce direct evidence of fortifications at the site. During recent trial trenching conducted by N. A. Krenke along the perimeter of the hill, layers of natural sand were identified and interpreted as the remains of a rampart connected to the initial detinets (fortified settlement). Timber traces within these layers were identified as the so-called "internal rampart frameworks". However, recent work on other Russian towns has shown that such "frameworks" are better understood as the remains of timber-and-earth defensive walls. At the same time, the radiocarbon dates obtained from the site fall within the 7th to 9th centuries - a period during which Slavic strongholds were fortified using rather different construction methods. This discrepancy raises the question of whether the charcoal samples actually derive from the "frameworks", i.e. the town walls themselves. This paper seeks to address these contradictions

Matveev Vasily Nikolaevich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg)

The Floors of Pre-Mongol Churches in Ryazan

Of the four stone churches built in the Ryazan area before to the Mongol invasion, only the badly damaged lower portions survive below ground level. Their poor state of preservation means that evidence for the original floors is scarce. Nevertheless, the available data allow us to offer a preliminary characterization of the floor decoration in Ryazan churches and suggest probable sources for the decorative techniques employed and the types of ceramic floor tiles found there.

*Zykov Petr Leonidovich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg),
Leontyev Andrey Evgenyevich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow),
Torshin Evgeny Nikolaevich,
Frenkel Yakov Viktorovich (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg)*

The 13th century Church of SS Boris and Gleb in Rostov: Results of Recent Fieldwork

This paper outlines the history of architectural and archaeological research into the Church of SS Boris and Gleb in Rostov, presenting the latest findings from the site. In 2025, the remains of a monumental 13th century structure, first uncovered in the 1986–1994 excavations, were re-exposed within the apse of the standing church of 1761. The key result of the 2025 season is that the masonry in question belongs to the foundations of the original building put up by Konstantin Vsevolodovich in 1214–1217, and not, as was previously thought, to the upper parts of the Church of SS Boris and Gleb founded by Bishop Ignatius in 1287.

Antipov Iliia Vladimirovich (St. Petersburg University, St. Petersburg)
Zherve Aleksei Vladimirovich (Museum of the History of Religion, St. Petersburg)

The Church of the Nativity “Na Senyakh” (1362) at the Novgorod Archbishop's Court

From 2019 to 2021, the architectural and archaeological expedition of St. Petersburg university examined the remains of masonry from various construction phases in the area in front of the western façade of the Cathedral of St. Sophia in Novgorod. This area is located to the south of the ruins of the so-called Palace of Vasily Kalika (1350) and to the east of the 19th-century vicars' building. The earliest phase dates to the turn of the 12th–13th centuries and the latest to the 18th century. This paper focuses on the Church of the Nativity of Christ na Senyakh (1362), representing the second building phase on this site. Proposed variants of the building's reconstruction are presented, and its structure is considered within the context of 14th-century Novgorodian architecture, with its distinctive features identified.

Vinogradov Andrei Yurievich (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)

The Restoration of Rostov Cathedral: Its Dating and the Antimins from Sknyatinovo

It has traditionally been held that the Rostov Cathedral built by Prince Konstantin Vsevolodovich was consecrated in 1231. However, why did the cathedral remain unfinished for nearly twenty years when the same master builders had laid the foundations of the Church of SS Boris and Gleb in Rostov as early as 1214? Furthermore, while all scholars date the laying of the cathedral to 1213 based on the Laurentian Chronicle, the Moscow Chronicle Compilation and the Chronicle of Pereiaslavl Suzdalsky place it before 1214. The latter even specifies that it was a leap year, meaning 1212. This discrepancy is related to the biased account of the feuding among the sons of Vsevolod found in the chronicles. Some clarity on the matter is afforded by an unpublished antimimension from the early thirteenth century found in the village of Sknyatinovo.

Evdokimov Georgy Stanislavovich (Central and Restoration Workshops, Moscow)

The Dormition Cathedrals of 1326–1327 and 1472–1474 in the Moscow Kremlin: A Synthesis of Field Research from the 1960s to the 2020s

This paper draws together and reappraises the results of archaeological work conducted in the 1960s alongside the findings of architectural trial trenches opened in the 2020s, in which the author took direct part. The research has produced a considerable body of new evidence, on the basis of which revised reconstructions of the ground plans of the cathedrals of 1326–1327 and 1472–1474 are proposed.

Prorokova Evgenya Nikolaevna (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The Stone Floors of Novgorod Churches in the 14th–15th Centuries

This paper examines the stone floors preserved in Novgorod churches of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It addresses questions of their dating, considers them in the context of earlier buildings, and analyses the particular features of their design and subsequent development.

Dubuis Kamila Vilgelmovna (Moscow State University, Moscow)

Boat-Shaped Sarcophagus at the Arkazhy Monastery: Topography, Architectural Context and Principles of Classification

During the architectural and archaeological fieldwork conducted at the Dormition Arkazhy monastery near Novgorod from 1962 to 1963 under the direction of S.N. Orlov and L.E. Krasnorechiev, an the large monastic necropolis was examined. Stone sarcophagi of the three recognised Novgorodian types -- composite, monolithic rectangular and boat-shaped -- were uncovered, along with burials beneath stone slabs. The recorded sarcophagus assemblage covers a broad chronological range, from the late 12th to the late 15th century. Nine boat-shaped sarcophagi were identified among the burial structures. Their study has yielded a new classification and an analysis of their spatial distribution within the necropolis.

Nikolaeva Maria Valentinovna (Research Institute of the Theory and History of Fine Arts, Russian Academy of Arts, Moscow)

The Dormition Cathedral of the Zheltikov Monastery in Tver: the 1635 survey, the 1701 description and the 2017 excavations.

This paper compares the dimensions of the Dormition Cathedral of the Zheltikov Monastery in Tver as they appear in archival sources and published excavation results, converting them into metric equivalents. The original 15th century cathedral collapsed in 1606–1607 when its vaults gave way. In 1635, the church and its two side chapels were surveyed and measured by masonry foreman Ivan Neverov. He recorded his findings in an estimate, which N. N. Voronin later used to produce a schematic reconstruction plan. In 1637–1638, on the recommendation of the foreman Obrosim Maksimov, the semi-ruined building was dismantled down to its footings, and construction of a new cathedral began on the old foundations. However, the dimensions given in the 1701 description of this new church and its chapels do not tally with Neverov's figures, calling for a close comparison. Particularly valuable in this regard are the sections of the monument exposed during the 2017 excavations, namely the northern side chapel and the adjoining section of the cathedral.

Petrov Dmitry Arkadyevich (Classica Architectural Studios Ltd, Moscow), Yakovlev Dmitry Evgenyevich (Central Restoration and Design Workshops, Moscow)

Architectural Elements of the Annunciation Tower of the Moscow Kremlin, 1485–1487

The main body of the Annunciation Tower - excluding the superstructure added in the 1680s - belongs to the Moskva River front of the Moscow Kremlin and dates from the first phase of construction, probably around 1487. The tower survived the demolition of adjacent walls and towers in the 18th century and retains three original elements of the architectural treatment of its embrasures and facades.

On the southern façade there are vertical, window-like embrasures cut through monolithic blocks of white stone; their closest parallels are found in the windows of 15th-century Venetian bell towers. On the lateral façades, arranged in two tiers, are embrasures for flanking fire along the curtain walls, each taking the form of a circular opening in a rectangular stone block; these find direct analogies in the artillery embrasures of fortresses built during the transitional period of Italian fortification design in the 1470s-1480s. On the northern façade the tower displays three large circular niches with elaborate moulded profiles, matching in detail those on the towers of the Novgorod Detinets, which were being erected at the same time with the participation of Italian masters.

Ovcharenko Ksenia Alekseevna (Lomonosov Moscow University, Moscow)

The Church of the Candlemas in the Antoniev Monastery, Novgorod (1533–1536): a new-style building

The Church of the Candlemas is the first stone refectory church in 16th-century Novgorod and was built as part of the monastic reforms undertaken by Metropolitan Makary. This paper examines the origins of the church's design, including the building type, which was new to local architecture, the interior iconography, the decorative scheme and the building materials. Rather than continuity with fifteenth-century Novgorodian architecture, the influence of Muscovite and Rostov models is identified. Italianising elements are identified, including stepped trompes, a spherical dome and an order-based system on the façades. The ornamentation combines Muscovite motifs with local traditions. The church's architecture reveals a synthesis of metropolitan influences and regional building practices, marking a new stage in 16th-century Novgorodian architecture.

Sivozhelezov Ignat Vladimirovich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

The 2025 Excavations at the Ascension (Naugolnaya) Tower of the Vologda Fortress

In 2025, the Prechistensky detachment of the Northern Expedition of the Institute of Archaeology, RAS, carried out excavations in Vologda at Orlova Street, 2. The work revealed and examined the foundation remains of the Ascension (Naugolnaya) Tower of the 16th century Vologda fortress.

The structure comprises the circular foundation of a tower, adjoined by the footing of the western curtain wall. It is formed by two concentric rings — an inner, smaller one and an outer, larger one — enclosed by a timber palisade upon which the masonry stones were laid. Between the two rings a field of driven piles was identified, supporting rubble infill.

The excavations have clarified the structural design of the tower and shed light on certain construction techniques employed by 16th century builders. The monument is of clear significance for the history of Vologda.

Iordanskaia Nadezhda Ivanovna (State Historical Museum, Moscow)

The Ceramic Chronicle of the Cathedral of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God on the Moat

The State Historical Museum keeps a group of fragments from a ceramic foundation inscription that was installed on the cathedral in 1683. This paper considers the circumstances under which three of these chronicles were created at successive stages in the cathedral's history. For the first time, a complete catalogue of all surviving elements of the ceramic chronicle are published, drawn from the tile collections of the State Historical Museum and the Moscow State Integrated Museum-Reserve. The catalogue is accompanied by descriptions of individual pieces. The fragments are analysed in terms of their technology and style, and their text is compared with that of the foundation inscription recorded in L. M. Maksimovich's 1792 guidebook.

Rumyantsev Ivan Sergeevich (Moscow State University, Moscow)

The Ascension Cathedral of the Pechersky Monastery in Nizhny Novgorod: The Revival of the Four-Pier Monastic Cathedral in the 17th Century

The Time of Troubles interrupted the history of stone construction in Russia for several decades. The four-pier variant of the inscribed-cross church, a type with a long prior development, was revived in the early 1620s with the building of the Church of St Nicholas Nadeyn on the posad of Yaroslavl. The first four-pier monastic cathedral of the 17th century, however, was the single-domed Dormition Cathedral of the Zilantov Monastery in Kazan (1625).

The next major monastic cathedral to follow was that of the Ascension Pechersky Monastery in Nizhny Novgorod (1631–1640s), which fully embodied the established image of a cathedral crowned with five light-admitting drums. This building stands as a prominent metropolitan construction and represents the leading architectural current under Tsar Mikhail Fedorovich. Its distinctive compositional and decorative features include the sails of the subsidiary domes facing the cardinal points and a frieze of recessed, keeled niches running along the facades.

Novikova Vera Dmitrievna (Stroganov University of Design and Applied Arts, Moscow)

Facade Ornament on 17th-Century Churches in Kargopol: Towards a Typology

In the 17th century, Kargopol became one of the centres of stone building in northern Russia. The churches erected here are notable for their façade decoration and construction technique: they were built using white stone blocks, with brick employed sparingly, and carved white stone ornamentation playing a prominent role. The consistent repertoire of decorative motifs and their placement across the façades allow these buildings to be considered as part of a coherent stylistic group. This study proposes a typology of ornamental elements to trace the broader development of the decorative system and distinguish the different compositional schemes within this group of monuments.

Akhmetgalin Farid Albertovich, Sitdikov Ayrat Gabitovich (Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan)

Preliminary Results of Archaeological Fieldwork at the Presumed Mausoleum of Kasimov Khan Arslan ben Ali in the Stary Posad of Kasimov

In 2025, an expedition from the Khalikov Institute of Archaeology carried out archaeological fieldwork at the presumed mausoleum of the Kasimov khan Arslan ben Ali (d. 1626) and his wife Fatima khanbika (d. 1681), the last ruler of the khanate. The remains of the ground-floor walls and a brick floor were uncovered, though regrettably these survive only in part. The entrance to an underground burial vault was identified, in which the remains of the khan and his consort presumably lie. The entrance had been blocked by a grave slab and two large stones measuring $100 \times 30 \times 32 \times 30$ cm. The mausoleum was rectangular in plan, with a dromos-like passage leading to the underground vault - the gurkhana - and was oriented along a north-west to south-east axis. The building measures 6.8×6.2 m, the entrance to the gurkhana 2.6×1.8 m, giving a total area of 46.84 sq. m.

Badeev Denis Yurievich, Koval Vladimir Yurievich, Yunkin Zhamil Alievich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)

A second bathhouse-hammam from the territory of the Naryn-Kala citadel in Derbent

During archaeological fieldwork conducted by the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2024–2025 on the territory of the Naryn-Kala citadel (trench XXVIII), to the east of the “cruciform structure”, the remains of a stone building were uncovered. The building's dimensions (820×640 cm within the limits of the trench), the presence of rooms with plastered walls and water pipes set into them, an underfloor heating system with a furnace and a floor level set below the ground surface of the period, confirm that the structure is a private hammam bathhouse. The building may be dated to the early 18th century. This is the second bathhouse to be identified within the citadel, and the first in Derbent to be studied using archaeological methods.

Bashkirova Maria Andreevna (Grabar Art Conservation Centre, Moscow)

The Bethany Cathedral and Oval Burial Churches in Russian Architecture of the late 18th – early 19th century

In the late 18th century a new tendency emerged in Russian church building: the construction of two-tiered churches oval in plan. These buildings share one notable feature - all were conceived by their founders as family or personal burial places.

The oval Cathedral of the Transfiguration, built for Metropolitan Platon at Bethany, was reproduced in two copies in the early 19th century: at the Makhryshche Monastery and at the Bezobrazov estate of Tvorishchichy in Bryansk Region. At roughly the same time as the founding of Bethany, M. M. Izmailov laid the foundations of a two-storeyed oval Church of the Vladimir Icon at his estate of Bykovo. Then in 1791, N. P. Sheremetev undertook the rebuilding of the family burial place in the Cathedral of the Icon of the Mother of God "The Sign" at the Novospassky Monastery, which received not only an oval plan but also a double-height naos with staircases ascending to the upper altar.

This paper examines the origins and development of the oval church type in Russian architecture of the Enlightenment period.

Kudriavtsev Andrey Alekseevich (Institute of Archaeology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Vasilieva Anna Vladimirovna (Moscow University of Civil Engineering, Moscow)

Architectural and Archaeological Fieldwork at the Roman Catholic Church of SS Peter and Paul in Veliky Novgorod in 2025

Excavations took place at the Roman Catholic Church of SS Peter and Paul in Veliky Novgorod in 2025 to explore its foundations. Built in 1891–1893, the church had two-storey extensions added to its northern and southern sides during a reconstruction in 1948. Six trenches were excavated inside and outside the building which revealed different foundation types. Trenches along the southern facade exposed substantial boulder foundations laid in lime mortar, while the trench at the northern facade showed a combination of boulder and concrete foundations with surviving formwork and metal elements still in place. Cultural deposits from the 17th to 19th centuries were also registered.

Okseniuk Anatoly Anatolyevich (Shchusev Museum of Architecture, Moscow)

Restoration work and architectural-archaeological study of the Cathedral of St George in Yuriev-Polsky in the 1920s–1940s. A Chronicle of P.D. Baranovsky's Campaigns

This paper surveys the restoration work and research carried out by P.D. Baranovsky at the cathedral during this period. His work on the monument formed the basis for all subsequent restorations, yet it remained relatively unexplored until recently due to a lack of publications and inaccessible archives. Baranovsky's study of the medieval cathedral began alongside the dismantling of later additions, and it was not initially conceived as independent; rather, it was intended to form part of K.K. Romanov's ongoing work. However, following a disagreement between the two scholars, Baranovsky continued the work independently into the 1940s, combining it with an active role in securing state protection for the monument.

Panchenko Viktoria Borisovna, Zherve Maria Borisovna (The Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg).

Frescoes from the Voronin and Rappoport Excavations in Smolensk: Their Path to the Hermitage and Prospects for Research

Between 1962 and 1963, restorers from the State Hermitage Museum took part in N. N. Voronin's archaeological expedition to Smolensk, where they uncovered and lifted wall paintings from the Cathedral on the Protoka, a building dated to the late 12th or early 13th century. This was the first occasion on which a major ensemble of frescoes was worked on in situ and subsequently restored in the museum, following a methodology devised by the Hermitage's own specialists. In later years, fragments of frescoes from excavations at several other Smolensk churches were likewise transferred to the Hermitage for restoration and have remained in its holdings ever since.

The paper traces how this collection of Smolensk frescoes – above all those from the Cathedral on the Protoka – was formed, examines the course of their restoration, and considers the current state of the material, now dispersed across several museum collections, as well as the prospects for its further study.