

Evgenii Viktorovich Devyatkin (1932–2004)

DOI: 10.1134/S0869593806020109



Evgenii Viktorovich Devyatkin, a geologist, doctor in geology and mineralogy, with whom we collaborated long at the Geological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, deceased on November 3, 2004. As well-known scientist, an expert in Cenozoic geology of Inner Asia, he headed the Laboratory of Quaternary Geology at the institute.

Devyatkin was born in Moscow on September 12, 1932. Being graduated from the Moscow State University in 1955, he worked first as a geologist for the Trust “Aerogeologiya” and carried out with enthusiasm the geological survey in the Altai and South Siberia. In 1959–1963, he was a postgraduate student at the Geological Institute and successfully defended his candidate’s dissertation entitled “Cenozoic Deposits and Neotectonics of the Southeastern Altai.” In this first and important scientific work, Devyatkin substantiated solution of several key problems of Cenozoic geology

in that region hardly accessible and poorly studied in those days. He liked mountains and plains of Inner Asia, where he worked at the beginning of his scientific career, and they were in his heart forever.

Since 1964, Devyatkin started geological investigations in Mongolia, first during field seasons and then, since 1997, he was involved into the long-term multi-disciplinary studies of the Soviet-Mongolian Scientific-Research Expedition and showed himself as a perfect organizer and enthusiastic scientist. The sphere of his scientific interests included regional stratigraphy, neotectonics, historical geomorphology, and correlation of geological events in the country. Dozens scientific articles, a series of maps and books on geology of Mongolia were published in co-authorship with Devyatkin. In 1974, government of Mongolia awarded him the medal “The MPR 50 Years.” Later on in 1982, he got from Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences the prize of V.A. Obruchev for the book “Mesozoic and Cenozoic Tectonics and Magmatism of Mongolia,” which had been written in collaboration with M.S. Nagibina and B.I. Kovalenko. The book is an immense contribution to geological research of Asia.

Doctorial dissertation on “Cenozoic of the Inner Asia: Stratigraphy, Geochronology, Correlation” defended by Devyatkin in 1979 was a logical result of his investigations. Published in 1982, this work expounded a great deal of geological data collected by him during many years. E.L. Dmitrieva, V.S. Zazhigin, V.I. Zhegallo, E.N. Kurochkin, I.G. Liskun, V.E. Murzaeva, E.K. Sychevskaya, V.F. Shuvalov, and other friends and collaborators in research highly evaluated his experience and broad knowledge. We should give him credit for new geochronological, paleomagnetic, and biostratigraphic data on Cenozoic continental sections of Mongolia, where he examined all the localities of mammal fauna and coordinated geochronological dates obtained for basalt lava flows with fauna-bearing horizons. This work substantiated actually the Cenozoic stratigraphic chart of that country, and biostratigraphic, geochronological, and paleomagnetic datums of the chart enabled practice of interregional correlations.

With a great interest and enthusiasm, Devyatkin was absorbed in paleogeographic, paleoclimatic and paleoecologic reconstructions aimed at revealing the appearance history of man and culture of the Stone Age. He

deciphered simultaneously the pluvial and arid phases of paleoclimate, which greatly influenced the relief formation, development of vegetation and fauna in vast desert regions of Mongolia. Investigating neotectonic evolution of complex geological objects in Mongolia, he used diverse methods to obtain confident information about structural development of orogenic and other areas, to get insight into formation of mountain glaciation, river system, and lacustrine depressions. His valuable contribution to geological study of Mongolia is based on careful field observations and comprehensive consideration of results.

Evgenii Viktorovich Devyatkin was always ready to help his colleagues with everything he could. He was a responsive tactful person ready to meet friends at home any time. His vital energy and activity attracted many different peoples. Having romantic soul, he wrote poems and warmed atmosphere of friendly companies. We'll be retaining a clear memory of this marvelous man whose works will be guiding long many geologists.

Colleagues, friends and kinfolk