

## **BORIS BORIS PIOTROWSKI (1908-1990)**



B. B. Piotrowski was a prominent Soviet archaeologist whose studies were devoted to the ancient Near Eastern and other archaeological cultures on the territory of the USSR. Among his scholarly interests was also the archaeology and history of the Armenian Highland (Urartu).

B.Piotrowski was born in Saint-Petersburg in February 14, 1908 to the family of teachers. In 1925 he entered the department of linguistics and material culture of the Leningrad state university where he studied ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian archaeology. Among his teachers were well known Soviet archaeologists - V.Struve, N.Flitner, A.Miller, etc.

B.Piotrowski held different high offices in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Hermitage in Leningrad. In 1953-1964 he was the head of Leningrad branch of the Institute of Archaeology, director of Hermitage since 1964 (until his death in 1990), from 1966 Head of the Department of Ancient Orient, University of Leningrad, and also Academician-secretary of the Department of History, Soviet Academy of sciences (1982-1984).

The impact of B.Piotrowski is especially great in the organization of archaeological expeditions into different republics of the USSR and Egypt (Crimea - 1931, Northern Caucasus - 1933, 1936, Volga region - 1934, Armenia and Georgia - 1935, Aswan in Egypt - 1961-1963).

Since 1930 B.Piotrowski undertook excavations of Cyclopean fortresses and Urartian sites in different regions of Armenia (Tsovinar, Redkin lager, Kirovakan, Aygevan etc.). Under his leadership had worked the Karmir blur permanent archaeological expedition (in the area of Yerevan).

B.Piotrowski had published over 150 studies, among which should be mentioned those dealing with the material culture of Armenia of the I millennium BC. Thanks to the Karmir blur expedition in Armenia came into existence solid archaeological school. Many of those who had participated in the expedition headed by B.Piotrowski later became leaders of Armenian archaeology (H.Martirosyan, S.Yesayan, G.Tiratsyan, G.Areshyan and others).

For his highly valuable impact into Soviet archaeology B.Piotrowski received numerous state awards. For the same purposes he was highly estimated also in abroad. B.Piotrowski was nominated by different European and other academies and universities (honorary doctor of the University of Delhi [India], corresponding member of the British academy, German archaeological association, Karlovy university of Prague

[Chechoslovakia], egyptological institute of the university of Cairo [Egypt], and the Prehistoric association of Florence [Italy] etc.).

### SELECTED STUDIES OF BORIS PIOTROVSKI

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2. Urartu: the most ancient state of Transcaucasia, Leningrad, 1939 (in Russian).
3. Urartu, in *Atlas of the history of culture and art of the Ancient Orient*, Moscow-Leningrad, 1940, 41-63 (in Russian).
4. Urartu: the kingdom of Van, in V.V.Struve, *History of Ancient Orient*, Moscow-Leningrad, 1941, 307-323 (in Russian).
5. *History of culture of Urartu*, Yerevan, 1944 (in Russian).
6. The oldest stages of the history and culture of Armenia, *Bulletin of the Armenian Academy of sciences* 1944/3-4, 3-26 (in Arm.).
7. On the origin of the Armenian nation, *Bulletin of the Armenian Academy of sciences* 1945/6, 7-38 (in Arm.).
8. *Archaeology of the Caucasus*, Leningrad, 1949 (in Russian).
9. Three Urartian inscriptions on bronze objects from Teishebaini, *Epigrafika Vostoka*, 1949/3, 88-89 (in Russian).
10. Ourartou, in *L'Orient ancien illustré*, Paris, 1954, 11-65.
11. *Karmir-blur*, 3 vols, Yerevan, 1950-1955 (in Russian).
12. *The Kingdom of Van (Urartu)*, Moscow, 1959 (in Russian)(= *Il regno di Van: Urartu*, Roma, 1966 [in Italian], *Ourartou*, Genève-Paris-Munich, 1969 [in French], *Urartu*, München, 1969 [in German]).
13. The city of the god Teisheba, *Soviet Archaeology*, 1959/2, 169-186 (in Russian).
14. *The Art of Urartu (VIII-VI BC)*, Leningrad, 1962 (in Russian).
15. *Urartu: The Kingdom of Van and Its Art*, London 1967.
16. *The Ancient Civilization of Urartu*, New York, 1969.
17. The fortress of Teishebaini – Urartian center of the VII century BC, *Science and Humankind* , 1978, 41-1957 (in Russian).