The “Arctic Encyclopedia”: The Paulsen Publishing House has issued a fundamental work

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Abstract. Here we present a review of a two volume scientific work published in April 2017 by the Paulsen Publishing House — the “Arctic Encyclopedia”. The authors — 100 people from different fields of science — enabled the publisher to get a detailed coverage of geography, flora and fauna, climate, indigenous peoples of the Arctic, as well as international cooperation, social, economic and cultural development of the Arctic areas. This work is a fundamental one and deserves close attention from every person interested in the Arctic issues.

Keywords: Arctic encyclopedia, Northern encyclopedia, the Arctic, North, Paulsen

At the end of April 2017, the publishing house “Paulsen” issued a fundamental work in two volumes called “Arctic Encyclopedia”. It is redesigned, expanded and renewed “North Encyclopedia”, published in 2004 and which became the first book of the publishing house. For the past 13 years, the relevance of Arctic subjects has only increased.

The work on the “Arctic Encyclopedia” started in 2015. Originally the editors considered the possibility of the publication of articles about the Antarctic, but it was decided to focus on the Arctic only. This enabled more fully to illuminate different aspects of the history and present of the far North and the Polar areas. The ground for the encyclopedia was the “North Encyclopedia”, but there are important differences. So, if the 2004 edition presented the articles in alphabetical order, the new encyclopedia consists of 9 sections. The volume increased significantly with data on climate and international relations, not included in the “North Encyclopedia”. These topics are extremely important for understanding what is currently happening in the Arctic. The list of the sections available in the publication:

Volume I:
• Geographic objects;
• Vegetation, fauna, protection of nature;
• Climate and climate change;
• Nature;
• Indigenous people and minorities.

Volume II:
• Social and economic development;
• International relations and organizations;
• Culture, science, education, religion;
• History of research and development.

The first volume begins with a Preface written by Artur Chilingarov, Hero of Russia, first Vice-President of the Russian Geographical Society, and Frederik Paulsen, a Swedish businessman, adventurer and philanthropist, founder of the “Paulsen” publishing house.

One of the most extensive section of the “Encyclopedia” is the history of research and development of the Arctic. Here lies one of the differences of the edition from 2004: the development of the Arctic is now counted from the time of the Great Novgorod, not Pomors. Much attention is paid to the traditions and culture of Northern people, Arctic nature, environmental issues. Also, the edition includes information about Russian neighbors in the Arctic (”North Encyclopedia” had no information about them).

The new edition contains articles on well-known issues, such as the world's first atomic icebreaker “Lenin”, and some issues difficult to find any literature about. E.g., the volume I has an article with a title “Book publishing in the languages of the peoples of the North”, and in the volume II you can read about trading in the North of Russia, Arctic strategy of China and the Norwegian merchant Bjarni Herjólfsson, one of the first known discoverers of America.

In sum, the book consists of approximately 4,000 articles, about 1,400 pages with color tabs, maps, photographs and drawings. It contains over 200 black and white illustrations, as well as three blocks of color ones, dedicated to geography (maps), nature, clothing of indigenous peoples of the North. Each volume has an alphabetical index for easy search of articles and references.

More than 100 specialists from different institutes, branch research institutes, universities, museums, artists and photographers were involved in writing articles, editing and making photos and illustrations. Each section had its own scientific editor. The managing editor of the publication was Y.F. Lukin, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Founder and Editor-in-Chief (2010–2016) of the “Arctic and North” journal. The project leader — R.I. Neyaglova-Kolosova, General Director of the “Paulsen” publishing house.

The informational support of the “Arctic Encyclopedia” was provided by the Russian Geographical Society (RGS). During the RGS Board of Trustees Meeting in Saint-Petersburg on April 24, 2017 Mr. Paulsen gave two copies of the “Arctic Encyclopedia” to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and President of the RGS Sergei Shoigu.

Examples of pages can be found on the website of the publisher.
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Output:


Figure 1. An example of a page of the encyclopedia.
Source: fragment of publication, available on the website of the publisher.
URL: http://store.paulsen.ru/upload/iblock/37c/Arctic_Encyclopedia_1.pdf
Figure 2. A gift variant of the “Arctic encyclopedia”