

EDITORS' FOREWORD

Dear colleagues,

With this issue, we begin the publication of a new journal conceived as a professional forum for specialists in the history, languages, and cultures of Nordic Europe, the Baltic region, as well as the Russian Northwest, and first and foremost, Karelia. The journal emphasises the diverse historical and contemporary connections between the Baltic region, Nordic Europe, and Russia—as well as their connections with the rest of the world, and, of course, everything that has occurred within this vast space from antiquity through today. Karelia holds its own place in this space as a borderland and a contact zone.

We believe that a journal of such scope should primarily contribute to expanding and strengthening contacts between Russian scholars in the humanities and social science whose professional interests are related to the Baltic region, Nordic Europe, and the Russian Northwest. We hope that, in the long run, this will also help preserve and maintain contacts beyond the Russian-speaking academic community.

Between 2016 and 2023, Petrozavodsk was also home to the *Nordic and Baltic Studies Review* (<https://nbsr.petrso.ru>), which was edited by Irina R. Takala. *Studia Nordica* is its direct successor, published by the Institute of Linguistics, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. This year, the Institute marks its 95th anniversary, and we have timed our inaugural issue to coincide with this milestone.

A section of this issue is devoted to other significant anniversaries for Russian scholars of Nordic and Baltic studies, commemorated in the past and current years, associated with the names of Aron Ia. Gurevich, Aleksander S. Kan, and Igor P. Shaskolskii. Preserving the legacy of scholars from previous generations is an integral part of any professional community's identity, and this is, undoubtedly, one of our publication's missions.

A substantial part of the issue consists of book reviews. We consider reviews to be one of the most crucial types of publications for any scholarly journal. We expect that the number of reviews of relevant academic literature, both in Russian and other languages, will grow in our journal over time.

The authors of the published materials include historians, linguists, and literary scholars. We intend to maintain and, where possible, expand this disciplinary diversity, as remaining within a narrow circle of specialists is undoubtedly detrimental, not only from a purely academic standpoint.

With hopes for fruitful collaboration,

Irma I. Mullenon,
Alexander V. Tolstikov,
Alexander F. Krivonozhenko.
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