

Arctic Research and Development

Boris Aleksandrovich Savel'ev, doctor of geology and mineralogy, professor, winner of a USSR state prize. The interview took place in his home study, the furnishings of which suggested that the host had a chance to travel both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. A colourful diploma on the wall with an inscription in English "... to honor the Soviet scientist Savel'ev, who in one expedition, was able to cross all the meridians of the planet".

- I got this from my American colleagues after we Soviet polar researchers had completed a snowmobile expedition to the South Pole across Central Antarctica in 1959. They said then half jokingly and half seriously: "The Russians have completed the occupation of the sixth continent". But this was just the fourth Soviet expedition to Antarctica. It was led by me.

- Boris Aleksandrovich, you already have done work in glaciology for half a century and your research is highly valued by Soviet and foreign specialists alike. When did you feel that ice was your calling?

- Believe it or not, I became a glaciologist by accident. I had graduated from the faculty of chemistry of Moscow State University and I joined one of the Scientific Research Institutes in Moscow. One day I happened to walk along a street, when I saw a notice on the wall: employment available in the Arctic. How attractive this offer seemed to me! Just imagine, after noisy, busy Moscow to find oneself suddenly on the Uedinenie island. I hurried to Razin street, where the administration of the Northern Seaway was located in those years.