

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Yenisei Sufferings

The Yenisei. This river was once called the cradle of the Siberian character. Few would make this comparison today. The Yenisei is sick and requires urgent attention. The time has come to speak frankly about this. And who better than Siberians themselves for relating this tragedy which has struck the territory? We give them the floor.

T. Ryannel',  
Merited Artist of the RSFSR  
Was That the Path Chosen...

An indomitable and mightily torrent forces its way through the crags. It rumbles triumphantly, raising clouds of spray to the sun. Such was the Yenisei. Majestic, triumphal, abundant with fish. I have travelled practically the entire river in search of sketches. I have witnessed its recent decades of history. A history that is tragic in its own way...

At first, surprise was the only reaction when, after the commissioning of the first hydroelectric power plant, the Yenisei stopped freezing up for hundreds of kilometres below the dam. Time tested the assessments. The dry and healthy climate of the Yenisei littoral gave way to continuous moisture and fog, which concealed the sun from the river region. An uncut forest at the bottom of the Krasnoyarsk sea [sic] brought about the "flowering" of the ultrapristine Yenisei waters.