

## ACADEMICIAN PROFESSOR DR. YURI ALEXANDROVICH ORLOV

12TH JUNE, 1898—2ND OCTOBER 1966

M. R. SAHNI

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Honorary Fellow, Palaeontological Society of USSR, Leningrad.

### Introduction

In the passing away of Professor Dr. Yuri A. Orlov, the the Palaeontological Society of India lost one of its distinguished Honorary Fellows, Indian palaeobiologists an esteemed friend and the world of science a savant who had made outstanding contributions in many fields of palaeobiology and geology. The first notice in India of Professor Orlov's passing away appeared in the *Journal of the Palaeontological Society of India*, Volume XII, 1967. In these reminiscences, I will refer mainly to his personal attributes and to his relationship with those who came in contact with him in his official or personal capacity. The writer is grateful to Prof. R. Gekker noted Soviet palaeoecologist and a friend of this author, for sending him Professor D. B. Obrushev's biographical data on Professor Orlov from which extracts are reproduced later.

My first contact with Professor Orlov was established through a letter from Moscow, dated 15th September, 1947, which makes it over thirty years to this day. This letter carried a request for exchange of fossil material and publications. Prof. Orlov's letter being a part of the official record was left at Calcutta following my retirement from the Geological Survey of India. I therefore quote from my reply to him, dated the 16th December, 1947 :

"The Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R. is already on our exchange list in so far as our publications are concerned. However the Director welcomes the proposal to establish an exchange of fossil specimens, casts and charts, etc., with your Institute. Would you kindly let this department know what your requirements are."

The exchange of letters on the official plane led to initiation of a friendship that lasted till his sad and untimely demise in 1966.

### First personal contact, 1957

VISIT TO INDIA, 1960

My first personal contact with Professor Orlov, took place in 1957 when he visited Calcutta as a delegate to the ECAFÉ meeting. We struck rapport immediately. My wife and I recall his completely informal visit to our home in Ballygunge, Calcutta. This was an occasion which provided an opportunity of discussing several problems of interest to palaeobiologists. His spontaneous friendliness, unbounded energy and wide scientific interests brought us ever closer.

Prof. Orlov revisited India in 1960 as an invitee of the Indian Science Congress, Bombay, where he read a paper on "Some data on *Hipparion* fauna of Siberia and Kazakhstan". This was later published in the *Journal of the Palaeontological Society of India*, in a composite volume covering vols. V—IX, 1960-1964.

### Honorary Fellowship, 1955 :

TATA MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL, 1960 :

Professor Orlov was elected Honorary Fellow of the Palaeontological Society of India on 26th January, 1955. The Society conferred upon him their first Gold Medal for distinguished work in palaeontology and for espousing, at the international level, the cause of science in India. The medal was presented to Professor Orlov at Moscow in the presence of a distinguished gathering by our Ambassador Mr. K. P. S. Menon who, appropriately, chose a festive occasion, Christmas eve, for the

ceremony (Pl. I). The presentation was preceded by the Presidential citation, reproduced here in the original (Pl. II).

Three photographs capturing the dignity and warmth of the atmosphere at the Moscow meeting are reproduced here (Pls. I and III). These include Mdme N. Orlova. A letter from Mr. K. P. S. Menon, our Ambassador at Moscow, describes the ceremonial connected with the award of the Society's medal. Coincidentally, Mr. Menon and I were fellow students in England in 1920, at Oxford and Cambridge, respectively. This was revealed when during a dinner at the ambassador's home in Moscow 1958, Mr. Menon brought out a thirtysix year old photograph of the vast Indian student's convention at Swanwick (1920), graced by the presence of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and other senior Indian visitors and residents in the British Isles.

Mr. Menon's entire letter concerning the award is reproduced here.

No. 8(2)59.

EMBASSY OF INDIA,  
MOSCOW.

31st December, 1959.

My dear Sahni,

At last I presented the Palaeontological Society's gold medal to Prof. Orlov at a dinner, held at the Embassy, on Christmas eve. Among the guests present were Professor Eluytin, the Minister for Higher Education, Mr. Kuznetsov, the First Deputy Foreign Minister, and a number of Academicians, including Messrs. Bardin, Englehardt, Kaptiza, Joffe and others. Madame Orlova was also present. The citation was read out by me and presented to him. I enclose a Russian translation of the citation which was also read out. No dinner with Russian guests is complete without toasts; and a number of felicitous speeches were made at the dinner party. On the whole, the presentation of the Palaeontological Society's medal formed an occasion for the celebration of Indo-Soviet friendship on a scholarly plane.

I enclose a few photographs taken on that occasion. How we wish you had been present too!

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) K. P. S. MENON.

Dr. M. R. Sahni,  
President, Palaeontological Society of India,  
Punjab University, Chandigarh.

At Lucknow, Prof. Orlov visited our centres of palaeobiological and geological research and teaching which

included the Department of Geology, University of Lucknow, and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany. For the benefit of the general public, a talk in the form of an interview was arranged at the All India Radio, Lucknow. This elicited interesting information concerning impressions of a senior Soviet scientist on the Indian scene (Pl. V, 2).

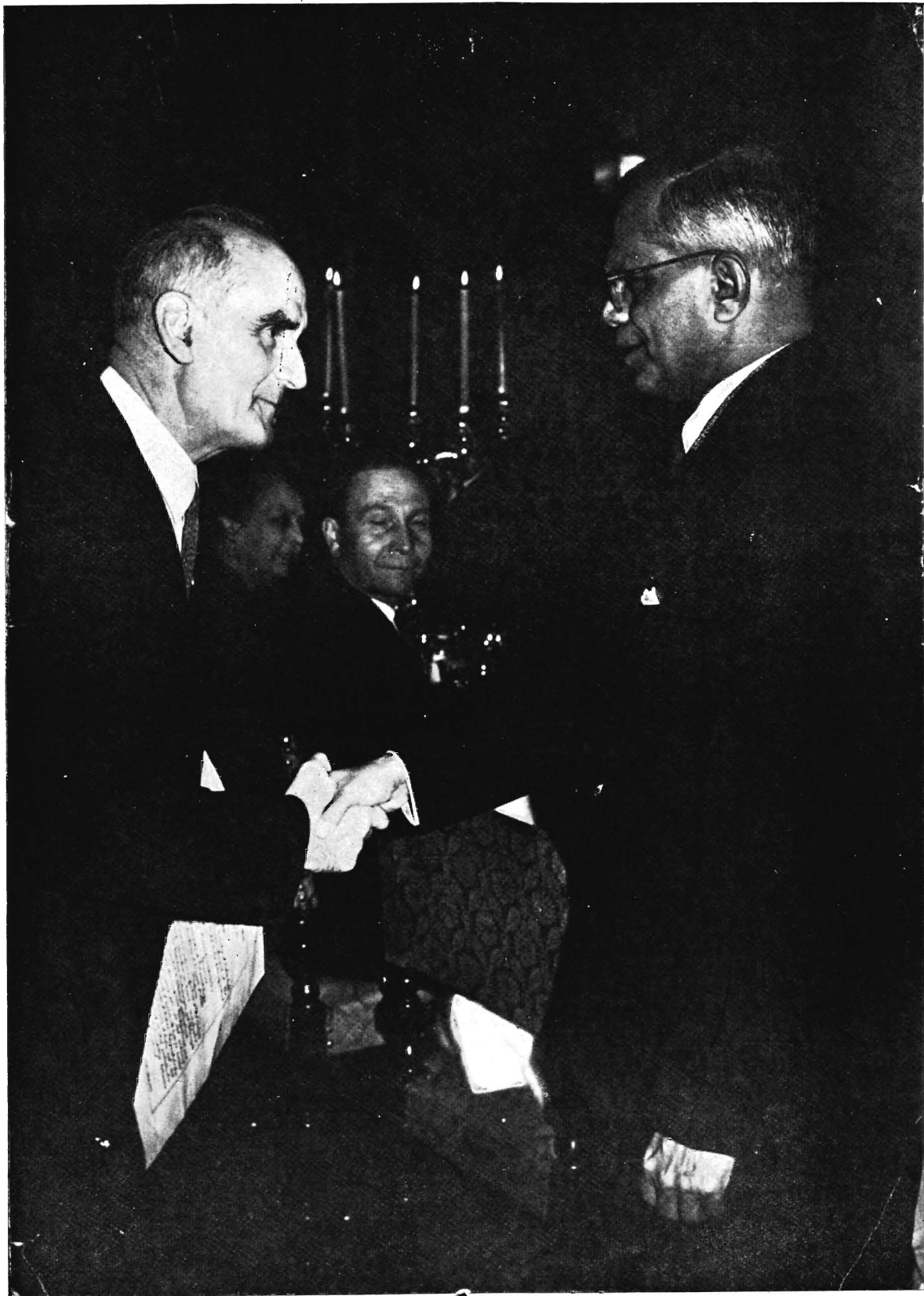
A notable trait of Professor Orlov was warm consideration for his colleagues and associates. I recall our visit to the Soviet Union in 1958 when our first surprise was to find on arrival at Tashkent that the Professor had deputed, all the way from Moscow, Dr. N. N. Kramayarenka a knowledgeable, pleasant and warm-hearted Soviet colleague to meet us at Tashkent airport and to escort us to the metropolis (Pl. IV—2). Nikolai, as we soon came to address him, has a quiet sense of humour which made us feel entirely at home; we were together in the Soviet Union for almost four months, during course of which we met Madame Kramayarenka a medical expert in her own right (Pl. IV—1). Further, both Professor Orlov and Madame N. Orlova accompanied us to far Odessa and Kiev during our visit to these ancient universities and research centres. I take this as a measure of consideration with which both Madame N. Orlova and Professor Orlov were richly endowed.

Professor Orlov was elected Honorary Fellow of the Palaeontological Society of India on the 24th January, 1955.

Professor Orlov's visit in 1960 to the Advance Center of Palaeontology and Himalayan Geology at Chandigarh, a new Department that I had initiated in 1958, was memorable in more ways than one (Pl. VIII—3). He examined with keen interest the vertebrate fauna that we had assembled as the result of sustained fieldwork;<sup>1</sup> thereby he acquired a first-hand knowledge of the Shivalik terrain, (Pl. VI), its field relations and prolific fauna. His suggestions regarding restoration of the fossil mammals and reptiles and delineation of their migration routes were basic to our evolving the present museum which remains, to date, a representative institution of its kind in India. His suggestions regarding restoration of the larger members of the mammalian and reptilian fauna were put into effect partially despite the university's limited financial resources.

From Chandigarh Prof. Orlov and the writer made on 1st January 1960, a long traverse by road to the

<sup>1</sup>This author prefers the term *Shivalik* to *Shivalik* which (latter) is an anglicised version of the Indian term, and is a distortion of the Sanskrit, *Shivalik*.



1. "IN MOSCOW, Indian ambassador K.P.S. Menon congratulates Prof. Yuri A. Orlov, Director of the Institute of Palaeontology, in the Soviet capital after presenting him with the Palaeontological Society of India's first Tata Memorial Gold Medal. Looking on are Mr. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mrs. Englehardt, wife of the noted Soviet Academician." (Photo : *Indian Embassy Moscow*)

PALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA  
SIR DORAB TATA MEDAL

FIRST AWARD

**Citation**

*The Palaeontological Society of India feels honoured to make its First Award of the Sir Dorab Tata Gold Medal to the distinguished Soviet Palaeontologist:*

*Professor Yuri Alexandrovich Orlov  
Director  
Institute of Palaeontology  
Academy of Sciences of USSR  
Moscow*

*This award is made in recognition of Prof. Orlov's outstanding researches on fossil vertebrates, particularly those from the Kainozoic and Palaeozoic formations embodied in numerous publications.*

*The Society also recognises the significant part played by him in many difficult and arduous expeditions in search of vertebrate fossils, besides his services to the cause of Indian Palaeontology, to the Palaeontological Society of India and, not the least, in constituting an ideal ambassador for cementing the bonds of friendship between Scientists of the two great countries.*

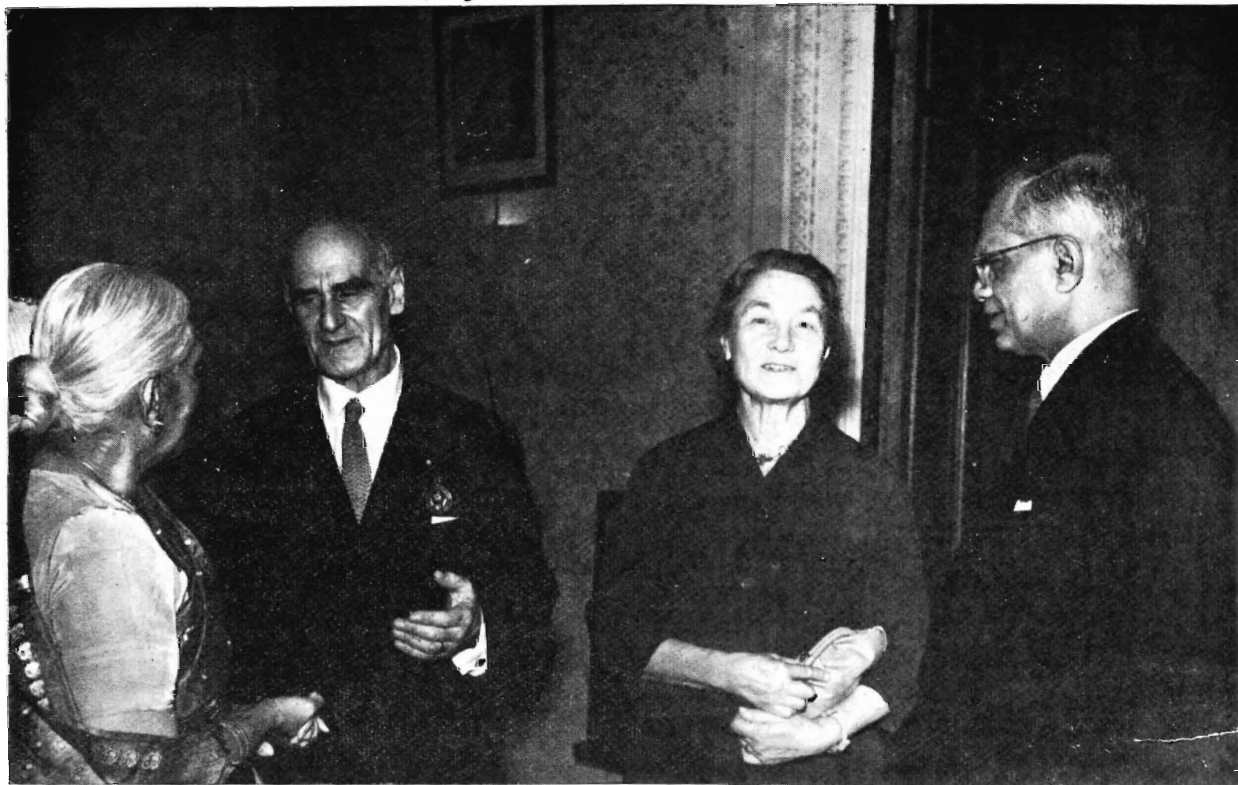


PRESIDENT



The Dorab Tata Gold Medal presented to Prof. Y. A. Orlov at an official function at the Indian Embassy, Moscow. Illustrations on the medal represent Palaeontology, Palaeobotany and Prehistory, included within the orbit of the Society's activities (Photo: Tata Memorial Trust).

Citation by the President, read out by the Indian Ambassador, Mr. K. P. S. Menon during the presentation of the Tata Memorial medal at Moscow.



1. Professor and Mrs. Orlov (center) with the Ambassador and Mrs. K. P. S. Menon (left) at the Indian Embassy at Moscow following the ceremonial meeting. (Photo : Indian Embassy, Moscow)



2. Ambassador K. P. S. Menon and Mrs. Menon admiring the picture of a 100 million year old fossil discovered by Prof. Orlov (left). (Photo : Indian Embassy, Moscow)



1. The Red Square Moscow; Kremlin in the background (from R.-L.) Madame N. Orlova, Mrs. Sahni, Prof. Orlov, Madame Dr. Kramayarenka and the author. (Photo : N. N. Kramayarenka)



2. Professor Y. A. Orlov's office room, Moscow. Prof. Orlov, (right), Dr. N. N. Kramayarenka (left) and Shyama Sahni at the Palaeontological Institute, Moscow. Dr. Kramayarenka succeeded Prof. Orlov as Director of the Palaeontological Institute, Moscow, in 1966. (Photo : Palaeontological Institute, Moscow)

Bhakra-Nangal complex which had been completed a few years earlier. Professor Orlov was naturally interested in the foundation rocks, the Shivaliks, and the engineering devices such as clamping of rocks with steel bars, grouting and extensive use of cement for filling in joints with which the Upper Shivaliks are riddled in generous measure. *En route* we had lunch at the well known Nangal complex whence the irrigation canal system gets its present orientation. Discussion with a friendly Chief of the works whom I had known earlier added to the interest to this visit.

Following the 1960 Science Congress session at Bombay, we visited the well known Eocene Frog beds exposed near Worli some miles from Bombay (Pl. VII—1 and 2). Prof. Orlov made, as usual, some thought provoking observations concerning the possible causes of extermination of this comparatively rare and circumscribed Aneurana fauna in this region.

#### **Meeting with Mr. R. Roerich, Soviet painter domiciled in India.**

During course of these visits Professor Orlov expressed a desire to meet his compatriot, the celebrated painter R. Roerich who is alas! no more with us today. This genial personage with a striking personality had a retiring disposition and avoided publicity, like all great men. We were thus fortunate in arranging this meeting and spent a pleasant hour together. The painter and the geologist spoke mostly in Russian. At the end of the visit Mr. Roerich posed for a photograph which is reproduced here (Pl. V, 1).

#### **Versatile interests :**

Apart from vast field areas covered by him in the Soviet Union, Professor Orlov directed, in collaboration with Professor Chun Chien Young and his palaeobiological and geological colleagues, explorations in various regions of the Chinese Republic. Indeed, when we visited China at the invitation of Academia Sinica (Chinese Academy of Science), following completion of our visit to the Soviet Union in 1958, we were met at Peking railway station by the leading vertebrate palaeontologist, Prof. Young, and his colleagues and also by Professor Orlov who was then proceeding to the Gobi desert for joint field explorations with a large team of Chinese scientists. While we had travelled all the way from Moscow to Peking for eight days and nights by the Trans-Siberian railway (an unusual and rare privilege for non-Russians) Professor Orlov had arrived earlier by

plane along with members of his expedition. This was at the height of the Sino-Soviet *anschluss*. The party also included Prof. E. A. Efremov who is, alas! no more with us. Apart from his palaeobiological work, Prof. Efremov was known for his outstanding science-fiction books and was recipient of many honours and awards. Prof. Orlov, indeed all Soviet scientists have been generous with their publications and we have several volumes presented to us by Prof. Orlov, Prof. O. C. Vialov, Prof. D. B. Obruchev, Prof. B. N. Yakovlev, Prof. and Madame A. E. Kohts, (Founder and Director, Museum Darwinianum) Moscow, Prof. R. Gekker, Prof. T. G. Sartycheva, Prof. Helena Kanzukova, Prof. A. G. Vologdin Prof. M. A. Borsuk, Prof. M. Gani, Prof. G. V. Petrovea, Prof. A. K. Rozdestvensky, Prof. and Mdme O. Islamov, Prof. M. Aliev, Prof. B. P. Makridin, Prof. B. N. Shimansky, Prof. J. V. Menner, Prof. A. L. Takhtajan (palaeobotanist) and many others.

Prof. Orlov's versatile interests in the technical aspects of vertebrate palaeontology, were matched by his keen interest in the wider and general fields of science. To recall an instance relating to an unusual phenomenon in animal psychology : when I showed him at Moscow, the photograph of a little simian that had been adopted by a canine, he proposed my writing a note thereon. He further took the trouble of translating it into Russian and of transmitting it to the Soviet Journal, *Preroda*, for publication (April, 1959).

The Professor's informality and sense of humour made association with him both facile and pleasant. At the Hanging Gardens in Bombay he posed for a photograph standing next to the '*For Children only*' notice which says : "Parents are permitted entry only if accompanied by children" (Pl. VIII, 1). Manifestly, the humour of the situation had not escaped him. In another photograph (Pl. VIII, 4) Prof. Orlov is seen sharing a joke with Prof. C. E. Olson, (Prof. Fleurov in the background). During a long traverse to the Finland border we broke journey en route for a while. Bubbling with energy, Prof. Orlov lost no time in trying a hand at the carpenter's tools; cleanly and expeditiously, he sawed through a wooden plank (Pl. VIII—2).

#### **Outstanding professional career :**

It gives one satisfaction to review the manifold scientific activities of Professor Orlov during his professional career in the Soviet Union. His work was outstanding and earned him place on a high pedestal in science, a position which he so richly deserved. On completion of formal

university education, Prof. Orlov began life as a teacher, first at Perm and later at Leningrad and other institutions. He distinguished himself both as a teacher and as a field palaeontologist all of which resulted in discoveries of, and work on, the well known and remarkably rich *Hipparion* fauna. All this was besides his work on the Carnivores and extensive earlier studies on the Mesozoic reptiles. Some of his later studies which can be described as monumental, deal with the Deinocephalie of the Upper Permian. This was his last important work. He was also founder of the "Review of Palaeontology". I will not attempt to elaborate further what has been already dealt with by Prof. D. B. Obrushev but will quote *in extensio* relevant biographical *extracts* from his work published under the auspices of the Soviet Academy of Sciences :

Pendant un voyage ils visiterent les fouilles réputées de V. P. Amalitski sur la Dvina du Nord. Ces fouilles de même que le livre d'Hutchinson "Les monstres disparus" avaient fait une si grande impression sur le petit garçon qu'il se mit avec enthousiasme à collectionner des fossiles ce qui ne resta pas plus tard sans influence sur le choix de sa spécialité définitive. En 1911 Y. A. Orlov entra à l'Université de Petersbourg à la faculté de mathématique et de physique (section des mathématiques).

Ayant une érudition solide donnée par l'université Orlov débuta comme professeur assistant d'hystologie à deux, puis trois facultés de l'Université de Perm à partir de sa fondation (1 Octobre, 1916). Ensuite il faisait le cours de l'anatomie des animaux domestiques à la faculté d'agriculture (1923) où il aménagea un laboratoire nécessaire à ses travaux pédagogiques et à l'Université de Perm que Y. A. Orlov fit ses débuts scientifiques. Sous la direction du professeur A. A. Zavarzine il procéda à une série de recherches sur la structure fine du système nerveux des invertèbres, système nerveux intestinal des insectes et celui des crustacés, sur l'innervation des mantes des laméllibranches. Ces travaux prouvèrent l'existence convergente entre le système nerveux intestinal des insectes et le système nerveux sympathique des vertébrés, et aussi innattendu pour l'auteur, l'absence de l'arc périphérique de reflexe chez les arthropodes. ....

En 1924 Y. A. Orlov revint à Leningrad. Il fut nommé assistant-professeur de la chaire d'hystologie et d'embryologie dont le chef était prof. A. A. Zavarzine à l'Académie militaire de médecine. ....

Dans les années 1925-1927 on le voit travailleur scientifique au Comité de Géologie, en 1931-33 il devient docent de la chaire de paléontologie à l'École des Mines

et en 1933-1941—professeur de paléontologie à la faculté de l'Université à Leningrad. ....

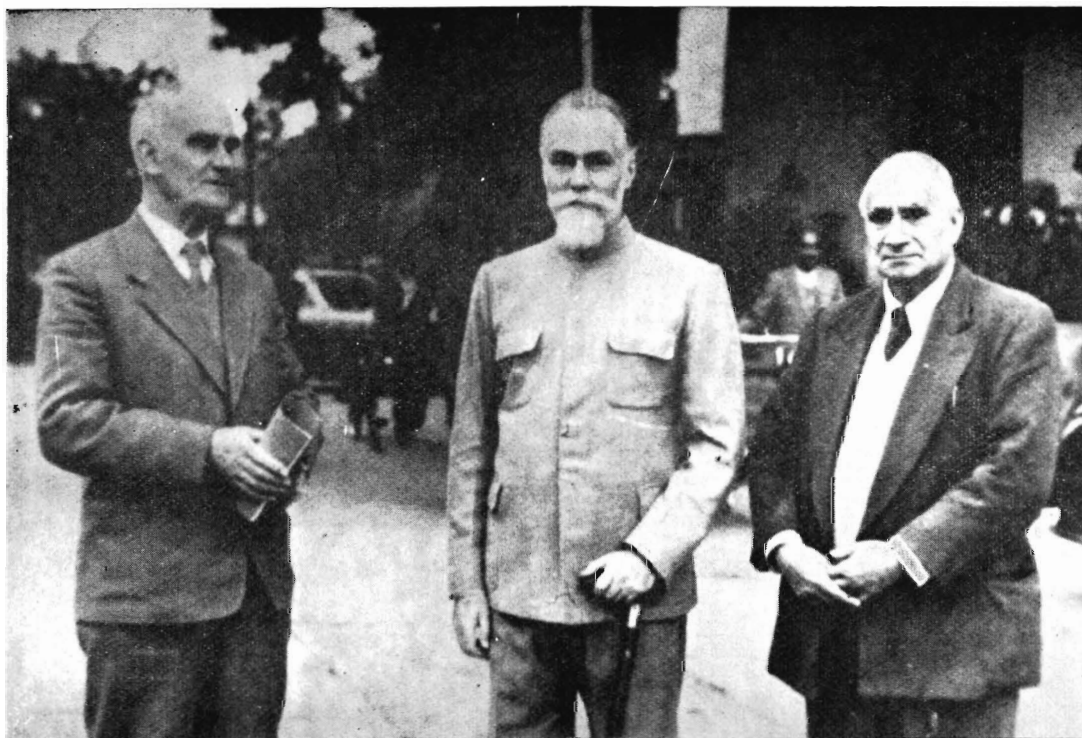
En 1928, sur l'Irtiche près de Pavlodar, Orlov fit la découverte d'une richissime faune d'hipparion des mammifères du néogène et en 1929-1930 il dirigea les fouilles entreprises dans cet endroit par l'Institut de Paléontologie. De très nombreuses collections recueillies furent décrites par plusieurs explorateurs dont Orlov lui même en premier lieu ; il écrivit plusieurs ouvrages voués aux carnivores de la faune de Pavlodar notamment les tigres *Machairodus* (1936), les blaireaux, les martres, les hyènes, les ichtytères (1941), Parmi ces ouvrages le plus intéressant fut celui qui donnait la description du *Semantor* („Prophète "en grec), un carnassier de rivière alliant les signes de la loutre et du phoque. ....

Y. A. Orlov dirigea encore une série d'expéditions de fouilles de l'Institut de Paléontologie. Pour quelques unes il fit la description de l'emplacement et des conditions du gisement des fossiles (par exemple *Betpak Dala*, dans la Steppe Golodnaja du Kazakhstan et *Djaparidzé* en Kakhétie, 1941) qui servait à recueillir les matériaux nécessaires à une branche de la paléontologie nommée plus tard la taphonomie (Efremov, 1950).

Il est indispensable de mentionner encore deux travaux de valeur de Y. A. Orlov. Le premier représente la description du crâne d'une nouvelle martre gigantesque qui ressemble à un ours et à un glouton, martre du myocène supérieur de l'Ukraine, désignée par un nom bien significatif : *Perunium ursogulo* (formé sur le nom de Péroun, dieu des anciens slaves, un ours et un (glouton)). Ces ouvrages donnent la description non seulement des os craniens, mais celle du moulage de la cavité crânienne ce qui permet d'étudier le système nerveux central (le travail sur la neurologie accompli pendant dix ans y contribuait beaucoup). Aussi de faire des conclusions sur le genre de vie de cet animal bien que les données concernant les autres parties de son squelette fassent défaut et aussi sur les causes de sa disparition due à son inadaptation à l'époque du pliocène quand les prairies et les steppes boisées avaient fait place aux steppes sèches et aux demi-déserts. Cette oeuvre fut publiée à Tartou en 1941, mais tout son tirage se perdit, il n'ensresta qu'un premier exemplaire, La seconde fois l'article parut en 1947.

Pour le sujet du second ouvrage (1958) Y. A. Orlov choisit non pas des mammifères, mais des anciens reptiles rapaces—ceux du permien supérieur—des deinocéphales („à tête effrayante") d'Icheevo sur la Volga. Y. A. Efremov donna leur description brève (1940) mais ils

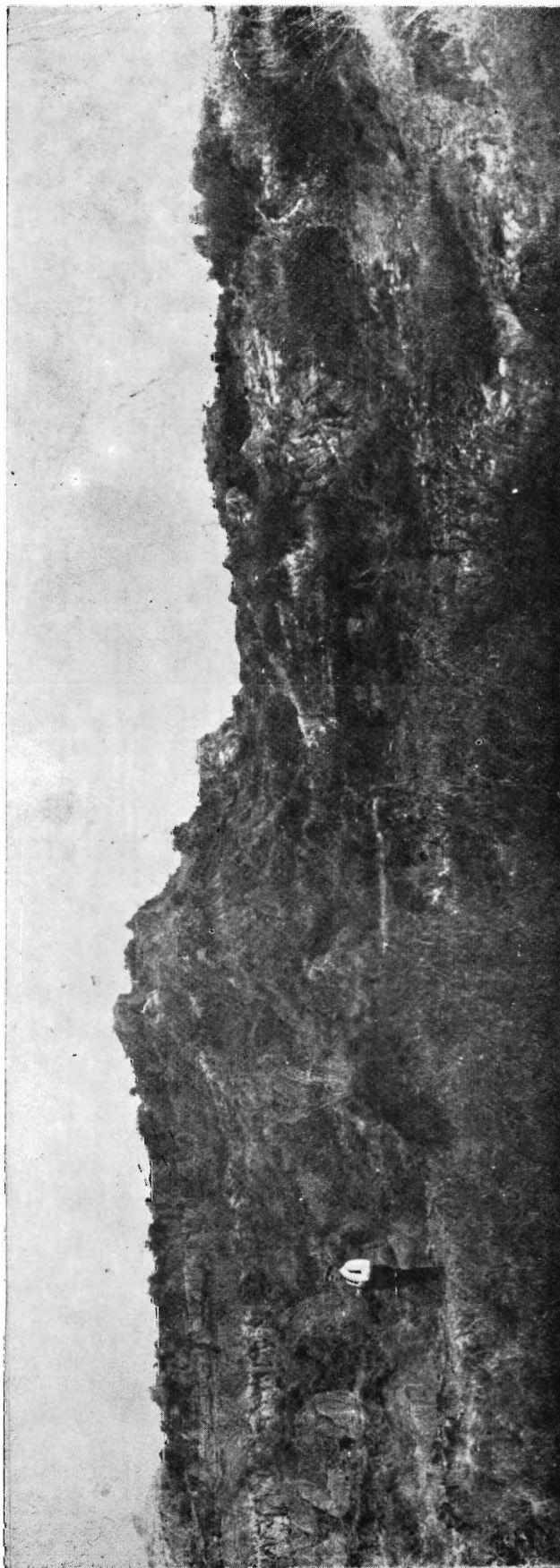




1. Professor Y. A. Orlov in India. In the group are Mr. R. Roerich, celebrated Russian painter (center) Prof. Orlov (left) and the author, when they called on Mr. Roerich, 1960.



2. Professor Dr. Y. A. Orlov at Lucknow. Interviewed by Prof. M. R. Sahni on August 13, 1960, at All India Radio, Lucknow. (Photo : C Mull, Lucknow)



Professor Yuri Orlov on the Shivalik terrain, 1960. (*Photo : Author*)



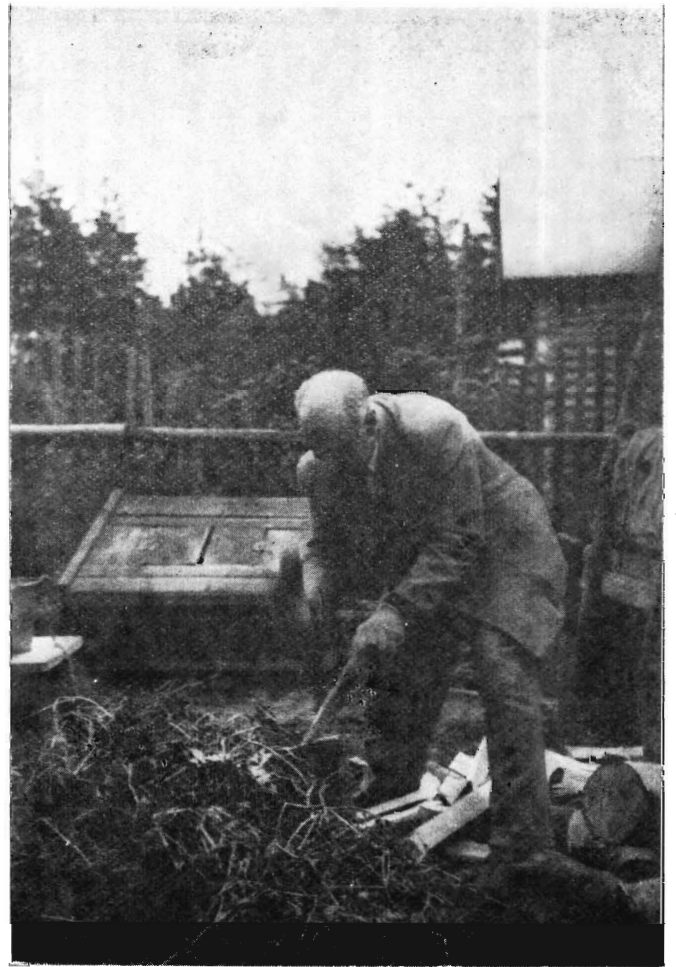
1. Prof. Orlov digging with a shovel at the Eocene Intertrappean Frog beds locality, Worli, Bombay. (Photo : S. P. Jain)



2. Prof. Orlov surrounded by village children at the Worli Fossil frogs locality. Deccan Traps in the background. Prof. Orlov's genial temperament often brought friendly crowds on the scene. (Photo: Author)



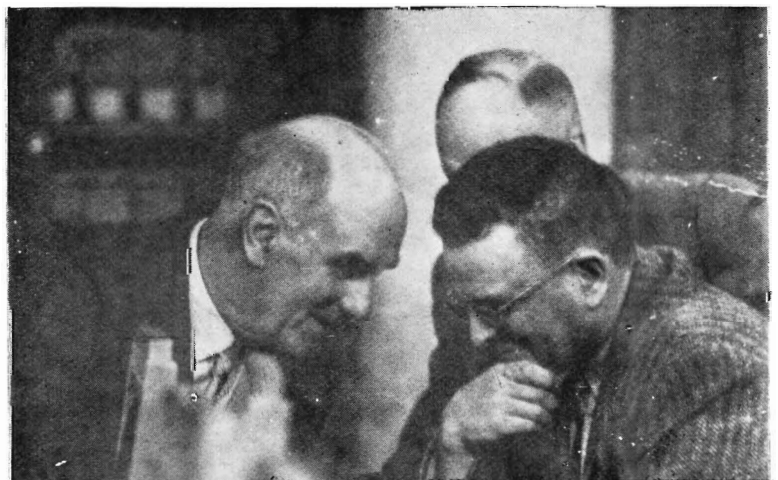
1. Professor Orlov holding the signboard "For children only" displayed at the Hanging Garden, Bombay. (Photo : Author)



2. Professor Orlov takes a hand at the carpenter's tools. Break during an excursion to the Finland border with the author. (Photo : N. N. Kramayare: k1)



3. Prof. Orlov with the author at Chandigarh, Jan. 15, 1960, on the eve of the former's visit to the Panjab University: Geological map of India in background (right). Photo : Harish M. Verma, Geological Department, Punjab University)



4. Engrossed in discussing ? palaeobiological secrets; Prof. Orlov with Prof. Olson; Prof. Fleurov (discreetly) in the background; Moscow, 1965.

furent étudiés pour la première fois par Orlov qui établit trois genres de ces animaux et étudia les particularités de leur ecologie et les traits de ressemblance avec leurs ancêtres les pelicosauriens.

Tout le travail scientifique de Y. A. Orlov se caractérise non pas par le nombre des genres et l'espèces décrites (il décrivit à peine une dizaine de formes nouvelles), mais par le détaillé et par la précision des descriptions aussi que par la compréhension profonde de la nature des traits des squelettes décrits. L'importance de ces œuvres dépasse sensiblement les limites des groupes étudiés. . . . .

Le travail consacré aux deinocéphales permien fut son dernier ouvrage important. Les obligations diverses et compliquées de direction, les soins et les peines que Y. A. Orlov se donnait pour la construction d'un nouveau musée le privaient du temps pour ses études personnelles.

L'Institut de Paléontologie s'est agrandi considérablement pendant les vingt années où Orlov était le directeur. A l'heure actuelle c'est un grand établissement mondial. Y. A. Orlov est le rédacteur-en-chef des 15 volumes du "Traité de paléontologie" accompli par un groupe considérable de paléontologues, paru en 1958—1964. Cet œuvre est devenu un livre de renseignement précieux pour les géologues et les paléontologues non seulement en Union Soviétique, mais dans le monde entier. C'est aussi en 1958 que grâce aux soins persévérants de Y. A. Orlov fut fondée la "Revue de paléontologie" paraissant sous sa direction.

En 1961 a été publié son livre "Dans le monde des animaux anciens" dont la seconde édition paraît après sa mort. Dans ce livre il entreprit d'exposer d'une façon accessible à tous, les résultats de ses investigations et de ses observations dans le domaine de la paléontologie des vertébrés; chez nous c'est un livre unique de popularisation sur la paléontologie écrit en connaissance de cause et au niveau scientifique très haut. Il fut traduit en français. C'est toujours une grande attention que Y. A. Orlov prêtait à l'accessibilité de la paléontologie. Plusieurs articles et notes publiés dans les revues "La nature", Vestnik znanija ("Annales de la science"), "La nature et les hommes", dans la Grande Encyclopédie Soviétique, dans les journaux, dans les éditions étrangères.

On a susmentionné les écoles supérieures où Orlov avait travaillé en qualité de professeur. Après le transfert de l'Institut de Paléontologie à Moscou en 1935 Y. A.

Orlov commença à travailler à l'Université de Moscou où il organisa la chaire de paléontologie dont il était le chef à partir de 1939. Le jour de son décès était le jour du cinquantième anniversaire de son professorat. Nombreuses sont ces générations de zoologues, de médecins, d'agronomes, de géologues et de paléontologues qui se rappellent avec reconnaissance ses conférences pleines de vie et jamais banales. Ce dernier temps il a commencé à écrire un manuel comprimé de la paléontologie des vertébrés, rien que commencé, hélas. . . . .

À dater de 1955 Y. A. Orlov fit quelques voyages dans plusieurs pays étrangers où il prenait part aux congrès et aux symposiums en y faisant rapports et conférences, en organisant aussi des échanges de livres et de collections. Son activité fut marquée par un diplôme d'honneur du Comité Soviétique de la défense de la paix, par une médaille d'or de la Société paléontologique de l'Inde et par le fait d'être élu membre d'honneur de plusieurs sociétés scientifiques étrangères. . . . .

Ayant bien mérité de la science Y. A. Orlov se vit obtenir le grade de docteur ès sciences biologiques honoris causa et en 1946 on lui a décerné le titre de Savant Émérite de la science de la RSFSR. En 1953 il a été élu membre correspondant de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS dont il est devenu membre actif en 1960. Il était décoré de l'ordre de Lénin, de deux ordres du Drapeau Rouge du Travail et de plusieurs médailles.

### Epilogue :

Apart from his erudite scholarship, Professor Yuri Orlov's humanism and deep consideration for his colleagues and friends, were characteristics that distinguished him as a unique personality. Cast in generous friendship's mould, he had an innate desire to help the deserving or those not so favourably placed. By his gracious charm, he had endeared himself to all those who had met him during his two brief visits to this country (1957 and 1960). He had time and a kind word for everybody, even for the youngest and the juniormost. Following his untimely demise, I learnt that few other scientists in Russia had received such homage at the last ceremonials, as this savant. This was a measure and a mark of affection and high esteem in which he was held in the world of science.

We have missed Yuri Orlov all these years and we shall continue to miss him and his gestures of friendship that were offered ever so readily, always.