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International XVII Bartram readings at the art and pedagogical museum of toy named after N.D. Bartram

On December 9, 2025, the 17th International Bartram readings took place at the art and pedagogical museum of toy named after N.D. Bartram, bringing together specialists from Russia and other countries. This year's event was dedicated to exploring the role of games and toys in the military-patriotic education of children and adolescents, which is particularly relevant in contemporary Russian society, as 2025 has been declared the Year of the Defender of the fatherland by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. This focus shaped the discussions among the participants of the 17th Bartram readings.

The organizers of the International Bartram readings were the Russian university of traditional art crafts, the Sergiyev Posad toy institute and the art and pedagogical museum of toy named after N.D. Bartram. They invited educators, museum workers, cultural institution employees, art historians, collectors, scientific experts and toy specialists, as well as representatives of government bodies and public organizations to participate.

The official opening began with musical performances that created a festive atmosphere (Fig. 1⁴).

Representatives of government bodies and public organizations addressed the participants with welcoming speeches. Among them were T.V. Butskaya, deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and first deputy chairman of the Committee on family protection, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood issues, and M.V. Sakhno, head of the separate subdivision of the Foundation for the preservation and development of Sergiyev Posad city (Fig. 2).

E.A. Vtorygina, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee on family protection, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood issues, and deputy chairman of the Board of trustees of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, sent a welcoming address to the participants of the readings.

The main scientific content of the event was concentrated in scientific reports prepared by participants from Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Throughout the day, speakers presented research results dedicated to studying toys in cultural and historical aspects, as well as their role in the military-patriotic education of children and adolescents.

⁴ Figy. 1-7. Photos from the archive of the art and pedagogical museum of toy named after N.D. Bartram.



Fig. 1. The solemn opening of the XVII International Bartram readings was accompanied by musical performances.



Fig. 2. Welcoming speech by M.V. Sakhno, head of the separate subdivision of the Foundation for the preservation, restoration of the historical appearance and development of Sergiyev Posad city.

The reports were distinguished by both a deep level of analysis and a popular science form of presentation, which aroused great interest among the audience. Special attention was paid to online presentations, which allowed for expanding the audience and strengthening interregional ties.

It is worth noting that this year's Bartram readings consisted of two parts: a plenary session and a discussion platform. The plenary part was particularly interesting due to the participation of two well-known academicians. The first to speak was A.I. Savenkov – academician of the Russian academy of education, doctor of pedagogical sciences, doctor of psychological sciences, professor and director of the institute of pedagogy and psychology of the Moscow city pedagogical university, who presented a report titled "Psychological and pedagogical justification of games, toys and educational aids on military-patriotic themes", laying the foundation for subsequent discussions on the theme of the Bartram readings.



Fig. 3. Discussion of reports at the discussion platform of the XVII International Bartram readings

The plenary session was concluded by the presentation of

V.F. Maksimovich – academician of the Russian academy of education, doctor of pedagogical sciences, professor and president of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, on the topic "Childhood – the future of Russia", during which a discussion with the first speaker took place (Figs. 3).

This format contributed to a more comprehensive exploration of the topic and aroused lively interest among the participants.

After the plenary session, the reports were presented in the format of a discussion platform, which allowed all participants to unite in a single space, gave everyone the opportunity to express their opinions and hear the views of others, promoting open and fruitful exchange of ideas. The discussion platform was intense and dynamic, as the unification of participants required limiting the time for each presentation. The report by I.A. Movchan, a graduate of the Sergiyev Posad toy institute, titled "School museum in the context of patriotic education", attracted significant interest. As a token of gratitude, he presented the museum with commemorative souvenirs, including those made based on the motifs of exhibits from the permanent exhibition of the toy museum. This gesture evoked positive emotions and emphasized the atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation at the meeting. Despite the limited time for presentations, the participants delivered substantial reports and demonstrated a high level of preparedness, making the event rich and vibrant.

The program of the readings concluded with engaging master classes, including the creation of a clay toy "Soldier" (based on the Vyrkovskaya toy) and contour wood carving, where participants mastered the basic techniques of Bogorodskoye artistic wood carving while creating toys with military themes. Informal communication during the master classes contributed to further acquaintance among the participants and strengthening of contacts.



Fig. 4. Exhibition of stuffed toys by V.P. Khalyuta "School of courage: Suvorov and Nakhimov cadets in toys"

In addition, the museum's permanent exhibitions and temporary exhibitions by the event participants were open all day, including "School of courage: Suvorov and Nakhimov cadets in toys" (Fig. 4), "Military-patriotic themes in artistic products from birch bark and wood", "Cossack – protector of the motherland and family" and others.

The overall impressions of the XVII International Bartram readings among the participants were positive: the richness of the program, the professional level of the reports and the significance of the meeting for promoting the ideas of military-patriotic education through toys were noted. Participants mentioned that it was interesting to listen to presentations by colleagues from different regions, exchange professional experience, visit exhibitions and participate in master classes (Figs. 6, 7).



Fig. 5. I.A. Movchan, a participant of the XVII Bartram readings and administrator of the Babenskaya toy museum at the children's art school, conducts a master class on painting Babenskaya toys.



Fig. 6. Workshop on making clay toys (based on Vyrkovskaya toys).



Fig. 7. Participants of the XVII Bartram readings informally communicate and share impressions.

The International Bartram readings confirmed their status as an important platform for exchanging experience and knowledge, contributing to the strengthening of ties between regions and countries. Annually, they serve as a dialogue platform between science, museum activities and professional pedagogy in the field of toys, creating conditions for a comprehensive discussion of current topics, combining the scientific approach, museum activities and pedagogical practice into a single space of mutual development and cooperation.