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The Theme of the Issue:

“YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW YOUR NAMES WOULD SHINE WITH GLORY”:
200 YEARS SINCE THE DECEMBRIST UPRISING

FROM THE EDITOR

In 2025, a significant date in Russian history is celebrated – the 200th anniversary of the Uprising on Senate Square. The title of our anniversary issue contains lines by G. Ivanov dedicated to the Decembrists and defining their significance in the historical and cultural memory of Russia. On December 14, 1825, an armed uprising took place in St. Petersburg, which went down in history as the Decembrist uprising. After a very short time, it became clear that the armed uprising on December 14, 1825, was based on a powerful movement called the Decembrist movement. Soviet historical science proved that the Decembrist movement, marking the beginning of the liberation movement in Russia, did not perish with the defeat of the uprising on Senate Square and continued for many years after the uprising, the investigation and trial of the Decembrists. Attitudes towards the Decembrists varied from Tyutchev's “corruption by autocracy” and predictions of exclusion from the historical memory of Russia, from official assessments of protective historiography to exceptional idealization. One thing is indisputable – the Decembrists represent the brightest phenomenon of the historical and cultural memory of our people. They cannot be excluded from the very image of Russian civilization – without them, it will be distorted and incomplete. During the difficult years of the destruction of the USSR, the Decembrists were tried to overthrow from their historical pedestal, humiliate and trample, including in science, vulgarizing research approaches in favor of the new ideological dictate. It didn't work out to rewrite history. Today, the “firstborn of freedom” are once again slowly but surely emerging from oblivion, the burden of historical falsifications, and occupying a lasting place in the historical memory of the people. Museums are developing, conferences are taking place, including youth ones, and today a new generation is once again choosing the Decembrists as their heroes. This is a national memory that has broken through the centuries, through a difficult time of denial. Why is this happening? We will try to understand the historiographical and cultural processes and evaluate this truly unique phenomenon in the thematic issue of the magazine. Who knows, maybe the anniversary year, like 1975, will give a new impetus to the study of the topic of the Decembrists.

The articles of the issue, combined in thematic blocks, largely reflect the state and current trends of modern Decembrist studies. These include further research on the history of secret political societies, biographical studies, issues in historiography and source studies, the study of the literary heritage of the Decembrists and their associates, the museum representation of the history of the Decembrists, and the historical memory of the “firsts of freedom”.

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