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**Book Review:**  
**OLEG S. KOLBASOV. THE BEST WORKS.**  
**(ED. BY IRINA KRASNOVA)**

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2017. ROM. 619 PAGES*

Professor, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (1927-1997) was not only a prominent researcher, a founder of the ecological law – a new branch of law within the system of the Soviet law during hard years of the so-called “stagnation”, a brilliant organizer of inter-disciplinary studies in legal protection of the environment and nature use, but also a theorist, who substantiated principle concepts of ecological law back in the 70s, and who managed to set up the first scientific division in the system of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (now Russian Academy of Sciences) that concentrates on the research of most topical legal issues of environmental protection.

The name of Oleg Kolbasov and his works are well known in Russia and outside the country. Nonetheless it would be reasonable to remind about his input into the ecological law science, about his role in the international cooperation in the area of environment protection. Publication of the best selected works of this prominent researcher in connection with his 90 years birthday anniversary makes a good occasion for such a remembrance. The volume could not evidence all his ideas, but the book in review display in a sufficiently complete manner the outcomes of the scientific achievements, evolution of his ideas in the area of legal protection of the environment and use of natural resources, his efforts to create a scientific academic school.

These works are integrated under one title “Theory of Ecological Law”, but comprise most recognized monographic works and best articles. The book is started with a short, but more than notable “A Will to Ecologs” that Oleg Kolbasov deemed as his duty to word out, while already being death-sick and to leave as a concentrated reflection of his cross life scientific visions.

In a non-standard, but justifiable form the book puts together appreciations and reviews of his colleagues that are illustrated by his wordings and concepts. The Will to Ecologs are followed by Commemorations to a Researcher (p. 7-23) made by leading representatives of the current ecological law science – Sergei Bogoliubov, Natalia Zhavoronkova, Oleg Krassov, Tatiana Petrova, Alexander Golichenkov, Irina Krasnova. The section is also added with explanations of criteria they used to select the works for the publication.

Kolbasov selected works are distributed among three chapters that mark the principle stages of his researches. Chapter 1 “General” comprises the monograph that transformed the ideology of domestic legal scientists – “Ecology: Policy – Law”, published in 1976, and also “Protection of Nature and Reproduction of Natural Resources” – 1978. In the XXI cen-



ture no equal theory as to the rationale and significance has been suggested. For the Soviet scientific area his ideas in fact had a huge impact on the minds, but moreover that was quite unusual in a socialist society, on the reform of the teaching programs of law schools, on concentration of attention on legal protection of the environment in the USSR, gradual understanding of the significance of ecological problems and need to tackle them.

The second Chapter "Theory of Water Use" (p. 301-444) reproduces the text of the monograph "Theoretical Basis of the Water Law in the USSR" that was a concentrated outcome of his long studies and that was a basis for his doctorate dissertation. This deep scientific analysis has not lost its significance till now: approaches, methodology, conclusions and assessments are still being effectively used by water law researchers.

As Oleg Kolbasov was an active participant in the USSR international cooperation, supported links within scientific entities and researchers throughout the world, he could not stay aside from analysis of the international environmental law, and in fact he has introduced the term international environmental law into the substance and contents of Soviet/Russian ecological law area. So, the third Chapter of his works includes the text of his monograph "International Law on Environmental Protection" (p. 445-601).

Under current inter-state conflicts connected e.g. with the Paris Climate Change Agreement and other disputes and problems, it would be reasonable to turn to those principles and axioms that were substantiated in this and others works on international environmental law despite that many years have elapsed since its publication.

The book in review also provides two lists of – his main works (p. 602-609) and his scholars, who defended under his supervision their dissertations (p.610), and to whom Oleg Kolbasov opened a door into environmental law science and who now further continue his heritage (in total 25). It should be added that even when Oleg Kolbasov was not formally named as a supervisor for other scholars, he actually was "father" to many of them.

Thanks to the support of the Rector of the Russian State University of Justice Professor Valentin Ershov, the book has been issued in an excellent format, supplemented with CD-ROM that reproduces most representative for Oleg Kolbasov articles: "Scientific Basis for the Future Union Law on Environmental Protection" (1977), "Legislation on Air Protection" (1981), "Environment under Protection of Law" (1982), "Environmental Law Problems in Juridical Science and Practice" (1984), "Environment Protection Issues in Agriculture" (1989), "Terminological Roaming in Ecology" (1999).

It happens not that often when colleagues pay tribute to their brilliant representatives, therefore, it is fortunate that Oleg Kolbasov's heritage can influence the minds and feelings of the new generation of legal researchers in any legal area, if they apply and read this remarkable book.

*Translation by Irina Krasnova*