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ACTIVITY OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN TURKESTAN KRAI

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Abstract: *The article investigates the process of formation of the first Russian scientific societies in the Turkestan Krai on the material of archive and scientific sources. On this case, major scientific points of the region of Central Asia were pointed out as a main directions of the investigation. Therefore, historical-cultural learnings of the Central Asian territory were stated while conducting both theoretical and practical analyses as the whole.*

Keywords: *Turkestan Krai (territory), scientific society, Russian scientists, scientific expedition, historical-cultural investigations, Central Asia.*

INTRODUCTION

In the second half of the XIX century in Russia and some other European countries interest in the history and culture of the Central Asian people, especially in manuscript publications on ethnography and history, in antique articles made by Central Asian skilled masters Increased. This interest favored creation of organizations of centralized collection, scrutiny, description and publication of the cultural values of the country(Averianov, 2007; Markowitz, 2008; Morrison, 2009).

About 15 scientific societies appeared and began their activity in Turkestan in the 60s and 90s of the XIX century. Among them of special attention were: Turkestan Department of Emperor's Russian Technical Society, Turkestan circle of Archeology Fanciers, Turkestan Department of Emperor's Russian Geographical Society, Society of Oriental Studies, Turkestan Society of Agriculture, Turkestan Medical Society and others. The Administration of Turkestan Krai was not directly related to the organization of scientific societies, as they were organized on the initiative of the central departments of imperial scientific societies and were opened by Russian scientists and representatives of exiled Russian intelligentsia. All scientific societies had to live on their membership fees, and almost did not get anything from the administration of the krai and towns where they were organized. Naturally all scientific societies and fancy circles were under strict state censorship. That is why the main purpose of those scientific societies was to scrutiny the Central Asia deeply and thoroughly in political and economic interests of Russia.

During the invasions of the tsar army deep into Central Asian territories it had already been known that the invaders did not know the geography of the country, let alone the economic situation. This is why some scientists went together with the army. They could not be uninterested in learning Central Asia – a colossal territory, advanced post of tsar sway in the East, whose people had centuries-old history, their own traditions and customs, their own

peculiarities, ancient culture, special way of life(Moje, Quarterly, & 2009, n.d.; Pleskovic, Åslund, Bader, & Campbell, 2000; Zhipeng, Society, & 2001, n.d.).

During their participation in military campaigns the scientists collected rich material about the nature and history, culture and lifestyle of a vast territory. But what was done was only the beginning, the first steps in the little learned field of studying Central Asia, namely Turkestan.

It is characteristic that at the beginning of the activity of the first scientific societies of Turkestan, even the borders of its territory were not clear yet. It was only stated that, "According to approximate calculations of the space of the region it was 15036 square miles, that is, almost the territory of France and Germany taken together." It was also stated that total population census of Turkestan Krai besides Tashkent and Verniy was not carried out, that is why it is impossible to give the exact number of the population" it was clarified approximately.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the sphere of competence of scientific societies there were geology, geography, zoology, botany, medicine, economy, history, oriental studies, archeology, ethnography and others. Creation of the first societies – Central Asian scientific society – dates to 1870. Then G.A. Aminov, A.V. Bunyakovskiy, S.I. Jilinskiy, A.V. Kaulbars, L.F. Kostenko, A.A. Kushakevich, L.N. Sobolev, K.V. Struve and A.S. Tatarinov appealed to the governor-general K.P. Kaufman with a request of confirming the program of a scientific society.

An initiative of creation of "A Collection of Written Works and Articles, Referring to Central Asia and namely to Turkestan" is connected with the activity of Central Asian Scientific Society. In the course of time this unique code of typed material about Turkestan Krai became a monument of cultural work of the foremost Russian intelligentsia. The interest in the problem of creating textbooks and manuals deserves special attention. In particular, I.N. Bekchurin, I.G. Ibragimov, I.I. Yenikeyev, I.A. Aleksandrov and A.L. Kun took to creating a dictionary of native words with transcription in Russian letters for the Russians in order to speak to local peoples. Later a request of creating a dictionary of Russian words transcribed with Muslim letters joined to the application of people of Kokand and Bukhara about creating a handbook of speaking to Russian people. In the process of discussing this question, for more practical application of the dictionary it was decided to create a dictionary not in the form of dictionary but in the form of different conversations. Such a big scientist as A.P. Fedchenko also took part in this project. Though the activity of the Central Asian Scientific Society did not last long, its starting of preparations of Russian-Uzbek and Uzbek-Russian dictionaries and textbooks for learning the Uzbek and Tajik languages for publication found their development in the following activity of other scientific societies(Luong, 2002, 2004).

Simultaneously with Central Asian Scientific Society Turkestan branch of the Society of Fanciers of Natural Studies, Anthropology and Ethnography (SFNSAE) started up its activity. Turkestan branch of SFNSAE was founded in 1870 and existed until 1894. Its initiators were H.A. Btyrshin, M.I. Brodovskiy, G.S. Zagryajskiy, N.A. Mayev, D.K. Myshenkov, L.N. Sobolev, I.P. Suvorov, A.P. Fedchenko, A.M. Fetisov, Yu.D. Yujakov and other Turkestan learners.

In 1878 the first scientific expedition of the Department under the leadership of its secretary V.F. Ohsnin was organized. The purpose of this expedition was investigating Karategin and the territories of upper rich of Amudarya river and collection of natural-geographic information. In the upper rich of the valley of Selsu the expedition discovered one of the most grandiose mountain-glacier formations of the mainland of Asia, and it was named after one of the most outstanding explorers of Central Asia the Glacier of Fedchenko(Critchlow, 2018; Nessipbayeva, Sciences, & 2013, n.d.).

Foundation of the printing house of the Department was a big occasion in the scientific life Turkestan. In 1879 the first issue of the Department "Zapisok" (issue) appeared. This issue was one of the first books published in Russian in Tashkent.

Valuable scientific works of N.B. Teyh dedicated to climatic characteristics of the country were printed out in the issue of "Zapisok". They were based on scientific data of the local chemical laboratory and physical observatory of 1870-1877. Publications of N.A. Cevertsova introducing species of birds, different types of animals, reptiles and fish of Pamir fauna which had not been known earlier to the scientific practice are of great interest. The department did a lot for the development of detailed program of investigation of the nature, economy and culture of the country, and this had the first rate importance. Noticeable place is taken by the Department in preparation of the collection of "Russian Turkestan", published in three books.

THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

The activity of the scientific societies in the conditions of colonial Turkestan did not come to and could not come to broad masses of native population. Some exceptions were made by scientific medical societies in the form of practical implementations. It is known that according to the initiative of the doctors of Tashkent, Andijan and other cities of the country there were men's and women's ambulatories, where the population was serviced for free.

In 1883 Turkestan society of agriculture was organized in Tashkent. Its members beginning from 1884 run successfully enough the first experiments on adoption of American cotton which gave long, fine and incomparably more high yielding fiber.

Tashkent department of the Society of Oriental Studies (1901-1913) takes distinctive place among scientific societies of the colonial period. The purpose of this organization was spreading precise and correct information about Russia among the peoples of the East, as well as introducing material needs and spiritual life of the East to the Russian society. Doing this the Society contributed to the integration of Russia with the Eastern countries and served as a guide of Russian culture among eastern peoples.

Administration of the affairs of the Society of Oriental Studies was carried out by Sovet (council), where there were 3 departments: trade-industrial, scientific-cultural and educational, which was to found the Institute of Oriental Studies for the purpose of "preparing in Russia the personalities for the East".

The Society was closely connected with Tashkent School of Officers of Eastern Languages (1897), where there Urdu, Persian, Sart, Afghan (Pashto), Chinese (from1911) and English were taught; courses of Muslim law, history of military statistics of Central Asia and neighboring countries were conducted (from 1910). The courses first of all had an object of reinforcing the army of the military district with "officers orientalists", which was related to political interests of tsarism in the Middle East and Central Asia. For more effective work, on the initiative of the members of Tashkent Department, the Society of Orientalists created free courses of the Russian language, attendants of which were handicraftsmen and artisans and other representatives of the local population and city lower classes(Studies & 1995, n.d.; Tiberghien, 2016).

In the middle of 1891Turkestan Department of Russian Technical Society officially opened in Tashkent. The purpose of the society was in to contribute to spreading technical education and new technologies among the Russian speaking population of the country. By the beginning of 1892 there were 92 members of the society. 12 of them were civil engineers, 11- cotton growers, 6- military and civil doctors, 3- sappers, 2 mountain engineers, two land surveyors, 2- manufacturers, 1- silk producer, 2- pharmacists, 2- telegraphers, 2- photographers, 1- mechanic, 1- mathematician, 1- chemist, 1- wine maker, 1- telegraph technician, 4- militaries, 6- others.

We can see that considerable part of the personnel were the representatives of military and civil technical intelligentsia – mountain and civil engineers, sappers, artillerymen, land surveyors, mechanics and others. Then goes a group of so called cotton growers, among whom there were specialists of cotton as well as cotton grower – entrepreneurs.

The Department could organize its own library at the expense of subscription and donation. The central department of the Society transferred as a gift its technical publications to the library. By December 31 1897 there were more than 400 books in the library. The main directions of the activity of the Department of the Society were organization of scientific reports and notes; consultation of the members of the Department in scientific-technical questions for different offices, organizations and individuals; organization excursions of the members of the Department to production enterprises, construction sites, places of technical edifices; scientific popularization work; learning as a special commission conditions and perspectives of development of cottage industry of Turkestan Krai.

Short survey of the condition of the degree of learning the mineral values of Turkestan is given in the article of a mountain engineer D.K. Myshenkov. it counted attempts of working out and implementation of mineral resources in Turkestan and told about the very poor condition of mining industry of the country. Vyshenkov writes, - there are so a big mass and diversity of mineral resources that can be found nowhere in the globe. There is gold (placer), silver, copper, iron, zink, lead, antimony, manganese, arsenic, graphite, coal, asphalt, oil, mineral wax, refractory clay, common salt, Glauber's salts, saltpeter, ammoniac; and then: turquoise, malachite, amethyst, garnets, different construction materials, that is: all sorts of stones, excellent marbles, gypsum, refractory clays, shale giving excellent waterproof cement and others."

Publication of D.K. Myshenkov contained appeal of concentrating their attention on the question of the further investigating natural resources to the members of the Department in order to use them in the interests of manufacturing development of the country. Popular and generally accessible lectures of the members of the Debarment provoked great interest of the audience. For instance, during the period of 1893-1897 the following lectures were heard: A.P. Mikhaylov "О горном деле в Туркестанском крае. Исторический очерк этого дела в крае и развитии его в ближайшем будущем" (About Mining in Turkestan Krai. Historical Sketch of this Field in the Country and Its Development in the Near Future); I.T. Poslavskiy "О водоснабжении города Ташкента" (About Water Supply of the City of Tashkent); K.M. Oberuchev "Изучение отделов кустарной промышленности Туркестанского края" (Studying the Directions of Cottage Industry of Turkestan Krai); N.A. Petrov "Об ирригационных работах, предпринятых Министерством земледелия в Туркестанском крае" (About Irrigational Work Done by the Ministry of Agriculture in Turkestan Krai). N.I. Gabbin made a report about a new type of kerosene light, so called "Washington Light". He also made a report on "Production of Bullock Carts in Tashkent", interspersing his report with displaying tools, material and models of machines for production of different parts of items. A number of articles about cottage industry also belong to N.I. Gabbin.

The given list of reports, though it is not full, makes it possible to conclude that the Department paid attention to quite actual, practically important and vital questions of those times. The initiative of propagating scientific-technical knowledge of the Department was very useful. Interesting and popular lectures on scientific-educational aspect and generally accessible lectures were organized. The themes of the lectures covered the questions of mineral prospecting, using water energy, oil, coal and salt extraction, technology of iron-smelting, ironworks and steel mill production. Lecturers introduced scientific discoveries too the hearers.

For example, A.P. Mihaylov conducted a lecture "X-ray Photography" (October 31 1899), accompanying it with examples from his own practice in the field of X-raying.

DISCUSSIONS

Intensively went on consultative activity of the Turkestan Department of the Russian Technical Society. Members of the Department issued different sorts of certificates and pieces of advice, and they were handed to various technical matters to offices as well as to individuals. For instance, great attention was paid to the discussion of the project of construction of the industrial school in Tashkent; discussion of placement of the city hospital of infectious diseases in Tashkent; practical way of macadamization of roads in the towns; water piping and others. The Department actively took part in preparatory work of organizing Turkestan Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in 1899. It seems that this year was the last productive year of the activity of the Department. Its inaction in the 1900s is confirmed by the attempt of organizing Turkestan Society of Engineers and Technicians in Tashkent in 1906. But Turkestan Department of the Russian Technical Society was officially in action(Karimov, 1998; Simon & Zhou, 2017).

Historical and cultural study of the Central Asia also was going on; the most attention to it was paid by such offices and organization as Faculty of the East of the University of Petersburg, Eastern Department of Russian Archeological Society, and Committee of Learning Central and Eastern Asia in archeological, linguistic and ethnographic respect, partially Emperor's Archeological Commission, Russian Geographical Society and the Society of Fanciers of Natural Studies, Anthropology and ethnography with their Turkestan Departments, some local scientific societies. [11;]

Names of such outstanding scientists as P.M. Melioranskiy, A.N. Samoylovich, V.V. Radlov, V.R. Rozen, M.A. Gavrilov, P.A. Zimin. Ye. F. Kal, A.L. Kun, M.N. Rostislavov, A.A. Semyonov and others are connected with the activity of these offices who dedicated the considerable part of their activity to the exploration of the Central Asia. [12;28]

Central Asian scientific Society had been carrying on its activity in Turkestan Krai since November of 1869. Its members designated their task in the appeal to the Governor-General K.P font Kaufman on January 28, 1871: "collecting, processing and spreading all information connected the history, geography, epigraphy, natural resources, trade and industry of the Central Asia".[13;71-72]

There were 41 members of the society including N. Aristov, A.V. Bunyakovskiy, A.L. Kun, A.P. Fedchenko, A.V. Kaulbars, N.A. Mayev, N.F. Petrovskiy. The members of the society made reports and wrote articles on such problematic isses as: "About the directions of trade routes in Turkestan Krai" (G.Zagryajskiy); "About the most ancient Geographical Information of Central Asia" (L.N. Sobolev).[13;81-83]

Fruitful was the work done by the Turkestan Department of the Society of Fanciers of Natural Studies, Anthropology and Ethnography. Thus the department received as a gift a collection of ancient coins in the amount of 477specimen. Three Greek-Bactrian coins and 2 coins of Kushan tsars of Vasudeva and KAdfiz.[13;89-98]

Tashkent Department of Orientilists (1901-1913) whose purpose was introducing material needs and spiritual life of the East to the Russian society by organizing exhibitions, lectures, making expeditions, doing translations filled up the gaps in the history of the Central Asia and disclosed its rich spiritual and material world to the wide circle of interested people.[13;126]

Scientific societies of Turkestan contributed to opening in Turkestan Krai and filling the funds of museums, on the basis of which the work of Tashkent (1871), Samarkand (187), Fergana (1899) museums and the Turkestan Public Library (1870) was carried on.

With the efforts of the local figures of and with the support and participation of V.V. Bartold on December 11, 1895 the Circle of Fanciers of Archeology of Turkestan (CFAT). It existed until 1917 and contributed to the study of many sides of ancient and middle ages history of Central Asia.(Fierman, 1991; Simon & Zhou, 2017)

Among the interests of the circle there were questions of history, archeology, numismatics, ethnography, epigraphy as well as collection, study and publication of Eastern manuscripts. Charter of the circle says that its activity should include the following: a) acquaintance with historical monuments situated in Turkestan Krai; b) their description and marking on archeological map of the country; c) carrying out archeological excavations; processing local archeological material for the press.

Such outstanding figures of Turkestan Krai as N.G. Mallitskiy, N.P. Ostroumov, N.S. Lykoshin, V.P. Nakivkin, A.A. Semyenov and some others were also the members of the circle.

Among the various finds and researches the most interesting were: studies of ruind of Binkent, Shakhruhiya and Kang by Ye.T. Smirnov; finding of an ancient flag with Tibet and Sanskrit prayerful inscriptions by V.A. Kallaur; exploration of a Nestorian temple by I.V. Anichkov and M. Kallaur not far from Avliyo Ota; discovery of a Nestorian graveyard with the an image of cross and inscriptions ; reports of M. Kallaur about “Ancient places of Aulieatin District on the old Caravan route from Taraz (Talas) in the Eastern Turkestan”, discussion of the impact of Central Asia and India on Russian Architecture [15;34]; publication of the article of a clergyman A. Korchagin “Historical Destiny of Nestorianism in the Central Asia”; V.V. Bartold’s speech in the circle where he reported that there were monuments of Uyghur, Syrian, and Orhon literary texts in Asia; reports of A.D. Kalmykov “About Amudarya Treasure and British Museum”, “Amudarya Treasure and Greek-Bactrian Art” and the note of M.N. Kostalskiy about Greek-Bactrian coins; archeological ezcavations in 1914 in the ancient city of Paikend and many others. CFAT made all efforts for strengthening and conservation and reconstruction of historical monuments, for preventing outflow of relics of the history from the territory of the Russian Empire.

The funds of scientifically checked and generalized data, congested by the Russian scientists, was not enough for interpretation of the remote history of the Central Asia.

Undoubtedly, the first serious fundamental investigations of the scientists-orientalists of the second half of the XIX century were based considerably on the data of the richest local historiography, representing in total a weighty historic-cultural contribution of the peoples of the Central Asia to the treasury of the world culture.

To sum up it is worth to mention that analysis of archive and various different sources of the history of activity of cultural-educational societies of Turkestan Krai make it possible to make the following conclusions:

- Firstly, the administration of Turkestan Krai was directly related to the organization of scientific societies, as they were created on the initiative of central departments of imperial scientific societies and were opened on the initiative of Russian scientists and exiled representatives of Russian intelligentsia to Turkestan Krai;
- Secondly, in Turkestan, during the period under our investigation, the first circles, societies and organizations emerged in the very different layers of the Russian society:

among Russian intelligentsia, students, learners, among workers, soldiers and even peasants;

- Thirdly, the fund of scientifically checked and generalized data, congested by the Russian scientists, was not enough for interpretation of the remote history of the Central Asia.

One thing – the fact that the first serious fundamental investigations of the scientists-orientalists of the second half of the XIX century were based considerably on the data of the richest local historiography, representing in total a weighty historic-cultural contribution of the peoples of the Central Asia to the treasury of the world culture is undoubted.

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