

Works of Local Authors in the “Turkestan Collection”

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ABSTRACT: The article contains an analysis of local works published in the “Turkestan Collection”, which is an important source in the study of the history of the period of the rule of the Turkestan region of the Russian Empire. Thus, the Russian government studied these works in order to form the knowledge and attitude to the national values of the local population.

KEYWORD: “Turkestan collection”, Khoja Akhrar Vali, “History of Turkestan”, Monuments of Samarkand, “Babur-name” etc.

Importance of the topic. The importance of sources in the study of history is immeasurable. These sources give a better insight into the spirit and environment of the period under study. One such important source is the Turkestan Collection, collected during the Russian Empire, and today it is part of the collection of rare editions and manuscripts of the A. Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan. This collection contains scholarly and popular articles about the historical, ethnographic, economic, and cultural life of Central Asia before 1917.

Methodology. Various historical methods have been used in the writing of the article. In particular, based on the principle of historicity, the aim of the study was to conduct scientific research based on a chronological approach. In addition, attention was paid to showing historical processes in dynamics.

Historical-comparative, statistical and chronological research methods were also used in the research process. The cohort method proved to be particularly effective. Cohort analysis was used extensively to summarise information about the researchers involved in the study. For this purpose, their approaches were summarised by dividing the data recorded in the Turkestan Collection into certain groups. This type of analysis allowed the big picture to be embodied.

Research findings. “Turkestan Collection” (full title “Collection of articles and works related to Turkestan Territory and Central Asia”) [1] A collection of publications in Russian and foreign languages about Central Asia, particularly about Turkestan, published in Russia and abroad between 1867 and 1917. It consists of a collection of newspapers, journals, articles, various statistical studies, monographs, and other types of publications and is almost as good as the Alisher Navoi National Library. It was prepared by the prominent bibliographer E. K. Mezhev (1830-1894). This collection, created to provide diverse information about life in Turkestan region, and to identify and collect natural, economic and resource potential of the region, sources of raw materials, subsequently transformed into a unique collection of bibliographical, historical, artistic and scientific literary sources.

The collection consists of a total of 594 volumes, the main part of the "Turkestan collection", which is currently kept in the Alisher Navoi National Library. The collection was created under the guidance of V.I. Mezhov. The collection was compiled in St. Petersburg in 1867-1887. Volumes 417-543 compiled in 1907-1910 and volumes 544-591 compiled in 1911-1916 were published in Tashkent. The last 3 volumes of the Turkestan Collection (Vol. 592 to Vol. 594) were compiled by the librarian E.K. Betger.

In 1876 a "Special Committee" was established to organise the "Turkestan Collection". In 1907 I.V.Dmitrovskiy, ethnographer A.A.Divaev, head of Turkestan library I.P.Zykov, and they compiled 127 volumes. N.V.Dmitrovskiy's services were excellent in the realization of this task. In the process of creation of the Turkestan Collection newspaper articles were cut out and pasted onto white paper, magazines and books were stitched together in a periodical sequence. The number of journal articles exceeded 10,000.

Indicators were also compiled to facilitate the use of the Turkestan Pack. Initially, V. I. Mezhov prepared a special index for the parts he compiled [2,3]. It consisted of two parts - **alphabetical and systematic**. The alphabetical index consists of the following three parts - an index of names (authors, translators and names occurring in the bibliography), an index of geographical names; it consists of an index of authors, objects, subjects mentioned in the foreign bibliography.

The Turkestan Collections systematic index groups the materials of the collection on a territorial basis. The first group includes works of political, historical, geographical content on Central Asia, travels and scientific expeditions in the region; the second group includes information on Central Asian territories that went under Russian Empire; the third group includes Bukhara, Khiva, Turkmenistan, East Turkestan khanates, which were outside Russian Empire control in the region, Mongolia, Kashgar, Afghanistan, Herat, etc., and the fourth group contains a list of literature on India's relations with Central Asia, Afghanistan, Herat and other countries. The systematic index included a mountain section which, along with geology, included publications on other natural sciences, medical bibliography, linguistics, and rhetoric.

E.K.Betger and O.V.Maslova compiled separate indexes for 175 volumes (volumes 417-591) of the "Turkestan collection" prepared in Tashkent. O.K. Maslova lists publications related only to Turkestan, or more specifically, to the history of the republics that were part of the former Soviet Union [9]. E.K. Betger prepares an index of information related to neighbouring countries in the "Turkestan collection". This index is an independent bibliographical reference book, in which the materials of the collection by countries are presented in chronological order, each book, article is provided with explanatory comments. At the end of the index each author, surname, ethnographic and geographical name is indicated.

In addition to scientific research by representatives of Russian, English, French and other foreign languages, this collection also includes the scientific views of local intellectuals. In particular, an article by local intellectual Mukhtorbek Nasirbekov in the 492nd volume of the collection mentions Khoja Akhror Wali, under whom peace reigned in Movarunnahr for a time thanks to the settlement by Khoja Akhror Wali of a dispute between the Timurid princes Babur. Shoh, Shahrukh Mirza and Sultan Abu Said. The ranks of Ahror Wali are said to have increased [4].

Moreover, the History of Turkestan, written by Mullah Olim Makhdum Khoja, was included in the Turkestan Collection, and this book was published in 1915 to mark the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Tashkent by the Russian Empire. [7] In this book, in contrast to the traditional Kokan historiography, in addition to the history of the Kokan Khanate, the author also described parts of the history of Bukhara and Khiva khanates. In addition, the work reveals such issues as internal conflicts in the khanates and leadership in relations during the occupation of the country by the Russian Empire. Also, according to the author, the reforms undertaken by the imperial government in the last 50 years have served for the development of Central Asia. Mullah Olim Makhdum Khoji has published this work for 40 years on the pages of the "*Turkestanskiye*

Vedomosti”, where he works. It should be noted that a feuilleton about this work was published in the periodical as early as 1915. [8] This reflects the positive attitude of Russian researchers to this work. In addition, this work was republished in the years of independence. [10] This book tells about the historiography of the Kokan Khanate and explicitly mentions the activities of Mullah Olim Makhdum Khoja as a successor of this school.

The Turkestan Collection also included studies on the analysis of inscriptions on historic architectural structures, in which representatives of the local population took an active part. In particular, in 1896 Russian researchers noted the great merit of Mirzo Abusaid Makhsum of Samarkand in studies related to the translation of inscriptions on historic monuments in Samarkand. In this study S. A. Lapin translates,

G.A. Pankratev participated as a photographer. As a result of his research, Gori Amir, Shahi Zinda, Bibi Khanim Madrasah, the Mosque and Calligraphic Mausoleum, Sherdar, Mirzo Ulugbek Madrasah, Shaybani Khan's Tomb, and the Tomb of Khoja Zud Murad, Tomb of Khoja Ishaq, Madrasah Nadir Devonbegi in the Tomb of Khoja Ahror Vali in Samarkand The inscriptions in the relics have been translated into Russian and made available to a wide range of readers [6].

This collection also includes excerpts from the works of great native thinkers. In particular, the part of "*Boburnoma*" by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, devoted to the description of the city of Samarkand, was translated into Russian in the "*Turkestan collection*". [5]. It provides detailed information on the history of the city, its situation during the time of Amir Temur and historical buildings included in the city. It is noteworthy that in the work the author, assessing Amir Temur's reforms, came to the conclusion that "the city of Samarkand has never achieved such greatness in history as during the time of Amir Temur". Furthermore, the author elaborated on Amir Temur and the creative works carried out in the city of Samarkand during the Timurid period.

Conclusion. The Turkestan Digest remains one of the rare sources of the 19th and early 20th centuries in the scientific heritage of Central Asia. It contains valuable historical information on the internal and external relations of the region, the history and economy of neighbouring countries, the geopolitical situation of the time, and the history and culture of the peoples of Central Asia. As a historical source, it is therefore of great interest to domestic and foreign specialists who study the history of Uzbekistan and the neighbouring countries, particularly in Asia and the East.

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