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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES OF THE TURKESTAN ARCHEOLOGY AMATEURS' CIRCLE

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ABSTRACT

The documents informing about the results of scientific research carried out in the country by the circle of archeology amateurs of Turkestan, which researched Central Asia and its neighboring regions, are stored in the National Archives of Uzbekistan. Documents from archive funds were purposefully used to reveal the content of the article. In this article, the archaeological, ethnological, linguistic, epigraphic scientific researches of the Turkestan region in the second half of the 19th century - the beginning of the 20th century are studied. The article reveals the essence of the scientific research conducted on the basis of the Togarak charter.

KEYWORDS

Governor General of Turkestan, Russian Empire, Archaeological Commission, charter, Central Asia, Bibikhanim, archeology, obida, madrasa, EOL pillars, T.A.C., jeton, jamghara, numismatics, ethnography.

INTRODUCTION

In the country, a scientific society related to archeology - Turkestan Archeological Amateurs' Circle was established according to the decree of Emperor Nicholas II. Togarak studied the history of the country not only from an archaeological point of view, but also from ethnological, linguistic, epigraphic and other aspects. The members of the circle also carried out medieval, genealogical, numismatic and other researches.

The charter of the club consists of 21 clauses, and according to it, its activities consist of the following:

- a) Study of ancient monuments located in the territory of Turkestan;
- b) Carry out their description and recording on the archaeological map of the country;
- c) Protection of archaeological monuments;
- d) Carrying out archaeological excavations;
- e) Processing of local archaeological materials for publication [1].

According to the above charter, the honorary chairman was the governor-general of the country. It is made up of the honorary chairman of the club and the actual members and staff of the club. In 1895, when the club was founded, its honorary chairman was Baron A. B. Vrevsky, the governor-general of the country. As

founding members of the circle, K.V. Aristov, V.V. Barthold, S.M. Gramenitskyi, N.L. Zeland, F.M. Kerensky, N.S. Likoshin, V.P. Nalivkin, D.V. Nazarov, V.F. Oshanin, N.P. Ostroumov, V.O. Preobrazhensky and others are noted [2].

Among the founders of the circle and its members were scientists and representatives of the field of education, major officials and soldiers, as well as not only researchers in the country, but also researchers working in the central provinces of the Russian Empire.

During its activity, the circle established contacts with major historical scientists working in St. Petersburg and Moscow. Even the idea of the organization of this circle came from the famous St. Petersburg scientist V.V. Barthold's initiative and effort [3].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

A management body consisting of a vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer was elected from among the members of the circle to implement its activities for a period of one year. The vice-chairman was responsible for convening the board members and the general assembly of the club, and the treasurer was responsible for the economic and financial issues of the club. The secretary kept minutes of the club's management and general assembly meetings.

Organization of the work of the circle was carried out by the vice-chairman N.P. Ostroumov from 1895 until its termination (1917). During the period of Togarak's assignment and his personal management, many archaeological monuments in Turkestan and adjacent regions are explored, several new findings are put into scientific circulation. Although the activity of the club was not conducted academically by its amateur members, the results of the club's activities later laid the foundation for the development of Central Asian archeology and the history of history.

The minutes of the January 22, 1896 circle meeting show that E.T. Smirnov presented the scientific information "Ancient monuments around the city of Tashkent" in the form of a lecture. Also, the materials of this lecture were published in the "Central Asia" collection. At this meeting, the member of the circle H.B. Gemlon donated the ancient Bukhara coins to the Turkestan Archeological Enthusiasts Club. In the minutes of the meeting, it was determined that the ancient finds found during the construction of the Samarkand-Andijan railway would be handed over to the circle. One of the founding members of the circle, D.V. Nazarov presented a special token project for members of the club. In the decision of the meeting, the size of this token is smaller and T.A.C. (Turkestan Archaeological Circle) was asked to design a monogram of letters [4]. A token was then prepared and held by each member of the circle [5].

According to the minutes of the meeting kept in the archives, Baron A.B. Vrevsky set the circle fund for 1896 at 250 rubles. The rest of the expenses are covered by the funds collected from the membership fee. Also, at this meeting, the Turkestan Military Topography Department requested a map of Tashkent, which will be needed for excavation work in O'tror and Shymkent districts.

In the document describing the meeting of the circle on February 26, 1896, the instructions of the Consul General of the Russian Empire in Kashgar, N.F. Petrovsky, on the research of Tashkent monuments were discussed. During the meeting, an ancient Mongolian yak belonging to the Ktai black Kyrgyz (Kyrgyz - A.N.) clan, sent by V.A. Kalaur, a real member of the circle, was discussed. It was later sent to Baron Rosen for research. It is in this meeting that the military engineer N.T. Poslovskiy has information that he studied the ruins of the ancient city of Termiz on the right bank of the Amudarya. Also, a member of the circle M.A. Terentev taught the gathering how to copy epigraphic inscriptions on stones using wet paper, and donated a collection of local language chrestomathy to the group. According to the task of the circle, the circle M.S. Andreev in cooperation with N.G. Mallitsky gave information about the trip to inspect the Kon-i-Gut cave, Varukh gorge, Kokand uezd [6]. It was at this meeting that the "Instructions for correspondent members of the Turkestan

Archeological Amateurs Circle” compiled by S.M.Gramenitsky was prepared.

It should be noted that the members of the group conducted archaeological excavations in the monuments of Afrosiyob in Samarkand, Poykent in Bukhara, Khojabakirgansoy basin in Khojand, places near Oratepa, and ancient structures around Tashkent. In addition, the members of the circle were engaged in recording and accounting of ancient artifacts, oriental manuscripts, numismatics and ethnographic materials[7].

In addition to conducting archeological research, this fund can also monitor the issue of preservation of architectural monuments in the territory of the country. In particular, the information about the damage of the famous Bibikhanim Mosque in Samarkand as a result of the earthquake and the measures taken in this regard are noteworthy. The information showing the efforts of Turkestan Archeological Amateurs’ Circle in this regard and the attitude of the country’s administration to this issue are reflected in the documents of the fund.

According to archival documents, as a result of the earthquake of September 5, 1897, a number of historical monuments in Samarkand region, in particular, the Bibikhanim mosque mentioned above, were damaged[8]. Soon, Turkestan Archeology Amateurs Circle will contact the administration of

Samarkand regarding the preservation and restoration of the damaged architectural monuments.

In response to this, on September 9, 1897, the translator of the military governor of the Samarkand region wrote in a reply letter addressed to the vice-chairman of the circle, N.P. Ostroumov: “The broken roof of the Bibikhanim madrasa (mosque - A.N.) has not been put in order in the form of a heap of stones. These stones are protected by the local government and will soon be sorted”[9].

As a result, according to the order of the military governor of Samarkand region, Count N. Ya. Rostovtsev (1891-1897), the works of repairing the buildings destroyed by the earthquake began. However, the renovation works were carried out without the permission and participation of the official authorities and the official processes stipulated by the legislation of that time. About this, the Archaeological Commission of the Russian Empire rightfully claimed to the Governor-General of Turkestan that the local administration is not aware of the legislation on ancient monuments. Because according to the charter of the Imperial Archaeological Commission, it is forbidden to destroy ancient monuments without the permission of the commission. However, in the spring of 1897, according to the order of Governor N. Ya. Rostovtsev, during the repair process, the upper part of the last surviving minaret of the Bibikhanim Mosque was demolished due to the negligence of the

repairmen. The Archaeological Commission was not informed about this and no drawings of the demolished parts were taken. This incident happened at the time when the Imperial Archaeological Commission was carrying out the description of the mosques in Samarkand. Furthermore, any major restoration work on the 11th March 1898 historical sites was carried out with prior approval from the Imperial Archaeological Commission. The Imperial Archaeological Commission issued a circular stating that it is mandatory for local authorities to refer to the Imperial Archaeological Commission in any matter related to ancient monuments[10].

In the 13th collection of the I-71 fund, information about distances between regions is given. Also, in a letter written by the head of the Temur station of the southern section of the Orenburg-Tashkent railway on February 3, 1904, it was said that the excavation of the ruins of O'tror could be started only at the end of February and the beginning of March because the ground was frozen and the snow was thick. It was advised to start the excavation of the city arch from its highest and steepest part in the southeast.

In a letter sent by the Russian Committee for the Study of Central and East Asia on February 5, 1904 to the Turkestan Archeological Amateurs Club, it was reported that 300 rubles were transferred to the club from the funds of the committee to carry out archaeological excavations in the village of Porku and

the ruins of the city of O'tror in the Kokan district of the Fergana region. Also, in case of insufficient funds, the committee was asked to send information about the activities carried out and planned by the club. The letter also requested information about the receipt of an open letter from the Imperial Archaeological Commission, that is, a permit granting the right to excavate archaeological monuments in Russia and the USSR[11].

The Imperial Archeological Commission sent an open letter to the Turkestan Archeological Enthusiasts Club, giving them the right to carry out archeological excavations at the site of the arch of the city of O'tror. Excavations are scheduled to be carried out by A.A.Cherkasov and A.K.Klare, members of the circle.

A.K., a member of the Turkestan Archeological Amateurs Circle. In a letter sent to N.P. Ostroumov on April 9, 1904, Klare stated that he was starting to excavate the ruins of O'tror, and that he was 10 versts away from O'tror, and asked him to give an open sheet from the Imperial Archaeological Commission for personal observation. The Committee for the Study of Central and East Asia, in its appeal sent to the Turkestan Archeological Amateurs Circle on October 1, 1904, informed that it was necessary to give the objects found during the excavation of the city of Otror to the Tashkent Museum on the following grounds: 1. All finds must remain the property of the committee and must be listed. 2. The list of all found objects should

be at the disposal of the committee. Therefore, the committee kept the list sent by the club [12].

Fund I-71, collection 8 contains inscriptions on gravestones and monuments, and there are pictures of stones found in the village of Rishton district, Fergana region. There are also non-descript photos of various archaeological finds, copies of epigraphic inscriptions on tombstones belonging to some religious scholars, and their translations into Russian[13].

Collection 26 of the I-71 fund contains pictures of ancient monuments, copies of inscriptions on them. There are also copies of inscriptions on gravestones from the early Middle Ages. The collection contains the interior view of Tughluq Temur Khan's mausoleum and tombstone paintings[14], a plan of Tughluq Temur's mausoleum built in Gulja, a top view drawing, and photocopies of silver coins found in Gulja.

The 25th collection of the I-71 fund contains archaeological reconnaissance works in the deserts of Fergana region, archaeological data and letters. According to the information in the documents, the shifting sands from Ferghana came to the attention of Turkestan researchers. A.P. Fedchenko, A.F. Middendorf, I.V. Mushketov, A.P. Khoroskhin and others touched on this topic in their works. In this regard, the works of V.P. Nalivkin are especially valuable. V.P. Nalivkin studied the sands of Fergana from May 1881 to the end of autumn 1882.

Archival documents do not address the question of the formation of sands in the area, but there is information about the creation of sketches. The area occupied by sand was 1500 square meters. The sands of Fergana stretch continuously in the form of a strip from the village of Qatagon near the city of Khojand along the lower reaches of the Karadarya to the southeast of the village of Mingbulok. In some places, this strip is very narrow. The southern border of this sand area is marked by the village of Qataghon. The sandy area on the right bank of the Syrdarya was from Jamgara to Khoja Yagona in the south. This area is shown on 10 verst maps. Qayrakqum is located on the southeast wind path. As a result of the wind, the sand moved and in some places formed 2 arshin (2 meter) pits. In some places, a number of hills covered with saxowuli or other vegetation appear in the middle of flat areas. These peaks were called EOL columns [15].

At the foot of Sultantog, a little to the west of Khodja Yagona's tomb, glass, pieces of broken pottery, pointed vessels, coins, and other household items were found in the sands. Remains of a brick building were also found.

The diversity of ornamentation and coloring is noticeable in the remains of the collected pottery. In front of the black pieces are dark red gray, in front of the colored pieces there are chocolate color, pink, yellow and other colors. It can be seen in the reports of archeological expeditions that these ceramics have a

local character in terms of making and decoration. This, in turn, indicates that local potters worked at a much higher level. Valuable vases excavated by local residents were brought to Tashkent and sold at a great price to A.A. Semyonov was invited [16]. At that time, according to the information of local residents, the discovery of finds from under the dunes allows us to assume that there was a large city or settlement.

On the basis of such documents, information on the emergence and development of the science of archeology in the country, preliminary historical research, the history of historical monuments existing in the territory of the Turkestan General Governorate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, their preservation and restoration can be included in scientific circulation[17].

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that the scientists who greatly contributed to the development of the research school of Central Asian historians and archaeologists turned the administrative and political center of the country - Tashkent into the center of archeological scientists. Many world-famous historians and archaeologists graduated from this school [18].

The analysis of the I-71 fund, which is currently kept in the National Archives of Uzbekistan, from the point of view of archival source studies, allows to study the development of history in the country in the late 19th-

early 20th centuries. In addition, the ethnological, linguistic, genealogical, paleographic, epigraphic, geographical and topographical data included in the fund can serve as a valuable resource for researchers in specific fields of science and history of science.

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