



SHEVCHENKO AND BUTAKOV ON THE ARAL SEA

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ABSTRACT

Particularly great progress in the study, description and mapping of the Caspian and Aral Seas dates back to the XVIII century, when geographical research in Russia acquired a state, organized character. In 1739, Abulhair asked for the construction of a city in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya. Since the issue of this was considered in Orenburg back in 1736, Abulhair's request was met with sympathy in the fall of 1740. During this period, many depth measurements were made and the largest 68-meter depression in the Aral Sea was established, soil samples were taken, salinity, color and transparency of water were determined.

KEYWORDS

Description, mapping, Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, geographical research, Syrdarya, depth measurements, salinity, color, transparency, Russian Empire.

INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive study of the Aral Sea and a complete geographical study began after the XVI century. Khan of Khiva Abulgazi Bahadurkhan, who lived in the XVII century, gave information about the Aral Sea in his works. He wrote that by the end of the XVI century, the Amu Darya flowed into the Caspian Sea [1]. We can also get information about the Aral Sea from the map of the

Muscovite state, developed in 1627. In it, the island is called "Blue Sea".

Since the XVIII century, the Russian Empire began to organize expeditions to explore the lands of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. In 1740-1741 the expedition led by I. Muravin, sent to the shores of the Syrdarya and the

Aral Sea, gives some clarifications to the information about the Aral Sea. He mapped the east of the Aral Sea for the first time. During the 18th century, M. Bekchurin, T. S. Burnashev, A. S. Beznosikov provided information about the sea based on their travels [2].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

In the first quarter of the XVIII century the trade relations of the Karakalpaks with Bukhara and Khiva, with the Bashkirs and through them with Russia are being strengthened. Trying to strengthen friendly ties with Russia, the Karakalpaks repeatedly send their ambassadors to Kazan and Ufa. This was explained not only by economic interests, but also by the desire of the Karakalpaks to protect themselves from the attack of the Dzungars, which at that time became an active political force. The trend of the Karakalpaks towards rapprochement with the Russians was consistent with the desire of Russia to move to the East in search of new ways to replenish the state treasury, depleted by the Northern War. Russian caravan routes to Central Asia passed through Karakalpak territory, and the ruling circles of Russia were interested in the safety of trade caravans. In December 1721, D.T. Vershinin was sent to the Karakalpaks, who agreed on the return of Russian prisoners. Together with Vershinin, Karakalpak envoys went to Russia to negotiate with the Russian government. In 1722, the Karakalpak Khan Ishmuhammed sent a letter to Peter I with an offer of friendly relations. Although this first attempt by the Karakalpaks to get closer to the Russians was unsuccessful (due to the invasion of the Dzungars in 1723), it paved the way for the further development of friendly relations [7].

In 1730, Abulkhair, Khan of the Kazakhs, who roamed from the river. Ural (Yaik) to the Syrdarya, asked for his acceptance, together with the Kazakh people, into Russian citizenship. In this regard, in 1731, Megmet

Tevkelev, an interpreter of the College of Foreign Affairs, was sent to Abulkhair, and with him two geodetic officers to shoot the places occupied by the Kazakhs. This was the first filming of the Aral Sea shores. The original maps of this expedition remained unknown to me, but that they existed (or do they exist?) is proved by the fact that on the map of the Russian Empire by Ivan Kirilov, published in 1734, but compiled in 1733, the northern shores of the Aral Sea are depicted much more correctly than on all previous maps of these places (before Tevkelev, the Aral Sea was mapped solely by inquiries). In addition, on the map of Kirilov, north of the Aral Sea, it is written: Kirgisi subditi – “Kyrgyz, brought into citizenship”. And the transition of the local Kazakhs to Russian citizenship took place in 1732, after the trip of Tevkelev [8].

Particularly great progress in the study, description and mapping of the Caspian and Aral Seas dates back to the XVIII century, when geographical research in Russia acquired a state, organized character. In 1739, Abulkhair asked for the construction of a city in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya. Since the issue of this was considered in Orenburg back in 1736, Abulkhair's request was met with sympathy in the fall of 1740. And the khan was sent to inspect the area, lieutenant, Dmitry Gladyshev and surveyor Ivan Muravin. Having visited the Kuvan Darya (left channel of the Syrdarya) and Khiva, in April 1741 they returned to Orsk. On the way, a survey was made, on the basis of which in 1741 Muravin compiled a map. Bearing the name “New Land Map to the tract from Orenburg through the Kyrgyz, Karakalpak and Aral possessions to the city of Khiva and part of the Aral Sea and the rivers flowing into it, part of the Syrdarya. Kuvan Darya. Ulu-darya” (Ulu-darya is Amu-darya). It was not printed in a timely manner, but its data were used in the Russian Atlas, published by the Academy of Sciences in 1745. This map was published for the first time by Y. Khanykov,

together with the reports of Gladkov and Muravin, in 1850 in Geographic News, published by the Geographical Society. It bears the title “Land map of the tract from the fortress of Orskaya through the Kirghiz, Karakalpak, Aral possessions to the city of Khiva, described and composed by Geodesy Ensign Muravin in 1743”. This card was a great achievement for its time. In 1752, the surveyor Krasilnikov compiled a map of the Orenburg province and adjacent places in Orenburg. It was published only in 1880 by the Orenburg departments of the Geographical Society. On this map, the eastern shore of the Aral Sea is depicted according to Muravin’s handwritten map of 1741.

The first large Russian expedition, which could collect information about the nature of Ustyurt and the Aral Sea, crossed it from northwest to southeast (through the wells of Sam and Beleuli) in 1717. It was organized by order of Peter I, led by A. Bekovich –Cherkassky [8].

In 1825, the expedition of Colonel F.F. Berg took place, visiting the western shore of the Aral Sea. She first made here, in 1826, a number of astronomical observations and made a route survey of the western coast. Subsequently (in 1845) Berg was one of the founders of the Geographical Society. A map of the Aral Sea, compiled on the basis of new data, is attached to the book by A. Levshin “Description of the Kirghiz-Cossack or Kirghiz-Kaisak hordes and steppes” (vol. 1. St. Petersburg, 1832). During 1840-1847, surveys and astronomical determinations were made on the northern and northeastern shores of the sea.

Navigator Aleksey Ivanovich Butakov is well known to us as an explorer of the Aral Sea, the Syrdarya and Amudarya rivers. In 1848-1849, as the head of the Aral expedition, he carried out hydrographic surveys in the Aral Sea and discovered Vozrozhdenie and other islands. Based on the materials of the expedition, a

map of the Aral Sea was published. He examined the names of the Syr Darya, the Amudarya delta. In 1857-1859, commanding the Aral military flotilla, he carried out a number of works in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. On the basis of a long study of the territory of the Aral Sea region, A.I. Butakov wrote a number of works on the nature of this region. Articles written by him were published on the pages of the then press. These are the works: “Information about the expedition equipped to describe the Aral Sea in 1848”, published in the journal “Bulletin” of the Geographical Society in 1853; “Delta and mouth of the Amu Darya”, published in “Domestic notes”, “Coasts of the Aral Sea”, published in “Turkestan’s statements”, as well as “Several pages on the history of Khiva”, about Magomed Tyuri taking Sufi control of Kungrad and killing him” and other. Works, letters, diaries of A. I. Butakov serve as valuable sources about the nature of the Aral Sea region and historical events of the middle of the last century and the history of relations between the peoples of Karakalpakstan [9].

At the beginning of 1848, a scientific expedition was undertaken to study the Aral Sea. The head of the expedition was Captain-Lieutenant A.I. Butakov. The task of the expedition was to study the nature of the Aral Sea, the flora and fauna of its shores, and conduct meteorological and anthropological observations. To sketch the views of the Aral Sea, Butakov included in his expedition the artist T. Shevchenko.

The creative heritage of T. G. Shevchenko is connected with the territory of the Aral Sea region. He spent ten years in exile (1847-1857). During this time, T. G. Shevchenko left wonderful works of art as a draftsman, being a member of the Aral expedition (1848-1849). The legacy of the Ukrainian poet and artist Taras Grigoryevich Shevchenko is great. As part of the



Aral expedition of Captain A.I. Butakov, he visited the delta of the Amu Darya.

The Ukrainian poet Taras Grigoryevich Shevchenko (1814-1861) was exiled as a private to the Orsk fortress with a ban on writing or drawing anything. Thus, having stayed in the Orsk fortress for about 11 months, Shevchenko on May 11, 1848, with a company of Cossacks from the Orsk fortress, went on an expedition [3].

Along the way, Shevchenko made a number of drawings “Kara butak”, “Fire in the steppe”, “Dustanovy graves”, “Irgiz kala”, “Dzhangiz agach”, etc.

The expedition caravan arrived in Raim on June 19, 1848. In Raim, the schooner “Konstantin” was assembled and launched into the Aral Sea. On the schooner, Shevchenko made many drawings and watercolors. At the end of September, the schooner anchored in the Kos-Aral fort on the northeastern shore of the Aral Sea.

It was the wintering place of the expedition. In addition to drawing, for which he had official permission from the head of the expedition, Shevchenko also wrote many poems.

From Butakov’s expedition to the Aral Sea, Shevchenko made many domestic and landscape drawings. Here Shevchenko first became closely acquainted with the local population.

Among the numerous surviving watercolors of T. G. Shevchenko there are landscape sketches, among which the attention of “Ulken-Murun” draws attention to the rocky seashores near the Urge area, “Tokpak ata aulie” - on the Muynak peninsula, but as the candidate of art history A. Allamuratov writes, “most of the poet’s drawings and manuscripts were confiscated

upon return and subsequently lost. According to the doctor of historical sciences G. N. Chavrov, “Shevchenko’s Aral works are more diverse in subject matter and emotional expressiveness” [9].

T. G. Shevchenko created a portrait of Tomasz Werner, one of the participants in the Aral expedition, a former student at the Polytechnic Institute. Tomasz Werner was a geologist on an expedition to the Aral Sea. Russian artists captured interesting pictures from the life of Karakalpakstan.

On November 6, 1849, the expedition returned to Orenburg and brought rich material about the nature and features of the Aral Sea, Shevchenko’s album was also extremely valuable, which gave an accurate picture of the northeastern shores of the Aral Sea.

The head of the Orenburg Territory, General Obruchev, was very pleased with the views of the Aral Sea made by Shevchenko.

The expedition spent the winter of 1848-49 on the island of Kos-Aral. Butakov’s days were spent in the processing of astronomical observations, in the analysis and systematization of the geological and botanical collections collected during the voyage.

Taras Shevchenko, who brought a lot of fresh impressions from the journey through the unknown sea, enriched the poet with new knowledge and poetic images, painted and wrote poetry. On Kos-Aral, Shevchenko created a cycle of poems called “Kings”. More than fifty poems were written by Taras Shevchenko during wintering in Kos-Aral.

In the National Library of Uzbekistan named after. A. Navoi kept the manuscript of one of the diaries of the first explorer of the Aral Sea A.I. Butakov. It contains both forged notes of his navigation on this reservoir in 1849 from the opening day of the campaign on May 6

and until its end on September 22, as well as drafts of the report, official documents and letters concerning the Aral expedition and projects for organizing a shipping company in the Aral Sea and flowing into it rivers. Here, in addition to papers, we find our own album and several copies of drawings by T.G. Shevchenko [4].

Butakov's diary began on March 13, 1848 in Orenburg and contains many interesting entries and observations, including several passages dedicated to T.G. Shevchenko.

During this period, many depth measurements were made and the largest 68-meter depression in the Aral Sea was established, soil samples were taken, salinity, color and transparency of water were determined. The researchers found that the waters of the Aral are constantly moving along the coast in a clockwise direction. A.I. Butakov studied the geological features of the banks of the Aral Sea and found a rich deposit of coal. Even then, Aleksey Ivanovich pointed to the gradual drying up of the Aral Sea.

Selfless research work of A.I. Butakov received recognition in the scientific community - on January 27, 1849 he was elected a full member of the Russian Geographical Society. At the same time he was promoted to lieutenant commander. But there was still a huge amount of work ahead, for the implementation of which it was necessary to have versatile marine knowledge. In 1849, work on the Aral Sea lasted almost half a year and ended on September 22.

The expedition made a general reconnaissance of the Aral Sea, discovered and studied several islands, and created a network of astronomical points. At the same time, meteorological observations were carried out, an inventory of the ice situation was made, and magnetic declination was determined. The sailors quite

reasonably concluded that the Aral Sea is one of the most stormy and restless. As a result of these works, the first sea chart of the Aral Sea was published and its detailed navigation and hydrographic description was compiled [5].

An album of Taras Shevchenko with sketches of the coast was attached to the expedition's reporting materials, although he was strictly forbidden to write or draw anything. On instructions from St. Petersburg A.I. Butakov was severely reprimanded in connection with the greatest anger of the Emperor. The Russian Geographical Society refused to award him its highest award, the Konstantinov Gold Medal, and the detailed description of the shores of the Aral Sea compiled by him was published only in 1872, after the death of the author [6].

CONCLUSION

The Aral military flotilla protected navigation, provided military transportation and carried out hydrographic work, all its steamers and auxiliary vessels had artillery weapons.

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