

OPENING OF THE "CIRCLE OF AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF TURKESTAN"

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Annotation

This article examines the significance of the opening of the "Amateur Archaeologists' Circle of Turkestan". With the opening of the circle, the first foundation stone was laid for studying the ancient history and culture of the peoples of Turkestan, including the Uzbeks.

Keywords: Colonial regime, permission, prominent representatives, local archeological center, entire period.

In the structure of the first scientific societies in Turkestan, the circle of amateur archaeologists of Turkestan occupies a special place. On the one hand, the colonial regime did not financially support the work of scientific and social organizations, on the other hand, local intellectuals were not paid attention to, and scientific study of Central Asia was not encouraged. Already during the campaigns of Tsarist Russia, the tsarist government, interested in knowing the geographical system of the country, began to approach local geography in terms of its own interests. The assistant commander of the troops of the Turkestan military district sent a letter to lieutenant general Masievskiy, in which he was asked for permission to start oriental research. But the East should be studied not for the East or science, but for Russia.

In the 80s of the 19th century, the political reaction in Russia did not allow the development of scientific research in Central Asia. The government was skeptical about the establishment of new scientific societies. Scientific and local history circles did not support the opening of libraries. This could be done only by expanding the ranks of the intelligentsia. The head of the police of the Fergana military district looked suspiciously against academician A. Middendorf, a well-known researcher in Fergana, and showed that he was always on some kind of search. V. V. Bartold wrote down the situation when he came to Central Asia in 1893-1894 as follows; "Research is very difficult. In order to understand the real situation, it is necessary to pursue some scientific goal. The administration's project also causes inconvenience."

Turkestan's relationship with Tsarist Russia was growing stronger, and its importance for the Russian economy was increasing. In such conditions, interest in the economy and culture of Turkestan increased. Specialist scientists of central research institutions and organizations came to Turkestan and conducted their activities and researches. Russian archaeologists and orientologists faced several issues. Academician S.A. Jebeev (1867-1941) testified that Russian archeology, which was part of the Imperial Science Commission, did not benefit from great achievements. Petersburg archaeologists conducted numismatic research, studied and

researched ancient sites. One of the prominent representatives of Russian archeology, N.I. Veselovsky and A.A. Spitsin, showing the general state of archeology in 1899, wrote: "The achievements of Russian archeology are not significant. No branch of Russian archeology has been conducted in a systematic way."

Historical and cultural wealth of the region attracted antiquarians and collectors in the early times. The study of the ancient history of Turkestan was initially carried out by researchers, military and local officials. The initial studies were mainly carried out using the photographic method. In 1867, archaeologist P. Lerkh started the study of historical objects in Turkestan. The Archaeological Commission of the Russian Empire sent P.I. Lerkh, who visited the country twice, to conduct an excavation in Johnicent. During his five-month trip, P.I. Lerkh will also visit the regions of Shymkent, Tashkent, Khojand, Oratepa Jizzakh.

At the Political Exhibition in Moscow in 1872, the "Turkistan album" (Turkestansky album) prepared under the guidance of orientalist A.L. Lun was exhibited. The album contained pictures taken from 1867 to 1872, and part of it was devoted to photographs of archaeological monuments. After that, interest in the history and antiquity of Turkestan arose in the Russian political sphere. As a result, in 1883, V. Krestovsky conducted excavations in Afrosiyab. This paved the way for further steps in the field of archeology in the country. Next, in 1885, orientalist N. Veselovsky conducted archaeological research in Samarkand, Amudarya and Fergana valleys and other historical and cultural centers of Turkestan.

At the meeting of Russian Archaeologists held on May 27, 1886, N.I. Veselovsky read out his abstract about the fortresses of Central Asia. They are divided into two main categories: 1) grave, 2) residential mounds. The first large group is made up of about one hundred fortresses. They are also called "Thousand Hills". Residential fortifications also served as a fortress. On April 29, 1886, N.I. Veselovsky presented his views at a scientific conference. He tried to substantiate a lot of information about ancient monuments in Central Asia. It should also be noted that Professor N.I. Veselovsky also cooperated with local local historians. Many tasks are assigned to them. The work of local representatives was evaluated.

In 1893, orientalist V. Bartold organized a scientific trip to Turkestan with a special mission. He tried to create a society in the region, which was intended to become a local archeological center. After two years of preparation, on December 11, 1895, the circle of amateur archaeologists of Turkestan was opened. The main activity of the Turkestan amateur archaeologists' circle was the study of ancient monuments identified and mapped in the territory of Turkestan.

The real information collected by the members of the circle, the materials they found for the first time, became the auxiliary information for the subsequent researchers and allowed to record many details of the monuments of the past that have been lost with the passage of time, as well as the folklore and written sources related to these monuments. The issues and opinions raised by the members of the circle, although controversial and not able to withstand the test

of time, were in any case of great importance for the entire period. Their work stimulated the development of research thought, attracted the attention of the scientific community.

Archaeological issues were discussed at the meetings of the circle. I. T. Smirnov, one of the major representatives, raised the main issues at the meeting of the circle on December 11, 1895. Issues of studying monuments in the vicinity of Tashkent city and Chirchik oasis were put forward. Collections found by ordinary citizens were taken and listed.

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