

Study of Sogdian Documents by Russian Researchers at the Beginning of the Xx Century

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Abstract— *The article is devoted to the historiography of research by Russian scientists who studied the historical sources found in the Sogdian writing at the beginning of the 20th century. The article briefly analyzes the general problems of the classification of sources in the Sogdian script. The article also pays special attention to the history of the study of the archival documents of Devashtich, found from Mount Mug by Russian scientists V.A.Livshits, N.N.Bogolyubov, O.I.Smirnova, A.A.Freiman, V.A.Krachkovskaya, I. Yu Krachkovsky.*

Keywords— Uzbekistan, Sogdian monuments, Panch Khokimiyat, "Sogdian documents, Mount Mug", Devashtichi Archive, archaeological finds Sogdian-Buddhist, Sogdian-Christian, Sogdian-Monicaean monuments.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since independence, Uzbekistan has undergone many reforms in the field of history, as in all areas. In particular, it has become necessary to study the history of the Uzbek people and statehood in considerable depth. An important stage in Uzbek statehood dates back to the 6th and 8th centuries. During this period, the foundations of a great unity of State were eroded, the political status and social role of large landowners were improved, and the content of property and socio-economic relations were improved. As a result, the position of local self-government bodies on the basis of large State associations has been strengthened. Thanks to the Sogdian writing, many unique monuments have survived to us, written from the beginning of the 10th century to the 10th and 11th centuries, and by the 10th and 11th centuries it had become a dead language. Numerous scientific studies of Sogdian written monuments were carried out by English, French, German and Russian scientists at the beginning of the 20th century.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this article historiographic research methods were widely used. The study analyzes the scientific research of historians and philologists who have studied the Sogdian archival documents and monuments of a number of Russian and Western scientists from the point of view of historiography and source study. Today, a number of scientists are conducting research in the field of medieval historiography and source study of archival documents. In particular, the scientific works of Z.B. Rakhmonkulova [1], Sh.Sh. Chorjeva [2], A.Ya. Nazarov [3] and many other historians.

MAINBODY

Historically valuable archival documents written in Sogdian graphics were found in the ruins of an ancient castle on the top of Mug Mountain near Penjikent. The Sogdian archive found on Mount Mug contains about 80 unique documents dating back to the early 7th century. They consist of a set of documents belonging to the Palace of the Panch Khokimiyat (authority) of the Sughd Kingdom, as well as to various regional khokimiyats and officials. These documents were studied by Sogdian scholars and translated into Russian ("Sogdian documents from Mount Mug"). The published documents of Sogd consist of three parts and provide unique and valuable information on the internal socio-political, foreign policy, state and economic problems of the Sogdian state in the early Middle Ages. Thanks to them, the history of our statehood plays an important role in the study of the history of internal and external relations in the early Middle Ages.

This archaeological find is also called the Devashtichi Archive, and the study of documents found in the archives, from the point of view of historical sources, is still relevant today. According to the results of a study of the documents of the Mugovaya Mountain, at one time it consisted of three collections published by A.A. Freiman, V.A. Livshits, N.N. Bogolyubov and O.I. Smirnova. According to this edition, these are important archival documents on the history of legal, socio-economic and economic life[4].

In 1933, Sogdian documents found on the ruins of the Mug fortress in Upper Zarafshan were written on wood, leather and paper, which was noted as a major scientific breakthrough in the field of Sogdian sources of the 20th century. In 1934 A.A. Freiman published a special collection, which analyzed a short list and description of Sogdian documents found on Mount Mug [5]. V.A. Krachkovskaya, I. Yu. The Krachkovskys were able to determine the time and place of collection of the Sogdian archives of Mount Mug by studying an Arabic document preserved among the documents of Mount Mug. These archival documents of the beginning of the 7th-8th centuries turned out to be a collection of documents related to the period of the Arab conquest, related to office work in the palace of the Panj khokimiyat of the Sughd region.

This archaeological find is also known as the Devashtich archive, and the study of the documents found in this archive, from the point of view of source studies, is one of the most pressing problems today. According to the results of a study of the documents of Mugovaya Gora, at one time it consisted of three collections, which were published by A.A. Freiman, V.A. Livshits, N.N.

Bogolyubov and O.I. Smirnov. According to this publication, these are important archival documents containing information about the history of legal, socio-economic and economic life.

The study of a group of new manuscripts confirmed the scientific views on the existence of the Sogdian language, and from the point of view of historical sources, the Sogdian manuscripts are classified according to their content as Sogdian-Buddhist, Sogdian-Christian, Sogdian-Monicaean monuments.

Most of the originally identified sources in the Sogdian script are Buddhist, Christian, and Monian texts, the earliest mentions of which are found in Uyghur monuments and in the Sogdian-Buddhist script, which is called the Sogdian national or state script. Another series of sources is written in the Syriac alphabet used by Christians and Monish. The oldest Sogdian texts As a result of the expedition of A. Stein (1906–1908), in addition to several documents in the ruins of border fortifications west of Dunhuang, personal letters were discovered, the remains of Sogdian texts, called "Old Letters" in the scientific language. According to the researcher V. B. Ten, they date back to the 4th century AD [6]. In 1914-1915, the head of the Second Russian-Turkestan expedition from Dunhuang S.F. Oldenburg found that a large number of the manuscripts bought from the local population are Sogdian manuscripts [7]. In 1934, F.A. Rosenberg published a translation of a collection of Sogdian documents called "Old Letters" found in Dunhuang.

The texts of the Sogdian written monuments were first studied philologically by R. Goto, the Sogdian texts - by F.K. Müller. In Russia K. Zaleman describes the Sogdian-Christian texts from the point of view of the grammar of the Sogdian language, F.V.K. Müller and G. Andreas read the third part of the Karabalgos inscription (a part of the text written in an unknown Pahlavi dialect) and found that it was in Sogdian [8].

During the colonial period in Central Asia, as a result of archaeological excavations, a large amount of incidental Sogdian materials discovered by archaeologists was accumulated. During the Soviet era, archaeological excavations were carried out mainly in the Central Asian region. Organizations were created to oversee the conservation and study of monuments on earth. In the 20s of the last century, many scientific works of V.V. Barthold and other scientists. In the 1930s, large-scale archaeological expeditions were organized, and by the 1940s, many scientific discoveries were made in the archeology of Central Asia.

During the 1920s, many orientalists in Russia and the West carried out research on Sogdian sources, including J. Gibb's 1923 study of the Arab invasion of Central Asia, V. Tomashek published [9] his scientific work on Suspended Sogdiana, and K. Shiratori published a monograph on historical geography of Sogdiana. In the 1930s, scientific research in the field of Sogdian grammar by R. Goto and E. Benevist was published. Also the scientific works of H. Reichelt about Buddhist letters and Turfan ancient letters and works of O. Hansen about the Sogdian texts of Karabalgasun [10]. In addition, the Sogdian Christian texts of F.V.K. Müller and V. Lenz, also Monichey's texts by Henning were published.

After World War II, the publication of Sogdian texts, suspended in the 1940s, was resumed.

E. Benevist reprinted the transliteration of the research of P. Peliot's expedition, which were kept in the Paris National Library, and excerpts of Christian texts.

Later, O. Hensen and I. Gershevich published monographs on Christian and Monichean texts from Sogdian documents.

As a result of archaeological excavations carried out by V.A. Shishkin on the archaeological site of Varakhsha after the Second World War, at this place were discovered the ruins of the Palace of the Bukharakhudats (Bukhara rulers). The wall ornaments of this palace played an important role in the study of Sogdian culture.

A number of discoveries were also made as a result of studies of the remains of ancient Penjikent of the early Middle Ages and the area of ancient Ustrushona, begun in 1950. Remains of Usturshon frescoes were found. In 1962, a number of monographs and scientific collections were published on the results of the Sogdo-Tajik expedition [11]. During this period, large-scale studies of ancient Sogdiana began to emerge. The great achievements of scientists in the field of archeology of ancient Sogdiana are reflected in the work of V.A. Shishkin "Varakhsha". Among them is a special research by VA Baranina "Problems of the first medieval city of Central Asia" dedicated to the "Penjikent necropolis (cemetery)" [12]. Later, in collaboration with A.M. Belinitsky, I.B. Bentovich, O. G. Bolshakov published a special collective monograph "Medieval City in Central Asia"[13], dedicated to the results of this study.

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of the twentieth century, English, French, German and Russian scholars conducted important research on the Sogdian language, which became a dead language in the 10th-11th centuries.

Based on documents studied by Russian Sogdologists, it provides unique and valuable information about the internal socio-political, foreign policy, state and economic problems of the Sogdian state in the early Middle Ages. These data are important in studying the history of internal and external relations in the early Middle Ages, in the history of Central Asia and Uzbek statehood. A.A. Freiman, V.A. Livshits, N.N. Bogolyubov and O.I. Smirnov's research are an important source on the history of legal, socio-economic and economic life in Central Asia in the Middle Ages.

V.A. Krachkovskaya, I. Yu. The Krachkovskys examined a document in Arabic preserved among the documents of Mount Mug and found that it was a collection of documents relating to the period of the Arab conquest in the palace of the Panch-khokimiyat of the Sughd region.

From the point of view of historical sources, the Sogdian manuscripts are classified according to their content by Sogdian-Buddhist, Sogdian-Christian, Sogdian-Monicaean monuments.

R. Gotoga, F.K. Mueller, K. Zaleman, F.W.K. Müller, F.A. Rosenberg, G. Andreas conducted important philological studies of Sogdian documents.

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