

Materials on ethnography of Kazakhs in Russian funds of museum

Ethnographic meetings take a special place among museum collections. Many subjects that reflect material and spiritual culture of the Kazakh people, collected by researchers, travelers during expedition, makes contents of funds of many Russian museums. This aspect of a problem for many years was the subject of study of the Kazakhstan historians and specialists in museum specialist. The history of formation of ethnographic collections of Kazakhs is more than 250 years in Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography named after Peter the Great (MAE) of Russian Academy of Sciences. Information about “Kyrgyz (Kazakh) things” was mentioned in Kunstkamera since 1779. Archive data testify that in 1860-1870 the clothes and subjects of nomadic life of the people of Central Asia and Kazakhstan were exposed at MAE.

Now in storages and museum funds of Russia and foreign countries there are thousands of subjects which are of cultural and historical value which were once taken out from Kazakhstan. Only in MAE there are 10 thousand subjects. They are not only monuments of folk applied art, but also jewelry made of gold, silver and stones, many of which are dated the 3rd-4th centuries.

Collection of Chilikty treasure found in East Kazakhstan is stored in funds of the Hermitage. In the same place there is a stone plate with Tamerlan's message about his campaign of 1391 against Toktamyskh khan of the Golden Horde found on Altynshok's mountain by the famous Kazakhstan scientist K. Satpayev. All these relics were taken out to different historical periods from the territory of the modern Kazakhstan as military trophies, gifts of the Kazakh sultans to the Russian officers. The considerable part of it was simply plundered at the time of association of Kazakhstan to Russia when to the steppe the flow of industrialists, merchants and local historians. All the largest and valuable, received as a result of excavation was taken out from the country.

The list of the historical values of the famous scientist-archeologist Alkey Margulan which are taken out from Kazakhstan is considered the fullest. It was provided to the government of Kazakhstan by scientists from Institute of History and Ethnology named after Chokan Valikhanov of Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan. In Margulan's list there are 243 subjects that located in the Russian museums. Many subjects from this list are mentioned in the Kazakh encyclopedia. Kazakhstan scientists repeatedly made attempts to return values, however, any of them was unsuccessful. Only once historical relic was returned to Kazakhstan. In 1989 to the mausoleum Hodges Akhmet Yassawi in Turkestan was returned taykazan – the huge ritual boiler (pot) molded from seven noble metals in 1399.

Its surface is decorated with ornaments and extracts from the Holy Quran. In the Soviet years it was taken away to Leningrad and long time was there. The relic was

returned thanks to efforts of the Kazakhstan scientists, in particular Alkey Margulan.

In completing of collections took part as prominent Russian scientists, researchers, travelers, the state and public figures, doctors, teachers, artists, merchants, as well as representative of intellectual elite of the people of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

The huge contribution in completing by the richest ethnographic materials funds of the museum was made by Samuil Dudin (1863-1829). Being the photographer, the ethnographer and the collector he participated in many scientific expeditions to Kazakhstan. He repeatedly visited Semirechie, Semipalatinsk and Akmolinsk areas for the purpose of ethnographic research of the Kazakh population. So, in 1899 at the request of Academy of Sciences and Ethnographic bureau the next scientific trip of S.Dudin to Kazakhstan for collection of ethnographic materials, which should be exposed at the World Parisian Fair, was made. During expedition the huge number of the photo, a sketch of the Kazakh ornament and a collection of ethnographic subjects was collected (carved wooden cabinets, women's silver jewelry, ancient scoops, leather ware for koumiss, string music instruments, cold and firearms, subjects of house utensils). Pictures made by Dudin during the trip to the Bayan-Aulsky district of the Pavlodar region where he got acquainted with Musa Chormanov and his son Sadvokas takes a special place.

Hopefully that the question of resetting of national property and it would be a big event which allow all Kazakhstan citizens to know better the past of the native land, and the scientist to make an integral pattern of a nomadic civilization. It is about historical and cultural aspects of the problem, for instance, the same ethnographic collections for us have the value both relics and rarity.

A. Ibrayeva, Doctor of Historical Sciences at Eurasian National University named after L. Gumilev, Astana