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The Theme of the Issue: The World of Childhood in the Focus of Historical Research

From the Editor

According to the author of "The Little Prince', we all "come from childhood". It is in childhood that the main ideological attitudes guiding a person in later life are laid down. A huge influence on the formation of personality, and sometimes on the whole fate, is exerted by those people and the environment whom a baby and then a growing child faces. It seems that it is no accident that at the turn of the $20^{th}-21^{st}$ centuries, during a period of deep social and political transformations, the appeal to the experience of educating and transmitting traditional cultural values to young people has become especially relevant.

On the pages of this issue of "Historical courier" a variety of subjects related to the study of the history of childhood is covered. Among them are pedagogical work and techniques of the past, the children's reading culture, the education of children in different social strata, organization of children's leisure activities, social protection of minors, the children's lives during the war, the role of the youth in "public diplomacy" and the strengthening of international relations, biographical reconstruction. We also offer to our readers the number of unique sources created by children at different times: these are letters, a diary of members of the school archaeological club, and – for the first time published in full – a collection of drawings of Krasnoyarsk merchants' children of the mid-19th century. The section "World of Books" presents a review of the recently published book of memoirs of residents of Divnogorsk (the Krasnoyarsk Territory), whose childhood was during the war, as well as a review of modern Russian local history reference books for children.

Of course, it is impossible to cover the entire diverse range of questions related to the study of the history of children and childhood within the framework of one magazine issue, but we believe that the presented materials will be useful and interesting both for specialists and the widest range of the reading public.

Editor of the issue Evgeniya V. Komleva

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