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The Theme of the Issue:

SOURCES ON THE HISTORY  
OF SPIRITUAL CULTURE OF RUSSIA  
OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

FROM THE EDITOR

The history of the spiritual culture of Russia is one of the most popular topics in the research of domestic and foreign humanities. In this issue, the main attention is traditionally paid to various types of written historical and literary sources on this topic, covering the period from the late Middle Ages and almost to the present day. We understand spiritual culture in its broadest interpretation – as various manifestations of the spiritual life of a person and society, including knowledge, ideas, worldview, beliefs, beliefs and embodied in various monuments of human activity. To cover all the components of spiritual culture in one issue of our magazine is an unaffordable task. The authors of the articles devoted their research to a narrower range of scientific problems, primarily related to the reflection of spiritual life in written monuments on the history of the Russian Orthodox Church of the 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries and Old Believers. But not only the problems of the history and culture of Russian Orthodoxy in their various variants and manifestations have become the subject of study in published articles. The results of the research of scientific materials of academic and government expeditions to Siberia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, periodicals of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the features of the reflection in it of various historical events and phenomena, the problems of mastering and scientific publication of the memoir heritage of the Decembrist movement are also presented. A significant place in the issue is devoted to the works of young scientists and graduate students. The articles offered to the reader are combined in this issue of the journal into the following thematic sections: “Sources on the history of the Russian Orthodox Church”, “Sources on the history of Old Believers”, “Materials of academic and government expeditions of the 18<sup>th</sup> century”, “Periodicals as a historical source”, “Memoir sources”.

The first of these sections opens with an article dedicated to the creation of an electronic Russian-English-Italian portal that provides wide access to the published works of the famous 16th-century scribe St. Maxim the Greek and scientific research of his activities and creativity in translations into modern European languages. In the following article, for the first time in historiography, the documentation of clerical records is analyzed, containing information about the pilgrimage traditions of Orthodox Siberians formed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to perform a pilgrimage to the holy places of European Russia and Western Siberia, associated with the exploits of the miracle-working saints, the presence of their relics, as well as with the veneration of widely known miraculous and revealed icons. In the third article of this section, based on the descriptive books of the patrimony of the patriarch and his house monasteries of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, a little-known aspect of book culture is investigated – quantitative indicators and the repertoire of book depositories in rural churches in the counties of the European part of Russia. It is concluded that in the almost complete absence of handwritten Chetyi collections, these collections consisted of books of Holy Scripture and patristic Tradition, liturgical publications, theological and hagiographic literature. Special attention is paid to the liturgical books in the previously unknown narrative source published in this section, written by the outstanding Russian liturgist A.A. Dmitrievsky – critical comments on program on Liturgics for 1869, which were taken into account and largely determined the teaching of this discipline in all the-

ological seminaries of the Orthodox Russian Church until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the final section of the article devoted to the review of the archive of the secret monastic communities of the Moscow Vysoko-Petrovsky Monastery, the difficult history of the formation and existence of this heterogeneous collection of written monuments of Modern times, designed to help preserve the monastic tradition in the conditions of Soviet persecution and including liturgical texts, the works of the holy fathers, hagiographic works, collections of sayings of the elders, sermons, memoirs and private letters, is presented.

The results of source studies on the history of the religious and social movement of Old Believers are presented in the second section “Sources on the history of Old Believers”. Two articles are devoted to the study of the importance of canonical sources in the defense of the Old Believers of their positions in the controversial issues of the doctrine. One of them traces the influence of the printed Kormchaia and the Tale of the Establishment of the Patriarchate included in its composition by Patriarch Nikon on the formation of the Old Believer ideology and justification based on canonical rules of rejection by the zealots of the old piety of innovations recognized by them as heretical. Another article introduces into scientific circulation and publishes two normative monuments created at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries by Siberian Old Believers-Titovtsy, recently obtained by archaeographers of the Institute of History of the SB RAS and of significant importance for recreating the history of Consent – “Testament of Brotherhood with Tit Tarasovich” and “Conciliar resolution of the Old Believers of Titov’s Consent”. Two works of the 17<sup>th</sup> century dedicated to Patriarch Nikon, published at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but still unclaimed by researchers, are also published – the “Praise of His Holiness Patriarch Nikon” idealizing the church hierarch and the “Word about the Antichrist” debunking his image, written by an anonymous Old Believer author.

Several articles in this section present the results of a textual analysis of hagiographic writings that existed in the Old Believers’ environment, as well as a codicological study of collections including hagiographic texts. The attribution of similar fragments from the same collection of works of the 17<sup>th</sup> century – the early edition of the “Life of Epiphanii” and the “Petition of monk Avraamii”, whose authors were at the origins of the Old Believers’ movement, is being revised. Using the example of the study of owner and reader records in handwritten and early printed books of the 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the manuscript-book tradition of the peasants of the Lower Pechora is reconstructed from the ancestral libraries of the Old Believers-Bespopovtsy, absorbing a wide layer of Old Russian and Old Believer works: apologetic, normative, eschatological, hagiographic, etc. Based on the analysis of this handwritten tradition, the history of the existence of the Pechora Old Believers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century of the text of the eschatological vision of “Theodora’s Walkking through the Air Ordeals”, which is included in the unique medieval writing “The Life of Basil the New”, is recreated. It is established that this writing has become the most important compositional element in the structure of the manuscript collection-convolute, created by the Altai Old Believers in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The variants of the origin and existence of the texts of the Old Russian “Life of Princess Olga” in the later written tradition – handwritten collections of the 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries from the book depositories of Siberian Old Believers, are considered.

In the same section, two articles analyze the epistolary heritage devoted to the peculiarities of the perception of the Ural-Siberian Old Believers by the church authorities, its spiritual leaders and methods of fighting with them in word and deed. The article on the “Siberian Epistles”, written at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Tobolsk Metropolitan Ignatii (Rimsky-Korsakov), presents the results of studying the author’s strategy of polemical denunciation and criticism of the most prominent ideological opponents, adherents of the doctrine dangerous to the patriarchal Church and directed against it. And in the article about the essay “Several letters sent in August and September 1901 by the Old Believers to His Grace Irenei, Bishop of Yekaterinburg and Irbit” published illegally at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the hectograph by the Old Believers-Austrians, the different approaches and techniques practiced by



diocesan missionary priests during their anti-schismatic activities among the Ural Old Believers and often led to acute conflicts situations are characterized.

The articles in the section “Materials of academic and governmental expeditions of the 18<sup>th</sup> century” highlight the scientific principles that guided the representatives of the Russian scientific community of that time, interacting with foreigners and the indigenous population in Siberia. The article reveals the peculiarities of scientific activity in the field of linguistics of the first Siberian researcher D.G. Messerschmidt, who, during his Siberian journey, as evidenced by his travel diary, not only collected information about languages, but also studied them: mastered Indian languages with the help of their native speakers – a merchant from Delhi, who lived in Irkutsk, and other Indian informants. Based on the analysis of ethnographic works and materials of the participants of the Siberian expeditions of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, their role in the revision of the dichotomous concept of “civilization/barbarism” prevailing among European enlighteners in favor of a more complex axiological system of studying aboriginal peoples is shown.

Articles united under the heading “Periodical press as a historical source” are devoted to the dynamically developing branch of knowledge in modern historiography associated with the development of such a complex historical source as the mass media. The article on women’s illustrated magazines of the time of the First World War explores the features of the representation of subjects relevant to the readers of these periodicals related to changes in the gender role of women in extraordinary military conditions. Another article devoted to the women’s magazine “Krasnaya Sibiryachka”, published in the interwar period, examines various aspects of the impact of Soviet atheistic propaganda on female readers in order to accelerate the change of their consciousness and rejection of the traditional religious worldview. Another article characterizes the methods of forming and filling the image of the Russian Orthodox Church in the pages of the main Bolshevik newspaper “Pravda” in the final period of the Civil War.

The section “Memoir sources” includes a review article, which for the first time summarizes the publishing activities of researchers who published the memoir heritage of the Decembrists in the pre-revolutionary, Soviet and modern periods. Conclusions are drawn not only about the state of this body of memoiristics, but also about the reasons for the absence of scientific publications of a noticeable part of the Decembrists memoirs and further prospects for overcoming this condition.

The issue ends with a review published in the “World of the Book” section on the consolidated catalog of the most important source on Russian history, which has recently been published and has replenished the reference tools of researchers: the printed reports of governors, governors-general and mayors of the Russian Empire, covering the period from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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