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The Theme of the Issue:

RUSSIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS –
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

FROM THE EDITOR

The history of Russian-Chinese relations has more than 400 years. Its basis was laid by mutual trade interests that arose at the beginning of the 17th century. The two-sided ties between imperial Russia and Qing China received a special impulse in the second half of the 19th – early 20th century: this is the development of the tea trade, the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway (CER), the visit of heir to the throne Nikolay Aleksandrovich to the Chinese “tea capital” – the city of Hankou. During this period, as a result of a series of negotiations, several significant Russian-Chinese diplomatic documents were signed, reflecting the interest of both sides in ensuring security, as well as regulating trade issues. In the context of the growing expansion of Western countries in the Far East, these agreements became the basis for the formation of allied relations and cultural interaction between Russia and the Qing Empire.

This issue is mainly devoted to this stage and covers many important aspects in the history of Russian-Chinese relations. The scientific novelty of the publications offered to readers is due to the fact that their authors widely use materials from Russian and foreign archives, many of which are introduced into scientific circulation for the first time. The team of authors includes Russian scientists from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg, as well as our colleagues from China (Beijing, Shanghai, Harbin).

The first block of articles “*Questions of economic history*” is related to the development of trade, economic and entrepreneurial activities in the provinces of Manchuria and Zhili. V.G. Sharonova draws attention to Russian trade in Harbin, describing in detail the milestones of its development and specifics of promotion in the conditions of Chinese market. The article by G.N. Berezhnaya provides a detailed analysis of biographical information about the representatives of the numerous Antipas family, and also describes the entrepreneurial activities of Gerasim Antipas, the owner of a vodka factory in Harbin. I.V. Chapygin, a researcher of Cossack emigration, tells about the difficult adaptation of Trans-Baikal Cossacks who were forced to be far from their homeland, and, despite difficult conditions, managed to create economically developed settlements on sparsely populated lands of China. The section is completed by an article by E.V. Bakaldina analyzing the correspondence of a merchant clerk who lived in Hankou, which describes in detail the life and activities of Russian tea merchants in China.

The second block “*Russians in Harbin*” includes articles examining the history of the Russian diplomatic presence in Manchuria, CER and Harbin. The work of E.I. Nesterova characterizes the status of Harbin after the end of the Russo-Japanese War and the activities of the Russian consul who worked there, defending the political interests of the Russian Empire. Biographies of members of the Daniel family clan, who served on the CER for many years, are reconstructed in the article by G.I. Yerofeeva. In the joint work of V.G. Datsyshen and Dai Jianbing, in which some foreign sources are used for the first time, revealing little-known



pages of the activities of the CER administration after the 1917 revolution. The celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the CER and Harbin, which took place exactly one hundred years ago, in 1923, in a difficult political situation, are covered in detail in the publication of M.V. Krotova. The article by O.A. Reneva examines the fate of the priests of St. Nicholas Monastery on Belaya Gora (Osinsky district of Perm province), who were forced to leave their homeland and go on a long journey to the East. E.N. Nazemtseva in the article based on some documents of the Foreign Department of the OGPU and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, has paid attention to the political struggle between white emigrants and Soviet citizens unfolding on the Chinese land.

The section devoted to the role of the press in covering various events that took place in China in the late 19th – early 20th century is called “*The Russian press in China and about China*”. The article by E.V. Drobotushenko is devoted to the characterization of an insufficiently studied media source on the history of Russian presence in China – “Izvestiya of the Public Council of the Russian Concession in Hankou”. The newspaper published various news, reports, cultural and educational notes, announcements of upcoming events at the Russian Club, essays about the Consul General's trips to Chinese provinces. The following two works analyze publications on “Chinese topics” in the popular Russian newspaper “Novoye vremya” (“New Time”), published in 1868–1917 in St. Petersburg. A.G. Golikov presents an analysis of the newspaper's issues about military events, which described the main stages of military operations and outlined the opinions of the editorial board members about Russia's position in this conflict. The publication of I.S. Rybachenok is devoted to the national liberation movement in China. The author analyzes in detail materials posted in the pages of “Novoye Vremya” and covering the Boxer rebellion in China and the confrontation of local residents with foreigners. Sun Yizhi's work examines issues related to the history of the little-known White emigrant print organ – the monarchical newspaper “Shankhayskoye novoye vremya” (“Shanghai New Time”), published in Shanghai, which is of great value for the study of the journalistic heritage of Russian emigration.

The section “*Cultural and Historical Heritage*” includes articles about Russian citizens and immigrants from Russia who contributed to the formation and development of science and culture in China. T.Y. Feklova's research is devoted to the scientific activities of the Beijing Ecclesiastical Mission's members who founded on its territory in 1848 the first European-style equipped magnetic meteorological observatory in China, later transferred under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. A.M. Kharitonova describes the professional, cultural and educational activities of Russian diplomats in China, referring to the book collection of Pyotr Rudanovsky, a graduate of the Oriental Faculty of St. Petersburg University, who became an employee of the diplomatic mission in Beijing. An employee of the Gugong State Museum in Beijing, Do Limei, tells about the work of the artist Anton Legashev, who lived in the Beijing Ecclesiastical Mission for about ten years and created 26 spiritual and historical paintings, as well as 24 portraits of Chinese dignitaries. Du Jiaqi's article provides a detailed overview of the cultural heritage and the contribution of Russian emigration to the development of educational, literary, artistic and publishing spheres of Northeast China, providing examples of the opening of educational institutions, the creation of creative unions, the publication of periodicals and the conduct of art exhibitions. The material by M.M. Perekalina tells about the St. Petersburg period of the life of a number of representatives of the Russian creative intelligentsia (musicians Z.A. Pribytkova, B.S. Zakharov, architect A.A. Bernardazzi) and diplomat N.G. Poppe, who later found themselves in China. E.S. Knyazeva focuses on the fate of representatives of the engineering and construction professions of the Russian white emigrant colony of Shanghai, who built more than eighty architectural objects in the 1920s and



1930s, which still decorate the streets of the city. The work of E.P. Yakovleva is devoted to the biography of the famous art critic, museum worker and teacher, born in Harbin, Elena Vandrovskaya. For the first time, new facts about her life and the life of her relatives in Manchuria are presented.

The issue concludes with the section “*Modern Cooperation*”, which presents examples of successful interaction between educational and cultural institutions of Russia and the People’s Republic of China on the late 20th – early 21st century (articles by A.V. Surzhko, I.V. Lizunova, E.V. Pshenichnaya, T.N. Ershova).

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