

2025 · No. 3 (41)

The Theme of the Issue:

**SOURCES ON THE HISTORY  
OF THE SPIRITUAL CULTURE OF RUSSIA****FROM THE EDITOR**

In 2025, the Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences celebrates several significant dates associated with the formation and development of such branches of academic historical science in Siberia as source studies and archeography. The starting point for the anniversary dates should be 1965, with which two important events are inextricably linked: the first archaeological expeditions of employees of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences and Novosibirsk State University and the donation by Academician M.N. Tikhomirov to the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences of his remarkable collection of manuscripts, early printed books and historical documents. It was from that time, and for 60 years now, on a permanent basis and with regular frequency, almost every year, that archaeographic expeditions have been sent from the Novosibirsk Academic City on trips for rare books. In the first years, their sphere of interests covered a vast territory of the Trans-Urals, Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia. The result of this large-scale work was the discovery for science of many previously unknown ancient Russian and Old Believer written monuments, the most striking works of previously unknown literature of the Siberian peasantry. We can rightfully speak about the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the archaeographic discovery of Siberia.

The Tikhomirov collection, brought to Novosibirsk in 1965 by the future academician N.N. Pokrovsky, according to his aptly figurative statement, “made it possible to begin training specialists in Siberia” and “soon a miracle occurred: the collection of ancient written monuments began to grow like a crystal dipped in a saturated solution”<sup>1</sup>. With his generous gift to the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician M.N. Tikhomirov laid the foundation for the creation of the third most important Siberian archaeographic center in the country after Moscow and St. Petersburg, which will also turn 60 years old in 2025.



<sup>1</sup> Pokrovsky, N.N. (1969). Iz dali vekov [From the Distance of Centuries]. In *Pravda*. July 8 (No. 189).

In 1975, following the successful expeditionary, office and editorial work of archaeographers from the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, it was decided that the new direction in the work of Siberian historians and philologists required institutionalization. Time has confirmed the viability and prospects of the decisions taken then. In 2025, the Archaeography and Source Studies Sector of the Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which has been working fruitfully for five decades, and the book series “Archeography and Source Studies of Siberia”, founded in the same year, which now has 44 issues, celebrate their anniversary.

At the origins of all these undertakings stood a remarkable historian, source specialist and archaeographer – Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Nikolai Nikolaevich Pokrovsky (1930–2013), about whom Academician D.S. Likhachev said at the beginning of the implementation of the archaeological project in Siberia that he was “the soul of this important patriotic cause”<sup>2</sup>. In 2025, we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the birth of Nikolai Nikolaevich Pokrovsky, an outstanding scientist and a champion of science who devoted all his strength to selfless service to the Motherland.

In memory of these remarkable dates, this issue of the journal includes articles reflecting the diverse scientific interests of Siberian archaeographers and source scholars. The authors, historians and philologists from the country’s leading scientific centers, presented the latest results of their research, based on a wide range of types of written and visual sources on the history of Russia’s spiritual culture. Most of these sources are being introduced into scientific circulation for the first time. The articles are grouped into seven sections devoted to the study of such historical sources as office documentation, memoir and epistolary sources, periodicals, handwritten and book monuments, works and materials of scientific expeditions. In the last, seventh section “Scientific Life” an article is published about the All-Russian scientific conference that recently took place in St. Petersburg.

The issue opens with an article in the section “Office Work Documentation”. It is dedicated to the source study and historiographic study of official copies, made in the second half of 1703 by order of the monastery order in pursuance of the decree of Peter I from the inventory books of the Annunciation Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. A comparison of documents from the archives of the Moscow Donskoy Monastery, which are being introduced into scientific circulation, and the earlier and later inventories known to date, allows us to trace the dynamics of changes in the composition of the library of this Kremlin cathedral.

The second article in the issue, which also deals with the reign of Peter I, opens the next section, “Epistolary and Memoir Heritage”. This article presents the results of a study that shows how the anti-Old Believer treatise of 1709 by Metropolitan Dimitry (Tuptalo) of Rostov, “The Search for the Schismatic Bryn Faith”, creatively used the district pastoral “Siberian Epistles” compiled by Metropolitan Ignatius (Rimsky-Korsakov) of Tobolsk at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Two other articles in this section are devoted to epistolary sources from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century – the personal correspondence of the rector of the Church of St. Righteous Elizabeth in Wiesbaden, priest John Bazarov, with the poet V.A. Zhukovsky and the Archbishop of Kamchatka Innokenty (Popov-Veniaminov) with the young Siberian official N.D. Sverbeev, as well as other representatives of his aristocratic noble family in later times. This section publishes another article dedicated to the personal correspondence in the late 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries between the Siberian peasant writer and Old Believer, the rector of one of the Old Believer chapel communities of the Lower Yenisei, A.G. Murachev, and the Novosibirsk historian and archaeographer N.D. Zolnikova.

For the first time, a memoir source created in the early 1930s is being researched, translated from Italian and published – the memoirs of the Catholic priest Theodore (Feodor) Prokopovich, who was convicted in the USSR and ended up in Poland as a result of a prisoner exchange. The memoirs were written by him for the Pontifical Commission “Pro Russia” and contained details of religious

<sup>2</sup> Zolnikova, N.D. (2016). [N.N. Pokrovsky from Letters of Colleagues and Friends: Personality in the Public Environment (1970–1980s)]. In *Arkheograficheskiye i istoricheskiye aspekty v izuchenii istorii Rossii (Arkheografiya i istochnikovedeniye Sibiri. Vol. 34)*. Novosibirsk, p. 19.

life under Soviet conditions, which were so necessary for the Vatican to implement its plans to undermine the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church after the expected fall of the communist regime.

The third section of the issue is devoted to the written monuments of the Orthodox liturgical tradition of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first article in this section examines the work of the outstanding liturgical scholar, Professor A.A. Dmitrievsky, in the Synodal Commission for the Correction of Liturgical Books in 1909. The amendments he made to the text of the Triodion Coloredare (Pentecostarion) analyzed, and it is shown how they were partially taken into account in the revised printed edition of this book. The second article discusses the hymnographic creativity of representatives of the secret monastic communities of the Moscow Vysoko-Petrovsky Monastery, who in the 1930s and at the turn of the 1970s and 1980s considered the problems of preserving the memory of their deceased spiritual mentors in the traditional liturgical genre of the liturgical canon. The third article continues the previously started publication of a scientific description of notated liturgical collections compiled by priest Petr Taratuta in Belarus during the Great Patriotic War and after it, which expanded the repertoire of church choral singing in Orthodox parishes of the Urals in the 1960s.

The next section, consisting of two articles, is devoted to research into the periodical church press of the 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The first of them analyzes stereotypical ideas about the indigenous peoples of Siberia and the Far East in pre-revolutionary diocesan reports. The second contains materials from the “Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate” from the war and post-war period, which highlighted the particularities of overcoming the Renovatianist and Lubny church schisms.

The section “Manuscript and Book Monuments of the Old Believers” publishes articles that examine the problems of the creative heritage created by representatives of its various denominations in the period from the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Three articles are devoted to the study of original monuments created by adherents of ancient piety in the early period of the history of this religious and social movement. One of them recreates the story of the writing of the Epistle to his son Maxim by the companion of Archpriest Avvakum, one of the Pustozersk sufferers, Deacon Feodor Ivanov. The author made one of its sources the moralizing story “About a Small Youth and a Great Sinner”. It is published based on a manuscript preserved in the book collection of the Trinity-Sergius Monastery. Another article examines the history of the creation in 1714 by the ideologist of the Deacon’s consent of the Old Believers, Timofey Lysenin, of the “Book of the Right Faith”, in which, relying on his earlier four books, he set out his own vision of the true confession of faith. These articles are joined by another one, which focuses on the history of the study in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by students of the Moscow Theological Academy of an early Old Believer monument – the Petition of the monk Abraham of 1670.

The other two articles in this section accumulate observations on manuscript copies of the Old Believer priestless collection, compiled at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and known in literature and individual copies as the “Pomorian Book of One Hundred Chapters”, and on a hectograph from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of the “Acts of the Council in Vichuga” of Old Believer wanderers.

The section “Works and Materials of Scientific Expeditions to Siberia in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century”, which is second to last in location but not in importance, includes two articles on the achievements of scientists who made a significant multifaceted contribution to the scientific exploration of the vast expanses of Siberia. The article presents the results of a study of ornithological drawings and sketches made in Siberia by its first scientist-researcher, physician and naturalist Daniel Gottlieb Messerschmidt, which have been preserved in his various scientific manuscripts in the St. Petersburg branch of the Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences. An extensive array of written and visual sources left over from Siberian academic and government expeditions of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is analyzed, and research opportunities for a comprehensive study of regional urbanism are demonstrated.

The issue ends with the section “Scientific Life” with an article posted here, which tells about the All-Russian scientific conference with international participation “Science during the Great Patriotic War: Gallery of Scientists” that took place in May 2025 in St. Petersburg with the support of the “History of the Fatherland” Foundation.



### **References**

Zolnikova, N.D. (2016). [N.N. Pokrovsky from Letters of Colleagues and Friends: Personality in the Public Environment (1970–1980s)]. In *Arkheograficheskiye i istoricheskiye aspekty v izucheni istorii Rossii (Arkheografiya i istochnikovedeniye Sibiri. Vol. 34)*. Novosibirsk, pp. 8–24.

Pokrovsky, N.N. (1969). *Iz dali vekov [From the Distance of Centuries]*. In *Pravda*. July 8 (No. 189).

*Executive editor*  
*Candidat of Historical Sciences*  
*Stanislav Gennadievich Popov*

---

*Executive editor*

**Candidate of Historical Sciences S.G. Popov**

*Executive secretary*

**Candidate of Historical Sciences L.D. Demidova**

*Corrector*

**T.V. Soboleva**

*Layout designer*

**V.V. Vvedenskiy**

*Web designer*

**K.A. Vasil'ev**