

The study of the "Turkestan Collection" in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the works written as a result of the work of researchers and scholars who actively conducted scientific research in compiling and studying the "Turkestan Collection", one of the most valuable sources in the study of the Turkestan region.

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INTRODUCTION

In the scientific study of the Turkestan collection, we can conditionally divide it into two groups. First, researchers who study the history of the formation of the Turkestan collection, the activities of those who contributed to its creation, and the changes that have been made to it. Second, researchers who study the information contained in the collection itself.

The Turkestan collection was compiled from 1867 to the end of the 1930s of the 20th century. The compilation of the collection was stopped for certain reasons. We can cite political, economic and other similar reasons as examples. The revolutions of 1917 caused the compilation of the collection to be stopped for a long time. E. Betger directly led the compilation of the final issues of the collection. He not only compiled the final issues of the collection, but also conducted research on the history of the collection. For this reason, we will not be mistaken if we say that E. Betger began the scientific study of the "Turkestan Collection" without hesitation.

In Soviet times, work on the "Turkestan Collection" was continued by the great bibliographer and local historian of Uzbekistan E. K. Betger. As a well-known specialist in local history and bibliography, E. K. Betger could not ignore the unique collection of V.I. Mezhov. He contributed to the study and compilation of the "Turkestan Collection", which consists of a number of valuable and useful bibliographic manuals of scientific interest - catalogs, indexes, etc.

Since the mid-1930s, E.K. Betger has devoted great effort and attention to the most valuable property of the Tashkent State Library - the "Turkestan Collection". "Everyone who started working on

issues related to Central Asia first encountered the V.I. Mezhov index and the "Turkestan Collection". E. K. Betger tried to fill in the existing gaps and subsequently supplement the Collection based on the sources found. More than a hundred volumes of the collection, published in 1907-1916 under the editorship of N.V. Dmitrovsky and A.A. Semenov, remained without bibliographical references. In the 1940s, E.K. Betger, together with his talented student O.V. Maslova, began to compile them. In 1952, when almost a decade of work on the scientific processing of the "Collection" was coming to an end, E. K. Betger made an almost sensational discovery: in the rare books department of the Lenin Library in Moscow, he found another 29 volumes of the "Collection".

When their content was examined, it turned out that they did not have a table of contents, and not a single entry had a source indicated. E. K. Betger indicated the sources of more than half of the entries, and only 718 entries (40%) remained without such an indication. Having determined the sources, dates and specifications, he compiled a subject-thematic index, an alphabetical list of authors and names for all 29 Moscow volumes of the collection.

In 1939, the last three volumes (volumes 592-594) of M. A. Terentyev's "Turkestan Collection", prepared at the beginning of the 20th century under the editorship of E. K. Betger, were compiled. "Conquest of Central Asia with maps and plans", after which the further continuation of the collection was finally stopped.

The 175-volume index of the "Collection" (volumes 417-591) relating to the Tashkent period was compiled by Soviet bibliographers O. V. Maslova and E. K. Betger. The "Systematic Index to Volumes 417-591 of the Turkestan Collection", compiled in 1940 by the local historian Maslova, covers only materials related to Turkestan in the collection. The classification of literature in it is given in accordance with modern requirements of bibliography.

The material is arranged in chronological order within the headings. In total, the index contains 3630 descriptions, some of which are accompanied by comments. There is an alphabetical index of authors and an index of geographical names. As O. V. Maslova noted in the preface to her index, they were compiled in a slightly different way from V. I. Mezhov:

Firstly, only materials relating to Turkestan were taken, secondly, a new classification system was used, and thirdly, details of the distribution of the material were included.

E. K. Betger, who paid great attention to revealing the content of the "Turkestan Collection", compiled an index of volumes relating to the countries neighboring the former Turkestan region in 1948. Like Mezhov and Maslova, Betger, when describing any material, indicates the source from which this material was taken, along with references to the corresponding volume of the "Turkestan Collection". Thus, the index has the value of an independent bibliographic guide: it allows you to use the richest materials about the countries neighboring Turkestan without referring to the collection.

The materials in the index are arranged chronologically by country. Almost all descriptions contain detailed notes that reveal the content of the book, article or clarify the title. At the end there are auxiliary indicators: authors, personal names, geographical and ethnographic names both in the titles and in the abstracts.

In 1953, the "Turkiston Collection", which exists in one copy - 594 volumes - with all its scientific meaning, was transferred from the Department of Local History to the Department of Rare Books of the Alisher Navoi State Library. In the same year, the 65-year-old bibliographer Evgeny Karlovich Betger was awarded the title of "Honored Librarian of the Uzbek SSR".

After E.K. Betger, work on the "Turkiston Collection" was continued by O.V. Maslova. He has also contributed to the collection in a certain way, along with studying it. He has compiled bibliographic indexes that help facilitate research into the collection.

O.V. Maslova is a major librarian-bibliographer, Honored Librarian of Uzbekistan, Candidate of Historical Sciences. She carried out extensive bibliographic work on the history, geography, geology,

hydrology, biology and culture of the peoples of Central Asia. Her “Index of doctoral and candidate dissertations defended in Uzbekistan in 1936–1951” (1954), “Bibliographic index on the history of the peoples of Uzbekistan from the 16th century to October 1917” (1947) and other works devoted to local history helped scientists in the study and research of the natural resources of the region, the development of the national economy of the republic, and helped librarians in reference work, especially in the field of reference literature.

Her contribution to the compilation of the “Turkestan Collection” is considerable. Although O. Maslova was a bibliographer, she was very interested in the history of Turkestan. For this reason, she studied almost all parts of the collection.

After O. Maslova, M. P. Avsharov also made a worthy contribution to the research of the “Turkestan Collection”. He is a well-known bibliographer and regional historian of Uzbekistan, who in recent years devoted his whole life to bibliographic work. In 1934, he organized a reference and bibliographic department in the State Public Library of the Uzbek SSR, where he was engaged in the formation of the “Central Asian Book and Journal” and “Bibliographic Index of Articles of the Republic of Uzbekistan” cards. The essay “On the Life and Activities of E.K. Betger”, dedicated to the teacher and lecturer, intended for the issues of Uzbekistan and the whole of Central Asia, is included in the list of interesting and valuable bibliographic works. His interest in the history of the region prompted the establishment of the “Turkestan Collection”. M. Avsharov highly appreciated the activities of V. Mezhev and was inspired by his work.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the interest in studying the collection has not only increased in the 20th century, but also continues to grow today, without losing its importance, and we can see that it is being studied with great interest by researchers.

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