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Cartographic works of Russian scientists as a historical source of toponymy

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Abstract

The paper aims to investigate and assess cartographic research works of Russian scientists and determine their historical importance via ethnographic, geographical, and linguistic methods. As a result, toponymy is not only the language of the land or territory, and a book that is not written, but also a historical genealogy that helps to learn the history of a people. The authors concluded that the history of the toponymy of Kazakhstan is an example of a scientific perspective, which requires research due to insufficient knowledge.

Keywords: Oral, History, Geography, Toponymy, Cartographic.

Trabajos cartográficos de científicos rusos como fuente histórica de toponimia

Resumen

El trabajo tiene como objetivo investigar y evaluar trabajos de investigación cartográfica de científicos rusos y determinar su importancia histórica mediante métodos etnográficos, geográficos y lingüísticos. Como resultado, la toponimia no es solo el idioma de la tierra o territorio, y un libro que no está escrito, sino también una genealogía histórica que ayuda a aprender la historia de un pueblo. Los autores concluyeron que la historia de la toponimia de Kazajstán es un ejemplo de una perspectiva científica, que requiere investigación debido a un conocimiento insuficiente.

Palabras clave: Oral, Historia, Geografía, Toponimia, Cartográfica.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the accession of the Kazakh people and the Kazakh steppe, the Russian Empire organized reconnaissance expeditions to study the geography and history of the Kazakh lands. In Kazakhstan, in the historical Sciences, sacred places and geographical names are most described in detail in the works of some outstanding scientists and researchers, such as Shokan Valikhanov, M. Zh. Kopeyev and in the materials of the expedition led by MARGULAN (1997) to the Central region. For example, according to the degree of knowledge of the area covered Shokan divided his travels into two periods: the first period included the way to Dzungaria and lake Issyk-Kul. UALIKHANOV (1985)

believed that the physical and geographical nature of these areas is well researched by Russian travelers and supplemented their research that was missed and not noticed by them (UALIKHANOV, 1985).

A famous Kazakh ethnographer MARGULAN (1997) studied Central Kazakhstan and made a map of place names of the region in his writings (MARGULAN, 1997). The following members of the Russian geographical society worked on the collection of oral historical materials: POTANIN (2005), in the field of historical geography. Among the above-mentioned authors, a special place is occupied by the works of Potanin. POTANIN (2005) expressed the importance of historical names: all signs on Earth are witnesses of the history of the people, the feelings of people. The earth without history is like a lifeless body. Names also have their own characteristics and history (SOHRABI, 2017).

Potanin, an outstanding Russian ethnographer and naturalist, once expressed his point of view about the importance of historical names:

All signs on Earth are witnesses of the history of the people, the feelings of the people. A land without history is like a lifeless body. Names also have their own characteristics and history (POTANIN, 2005: 147).

Basically, the historical geography of Kazakhstan as a scientific discipline originally developed in line with the national historical science. If the accumulation of historical and geographical data has already taken place in the chronicle period of Russian historiography, the first generalization and gradual separation of historical geography began in the XVIII century. In his main work, Vasily Tatishchev devoted many pages to discussions about the benefits of geography in modern life, and briefly defined its role in history: geography shows the position of places where there were and are.

Although the term historical geography Tatishchev did not use, the meaning of it, however, was obvious and quite clear to him. Moreover, historical geography has existed for several centuries. Interest in it in recent years is clearly growing among historians and geographers. Historical geography, using toponymy data, comes from the fact that geographical names are overwhelmingly motivated and stable. The use of toponymic materials is complicated by the fact that the name is not always explained. Kazakhstan's geographical terms generally reflect the natural features of the territory of Kazakhstan, with the vast majority of them refer to the elements of relief, hydrogeography, vegetation, wildlife, and partly to the climate, soil cover and landscape as a whole.

YATSUNSKY (1988) in his work *Historical geography* gives the following definition: historical geography studies the specific geography of the population and economy, created by society, as well as the geography of nature, transformed by people, under which these people lived in the past. In addition, he noted that the Golden cradle of historical geography is place names, and the first place names were historians and geographers (YATSUNSKY, 1988).

Among foreign researchers, special attention is paid to topical issues of the toponymy of THOMSON (1904). For example, the English scientist Baker in his work *A history of geographic discovery and exploration* notes that methods for the study of the toponymy of Kazakhstan still need to be systematized. German scientist THOMSON (1904) in the collection *Collection of bibliographic materials for geography, history, history of law, statistics and Ethnography of Lithuania* studied the territorial administration of the Russian Empire on the basis of cartographic data in the early 20th century (THOMSON, 1904).

The Austrian cartographer Wimmer *Historische Landschaftskunde* in his monograph on the importance of cartography in science notes:

in the systematization of the actual content of historical and geographical works, I will have in his presentation brief characteristics of individual areas, if possible, in the

chronological sequence of their appearance and try, as far as possible in a brief journal article, to link these areas with the development of historical and geographical science.

Another scientist who founded historical geography as a subject in Europe is Bursian. His main work contains many methods and principles to study of historical geography. Dutch geographer (WEEKMAN, 2014) contributed to the development of historical geography. His scientific work *Gesehiedkundige Atlas van Nederland* serves as a direction in the study of the geographical space of the Eurasian continent (ALTAEV & ERMANOV, 2010).

2. METHODS

The significant group of sources for the study includes the following main research funds: The National Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the fund of rare manuscripts (in Astana), and the fund of rare documents at the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan (in Almaty). In the course of this study, the works of researchers in the field of social sciences are used. Besides this, the interdisciplinary approach is taken as the basis. Among them are ethnographic, geographical, linguistic and others can be considered to be important.

Preserving the principle of scientific methods, such methods as comparison, cartography, and chronology were used. Additionally, this research work is largely based on cartographic

sources. In this regard, the cartographic method was used to show historical data of a specific geographic name. Below we provide the cartographic documents used in our work.

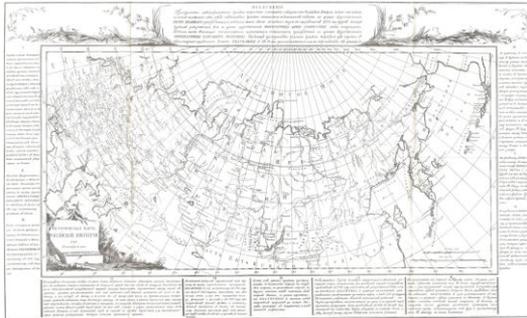


Figure 1. Historical map of the Russian Empire in 1793 Scale: 1 inch 1500 miles. Maps of the 18th century painted by hand. In the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library in Leningrad unpainted only pattern preserved, from which this copy was removed

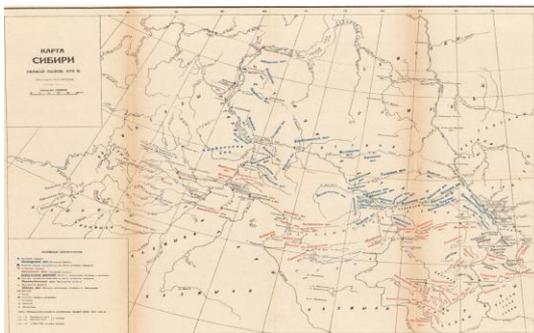


Figure 2. Map of Siberia in the first half of the XVII century. Scale: 1 inch 200 versts. Compiled by K.N. Serbina. The map is an annex to the book *History of Siberia*



Figure 3. Map of the Ural, Turgai regions in 1890. Compiled by a Russian geographer, cartographer, Lieutenant-General

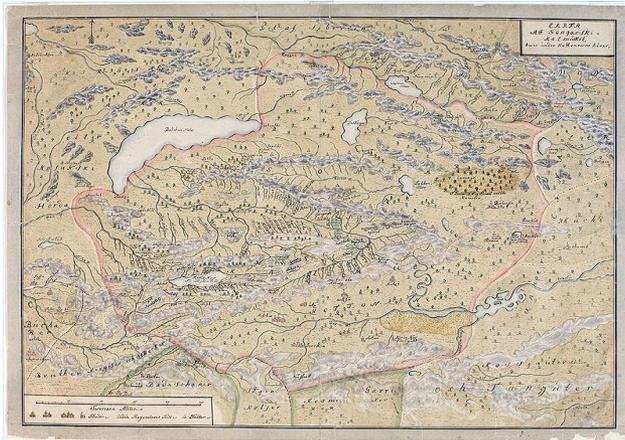


Figure 4. One of the two Dzungaria maps compiled by Johan Gustaf Renat. Created in 1744.

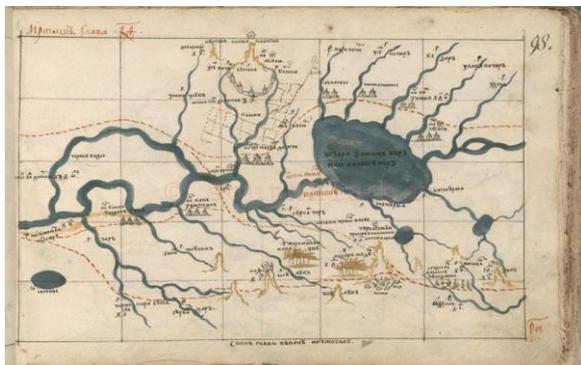


Figure 5. Map of Irtysh. Compiled by cartographer S.U. Remezov. The map is an appendix to the book *The Horographic Book of Siberia*



Figure 6. Map of the Kyrgyz steppes under Russian rule: the Small, Middle, Great and Bukey Horde of the Orenburg and Siberian Departments. 1858 Scale: at 1 inch 100 versts. Cartographic institution A. Ilyin.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is obvious that geographical names are created by peoples of hundreds or even thousands of years. Toponymic names help analyze the secrets of historical data, indicating the dates of certain events. Thus, toponymy is not only the language of the land or territory, and a book that is not written, but also a historical genealogy that helps to learn the history of a people.

From the middle of the 18th century, a comprehensive study of the lands of the Kazakh people was initiated and a number of works that analyzed the history of names were published. For example, Gerhard Friedrich Müller in his work *The History of Siberia* noted that in order to write the history of the Siberian people, it was important to investigate the people, nature and geographical environment of that region. On the map, he paid attention to the beginning of the rivers and lakes. Also, he set forth three legends about the origin of the Taybugians.

Of these, in the third legend, taken from the bulletin, which was compiled in 1670 on the basis of Tatar and Bukhara stories by order of Peter Ivanovich Godunov, the Governor-General of Western Siberia as the Voevoda in Tobolsk during the 1660s, one can see the names of some rivers flowing in Kazakhstan:

When the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan managed to subjugate Bukhara, one prince of Kazakh or now called Kirghiz-Kaisac horde, named Taybuga, the son of Khan Mamyk, begged Genghis Khan to rule over the places along the Irtysh, Ishim, Tobol and Tura rivers. As a result, Genghis Khan entrusted to him the management of these areas, and the descendants of Taybuga continued to own the same lands after him (ZHUMEKENOVA AND SADIKOV, 2018: 17).

Analyzing the above legends, Gerhard Friedrich Müller put forward the following assumption: “It is possible that he, or Onsom khan, and Irtyshak were princes in Siberia and ruled at the same time - one on Ishim, the other on the Irtysh, or maybe one inherited from another” (UALIKHANOV, 1985: 10). It should be noted that the toponym of the Irtysh has been known from the 6th - 7th centuries due to the runic inscriptions of Orkhon-Yenisei. Some prominent historians and scientists such as Mahmud al-Kashgari the author of the *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* (Compendium of the languages of the Turks, which was written in 11th century), Russian scientists P.P. Semenov, academician-orientalist Vasily Bartold, the Arab historian Al-Gardizi, modern researchers Ramsted researched and wrote about this river and adjacent areas (POTANIN, 2005).

In 1845, the Russian Geographical Society was established in St. Petersburg and got actively involved in the expedition that explored the Kazakh lands and territory. Members of the expedition visited Kazakh villages, settlements and collected oral sources relating to the history of the Kazakh people. Shoqan Walikhanov, who became part of the Russian Geographical Society, explored

regions of Kazakhstan such as Kokshetau, Akmola, Bayanaul, Semipalatinsk, Semirechye (Zhetisu) and spoke about natural-geographical features:

One can endlessly enjoy the beauty of nature, mountains, rivers and lakes, and groundwater of Kirghiz-Kaisac lands inhabiting a wide steppe. With the deepening to the east, the Kirghiz-Kaisac lands became more smooth. In some regions, land and water have natural healing properties (POTANIN, 2005: 14).

Potanin together with members of the Russian Geographical Society, in the Semipalatinsk region, Karkaraly district collected a lot of variations of legends and poetry and began to explore the Kazakh folklore (POTANIN, 1861).

In addition, about the village Yamysh, where he himself lived, cited the following data:

YAMYSHEVO village was one of the first Russian settlements in Kazakhstan. It was built by the order of Peter I in 1715 and was in its time the center of the fortified military line along the Irtysh. At the end of the 18th century, Yamysh was an important administrative and trading point, more important than Omsk. On the small map of Mongolia collected by the father of sinologist Palladium, which in his opinion, was compiled during the time of Genghis Khan, that is in the XIII century, approximately in those places and the village Yamysh appeared,

we find the inscription: EMISHI. It means that the Yamyshev Fair had been known in Central Asia for a long time (SHOKALSKY, 1926: 18).

From here, one can see that over time the name of the lake EMISHI has changed. In history, there is evidence that in 1591 the salt from Lake Yamysh was first mined.

SHOKALSKY (1926) in his work from the history of geography writes: Geographical names are put in connection with human life and historical period. Being the head of the Russian Geographical Society, he organized expeditions to Central Asia and collected materials related specifically to the history of rivers, lakes and seas. Based on the materials of the expedition, he made a geographical map of the Urals and Torgai regions (Fig. 3) (HARLEY, 1968). Moreover, geographical names are considered to be the most important element of the map. They are spatially referenced and often reflect the nature of the landscape, speak of the nature of the human settlement of the new territory, the natural wealth and other geographical features of the territory (MAKSHEEV, 1881).

Russian scientist MAKSHEEV (1881) comprehensively and thoroughly investigated the map drawn by Johan Gustaf Renat and made the following conclusion: the value of the map lies in the fact that it clearly showed the boundaries, rivers and lakes, as well as

geographical objects and names. In this map among the 250 names, he indicated toponyms that have survived to the present day such as Talas (Tallas Fl.), and one of its sleeves Teris (Ters), Arys (Aras), Yasy (Jassu), Sairam (Saram), Syrdarya (Schir Fl.), and Chu (Zeu Fl.) (SHAYAKHMETOV, 2010).

In the scientific work Geographical and statistical dictionary of the Russian empire, Semenov-Tyan-Shansky collected the largest number of names of Kazakh lands. For example, places like Kyulandy, Kyzyl-zhar, Kurchum, Tarbagatai, Oyuly, Karkaraly, etc. Besides that, it also describes the nature, secret mounds and sacred places such as Takma-Ata (a sacred place near Aral surrounded by forests), and Taimas, etc. Based on the principle of land-water names as the first source of history, it is necessary to consider the historical and natural meanings of the toponymic names of our land. For example, the region of Botakara-Nur that is located in the present Karaganda region. The region has the following river names: Nura, Aschysu, Sokyr, Bukpa, and Shoka. Names of lakes: Karakol, Shoptikol, Shabyndy, Batpak, Kurgankol, Artykkol, and Saumalkol. Land names associated with historical events - Khan Suyegi, Kyzyl Mola, and Sulutam (KSENZHIK, 2015).

Among onomastic names, astionyms occupy an important place. On the Kazakh land there are astionyms (for example, proper name of the city like London, Paris, Moscow, Warsaw, etc.) known

from ancient times. In 1716, the Russian army built military fortresses on the territory of Tupkaragan and Kendirli. The detachment under the leadership of G.S. Karelin comprehensively explored Mangystau and on the map designated the bays of Oli Koltyk, and Kaidak in the eastern part of the Caspian Sea. At the same time, Samuel Gottlieb Gmelin wrote that Mangystau in Tatar means famous place. In the geographical-statistical dictionary of the Russian Empire the word Mangistau is explained as follows: Winter settlement of nomadic menks or nogai (Turkic menk - the name of one of the Nogai tribes and kishlak – winter settlement of nomads). Armin Vambery reported that in ancient times Mangystau was called the Ming-kishlak - a thousand winter nomads. The geologist and researcher P. Doroshin in 1871 explained the word Mangistau as a nomadic, lowland place. The Professor of St. Petersburg University Vasiliy Grigoriev translated the word Mangistau as Thousands of migrations or settlements (KSENZHIK, 2007).

Ust-Kamenagorsk fortress was founded in 1719. The fortress got its name from the fact that stone mountains end here, from which the Irtysh came out as if from a gate. The name Kokshetau also reflects the peculiarities of the surrounding landscape. The city was founded as a military fortress in 1824, and since 1868 the county center. From the highest point of the mountains of Kokshe (in Russian it is called Sinyukha), one can see 70 lakes located in this region (The National Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

Moreover, most of the major rivers of Central Asia such as the Amu Darya and Syr Darya actually fall into the Aral Sea, Karatal and Ili rivers into Balkhash, the Ural and the Emba into the Caspian Sea, which like the Aral Sea is a huge lake. In fact, these names since ancient times known among the local peoples. At the same time, it should be noted that the names of rivers and lakes are associated with historical events.

As a matter of fact, historical geography also shows interest in name changes, making certain historical and geographical conclusions on the basis of this. So, for instance, Ayagoz was founded in 1831 as a fortress, in 1854 it became a city. In addition to that, in 1860, at the suggestion of the Governor-General of Siberia Gustav Gosforth and by the order of the tsar, the name of Sergiopol was given in honor of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich. Besides, the city Zaisan was founded in 1864 and got its name after the lake of the same name (ZHUMEKENOVA AND SADIKOV, 2018).

The Horographic Book of Siberia by S.U. Remezov made it possible for the first time to establish the main types of Remez handwriting, the graphics of which often changed depending on the purpose of this or that text and the Irtysh river channel is marked on the map. One can see that the ancient name of the modern city of Zaisan, located in the middle part of the Irtysh -

Zaisan-nor (Fig. 6). Expedition materials and oral data collected on Kazakh lands and collected among various nations and ethnic groups have an important role in history. There is no doubt that toponymic names marked on the map help the development of historical geography, as well as helps with the definition of the territory of the steppe regions.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, historical bases of toponyms were determined as a result of the expedition and field trips organized in the Kazakh lands. Due to historical written monuments, maps, travelers' manuscripts, the fund of archives was developed. For the history of our people, maps compiled by members of the Russian Geographical Society during the study of the toponymy of Kazakhstan are invaluable. Maps attached earlier prove that the geographical names of the Kazakh lands originate from ancient times. Toponymic oral information plays an important role in the development of the historical geography of Kazakhstan. At the present time, many researchers are making great efforts in the development of historical geography. At the same time, in this regard on the above topic many different conferences and

forums are held, increasing the number of publications on this topic.

In the future, historical geography should receive the status of a separate scientific subject, which will play a significant role in the further development of historical and geographical disciplines. In general, historical geography gives historians the opportunity to expand the horizons of their research, to enrich the arsenal of methods and approaches.

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