

## THE ROLE OF INTELLECTUALS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TURKESTAN ARCHEOLOGICAL AMATEURS' CIRCLE

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**ABSTRACT:** This article discusses the role of intellectuals in the activities of the Turkestan archeological amateurs' circle. In this regard, the organizational work of the scientists working in Turkestan, the representatives of the education sector and the employees of the country's administrative bodies in cooperation with the scientists in St. Petersburg made it possible to start the activities of the circle.

**KEYWORDS:** Role of intellectuals, activities of Turkestan, amateurs' circle, education sector.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the societies that researched Central Asia and adjacent regions is the Turkestan archeological amateurs group, which studied the history of the country archaeologically. According to V.V. Barthold, who took an active part in the creation of the club, while he was on a business trip in the country (December 11, 1893), at the meeting of the Turkestan branch of the Russian Imperial Society of Natural Science, Anthropology and Ethnography, the issue of establishing a club of amateur archeology was raised in the Governor General[1]. In this regard, the opinions expressed by V. V. Barthold and N. P. Ostroumov caused a heated discussion. During the meeting, it was decided to establish an archeology club in Tashkent, and soon a project for the organization of the club will be developed and work on its approval will begin. In this regard, the organizational work of the scientists working in Turkestan, the representatives of the education sector and the employees of the country's administrative bodies in cooperation with the scientists in St. Petersburg made it possible to start the activities of the circle. As a result, the Turkestan archeological amateurs' circle was established according to the decree of Emperor Nicholas II on October 19, 1895, and its charter was approved by the Minister of Education on October 31, 1895 [2].

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The charter of the club consists of 21 clauses, according to which the activity consists of the following:

- a) study of ancient monuments located in the territory of Turkestan;
- b) carry out their description and recording on the archaeological map of the country;
- c) protection of archaeological monuments;
- d) carrying out archaeological excavations;

e) processing of local archaeological materials for publication [3].

Despite the above, the group researched the history of the country not only from an archaeological point of view, but also from ethnological, linguistic, epigraphic and other aspects. The members of the circle also carried out medieval, genealogical, numismatic and other researches.

In 1895, when the club was founded, its honorary chairman was Baron A. B. Vrevsky, the governor-general of the country. K. V. Aristov, V. V. Bartold, S. M. Gramenitsky, N. L. Zeland, F. M. Kerensky, N. S. Likoshin, V. P. Nalivkin, D. V. as founding members of the circle. Nazarov, V.F. Oshanin, N.P. Ostroumov, V.O. Preobrazhensky and others are noted [4].

Among the founders of the circle and its members were scientists and representatives of the field of education, major officials and soldiers, as well as not only researchers in the country, but also researchers working in the central provinces of the Russian Empire.

It should be noted that the services of local intellectuals are also important in the study of Central Asian archeology. In particular, A. Askarov, a merchant from Tashkent, gained fame with his ancient collection at that time. He participated in the archaeological research conducted in Turkestan under the leadership of N.I. Veselovsky. A. Askarov had a great skill in collecting ancient coins, took part in the study of Afrosiyab and its surrounding monuments, historical monuments in Bukhara, Syrdarya, and Fergana regions [5].

At the end of the first decade of the 20th century, the search and excavation work conducted under the leadership of V. L. Vyatkin to find the remains of the Ulugbek observatory was successful. V.A. According to Shishkin, “excavations will end with the opening of the Ulugbek observatory, which is one of the masterpieces of the culture of the peoples of Central Asia, a world-class discovery, which has caused great debate and discussion in Russian and foreign scientific publications” [6].

According to the information, Abu Said Mahsum made a great contribution to the discovery of this discovery. Abu Said Mahsum, who studied foundation documents in the past centuries, compared them with oral ethnographic information and legends, and took into account the places where accidental finds were recorded, showed V. L. Vyatkin the location of the observatory [7].

As can be seen from the above information, representatives of local intellectuals also participated in the study of the archeology of Turkestan, which began in the last quarter of the XIX century, and began to accumulate certain skills and experiences.

Although the members of the group began to collect and study materials related to the history of the Turkestan region, the administrative system of the Middle Ages, the legends, traditions and folklore of the local people, in fact, the policy of the Russian Empire to strengthen its colonial management system in the country was at the heart of it [8].

### CONCLUSION

It should be noted that the scientists who greatly contributed to the development of the research school of historians and archaeologists of Central Asia turned the administrative and political

center of the country - Tashkent into the center of archeological scientists. Many world-famous historians and archaeologists graduated from this school.

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