



"TURKISTAN COLLECTION" AS A SOURCE FOR STUDYING THE HISTORY OF THE TURKESTAN REGION

Submission Date: December 03, 2022, **Accepted Date:** December 07, 2022,

Published Date: December 14, 2022

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/history-crjh-03-12-04>

Journal Website:
<https://masterjournals.com/index.php/crjh>

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

Raimov Farxod

Basic Doctoral Student Of Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

In this article, the structure of the "Turkestan Collection", which is one of the main sources for studying the history of the Turkestan region, includes the activities of V. I. Mezhov and the main information about the history of the country. The article focuses on the fact that the "Turkestan collection" is one of the main sources not only for studying the history of Central Asian nations, but also for studying the history of other neighboring nations.

KEYWORDS

Turkistan, Russia, Bukhara, Khiva, "Turkistan collection", Mongolia, India.

INTRODUCTION

Europe's interest in exploring and conquering Central Asia began in the first half of the 17th century. By this time, the competition between Russia and England was strong. In the 17th century, the works of English traveling scientists on the study of the upper shores of the Pamir and Amudarya rivers were published. In 1717, a military expedition was sent to Central Asia under the leadership of Prince Bekovich-Cherkassky by order of the Russian Tsar Peter I.

Its members were completely exterminated around Khiva (the results of the expedition were published at the end of the 19th century by I. T. Beshin under the name "Bibliographic monograph" based on archival documents). From this period, Russian scientists and travelers became more interested in studying Central Asia.

Expeditions were sent to Central Asia several times in the late 18th and early 19th centuries under the



leadership of N. Muravyov, N. A. Seversov, A. P. Fedchenko, I. V. Mushketov and P. P. Semyonov. As a result of these expeditions, it was possible for Russia to conquer Central Asia. As a result of the occupation of Tashkent by the Russian troops in 1867, the general governorate of Turkestan was established in this area. In order to get more information about the Turkestan region, Governor-General N. P. Kaufman offers the well-known Russian bibliographer Vladimir Izmailovich Mezhev to compile a bibliographic index about the region.

Mezhov himself described the history of this collection in one of his letters as follows: "In 1867, K.P. Kaufman, through I. S. Idarov, approached me with a proposal to compile a bibliographic index of books and articles related to Central Asia. In particular, Turkestan region. During my personal visit with him, I presented a list of titles, which is not very large considering that Tashkent is far from the capital. Instead, I suggested that he compile a "Turkestan collection" containing the largest number of books and articles. He agreed, and for the first time as an experiment I sent him 10 volumes to Tashkent, for which I received a reward of 1000 rubles. Such an unexpected and generous reward forced me to intensify my work in the following years, for the same money I sent 20 to 30 volumes. And finally, in the following years, Turkestan region K.P. Kaufman's management, I agreed to supply him with 40 to 50 volumes annually at the rate of 1000 rubles." [1]

Mezhov, who was constantly in St. Petersburg and thus had the ability to follow the books and periodicals published in the world, using the funds allocated to him by the Governor-General of Turkestan, related to Central Asia and neighboring countries. manages to collect all books, articles, newspapers and magazines. He collected not only capital works, but also the most insignificant records: "... a library containing everything written about the province should be of undoubted

benefit. What do you know, maybe some articles included in the "Collection" can shed new light on any administrative and economic issues, not only capital, but also trivial. As a result, when compiling the "Turkestan Collection" I did not leave out one article about Central Asia in general and the Turkestan region in particular. In a letter to Kaufman, Mezhev wrote about the importance of the "Turkestan Collection" compiled by him: "... Full confidence that it can bring great benefit to the region entrusted by your leadership, led me to compile this great work. I hope you will be very pleased with it. It contains not only articles from magazines and newspapers, but also individual works about Central Asia and Turkestan in general. The creation of such a unique collection is the largest in Central Asia. It is related to the establishment of the library (now Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan).

By the end of 1868, the first two volumes of "Turkestan collection" were prepared. This was the beginning of the next 50 years of fruitful work of many scientists - bibliographers of that time. In this work, the famous Russian bibliographer V.I. Mezhev led. Until the end of the 60s of the 19th century, the Turkestan region was a large, unexplored field for Europe from the point of view of science. After the occupation of Turkestan by Russia, the economic and trade affairs of the country require a quick and thorough analysis. In 1868, 4 volumes of the "Collection" containing the materials of 1867 were prepared. In the following years, consistently, until 1887, 77 volumes of the "Collection" were prepared and sent to the Turkestan People's Library. By 1888, 416 volumes containing up to 5000 materials were ready. [7]

About the perfection of the collection, V. I. Mejev says: "It is a large dictionary of its own kind, but still it is. not as full as I am. Some articles and books are very few in my collection, only a part of the literature itself." A



total of 4713 newspapers, magazine articles, books, artistic works, and even illustrative materials published in Russia and abroad in 20 years (1867-1887) in 416 volumes of the collection.

There are also controversial opinions about the creation of the "Turkistan Collection". That is, according to some authors, S. I. Idarov was the first to start this work. According to N. A. Burov, the idea of organizing the collection was not K. P. Kaufman, but V. I. Mezhev or S. A. Idarov pushed forward. N. A. Burov's publication about Central Asia is based on 2 similar collections of articles from the "Voennyi sbornik" publisher of the Russian Geographical Society published in the 50s and 60s of the 20th century, kept in the rare book fund of the National Library of Uzbekistan. can be. In 1878-1884, Vladimir Izmailovich Mezhev published the 3-volume "Sistematicheskii i alfabichnyi ukazatel sochinenii i statei na russkom i inostrannykh yazykakh" ("Alphabets and systems of works and articles in Russian and other languages") published by Vladimir Izmailovich Mezhev. the indicator has a large place. The indicated materials are divided as follows:

1. Central Asian country in general
2. Especially the country of Turkestan.
3. A Central Asian country that is not subject to Russia.

In section 1, there are parts of the data system.

The 2nd section includes geography and statistics, hydrography, communication routes, cartography, history, ethnography, history of wars in Central Asia, political-economic and legal sciences, agriculture, cotton cultivation. . , wine works, the development of mining works, the history of geological works, meteorology, natural history, astronomy and geodesy, medicine, linguistics and dictionary literature.

In the 3rd section, there are books about Khiva, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, East Turkestan, Kashmir, Anguilla, the producer of India, and the relationship of the company Bukhara to Central Asia, Afghanistan, Herat and others. we can see. Vladimir Izmailovich Mezhev was highly rated by many famous scientists, the famous orientalist D.I. Lagfets wrote as follows: "V.I. Such a great work of Mezhev brought him fame, but also the gratitude of all the people who needed resources for the work, another famous scientist V.I. One of Mushketov's Asians describes the "Turkistan Collection" as follows: Kaufman organized a library, among his latest works is a collection of works and articles on the Central and Turkestan regions, prepared by the bibliographer V. Mejov, which consists of 416 volumes. collection". It should be noted that V.I. He did not enter a lot of information that he could not find or did not see directly. In this regard, in the introduction to "Collection" in the 1st volume of the safety instruction, he says: "I sent money after learning that the book was published. But I could not get the book, even the money was not returned," he writes. Mezhev's contemporaries, Central Asian researchers P.V. Dmitrovsky and N.N. The Ostroumovs noted that the "Collection" has many shortcomings. In 1884, they were appointed by General Governor I.O. "Restoration of the People's Library" to Rosenbach (the People's Library of Turkestan was closed after the death of K.G. Kaufman on January 1, 1883 by the general-governor M. Chernyayev who replaced him) and the commission dealing with issues of the Turkestan collection a. A letter was sent on behalf of the members. This letter caused the Mejov collection to stop. The organization of the "Turkistan Collection" and the production of volumes continued in 1887. During the next 20 years, the Russians conducted a large number of expeditions and scientific researches on the study and research of Turkestan, and the results of scientific research resulted in the creation of large-scale fundamental



works about the country, but in the next decade, it can be seen that these works have weakened considerably. [6]

The issue of restoring the "Turkistan collection" began to be raised only by 1898. Only by 1907, Turkestan Governor General N.I. By the order of Gardskov, the work was continued in Tashkent. In 1907, neither Moscow nor Petersburg had devotees who carried out such important work, but in Tashkent, the connoisseur of works dedicated to Central Asia, N.V. There were bibliographers such as Dmitrovsky (1841-1910) and a number of well-known local historians clustered around the Tashkent branch of the Russian Geographical Society. By this time, the fund of the public library was enriched and strengthened. [7]

Experienced, local scholar bibliographer N.V. Under the leadership of Dmitrovsky, a bureau was formed from the members of the control committee of the Turkestan National Library to compile the Turkestan collection. Each member of the bureau is assigned tasks. N.W. Dmitrovsky was elected as the chairman of the bureau and took charge of reviewing newspapers such as "Orenburg", "Cibir", "Novoe vremya", "Tovarishch".

I.I. Geyer received all Russian-language newspapers published in Turkmenistan, A.A. Divayev and I.A. The Timeyevs should have looked at "Turkestanskaya tuzemnaya gazeta". At the same meeting, they agreed not to include the materials of the newspaper "Turkestanskies vedomosti" and some works (book collection) about Central Asia in the collection, because their complete copies were kept in the library. Including N.V. On Dmitrovsky's initiative, an annual auxiliary indicator was prepared for the newspaper "Turkestanskies vedomosti", and after a certain time, A.D. Kammikov, A.A. Zvarhin, I.A. Valievichs, from 1910 to A.A. Semyonov was also a member. Members of Turkestan scientific society S.V. Barthold, Bonch –

Bruevich, P.P. Semyonov-Tyanshansky and others also greatly helped the members of the bureau.[4]

N.W. The first 34 volumes (417-450) of the "Turkestan Collection" consisting of 175 volumes compiled by the bureau headed by Dmitrovsky "N.K. The word "Gorodenkogo" and "1907" were written, and from volume 451, the surname of the general-governor was not included. It can be seen that Turkestan press was widely used in the process of compiling the collection. For example, 81 out of 127 volumes are mostly articles taken from newspapers published in 1907 and so, and 423, 446, 452 and 467 volumes contain information in Uzbek and Russian languages. [6]

The most important materials are magazine articles, pamphlets and books, which are included in 46 volumes, of which 50 are taken from newspapers. Almost all of these volumes V.I. From the collections made by Mezhev, it is more scientifically free. N.W. There is no exact information about where and how much of the "Turkestan Collection" compiled by Dmitrovsky. [4]

Until now, in the national library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi, N.V. 5 collections compiled by Dmitrovsky are preserved, this is a small collection containing articles of local history from the newspaper "Turkestanskies vedomosti" published in 1871-1878. Kept in the library fund, N.V. There is another collection of 17 volumes compiled by Dmitrovsky, which was compiled by the well-known bibliographer E.K. Digitized and processed by Betger, the articles were published in "Turkestanskii sbornik N.V. "Dmitrovskogo" alphabetic alphabet was compiled. [2]

E.K. Betger in the article "New materials of the Turkestan collection" "N.V. Dmitrovsky's 17-volume collection included 186 articles published in 1840-1890. 72% of V.I. It is not included in the Mezhev collection, so N.V. "The Dmitrovsky collections can provide



interesting information for researchers who are comprehensively studying the Central Asian region,” he wrote. [6]

From 1910 to the end of 1916, the work on compiling the "Turkestan Collection" was carried out by an experienced bibliographer A.A. Semyonov continued. A.A. First of all, Semenov was engaged in collecting important information that remained in his collections published after 1888. Bibliographer - scientist-bibliographer E.K. According to Betger, entrusting Semyonov with the leadership of compiling the collection is the most noble task, because no one else in Tashkent was as ready for this work as Semyonov. A. Semyonov's initiative was that he ceased to replenish the collection with materials cut from newspapers, he collected, studied and systematized the collected information for many years, in 1914 544 - 545 volumes were published. About 30 of the most important pieces of information were cut out of the newspaper for volume 545. With the reformation of the Turkestan Collection, each of its volumes was brought into a single system on a specific topic. He understood that it was difficult to collect all the information about Central Asia, and he tried to present information about the most important affairs and events in Turkestan at that time in the volumes of the "Collection". From this point of view, A.A. Volumes 566-569 of Divaev's works deserve attention, including 59 works of the scientist devoted to ethnography, and 15 works of the scientist on the Central Asian linguistics of that time in philology. We see enrichment. It should be noted that when collecting data, A.A. Semenov included in the collection the works presented to him by the authors with his signature, and the book is also important because he commented on the best works of the authors. By 1916, the compilation of the collection was stopped, but 3 more volumes of the "Collection" were published by Yu.K. Built by Betger at the age of 20. Betger with the participation and assistance of O.V. A

systematic index will be compiled for volumes 417-591 compiled according to Maslova Mezhev. Other volumes of the "Turkestan Collection" also contain interesting materials in all areas, except for history[5]. The collection can be called a wonderful treasure. The remaining volumes of the collection, compiled after Mezhev, differed little in structure from the previous ones. Therefore, those who continued the work begun by Mezhev followed the order of collection.

REFERENCES

1. Benediktova N. N. "Turkestan collection" as a source for the study of Central Asia. - "Literary Tashkent". Almanac 1. t., 1945, p. 18
2. Fradkina Z. L. "V. I. Mezhev (1830-1894)". Ed. prof. A. D. Eikhengolts. M., Publishing House of the All-Union Book Chamber, 1949, p. 3.
3. Mezhev V. I. "Turkestan collection ... systematic and alphabetical index of essays and articles in Russian and foreign languages", vol. 1., St. Petersburg, 1878, pp. 5-6.
4. Kasymova A. G. "Turkestan collection". Tashkent: Fan, 1985, p. 18.
5. Zia Said. Materials on the history of the Uzbek time press. Selected works. - T.: Literary and Art Publishing House named after Gafur Ghulam, 1974. - 186 p.
6. Betger E.K. "Turkestan collection" and participation in it by A.A. Semenov. Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the Tajik SSR, volume XVII, 1953.
7. "Turkestan collection of essays and articles relating to Central Asia in general and the Turkestan region in particular"