Photodocumenting of Expeditionary Activity in Orenburg Until Beginning of the XX Century

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Abstract

The use of a photo in scientific purposes for documentation of events and facts began almost with the moment of its invention. In Orenburg this technical innovation of the XIX century came into widespread acceptance since 1870. But the first pictures which were taken in Orenburg can be dated 1858. These are pictures of a photographer A.S. Murenko who as a member of a diplomatic mission under the N. P. Ignatyev's command passed a way from Orenburg to Khiva and Bukhara. Further the local photographers saw in it not only a way to capture the city architecture of a province and images of its inhabitants, but also applied it as a method of visual documentation of events, a variety of landscapes and so on. The Orenburg scientific organizations, including the Orenburg scientific archival commission, allocate in the photo a way of documentation of edge's historical heritage. Without having an opportunity by society members' forces to travel all over the region, the Commission involved topographers both to map barrows and ancient constructions and to take photos of these historical objects. The Orenburg amateur researchers, using the photo in the scientific purposes, at the very beginning of the XX century applied it to copy rare documents. But scarcity of the financial means of the local scientific organizations which had rich collections of documentary photographs, but not having an opportunity not only to publish, but even to present them widely to public stirred its wider application. Technically poorly equipped city printing base slowed down the illustrated numbers. Till our time only the insignificant array of the Orenburg documentary photographs dispersed on various archives, museums, libraries remained. The subject of use of the photo in scientific work of the Orenburg researchers of XIX - the beginning of the XX century slightly drew scientists' attention.

Keywords: history of the photo of Orenburg, history of the photo of XIX - the beginning of the XX century, history of the scientific photo, military researchers.

1. Introduction

The documentary photo has a huge value not only for the history of science of Orenburg, but it is also itself a part of this history. The remained pictures generally display the city architecture, image of citizens. But there is a certain array of the documentary photographs which captured the history of researches of edge. It is a little of them and it makes undoubted value.

During the work four albums representing scientific interest, separate photos including in printing editions, and references to photos which once were in Orenburg were revealed. The materials for the article are documents from a photoarchive of the Institute of Material Culture History (a photoarchive of IHMK of the Ru7ssian Academy of Sciences), the Central State Archives of Films, Photographs and Sound Recordings of St. Petersburg (CSAFPD SPb.), The State Budgetary Institution "The State archives of the Orenburg region" (SBI SAOR), the museum of the history of the Orenburg Cossacks, and also the published sources.

2. Materials and Methods

The materials for the article are documents from a photoarchive of the Institute of Material Culture History (a photoarchive of IHMK of the Russian Academy of Sciences), the Central State Archives of Films, Photographs and Sound Recordings of St. Petersburg (CSAFPD SPb.), The State Budgetary Institution "The State archives of the Orenburg region" (SBI SAOR), the museum of the history of the Orenburg Cossacks, and also the published sources.

The methodological basis of research was made by the principles of historicism, objectivity and systemacy.

Besides, the chronological method which allowed considering events in their chronological sequence was used.

3. Discussion

Use of the photo in scientific purposes including for documentation of events and facts began almost with the moment of its invention.

In Orenburg the photography started developing from 1870th. (Iskovskij A.E., 2010). But the earliest photos taken in the city are possibly considered to be the pictures of 1858 received thanks to the expedition to Khiva and Bukhara under the command of the colonel of the General Staff N. P. Ignatyev (1832-1908). They were made by the photographer of this diplomatic mission A.S. Murenko who subsequently made an album "From Orenburg through Khiva to Bukhara. The second lieutenant Murenko artillery's photography "which is now kept in a collection of the IHMK of the Russian Academy of Sciences photoarchive and presents a huge scientific and cultural interest.

Trade and foreign policy interests of Russia in the XIX century promoted an active study of the district and a political situation in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. For these purposes various expeditions were sent. The N. P. Ignatyev's (May-December, 1858) mission had to carry out some tasks: to study a political and economic situation in Central Asia; to strengthen the influence of Russia in Khiva and Bukhara; to stop the intervention of the British; to achieve permission of free swimming across Amu Darya, releases of all prisoners who were reduced in Bukhara to slavery. The mission was also charged with the collecting of topographical, statistical and military data (Gokov O.A., 2008).

All members of the expedition gathered in Orenburg by 7 May, 1858. This day N. P. Ignatyev wrote to E.P. Kovalevski (1811-1868), a director of the Asian department: "Photographic things are so bulky that they could not be loaded and it was necessary to lay everything on a vehicle a la grace de Dieu. I do not think that such a clumsy caravan as mine was sending ever to the Trans-Ural steppe". And on 11 May he, for some reason disappointedly, already wrote to his father: "I will hardly send you photos. I have a little confidence in my photographer (Murenko)" (Missiya, 1897).

On 15 May the mission went to Central Asia. In this period the photographer of the expedition Anton Stepanovich Murenko (?-?) took two first photos: A S. A. Batyrshin's portrait (1825-?) (Sultangalieva G.S., 2009), one of a translator of the Orenburg boundary commission, and an image of the Caravanserai, the original building in Eastern style that was built in 1842 as the project of the architect A.P. Bryullov (1798-1877). It appeared that this is the first photo of Orenburg. The choice of the objects seems to be clear: the Asian theme drew, undoubtedly, all people's attention.



Figure 1. Caravanserai in Orenburg. It was constructed between 1837-1846 according to the project of the architect Alexander Bryullov. A.S. Murenko's photo (1858)

Each of the 28 pictures of this album has its own history. So, an idea to make Iset Kutebarov's portrait appeared,

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according to the participant of the mission M. N. Galkin, in the following way: "to Iset's words that he came to N. P-chu [Ignatyev], who is the only trustee of the State, with a desire that its majesty will know from him personally about the perfect humility of Iset, N.P. suggested that Iset would take from him a photo as its present to sovereign, saying that in case of hearings about the new violence of Iset, it will serve as if a guarantee of improbability of these hearings" (Galkin M.N., 1968). The photo is provided by T.M. Devel (Devel T.M., 1994).

According to the decision of the chief of the Aral flotilla, captain of the 1st rank A.I. Butakov (1816-1869) the pictures of the steamship "Perovsky" and the barge of the lieutenant Kovalevski for the general admiral grand duke Konstantin Nikolaevich were taken (Such officers..., 1996).

Other photos give an idea of a camp life. "And here is a halt, - M. N. Galkin wrote, - and always with the eternally new pleasure of rest. The Kyrgyz yulameyka covering from the scorching sun beams, a camp-bed and a glass of tea is a considerable pleasure in the steppe" (Galkin M.N., 1968).

Such episodes of a camp life were also captureed by A.S. Murenko.



Figure 2. Marching Kazakh tilt cart. [Kazakh steppe]. A.S. Murenko's photo (1858) IHMK photoarchive. Q 211. Ph. 3.



Figure 3. Yulameyka (small tilt cart). [Kazakh steppe]. A.S. Murenko's photo. (1858) IHMK photoarchive. Q 211. Ph. 4.

The album has two pictures which are visually out of the general series. These are images of seeds of the sugar sorghum and a penduline tit that nest built from fibrous plants. Apparently, the participants of the expedition assumed that the data he came by can have a practical value.

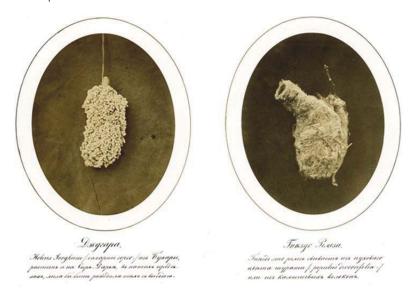


Figure 4. Dzhugara, a plant from Bukhara. Penduline tit's nest. (Central Asia). A.S. Murenko's photo (1858). IHMK photoarchive. Q 211. Ph. 27

When the expedition was completed the album that has A.S. Murenko's photos was presented to the grand duke Konstantin Nikolaevich (Such officers..., 1996). These Works are interesting because they are one of the first experiences of the use of photoequipment for scientific material in Russia fixing in field conditions. In 1860 the expeditionary photos were awarded the silver medal from Russian geographical society (Baskhanov M.K., 2005). For the first time, T.M. Devel (1888-1980) (Devel T.M., 1994) wrote about the album and its author. Modern researchers managed to restore the biography of the military photographer in a sufficiently detailed manner. Anton Stepanovich Murenko (10(22).01.1837 -19(31).08.1875) was born in the village Bogdanovka of the Novgorod-Severskiy uyezd of Chernigov province. When he was eighteen he was made a praporshik (warrant officer) and on 11 June 1855 went on military service in the 16th field artillery crew. Participated in the Crimean war (1853-1856), for what he was awarded a commemorative bronze medal and an Andrew's ribbon. In 1856, at a military and topographical depot belonging to the department of General Staff of the War Office, there was the photographic office which was engaged in copying of cards and plans and their reduction. The order to the General Staff on March 14 1856 has attached Murenko to the photographic office for practical and theoretical study of the photography under the supervision of the captain N. G. Pisarevskiy. On 27 December 1856 he was made a second lieutenant. At that time photos on a wet collodion - on glass and on paper - have already practically forced Daguerre process out of practice. Having this new method of processing photos, A.S. Murenko went to Orenburg, Khiva and Bukhara with the diplomatic mission. Then, in 1861, he left the service at first on an indefinite leave and undertook three years' travel business trip across Russia with the purpose of making albums "views and types" (from IRGO), and, having retired, he opened in Saratov a photographer's studio (1861). At the Nizhniy Novgorod fair he had his own "photographic booth". He has published some albums: a series of the Nizhniy Novgorod pictures and with the views of Samara and Simbirsk (Khorev M., 2013).

In 1870, the photo were also popular in Orenburg as well as in other cities (Iskovskij A.E., 2010). Thematically, if we do not take into account the photo of citizens and views of Orenburg for cards, ethnographic pictures were allocated. Local color in the form of images the Bashkir, the Kazakhs and the Cossacks undoubtedly drew photographers' attention. It is in the data that in 1874 two Orenburg photographers expressed their desire to submit photos of "local types" on the Parisian geographical congress (Diaries of..., 1879). But unfortunately, there is no other data about what the Orenburg photographers sent or were going to send.

In CSAFPD SPb. the album with a very local subject remained. In July 1891 the Orenburg province was visited by Crown Prince Nikolas Aleksandrovich, the future emperor Nicholas II. Among the materials which recorded details of Crown Prince's travel there was an album "Views and scenes from Life the Kyrgyz of Turgaysky Area who rrived to the State's Horse-breeding Centre for greeting Its Imperial Highness of the Successor of Crown Prince Nikolay Aleksandrovich on 24 July 1891" (CSAFPD SPb., 1890-1891). The plant was in 7 versts to the East from Orsk, the city of the Orenburg province, but administratively related to the Aktyubinsk district of Turgaysk area (Cherkas T.G., 1999). In pictures it is possible to see the members of deputation who arrived to the horse-breeding center for Nikolay Aleksandrovich's greeting, the Kazakhs astride camels and horses, the Cossacks.

Besides professional photographers in the city there were amateur photographers who made the powerful contribution to the history of the Orenburg's scientific photos, having created unique visual documents. The members of the Orenburg Scientist of the Archival Commission (OSAC) actively used photography of the studied objects in expeditionary activities as the small sums allowed them to do so.

OSAK being engaged in study of archaeological heritage of the steppe drew topographers' attention in this work. They reported about barrows, ancient settlements, stone images, ancient graves which were made for the topographical works which are carried out by them. During the office and scientific trips topographers sometimes used a camera (Works..., 1906). D. N. Sokolov in the summer 1906 and 1907 made geological study of the Trans-Ural part of the Orenburg and Ural districts for the purpose of drawing up the geological card. And though study of monuments of antiquities was not among his tasks, he could not pass by them, and even photographed some (Sokolov D, N., 1907).

The Orenburg photographers were attracted also by the landscapes. For example, Alexander Leontyevich Anikhovsky (1876-1939) - the amateur photographer, the founder and the first director of the Buguruslanskiy local history museum (1929) who made a contribution to the study of natural riches and archeology of edge, the member of OSAK, who left in 1901 Orenburg, has brought to the museum OSAK, among other things, 15 boxes of negatives with the pictures of Bashkiria, vicinities of Orenburg, antiquities in the steppe, etc. (The Report..., 1909). Unfortunately, all this wealth did not remain.

The other amateur photographers also used a camera during their office and scientific trips. Among them is an archeologist G.A. Kastanye (1875-1958) who was illustrated by the pictures of the "Report on the trip to Turkestan" that was made in the summer of 1904 (Kastanye G., 1906).

Understanding a need of visual documentation, in 1904 OSAK got its own camera and implements to it (Works..., 1906).

In a collection of the museum of the Orenburg Cossacks history there is the most rare picture on the back of which it is written: "A scientific expedition to the steppe. Guards - the Orenburg Cossacks". Unfortunately, it is the copy from the photo from a private collection. Not dated. But nevertheless it does not lose a scientific and historical value because it has captured realities of that time: all scientific expeditions had military maintenance. It is also possible to see conditions in which researches were conducted.



Figure 5. A scientific expedition to the Orenburg steppe. [The venue and date of expedition isn't known]. Guards - the Orenburg Cossacks. Museum of the Orenburg Cossacks history

A certain interest presents an album with types of the Orenburg landscapes "The characteristic of the way from Orenburg to Orsk in photos (to the report of the army mining engineer of the Orenburg Cossack army S. A. Podyakonov)", which is kept in CSAFPD SPb. Collection and is dated by the 1900th (CSAFPD SPb., the 1900th). Sergey Aristarkhovich Podyakonov (1871-?) came from noblemen of the Vologda province; graduated from the Petersburg mining institute (1895); 1896-1897 on the instructions of Board of the Russian gold-mining society was engaged in search of gold in upper courses of the Amga, Aldan Rivers. In South Ural from 1903 to 1911 he served as an army mining engineer of the Orenburg Cossack Army (OCA). In 1904 in Tugaykulskaya's village (Kopeisk, The Chelyabinsk Region) the Cossacks Sorokiny's brothers found "a black stone" when cleaning a well at a depth of 12-15 meters. Charged to investigate a find to S. A. Podyakonov who found powerful layers of coal (Kopeisk Background, 2008). In Orenburg he was a member of OSAK (Works..., 1907), took part in archeological excavations, made tool shooting and made a site plan of excavation (Works..., 1906), made messages in particular about finds in barrows of the Duvankulskaya sogra (Works..., 1907), some of which he gave to the museum of the Commission (Works..., 1907). In 1928 S. A. Podyakonov was arrested by PGO on "Ural gold platinum deal" (Podyakonov S.A.).

The photo from the album called above can allegedly date 1903-1911. Unfortunately, they are not really in high quality, but nevertheless we now can not only see how the steppe landscape on the road from Orenburg to Orsk, but also church to the settlement of Nezhinsk, a household scene at the river.



Figure 6. A view of the district around the 6th verst the road from Orenburg (the steppe of the right side of the valley of the Urals). Date of shooting [the 1900th]. A place of shooting is the Orenburg pr. CSAFPD SPb. Π 361. Ph. 1.

At the beginning of the XX century the photo has already became the necessary tool to expeditionary activity. The good collection which is constantly filled up by her members was kept in the OSAK museum. In particular, in 1910 a member of the commission V.P. Bazileva has brought to the museum "Two framed photos taken during a campaign of the governor general A.A. Katenin to the steppe" (Works..., 1911). Perhaps, these were A.S. Murenko's photos.

Orenburg with the scientific purposes was visited by scientists from Europe. Some pictures taken by them during trips are stored now outside Russia (Iskovskij, A.E. 2011). For example, in 1898 a member of the French Geographical society Paul A. Labbe arrived to Orenburg for the purpose of ethnographic studying of edge. The Orenburg governor personally allowed it to take pictures of the process of washing wool at factory, workers, salt mines in Iletsk, etc. (Orenburg newspaper, 1898). The album with city views was presented to Paul A. Labbe which were made by the Orenburg photographer Karl Fischer (Orenburg newspaper, 1898).

In the same time in Orenburg the photo exists already not only as the independent work of art or the document, but also is actively used in book illustrations (Iskovskij A.E., 2010). For Orenburg it was a little problem because of weak printing base. So, for example, one of the OSAK numbers was completely given for publication of G.A. Kastanye's work "Antiquity of the Kyrgyz steppe and the Orenburg region". Professor N. I. Veselovskiy to whom this composition was submitted on the review, "indirectly exposed the requirement that the persons describing monuments to antiquity gave to the reader of the photo". The member of OSAK considered that implementation of this requirement depends not only on will of the author. "In the province there are most often no local institutions for reproduction of pictures in the phototypical way and there is still no other more important circumstance – money". At the Orenburg scientific archival commission of

funds for it was not (GBU "GAOO").

The documentary photo got on pages of the Orenburg editions thought not really actively, lagging behind the capitals and the large cities. In 1907 in steam tipo-lithograph of "Karimov, Khusainov and Ko" association were printed the next numbers of OSAK works. One which was given for the publication of Makarenko N. E. work "A silver bowl of the museum of the Orenburg scientific archival commission" contained the photo of a valuable exhibit of the museum (Works..., 1907). In the following number views of Orenburg and portraits were placed. Photoillustrations were at that time carried out on single sheets and pasted in books (Works..., 1907) and were also very rarely published together with the text (as in G.A. Kastanye's report given above).

In 1901 a Cossack captain S. N. Sevastyanov (1863-1907), the historian of the Orenburg Cossack army, was from OKW in two-month business trip in Moscow for collecting materials on stories of the local Cossacks. At this time he took pictures of some documents or their fragments from thirty six cases of 1568-1743. The list of the documents and pictures presented by Sevastyanov from Moscow" (GBU "GAOO") only remained ".

4. Conclusion

Use of the photo for science in Orenburg went in course with the all-Russian practice. By the beginning of the XX century the technical innovation of the XIX century came into widespread acceptance in Orenburg. The local photographers saw in it not only a way to capture the city architecture of a province and images of its inhabitants, but also applied it as a method of visual documentation of events, a variety of landscapes, cultural, historical and archaeological heritage of edge. At the very beginning of the XX century it started being used for copying rare documents. But scarcity of the financial means of the local scientific organizations which nevertheless in every way were seeking to march in step with technical progress stirred its wider application. Having rich collections of documentary photographs which constantly were replenished, the Orenburg scientific archival commission and the Orenburg department of the Russian geographical society had no opportunity not only to publish them, but even to present them widely to public in the museums. City printing houses were not really enough equipped with the corresponding equipment that slowed down the illustrated numbers. Till our time only the insignificant array of the Orenburg documentary photographs dispersed on various archives, museums, libraries remained. The subject using the photo in scientific work of the Orenburg researchers of XIX - the beginning of the XX century slightly drew scientists' attention.

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