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Books on the History of Siberia Development from the Library of Count G.A. Stroganov

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Abstract

The article presents the results of a study of literature about Siberia in the book collection of G.A. Stroganov stored in the Research Library of Tomsk State University. For the first time materials about the development of Siberia are considered in connection with the history of the Stroganov family and of their family library. A hypothesis is made that the Stroganov family influenced the formation of Siberian economy and culture in the 16th – 17th centuries. The novelty of the research is that it studies how the development of Siberia is described in French, German and Russian books from the Stroganovs' library.

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1. Introduction

The Research Library of Tomsk State University has a unique book collection, the family library of the Stroganovs. The last owner of the book collection was Count Grigory Stroganov (1770–1857). He is a representative of a branch of the Russian aristocratic family of the Stroganov. The progenitor of the family is considered to be Spiridon, a peasant who lived in the Russian North during the time of Grand Prince Dmitry Donskoy (1350–1389) (Kuptsov, 2005, p. 6). The history of this family is closely connected with Siberia, with its conquest, with further economic and cultural development of the region.

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G.A. Stroganov is a well-known public figure who lived in the era of Empress Catherine II the Great (1729–1796), Emperors Paul I (1754–1801), Alexander I (1777–1825) and Nicholas I (1796–1855). Count G.A. Stroganov spent much time abroad. He was the Russian ambassador to Spain (1805–1809), Sweden (1812–1816), Turkey (1816–1821), represented Russia at the coronation of Queen Victoria in England in 1838.

The book collection of G.A. Stroganov was built for over seventy years and includes more than 24,000 volumes in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Swedish, Russian and other languages. In 1879, G.A. Stroganov's sons, Sergei (1794–1882) and Alexander (1795–1891), donated their father's library to the Siberian University. At present, it is stored in the Research Library of Tomsk State University.

The Stroganovs' library research began in the late 19th – early 20th centuries. V.M. Florinsky (1834–1899), the curator of the West Siberian educational district, and librarians S.K. Kuznetsov (1854–1913) and A.I. Milutin (1865–1830) studied the books and manuscripts of the collection. In Soviet times, well-known literary critics M.K. Azadovsky (1888–1954) and M.P. Alekseev (1896–1981) worked with the collection. Currently, a team of the Research Library staff and Tomsk State University professors are engaged in the research of the Stroganovs' library. The research is conducted by identification and description of individual smaller collections: collections of books in French, German, Spanish, and Russian. The library is also studied thematically. In particular, the subject of special consideration are books and periodicals published during the French Revolution, collections of graphic works and musical works, works of the Russian writers of the 18th – 19th centuries (Kolosova, 2014).

A complex of thematic, comparative, imagological and receptive approaches to the study of the Stroganovs' book collection seems relevant and productive today; it allows us to analyze the collection as a whole. These approaches also reflect the principles of library formation on the basis of its owner's reader interests. This article aims at describing the relationship of the history of Siberia development and the Stroganov family's role in these events by studying Russian, French and German language books from the Stroganovs' library.

2. Methodology

The methodology of the article is based on a number of foreign and domestic researches of books, national and private libraries and history of reading (Eco, 2000, 2010; McLuhan, 2005; Chartier, 1996; Carrière, 2010; Nemirovsky, 1986; Belovitskaya, 1987; Lasunsky, 1994; Ilina, 2008; Mudrova, 2010).

Traditional methods used in the study of family libraries of the Russian nobility of the 18th – 19th centuries are historical-cultural, comparative, imagological (Dyserinck, 1988; Pageaux, 1994) and receptive (Fish, 1989). These methods allow showing the impact of the personality of the book collection owner on the collection formation, on the owner's perception of "other" cultures, on the interaction of different national worlds in the collection.

In describing the history of the development of Siberia, the authors base their views on current works about ideological construction of separate territorial worlds and on the processes of nation-building (Bhabha, 1994; Slezkine, 1993; Haywood, 2010).

3. Description of smaller collections

In the middle of the 19th century, Prince P.V. Dolgoruky, a well-known Russian historian and publicist (1817–1868), wrote that "Russia owes the conquest of Siberia to the Stroganovs" (Dolgoruky, 1855, p. 212). 300 years after Siberia's annexation to Russia, at the end of the 19th century, the newly established Tomsk University was donated the library of G.A. Stroganov, one of the most famous members of this noble family. In this regard, the West Siberian school district curator V.M. Florinsky said, "(T)he famous Stroganov family that took an active part in supplying Yermak's squads with material resources for the first conquest of Siberia three hundred years ago will most probably be sympathetic to the spiritual conquest of Siberia, Tomsk University being the tool of the conquest" (Florinsky, 1906, p.584). We should note that the annexation of Siberia to Russia and its further development were closely connected with the history of the Stroganov family. These events were reflected in the book collection of G.A. Stroganov, stored in the Research Library of Tomsk State University, in the books in Russian, French and German.

3.1. Russian books about Siberia in the Stroganovs' collection

Russian books about Siberia in the Stroganovs' collection describe Siberia's geographic location, climate, main cities, the ethnic composition of population, industry and culture. The books pay particular attention to the history of the annexation of Siberia to Russia and the Stroganov family participation in this vast region development. These books include *Siberian History Since the Discovery of Siberia to the Conquest of the Land by the Russian Weapons*, published in Petersburg in 1774 in 2400 copies. Its author is Johann Eberhard Fischer (1697–1771), a famous historian, Academician of St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences, who lived in Siberia during the period from 1739 to 1747. The book is a Russian translation of J.E. Fischer's *Sibirische Geschichte von der Entdeckung Sibiriens bis auf die Eroberung dieses Landes durch die russischen Waffen*, first published in German in Petersburg in 1768. Fischer's work was based on the research of another famous historian Gerhard Friedrich Müller (1705–1783), who studied Siberia in 1733–1743. In *Siberian History*, Fischer himself was the author of the preface and of the detailed index at the end of the second part only.

The total volume of this work is quite significant; it consists of five books and includes two maps. Fischer's *Siberian History* starts with an introduction that describes the ethnic composition of Siberia's population. Further, the first book tells about the discovery of Siberia by the Russians and about its annexation to Russia. Here, the author first mentions the name of Anikey Fyodorovich Stroganov (1497–1569), an industrialist, founder of saltworks, progenitor of Count and Baron branches of the Stroganov family. He founded settlements on the banks of the Kama River that helped largely in the conquest of Siberia (Fischer, 1774, p. 113). Later, says Fischer, the son and grandsons of Anikey Stroganov supplied Cossack Ataman Yermak and his men with food and arms. These data refer to the events of 1581, the conquest of Siberia by Yermak (Fischer, 1774, p. 118). *Siberian History* by Fischer was a significant work for the owner of the library, as it is the only book about Siberia in the Stroganovs' collection that has a copy in French (Kruptseva, 1995). The translation of this work from German into French demonstrates the interest of the contemporary Western European reader in the issues of Siberia's development and in the culture of the peoples inhabiting the area. We should mention that some works by Fischer on linguistics and ethnography of the peoples of Russia and Siberia are still of relevance.

Another important source on the history of Siberia was *The History of the Russian State* by N.M. Karamzin (1766–1826), a recognized Russian historian and sentimentalist writer. During the first half of the 19th century, this work was continually reprinted. The Stroganovs' collection preserved the third edition of *The History of the Russian State*. It was published in 12 volumes by Smirdin (1795–1857), a famous book publisher and bookseller, in 1830–1831. It was the first mass edition available to the public.

Volume 9 of Karamzin's *History* describes the most important historical events of the reign of Ivan the Terrible (1530–1584), from 1560 to 1584. It includes seven chapters. The sixth chapter "The First Conquest of Siberia" gives initial information on Siberia, on its conquest by Yermak and on the death of this "Siberian Hero". This chapter mentions the name of Anikey Stroganov, who "was first to open the way for our trade beyond the ridge of the Ural Mountains" (Karamzin, 1831a, p. 432). Further, Karamzin writes that on May 30, 1574, Tsar Ivan the Terrible granted a letters patent to Anikey's two eldest sons, Yakov (1528–1577) and Grigory (c. 1533–1577) Stroganov, with permission to settle on the banks of the Tobol River, and wage war on Siberian Khan Kuchum (Karamzin, 1831a, p. 444). In describing Yermak's conquest of Siberia, Karamzin compares this event with the conquest of Mexico and Peru, where "a handful of people shooting fire won thousands armed with arrows and spears" (Karamzin, 1831a, p. 444). Recognizing the merits of the Stroganovs to Russia in the conquest of Siberia, "for their service and zeal", Tsar Ivan the Terrible granted Anikey's youngest son Semyon Stroganov (1540–1586) "two settlements, Bol'shaya Sol' and Malaya Sol', on the Volga," and his nephews Maxim Yakovlevich (1557–1624) and Nikita Grigorievich (1560–1616) "the right to trade in all (Tsar's) towns free of duty" (Karamzin, 1831a, 458–459).

In Volume 11 of *History*, which describes the reign of Boris Godunov (1552–1605), Karamzin mentions the founding of new towns in Siberia: Verkhoturye (1598), Mangazeya and Turinsk (1600), Tomsk (1604). Assessing Russia's policy towards Siberia in the era of Boris Godunov, the historian says, "(I)f an occasion gave Ivan (the Terrible) Siberia, the statecraft of Boris (Godunov) securely and firmly made it a part of Russia" (Karamzin, 1831b, p. 26). Later, information about Siberia and the Stroganov family from Karamzin's *History of the Russian State* was continually reprinted in French and German books. However, in the first half of the 19th century, Siberia, along with the Caucasus and Crimea, had not yet acquired characteristic geographic and cultural features in the perception of the mass reader of Central Russia and Western Europe (Layton, 1994, p. 15).

3.2. French books about Siberia in the Stroganovs' collection

The collection of books in French is the largest in the Stroganovs' library. It includes the works of the 18th-century enlighteners (Ch.-L. Montesquieu, J.-J. Rousseau, Voltaire); many books are devoted to the history of France, the events of the French Revolution and Napoleon's personality.

The famous *Encyclopédie des gens du monde* ("Encyclopedia for Secular People") was published in France in 1833–1844. The encyclopedia was edited by Johann Heinrich Schnitzler (1802–1871), a French historian of German descent who lived in Russia for some time, corresponding member of St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences since 1839. The encyclopedia has a separate entry on Siberia written by Schnitzler. He gives information on the geographic location, cities, population and culture of Siberia. He says that in 1822 this vast territory was divided into two parts: Western Siberia and Eastern Siberia (Schnitzler, 1844a). Tobolsk, Tomsk, Omsk, Tyumen, Barnaul, Semipalatinsk are referred to as the major cities of Western Siberia. According to the entry, in 1842 the population in Tobolsk was 14,246 people, in Tomsk 12,032, in Omsk 11,705, in Tyumen 10,803. The end of the entry says that culture in Siberia was developing mainly in the southern part; the population was concentrated mainly around Tobolsk, Tomsk and Irkutsk and grew year by year (Schnitzler, 1844a).

In the same entry, Schnitzler writes about Siberia's annexation to Russia and mentions the name of merchant Semyon Stroganov (c. 1540–1586). He notes that by the middle of the 16th century Siberian Khan Kuchum "established a fairly extensive kingdom, when in 1579 Semyon Stroganov sent Yermak Timofeyev, the Volga Cossacks Ataman, against him (Kuchum), his (Yermak's) raids threatened the interests of the (Stroganov) family who preferred to invite them (Yermak and the Cossacks) to service and to pay them salary" (Schnitzler, 1844a). After the conquest of Siberia, in 1584, Yermak asked the Stroganovs and Tsar Ivan IV the Terrible for the final benefit for himself and his subordinates and informed about the conquest of the Siberian kingdom, which he put at their feet (Schnitzler, 1844a).

The encyclopedia has a special entry on the Stroganov family, also written by J.H. Schnitzler. It mentions the name of G.A. Stroganov and his sons Sergei (1794–1882), Alexander (1795–1891) and Alexei (1797–1831). Schnitzler writes that "Emperor Nicholas granted him (G.A. Stroganov) the title of Count on August 22, 1826, and appointed him His authorized representative at the coronation of Queen Victoria (1838)" (Schnitzler, 1844b).

The Stroganovs' book collection includes *Dictionnaire de la conversation et de la lecture* ("Dictionary for Conversation and Reading"). This dictionary has 68 volumes published in Paris in 1832–1851. The dictionary was edited by William Duckett (1805–1873), a famous French journalist. This dictionary has separate entries on Siberia and on the Stroganov family. Volume 49 of the dictionary contains an entry on Siberia signed by the name of Ferry. It includes information on the geographical location and history of the conquest of Siberia by Yermak during the reign of Tsar Ivan the Terrible (1530–1584), information on the population and its ethnic composition. The same entry describes the Siberian *Ob* River, *Yenisei* River and *Lena* River, its topography, industrial and agricultural production. The final section of the entry is "Administrative Division" which says that Siberia, like the rest of Russia, is divided into provinces ('guberniya') and districts ('uezd'). Ferry writes: "Siberia is divided into three provinces, which are called by their administrative centers: Tobolsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk provinces" (Ferry, 1838). Tobolsk and Irkutsk provinces are most densely populated.

Volume 68 of the dictionary contains an entry on the Stroganov family, whose genealogy goes back to Anikey Stroganov. The entry is signed by a cryptonym ***. The author says that the history of this family, now represented by two branches, "goes back to Anikey Stroganov, a rich merchant of Novgorod, who, starting from the 16th century, owned immense estates and saltworks at the foot of the Ural Mountains." The same entry also mentions G.A. Stroganov, who, in 1821, during the Greek uprising against the Ottoman Empire, was the Russian ambassador in Constantinople. G.A. Stroganov then earned "respect in Europe by his decent behavior towards the Council of State of Turkey and by his energetic and effective protection of the Greeks and the Orthodox Church" (***, 1851).

The Stroganovs' library has a large number of 18th- and 19th-century books in French that describe journeys, including those into Western and Eastern Siberia. These are *Voyage en Sibirie* ("A Journey into Siberia") by the French priest and astronomer *Abbé Chappe d'Auteroche* (1722–1770); *Journal historique voyage* ("The Historical Journal of Travels") by the member of Count de Lapérouse's circumnavigation Jean-Baptiste-Barthelemy de Lesseps (1766–1843), who visited Tomsk in 1788; *Journey in Various Provinces of the Russian Empire* by the German and Russian scientist, naturalist and traveler Peter Simon Pallas (1741–1811), and others (Kruptseva, 1995).

The Stroganovs' collection has a book by the noted Slovak traveler and adventurer Maurice Auguste Bényowsky (1741–1786), *Memoirs and Travels*, which describes his journey as an exile from St. Petersburg to Kamchatka in 1769 (Vacher, 2006). During this forced trip Bényowsky visited Tomsk. In his memoirs, he says: “Tomsk is located on the river of the same name. The city is protected by a kind of a fortress where the commandant of the city with four *sotnias* (“squadrons”) of soldiers and eight *sotnias* of Cossacks reside. The commandant of the city is Colonel Villeneuve, a native of France, who entered the Russian service. He hosted us heartily and, after our escort’s earnest request, allowed us to stay in the city until May 10 to avoid seasonal travel problems” (Bényowsky, 1791, p. 43–44). The notes mention the name of Thomas de Villeneuve (1715–1794), the commandant of Tomsk. In August and September 1791, Villeneuve hosted the famous Russian writer and philosopher A.N. Radishchev (1749–1802), who was on his way to exile through Tomsk (Kruptseva, 2001). Later, the life of Bényowsky, as is known, became the subject of the play *Count Benyowsky: The Conspiracy of Kamchatka* (1795) by the German writer and playwright August von Kotzebue (1761–1819) and of the opera *Benyowsky, or The Exiles of Kamschatka* (1826) by the English composer Charles Edward Horn (1786–1849).

Thus, French books about Siberia from the Stroganovs' library describe the geography, climate, population of this vast territory of Russia. They also tell about the direct involvement of the Stroganov family in the conquest of Siberia at the end of the 16th century, and in its industrial and cultural development in the 17th – 19th centuries. The owner of the library and Western readers construct the history of Siberia’s development and the history of its local culture through the perception of its diverse social and text links (Bhabha, 1994).

3.3. German books about Siberia in the Stroganovs' collection

The Stroganovs' collection includes *Allgemeine deutsche real-Encyklopädie für die gebildeten Stände. Conversations-Lexikon* (“General German Encyclopedia for the Educated Classes. Conversations-Lexicon”). This is one of the most respected 19th-century editions in German. The Stroganovs' library has the ninth edition of the encyclopedia in 15 volumes, which was published in Leipzig in 1843–1848. The publishers were Friedrich (1800–1865) and Heinrich (1804–1874) Brockhaus, the sons of the publishing company founder Friedrich Arnold Brockhaus (1772–1823). The encyclopedia was edited by Dr. Karl August Espe. Volume 13 of the encyclopedia has entries on Siberia and on the Stroganov family, both without a byline. The entry on Siberia mentions the name of the Siberian merchant Anikey Stroganov, which is associated with the first news of some parts of this vast territory. After the conquest of Siberia by Yermak in 1581, “the Cossacks sent a petition to Moscow asking Ivan the Terrible to allow them to present him with the gift of the conquered lands of Siberia” (Anon., 1847a). The entry notes that after Siberia’s annexation to Russia at the end of the 16th century Russian tsars added the title of the Tsar of Siberia to their title.

The entry on the Stroganov family lists the main representatives of this famous family, who lived in the 16th – 19th centuries. Their role in the industrial development of the Urals and Siberia is particularly emphasized. The entry states that the Stroganovs established “more than 100 settlements, steel mills and, later, gold mines in the Urals and the Altai” (Anon., 1847b). This encyclopedia is the only publication in German which tells about the history of the development of the region together with the history of the Stroganov family. It is important to note that Siberia in the book is perceived primarily as the potential power of Russia (Lavrenova, 2004, p. 421).

4. Conclusion

G.A. Stroganov’s interest in Russian history and the history of his family affected the formation of his personal library. The Stroganov family library has been studied on the basis of identification and description of its smaller collections of books in Russian, French and German. The books have also been analyzed thematically, which involved the study of books about Siberia and Siberian culture. The Russian part of the collection, *Siberian History* by Fischer and *The History of the Russian State* by Karamzin, was the main source of information on the history of the development of Siberia and the history of the Stroganov family for the subsequent editions in French and German. The collection of books on the history of Siberia in French is the largest in the Stroganovs' library. Entries on Siberia and on the Stroganov family in *Encyclopédie des gens du monde* and *Dictionnaire de la conversation et de la lecture* complement one another and describe the role of this noble family and its individual representatives in

the history of Russia in the 16th – 19th centuries. *Memoirs and Travels* by Bényowsky shows the daily life of Siberia and Tomsk through the eyes of an exiled European. The German world is represented by *Allgemeine deutsche real-Encyclopädie für die gebildeten Stände. Conversations-Lexikon* published by the Brothers Brockhaus. This edition focuses on the industrial and cultural development of the region and the Stroganov family involvement. Thus, our research suggests that G.A. Stroganov, as well as Russian and Western European readers of the 18th – 19th centuries, formed a holistic view on the history of the development of Siberia.

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