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## THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN THE COLLECTION AND STUDY OF THE TURKESTAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN 1867-1916

**Abstract:** This article comprehensively analyzes the positive and negative aspects in the study and collecting of cultural heritage of Central Asia scientific societies in the period of its conquest, in the second half of the nineteenth century. And also considers circumstances of export of precious resources abroad. It was identified basis for the organization and sequential accumulation of tangible cultural heritage organized and consistent accumulation of wealth of the cultural heritage of Central Asia.

**Key words:** museum, scientific community, archeology, research, activity, scientist, circle, memory, material cultural heritage.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

For many centuries, the ancient monuments and cultural heritage of the Central Asian countries have been ignored by scientists. Over the past hundred years, specialists from various fields have been studying these areas and have found that they have lived a highly civilized nation.

It is well known from history pages that from the conquest of Aqmavit in 1853 by Russian Empire to the end of the Kokand Khanate in 1876, scientists from all over the country gathered various documents, manuscripts, books and other cultural heritages. According to the decree of General Governor K.P. Phon Kaufman, the Koran of the Khaleefah Osman was sent to St. Petersburg's Library. It is known that the Russian military expedition in Bukhara Emirate brought 97 ancient manuscripts from Shakhrisabz and Kitab district governors. [1.]. A careful examination and collection of all scientifically important materials for the St. Petersburg Library and Museum was entrusted to an oriental scientist A.L. Kun (1840-1888), a member of the army during the 1873 Khiva convoy. As a result, about 300 manuscripts were confiscated from the library of Khan. Khiva khans have 200 copies of the stamp for making coins, a few seals, khan's throne, 172 copies of coins of Mongols, 3 copies of coins of the Kungrad dynasty, and many

ethnographical items collected and sent to the capital of the empire. [2.] The throne, which was an example of the carving art of the Khiva masters, was sent to the Collection of rare objects of the Armory in 1874. Women and children's clothing from Khiva, gold and silver jewelry were distributed to the Reserve Tsarskoye Selo, art Museum of the promoting companies of St. Petersburg, and the Moscow Polytechnic Museums. Most of the valuables from the Khiva khanate were taken to the Russian State Hermitage and to the Ethnographic Museum [3.].

### Materials and Methods

During the end of the Kokand Khanate (1875-1876), about 130 manuscripts on history, medicine, jurisprudence and religious sciences were confiscated. These manuscripts were originally transferred to the Turkestan Folk Library, then to Russia and transferred to the Emperor People's Library [4].

As can be seen from the information above, it was founded in the context of the invasion of Central Asia in order to accumulate material and organizational wealth of material cultural heritage. This process has been officially implemented. Archeological researches throughout Central Asia until the 80th years of the XIX century were random, amateurish, later organized scientific societies and



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clubs, where Russian scientists worked together with the local population to help them find records, symbols and find things.

Collecting various collections of Russian scholars, on the one hand, helped to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the country by organizing local museums and, on the other hand, to fill the stocks of Moscow museums, libraries, exhibition halls with Central Asian artifacts and manuscripts. A number of precious items were preserved for science because of the establishment of the Turkestan Public Library in Tashkent in 1870 and private collectors' service. The description of Arabic, Persian, and Turkic manuscripts kept in the People's Library was published in 1883 by Y.F.Kall and attracted great interest in the scientific community.

The efforts, the majority of scientific research were a personal initiative by selfless scholars, small bureaucrats. The governor-general has made a very small contribution to the field. Orientalist V.V.Barthold wrote that "studying the ancient culture of the people of Central Asia, preserving monuments is not only useless but also harmful" [5].

As a result, foreign tourists and local antique artifacts are causing collectors to loot monuments and mausoleums. However, it should be noted that in some cases there are positive aspects of the arrival of experts in Central Asia. The Swedish architect, who got acquainted with the architectural monuments of Samarkand, noted in his letter to the Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation S.Vitte, that the city architectural ensemble is of great importance for the world culture and asked to organize the protection and study of these magnificent monuments. As a result, in 1895 some funds were allocated for this event, and the drawing, research were initiated. The photo album "Gur Amir" is published in this period [6].

After the Russian occupation most of the research works are directed to the study of cultural heritage, material values and rational use of Turkestan. The research on soil science of A.Fedchenko, V.Dokuchaev, I.Mushketov and others became the basis of modern scientific disciplines in Central Asia.

Oriental scientist Vasily Barthold founded the Turkestan archeological amateur club in Tashkent in 1895 - the first Central Asian oriental research center. At that time, the word club was very broad, its members did not only archaeological but also serious cultural heritage of Central Asia. Scientists, besides archeology, also study the history, ethnography, geography of the country, and the language of the peoples living in the region [7]. Any amateur who was interested in studying the history of Turkistan could be a member of the circle. In 1886 their number was 47, and by the end of the year it exceeded 100. For twenty years, the members of this circle have been studying, describing and storing the

material cultural heritage of Central Asia, including archeology, ethnography, geography, Turkestan and the surrounding nations, and laid the foundations for the history of Central Asia. It was the purpose of this circle's charter. Among the amateurs of the circle there were scholars from major cities such as St.Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan, and scholars published not only in Russia but also abroad. Most of them knew some eastern languages. One of them, M.Andreev, a member of the Academy of Sciences of the former Soviet Union, was promoted to the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and opened a great route in the Middle Eastern Ethnography. Ye.Smirnov studies the monuments around Tashkent and ancient monuments around the Syrdarya river basin, and publishes the findings in periodicals. It also publishes the "Central Asia" scientific-literary collection and "Central Asian Newsletters" magazines in the late XIXth century [8]. The founder of the circle, academician V.Barthold himself, was an archaeologist. Although he participated in archaeological research, he was an oriental scientist. He notes in his memoirs that along with studying written sources, he has also participated in the study of material cultural monuments, because of lack of scientific workforce [9].

In other words, each member of the circle mentions linguistic, ethnographical, geographical, numerical, archaeologist, historians and others. They were originally an oriental scientist and archaeologist. According to the order of the circle, its activities included: acquaintance with ancient monuments of Turkestan and its surroundings; write their description and enter the archeological card of the country; preservation of archeological monuments; processing of findings and publication of results of scientific researches.

After the first archaeological expedition, V.Barthold developed the concept of the Turkestan archeological amateur circle. It will be made available to industry experts, such as collecting and research. For example, local archaeologists have been collecting historic materials that incorporate archaeological and archaeological historical monuments, and historians in the capital analyzed them using the most progressive sciences, and made unique conclusions. Also, the findings that should be studied in the books are studied in the capital, and information collected through the research of everyday life has been identified on the ground.

According to Baron A.B.Vrevsky, the main task of the members of this circle was to make a scientific study of the history of Turkestan and its surrounding countries, particularly the history of Central Asia. Because, A.B.Vrevsky: "In these regions there lived high-ranking Aryans, and in time they moved to the west. The Oriental tradition has eradicated the traces of the Aryans culture, and our past generations have spread to European countries. Today, our destiny has



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turned us back to the lands of our descendants. Therefore, we have to collect and preserve historical and cultural monuments of these territories.” [8]

Conducted meetings have been completed and protocols are signed. The results of the research have been published in the Central Asian Newsletters since 1896, and in 1898 separate collections. Almost every research work is done within this circle. A military institution dealing with issues of conservation of Turkestan monuments has been engaged in the maintenance and repair work. In 1914, the Ministry of Defense issued ten thousand rubles to support the ancient monuments. By the initiative of the chairman of the circle A.B.Vrevsky, the work on preservation of the Amir Temur Mosque in Samarkand will be carried out. Also, according to his order, the Emir of Bukhara issued a decree on the preservation of monuments.

The history of the Central Asian peoples was attracted by the scientists before the formation of a circus. German scientist Franz Schwartz writes a book titled “Turkestan, the cradle of Indogerman peoples” [10]. The Governor-General of Turkestan, Kaufman invited him to Turkestan as the foundation of the Tashkent observatory as he was an astronomer. He has lived in this region for more than fifteen years and, in addition to astronomy, is interested in the traditions and culture of the peoples of Central Asia, considering all places of Turkestan. He also reads all the latest Russian literature on the history of the ancient peoples of Central Asia. After returning to Germany, he continued to study the history of Turkistan, based on a large collection of books about Turkestan kept in the State Bookstore of Munich. Prior to joining Central Asia, he completes and corrects the information in his book [11]. According to F.Schwartz, Turkestan was the first home of Europeans, and indigenous peoples were formed in its territory in ancient times, and for so many

centuries the migration processes of the Oriental people in Europe, Middle East, and North India have taken place. He also notes that Central Asia is a cult center for German, Celtic, Slavic and other peoples.

Cultural heritage sites in Samarkand attracted the attention of all oriental scholars, collectors, local historians in Central Asia. In particular, I.V.Mushketov, speaking about the Samarkand graveside, emphasizes the value of the Samarkand and its surrounding complexes at the local administration [12].

Creation of museums in Tashkent, Samarkand and Ferghana has been accomplished on the basis of collections gathered on the initiative of scientific societies, scientists and local residents. The services of enriching the country’s monuments in the preservation of sites of cultural heritage are enormous. The prominent cultural figures have been striving to provide the population with information on Turkestan’s cultural heritage, local nature, farm, history and culture through museum exhibits.

### Conclusion

As a result of research, scientific societies, scientists have studied the Turkestan region, studied the life of the people of Central Asia, and worked with local intellectuals, representatives of different peoples. N.I.Veselovsky, V.V.Barthold, and A.N.Samoylovich rely on local culture and history in their research and collected the factual material of many countries’ history.

However, due to the lack of attention to conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, some travelers and merchants have seized cultural treasures. Thus, Central Asia’s cultural heritage, material and cultural monuments, valuables, and rare manuscripts were taken to Russia and other countries.

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