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Establishing of the Historical and Genealogical Society in Moscow in Its Initiator's Letters:
Letters of S. M. Savelov (1903-1904) from the Fond of A. N. Nortsov in the State Archive of the
Tambov Region

Abstract

In 2018, the 150th anniversary of Leonid Mikhailovich Savelov (1868 – 1947), prominent scholar and organizer of science, is celebrated. When Savelov lived in Voronezh, he took an interest in archaeology. Studying of this sphere of his activities has been a starting point of the research that resulted in finding his letters addressed to Alexei Nikolayevich Nortsov stored in the State Archive of the Tambov Region. A. N. Nortsov (1859 – 1922) has been recently restored as a prominent scientist and public figure of the Tambov gubernia. Collection of L.M. Savelov's letters and postcards addressed to A.N. Nortsov contains 28 documents dating from November 1, 1901 to April 16, 1915. Though the correspondence is businesslike in character, its tenor suggests friendly relations between the addressees; the fact that has proved important for determining L. M. Savelov's stand on several significant issues. Many letters being quite voluminous, the authors are publishing a part of the collection dedicated to one subject — establishing of the Historical and Genealogical Society in Moscow. Activities of this organization, including L. M. Savelov's role in it, have been a matter of research. Thus, after introducing L. M. Savelov's epistolary heritage into scientific use, a fuller picture is beginning to emerge of his 'pet project,' which played an important role in formation of Russian genealogy as a scientific discipline. Information on establishing of the Historical and Genealogical Society in Moscow is found in five letters and two short messages on postcards, four of which, deemed most informative, are being published here. All are written in Leonid Mikhailovich's own handwriting, one bears the letterhead of the Historical and Genealogical Society. The first letter dates November 19, 1903, the last dates December 21, 1904. The text is unabridged, but the punctuation has been brought into compliance with contemporary rules.

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Keywords

Leonid Mikhailovich Savelov, Alexei Nikolayevich Nortsov, Historical and Genealogical Society in Moscow, State Archive of Tambov Oblast, genealogy.

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