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Documents on Studying the Territory of the Komi Autonomous Oblast (Komi ASSR) in the
Fonds of the National Archive of the Komi Republic: 1920-1930s

Abstract

The article analyses the documentary sources on studying the territory of the Komi Autonomous Oblast (Komi ASSR) in 1920-1930s, stored in the National Archive of the Komi Republic (NARK). The historical and archival studies of the North exploration and development are relevant to understanding the uniqueness of national Arctic and subarctic territories. The sources the article identifies offer rich material for studying the activities of scientific organizations and scientists who conducted pioneer research of the republic. The article aims to

demonstrate the value of the documentary complex on the formation of scientific network for studying and development of the region. Its chronological framework is limited to 1920-1930s, a time when there came a breakthrough in the development of the Republic. From backward national periphery it turned into a large industrial region with a network of scientific organizations. The study has determined that the majority of sources on the topic are concentrated in the fonds of the Komi state agencies. Information potential of different types of documents has been investigated. Findings of investigations and expeditions were presented in research documentation: reports, essays, memoranda, notes, manuscripts, etc. Questions of organization of scientific research were recorded state agencies' minutes of meetings, resolutions, orders, etc. The documents reveal not only tasks, directions and priorities of research in Komi, but also the role of first scientific organizations and individual scientists in formation and development of the fundamental science in the region. The activities of scientific institutions and scientists in the 1920s-1930s played a key role in the development of this remote Northern territory, their achievements being not just of regional, but of national significance. The study concludes that the identified archival documents represent one of more valuable groups of retrospective information on the issue. Their introduction into scientific use can significantly enrich the historical representation of the scholarship development in the European North of Russia.

Keywords

National Archive of the Komi Republic, sources, science, expeditions, scientific organizations, North.

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