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History of the State and the People in the Archival Documents from the State Archive of the Astrakhan Region

Abstract

The article assesses contents of the archival fonds of the State Archive of the Astrakhan Region (GAAO) in modern conditions and analyses the qualitative content of its documentary fonds.

The article reviews activities of the State Archive of the Astrakhan Region and composition of its documentary fonds. The GAAO is one of the leading institutions of state archival service in the Astrakhan region, one of the largest regional archives. On its shelves there are stored some unique 17th century prikaz clerical duties documents from the office of the Astrakhan voivode dating from 1601; documents of the authorities, institutions, organizations, public structures of the period of the Caucasus Viceroyalty and of the Astrakhan gubernia; Soviet period and post-Soviet period documents from 1918 to present time. Apart from documents of local authorities and administration, there is a sizable complex of documents of class, commercial and banking institutions, industrial and agricultural enterprises, scientific, educational, religious, cultural and public organizations. According to the commonly used in the national archiving classification, the archival files are divided by historical era: the pre-Soviet documents and those of the Soviet and post-Soviet period. 1918, date of the Soviet power establishment in the Astrakhan gubernia, serves as a milestone. Fonds of Soviet and post-Soviet period are the more numerous ones. The article notes that the documents of the archive are of great international significance as in 1990s the Astrakhan oblast acquired a special geopolitical status. For example, the archive has prepared a historical background and made copies of documents on the history of Indian merchant community in Astrakhan when the head of the Astrakhan region accompanied President Vladimir Putin on the delegation to India in 2000. The issues studied in the article demonstrate how archival documents allow to trace historical interconnection of phenomena and events and to use the positive experience of the past.

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Keywords

State Archive of the Astrakhan Region, unique documents, archival fonds, picture of historical life, religious denominations, retrospective archival data.

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