УДК 94(47)+930.253

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-3-738-750

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Archival Photographs of the Writer D. A. Granin as a Historical Source

Abstract

Daniil Alexandrovich Granin was an outstanding public figure, writer, and publicist. And yet his biography remains mostly unstudied. Information about him is controversial. 2019 has been declared the year of D.A. Granin by the President of the Russian Federation; and article is to study unknown facts of his biography that influenced his work. The article attempts a comprehensive analysis of archival photographic materials related to the work of the Russian writer D.A. Granin, which are a valuable historical source. The authors analyze the contents of photographic fond dedicated to D.A. Granin, stored in the Central State Archive of Cinema-Photo-Phono Documents of St. Petersburg (TsGA KFFD SPb). The authors retrace the events of the famous writer's life and activities in 1950s. Archival photographs help to understand the factors that influenced his work better. For example, his interest in art and artists, French in particular, is illustrated by a photograph taken in Paris in 1956, in which D.A. Granin and his fellow writers were photographed with the wife of the outstanding French artist Henri Matisse ? L.N. Delektorskaya. The photos show writers with whom Daniil Aleksandrovich mingled for decades. On numerous photos he is captured next to such famous writers and poets as A.A. Prokofiev, V.M. Sayanov, K.G. Paustovsky, E.I. Katerli, L.N. Rakhmanov, A.N. Chepurov, A.P. Elyashevich, V.N. Infantev, A.M. Minchkovsky, V.F. Panova, B.N. Poleyov, M.A. Dudin. The value of these 1950s photographs analysis lies in the fact that some of the people in the photographs in later years treated the writer, who was a difficult and ambivalent man, quite differently. D.A. Granin's work was appreciated not just by technical intelligentsia, but by a wide circle of Soviet readers, which is proved by numerous archival photographs of Daniil Aleksandrovich with his readers. The authors attempt to prove that archival photographs of D.A. Granin are a valuable historical source that is often overlooked by researchers studying the history of literature.

Keywords

D. A. Granin, Central State Archive of Cinema-Photo-Phono Documents of St. Petersburg, TsGA KFFD SPb, historical source, history of literature.

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Submitted 4.03.2019, published (for citation):

ZOTOVA, A. V., POLTORAK, S. N. Arkhivnye fotografii pisatelya Daniila Granina kak istoricheskii istochnik [Archival Photographs of the Writer D. A. Granin as a Historical Source. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2019, no. 3, pp. 738-750. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-3-738-750

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Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .