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A New Guide to the Fonds Has Been Published in the State Archive of the Irkutsk Region

Abstract

The review of the new guide (2018) to the fonds of the State Archive of the Irkutsk Region (GAIO) assesses the information possibilities and fundamental differences of the latest edition from those published earlier (in 1949, 1965, 1975, 1987). It is noted that the guide is the best reference book on the structure and contents of the GAIO fonds. As usual, the edition is structured by branch, its sections are systematized by significance, as well as chronologically and alphabetically. According to the reviewers, the structure is fortunate, as it allows even unconfident researchers to find the required fonds, series and files. The reviewers underscore that the latest edition includes extensive historical information prefacing each fond reference. These are essays in the history of Siberia, detailing historical events connected with social, political, economic, and cultural life of Eastern Siberia. Fonds included in the guide reflect special administrative role of Irkutsk, administrative and political center of Eastern Siberia from 1819 to 1917 and a stronghold for state advancement to the Far East, Transbaikalia, and Yakutia. A large part of the documents in the GAIO fonds covers the history of the “penal colonization,” the activities of regional penal institutes, court, criminal police, and gendarmerie. Archival fonds are also an important source on the history of political exile. The new edition contains name and geographical indices that supplement and expand its materials. Having analyzed the contents of this volume, the reviewers conclude that it has been carefully and professionally made, and allows to add a new dimension to the history of Siberia, Baikal region. It will be in demand with professional researchers, as well as wide readership.

Keywords

State archive, guide, Irkutsk gubernia, fonds, series, documents.

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