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Stages of Formation of the Folklore Collection in the General Archive of the Centre of Oriental Manuscripts and Xylographs of the Institute for Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies

Abstract

The article analyzes results of collecting activities carried out by several generations of researchers, intellectuals, local historians, enthusiasts, fans of Buryat oral folk art in order to identify and characterize the formation periods of folklore collection in the general archive of the Centre of Oriental Manuscripts and Xylographs of the Institute for Mongolian, Buddhist, and Tibetan studies. Analysis of this folklore collection is of great significance as it contains unique documents and records of all genres of oral art, including epic literature, fairy tales, fiction, minor genres. They were acquired during Soviet era, while traditional folklore was kept alive. The Centre's folklore collection was begun in the 1920–1940s, when personal files on outstanding performers of oral works and folklore collectors were formed. The next period, the most fruitful, rich and prolonged, lasted from the 1950s to the 1980s. The Institute regularly organized systematic and well-targeted expeditions to collect folklore and language material throughout ethnic Buryatia and Northern regions of Mongolia populated by the Buryats. The following period is connected with success of field research in China. Collected field material from the Buryats of Inner Mongolia of China supplemented the folklore collection of the Centre of Oriental Manuscripts, and Xylographs. All materials are accumulated in one place. Chronologically systematic and based on theoretical research, they represent a wide field for future scientific research. These are a representative source for identification of specific forms and mechanisms of preserving folk traditions and ethnic culture of the peoples of the Baikal region.

Keywords

Sources, repository, expeditions, researchers, collectors, folklore texts, folk traditions, ethnic culture of the peoples of Baikal region.

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