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Andrey A. Pripadchev

Emperor Peter I Voronezh State Agrarian University, Voronezh, Russian Federation

Museum of the Voronezh Church History and Archeology Committee: 1900–17

## Abstract

The article discusses the formation the Museum of the Voronezh Church History and Archeology Committee established in 1900. Its relevance is connected with scholars' interest in the Museum's collections and their acquisition. The research novelty springs from researching the previously unexplored church societies activities in preservation of historical and cultural heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church. The main purpose of the research is to study the Museum's collections. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are formulated: to determine the composition of the Committee Museum fonds; to characterize its main exhibits; to study the nature of acquisition; to identify the donors of the Museum. The framework covers the period of

the Voronezh Voronezh Church History and Archeology Committee functioning in 1900-17. The research methodology is based on the application of special historical methods: personality-oriented approach, historical-genetic, synchronistic, historical-system, method of historicism, which has allowed the author to consider and analyze the evolution of the Museum collection. It was formed mainly by private donations. One of the first donors was priest I. V. Surinov, who transferred materials of random excavations near his parish to the Museum. On the basis of this findings, the Museum's collection of primitive antiquities was formed. The exhibits of the collection were presented at the XII Russian archaeological Congress in Kharkiv. Members of the Committee and other donors gave to the Museum paleontological finds, coins, church plate, ancient manuscripts. In 1906, the "ancient secular objects" were exchanged for "church" ones. The Museum began to focus exclusively on the Church antiquities. The collection was in formation until Committee's liquidation in late 1917. The Museum was never officially opened. The fate of the exhibits is unknown. They probably perished either during the Seminary liquidation in 1918 or in 1942, when the city was occupied during the Great Patriotic War.

### Keywords

Voronezh Church History and Archeology Committee, Museum collections, donors, clergy, local history studies, church local history studies, local historians, Voronezh gubernia.

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About the authors

Pripadchev Andrey Alexandrovich, PhD in History, associate professor, Voronezh, Russian Federation, +7-920-441-21-16, senior.pripadcheff@yandex.ru

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