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“Survey of F. P. Litke’s Papers Collection Stored in the Central State Archive of Ancient Acts”
Compiled by the Historian and Archivist V. L. Bushueva: 1946–48

Abstract

After World War II, Varvara Lavrentievna Bushueva, Moscow State History and Archives
Institute graduate and employee, wrote a survey of comte Friedrich Benjamin von Litke’s

documents stored in the XXX fond of the Central State Archive of Ancient Acts. A brief outline of the scholar’s legacy is given in our preamble to the current publication. Originally, the text was intended to preface the book “F. P. Litke—Vice-Chairman of the Russian Geographical Society: 1845–74: Collected Letters and Materials” compiled under Aleksandr Ignitevich Andreev’s guidance for the Russian Geographical Society centenary and Litke’s anniversary. The manuscript has two similar title pages dated 1946 and 1948. On the cover of the latter, Andreev wrote that on March 10, 1948 it was sent to typesetting. The document heading named two supervising institutions, under aegis of which it was initially compiled: the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Central State Archive of Ancient Acts. It contained 140 documents stored in the archive: letters to Litke from K. E. von Baer, A. V. Golovnin, E. I. Lamansky, R. F. F. von der Osten-Sacken, and others; correspondence of Konstantin Nikolayevich; references, notes and projects of L. V. Dubbelt. It was not published for ideological reasons, but has been preserved in St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences and Technology. Bushueva’s review is broader than the stated topic of the work. She described not only the RGO-related items, but gave a general sketch of all Litke’s documents in the archive, dividing them thematically into the following groups: (1) sea voyages (1817–39); (2) the Danzig operation (1831–132); (3) education of the Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolayevich (1832–47); (4) Revel port supervision and Kronstadt defense (1850–55); (5) the Naval Department transformation (1850–69); (6) the Russian Geographical Society (1845–1875); (7) the Academy of Sciences. She paid particular attention to Litke’s correspondence with statesmen and scientists and put together an index of his correspondents. Her survey of high scientific value, it retains its relevance and practical importance for scholars. To demonstrate the state of knowledge, we have accompanied Bushueva’s text with references to two investigations: one prepared by the admiral’s descendant, Nikolai Fedorovich Litke, another by the prominent historian of science Alexander Ivanovich Alekseev.

Keywords

Historical source, Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, V. L. Bushueva, survey of F. P. Litke’s papers.

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