

Levchenko A.A, Dyabkin I.A.,

Blagoveshchensk, Russian Federation

Social and Cultural Transformations of 1920–1930 in the USSR in the Perception of Venedikt Mart: Revisiting the History of the Writer's Archive Publication

## Abstract

Venedikt Mart was a writer and an outstanding expert on Chinese and Japanese culture, who shared the fate of other Russian migrants. Mart has a special place in Russian literature of the 20th century. Nowadays much of his artistic legacy is housed in national archives, yet more is irretrievably lost. His works reflect modernist ideas of the Silver Age of Russian literature, display his interest in “artistic ethnography”, and follow traditions of social service commissioning. Venedikt Mart was born into the family of Nikolai Petrovich Matveev-Amursky, famous poet, journalist and local historian. Following familial traditions the writer has from his young age studied Japanese and Chinese languages, culture and literature of the East, which influenced his later work: even in Soviet period, China and Chinese people remained main themes of his works. Only a small part of Mart's artistic legacy has so far been introduced into scientific use and become available to researchers. His literary activity of the Soviet period is little known, published works of this period, such as “Collection of Stories” (1928), “The Lair of Red Devils”, “River People: The Story of Life in Modern China for Children” (1930) and others, is a bibliographic rarity. The article reviews an unknown essay of the writer, “The Former Homeless” (circa 1930), that was written in the USSR. The article aims to broaden the artistic scholarship of the Russian literature of 1920–1950s and of the literature of the Russian abroad, and also to introduce into scientific use the unpublished archival sources. The published materials broaden the literary, historical and biographical framework of the writer's works and form new approaches to studying Mart's artistic legacy of the Soviet period.



### Keywords

Social and cultural transformation, Russian literature of the 20th century, Soviet culture, social services commissioning, Russian State Archive of Literature and Art, Soviet essay, children town.

The publication is a part of the Russian Foundation for Humanities research project no. 14-18-00308 “Ethnic migrations as a factor in inter-civilization interactions and socio-cultural transformation in East Asia: History and contemporaneity”.

Download the article: [pdf](#)

## References

1. Zabiylko A.A., Dyabkin I.A. Transformatsija s'ujetov kitajskoi mifologii v tvorcestve dal'nevostochnih pisatelei [Transformation of Chinese mythology stories in works of Far Eastern writers of the 1920-1940s]. Religiovedeniye. [Religious Studies], 2013. no 4, pp. 139–156.
2. Zabiylko A.A., Levchenko A.A. Hudogestvennaja etnografija Venedikta Marta: dal'nevostochnij period [Artistic ethnography of Venedikt Mart: Far East period]. Gumanitarnije issledovanija v Sibiri I na Dal'nem Vostoke [Humanities Research in the Eastern Siberia and the Far East], 2014, no. 4, pp. 150–165.
3. Zabiylko A.P. Porubezh'e [Borderland]. Rossiya i Kitaj na dal'nevostochnih rubezhah [Russia and China on the Far-Eastern borders]. Blagoveshchensk, Izdatel'stvo Amurskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta publ., 2010, vol. 9, p.5.
4. Zabiylko A.P. Russkije v uslovijah dal'nevostochnogo frontira: etnicheskij opit XVII – nachala XX [Russians in the Far East frontier: Ethnic experience of the 17th beginning of the 20th century]. Zabiylko A.P., Cobizov R.A., Poncratova L.A. Russkije I kitaici: etnoemigracionnije processi na Dal'nem Vostoke [Russian and Chinese: Ethnic and migration processes in the Far East]. Blagoveshchensk, Izdatel'stvo Amurskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta publ., 2010, p.10.

About the authors

Written by Levchenko A.A., Dyabkin I.A.  
Monday, 10 May 2021 06:30

---

Levchenko Anna Aleksandrovna, graduate student at the Amur State University, assistant of the department of literature and world artistic culture of the Amur State University, Russian Federation, +7-924-675-74-16, a.a.levchenko@mail.ru

Dyabkin Igor Anatolievich, PhD in Philosophy, associate professor of the department of literature and world artistic culture of the Amur State University, Russian Federation, +7-924-674-40-60, igor-dyabkin@mail.ru

**You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .**

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