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Caucasus Described in the Memoirs of the Art Historian T. P. Znamerovskaya as a Source for Inspiration for Her Scientific Publications

Abstract

The article is devoted to the analysis of Tatiana P. Znamerovskaya's memoirs "Mountains and meetings" (Manuscript Department of the Russian National Library) as a source of images for her scientific publications. T. Znamerovskaya (1912–77) is a well-known scientist, specialist in

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the history of art. As a researcher of West-European art, Znamerovskaya worked in numerous national museums and libraries. Travelling abroad became possible in the USSR only in late 1950s, and even in the first half of the 1960s it was difficult in realization. The Caucasus remained her favorite place for summer vacations for many years, her trips were colorfully described in her documental novel "Mountains and meetings." In her scientific and popular science publications, for all their factual rigor, she needed an inspiration. It was the people she met in the Caucasus and the mountains themselves. Researching the biography and methodology of the scientist allows a deeper understanding of her scientific work and contributes to the study of the methodology of national history of art and culture. Given the growing interest in the history of the Russian science, it becomes more significant. However numerous are publications devoted to Znamerovskaya, the problem of inspiration sources for vivid descriptions of masters and their models, created by the scientist who was unable to travel abroad, has not been touched upon. Before her death, Znamerovskaya deposited her memoirs in the archives, some were classified for 25 years, some for longer periods. Currently many materials have been opened for study. Unfortunately, they remain unpublished, although they are of undoubted interest for science. The article attempts a comparative textual analysis of the memoirs "Mountains and meetings" and of Znamerovskaya's scientific works and identifies imaginative parallels. It has used the "theory of reflection" method. The life of the researcher as reflected in her memoirs finds its "reflection" in her works. The article opens the inner workings of her scholarship, highlights the feat of the researcher who, separated by the "iron curtain" from subject of her study, managed to overcome the obstacles by using the power of thought and imagination. Presented materials allow a better understanding of Znamerovskaya's biography and her scientific concepts.



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Keywords

Historical sources, memoirs by T. Znamerovskaya, manuscript “Mountains and meetings,” biography of scientist, scientific research of T. Znamerovskaya, image of the Caucasus, image of a mountaineer.

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