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Russian Diaspora: Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Abstract

The article poses a question of contribution of the Russian diaspora to the preservation of historical heritage in foreign countries. It provides information on Russian emigrants who collected and preserved documents related to the history of Russia and the Russian diaspora deposited in the personal provenance collections in various archives of the USA. Treasures of the Russian emigration documentary heritage arose of the need of Russian diaspora to understand its place in the world civilization, of attempts to overcome the crisis of cultural and national identity in complex circumstances. Thus they played a major role in preserving continuity of cultural tradition ruptured by the Revolution and decades of authoritarian regime. It should be noted that not only Russian emigre historians contributed to the archives creation, but people from all walks of life. There are widely and little known collections, archives and museums, recently created as well as of long standing. There are Russian Historical Archive Abroad in Prague, Russian Pedagogical Museum and Archive in Paris, Museum of Russian Cavalry in Belgrade, Bakhmeteff Archive at the Columbia University, Museum of Russian Culture (San Francisco, California), museum and archive of the Russian House "Rodina" (Lakewood, New Jersey), etc. The authors introduce only some of the materials, and yet they allow see the significance of the Russian Emigration documentary heritage. The publication is prepared with use of reference materials, scientific literature and websites of the archives. Biographical data is cited from archival fonds descriptions, references and monographs.

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