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COVERAGE OF THE HISTORY OF SAMARKAND IN FOREIGN SOURCES: A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE WORKS OF GERMAN, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN HISTORIANS

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Abstract. Introduction. Samarkand has long been one of the important historical centers of Central Asia. Its location at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road has had a profound influence on political, economic, and cultural development, attracting the attention of many researchers. Particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries, the works of German, French, and Russian scholars served as an important source for the study of the archaeology, architecture, and historical processes of the city, but their interpretations often depended on the spirit of the era and the views of the author. *Literary analysis and methodology.* Samarkand, as a major cultural center of Central Asia and an important city of the Bukhara Emirate, was of strategic importance for European countries, especially for the Russian Empire; Therefore, the region's natural resources, economy, and military potential were constantly studied by merchants, ambassadors, and scholars. In the 19th century, expeditions by explorers such as E.K.Meyendorff and V.V.Radlov collected important information about the Zarafshan Valley, its population structure, economy, and topography, and the 1868 invasions led by von Kaufmann ended with the destruction of the city and political upheaval. The works of European authors such as Ruy González de Clavijo, Henri Norman, and others also highly valued the prosperity, scholarship, and architectural heritage of Samarkand during the Timurid era, and by the end of the 19th century, the region had become a focus of Western historiography and the press. Results and discussion. Archaeological research in Samarkand and its ancient part, Afrosiab, in the 19th and 20th centuries was inextricably linked with the work of local and Russian scientists. In particular, the discovery of the Ulugbek Observatory by V.L.Vyatkin and the large-scale excavations yielded important scientific results. In this process, researchers such as V.V.Bartold, N.I.Veselovsky and A.L.Kun conducted research in the fields of source studies, architectural monuments, epigraphy, and ethnography, and contributed to the creation of museums and the activities of scientific societies. French and German expeditions also studied the region's archaeology, ethnography, and cultural heritage, presenting their findings to European scholars. As a result, Samarkand has become an important research site in global historiography. *Conclusion.* Although Samarkand has been studied by German, French, and Russian historians using different approaches, their research complements one another. Despite the noticeable

ideological influence in some works, a critical and comparative analysis of the sources allows for a deeper understanding of the city's history.

Keywords: Samarkand, Central Asia, scientific expeditions, russian, german and french historians, foreign historical sources, scholarly articles, and archival materials.

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САМАРҚАНД ТАРИХЫНЫҢ ШЕТЕЛДІК ДЕРЕККӨЗДЕРДЕГІ ЖАРЫЯЛАНУЫ: НЕМІС, ФРАНЦУЗ ЖӘНЕ ОРЫС ТАРИХШЫЛАРЫНЫҢ ЕҢБЕКТЕРІНЕ ТАРИХИ ТАЛДАУ

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Аңдатпа. *Kirpiche.* Самарқанд ұзақ уақыт бойы Орталық Азияның маңызды тарихи орталықтарының бірі болды. Ұлы Жібек жолының қиылысында орналасуы саяси, экономикалық және мәдени дамуға терең әсер етіп, көптеген зерттеушілердің назарын аударды. Әсіресе, 19 және 20 ғасырларда неміс, француз және орыс ғалымдарының еңбектері қаланың археологиясын, сәулетін және тарихи процестерін зерттеу үшін маңызды дереккөз болды, бірақ оларды түсіндіру көбінесе дәуір рухына және автордың көзқарастарына байланысты болды. *Әдеби талдау және әдіснама.* Самарқанд Орталық Азияның ірі мәдени орталығы және Бұхара әмірлігінің маңызды қаласы ретінде Еуропа елдері, әсіресе Ресей империясы үшін стратегиялық маңызға ие болды; Сондықтан аймақтың табиғи ресурстарын, экономикасын және әскери әлеуетін саудагерлер, елшілер және ғалымдар үнемі зерттеп отырды. XIX ғасырда Е.К. Мейендурф және В.В. Радлов сияқты зерттеушілердің экспедициялары Зарафшан алқабы, оның халық құрылымы, экономикасы және жер бедері туралы маңызды ақпарат жинады, ал фон Кауфман бастаған 1868 жылғы шапқыншылықтар қаланың қирауы мен саяси төңкеріспен аяқталды. Руй Гонсалес де Клавихо, Анри Норман және басқалар сияқты еуропалық авторлардың еңбектерінде Тимуридтер дәуіріндегі Самарқандтың гүлденуі, ғылымилығы және сәулет мұрасы жоғары бағаланды, ал XIX ғасырдың аяғында бұл аймақ Батыс тарихнамасы мен баспасөзінің назарына айналды. *Нәтижелер және талқылаулар.* XIX және XX ғасырларда Самарқандта және оның ежелгі бөлігі Афросиабта жүргізілген археологиялық зерттеулер жергілікті және ресейлік ғалымдардың жұмыстарымен тығыз байланысты болды. Атап айтқанда, В.Л. Вяткиннің Ұлықбек обсерваториясын ашуы және кең көлемді қазба жұмыстары маңызды ғылыми нәтижелер берді. Бұл үдерісте В.В. Бартольд, Н.И. Веселовский және А.Л. Кун сияқты зерттеушілер деректану, сәулет ескерткіштері, эпиграфика және этнография салаларында зерттеулер жүргізіп, мұражайлар мен ғылыми қоғамдардың қызметін құруға үлес қосты. Француз және неміс экспедициялары аймақтың археологиясын, этнографиясын және мәдени мұрасын зерттеп, өз зерттеулерін еуропалық ғалымдарға ұсынды. Нәтижесінде, Самарқанд әлемдік тарихнамада маңызды зерттеу орнына айналды. *Қорытынды.* Самарқандты неміс, француз және орыс тарихшылары әртүрлі тәсілдерді қолдана отырып зерттегенімен, олардың

зерттеулері бір-бірін толықтырады. Кейбір еңбектердегі айқын идеологиялық әсерге қарамастан, дереккөздерді сыни және салыстырмалы талдау қала тарихын тереңірек түсінуге мүмкіндік береді.

Түйін сөздер: Самарканд, Орталық Азия, ғылыми экспедициялар, орыс, неміс және француз тарихшылары, шетелдік тарихи дереккөздер, ғылыми мақалалар және мұрағат материалдары.

Дәйексөз үшін: Имомов У.И. Самарканд тарихының шетелдік дереккөздердегі жариялануы: неміс, француз және орыс тарихшыларының еңбектеріне тарихи талдау // Scientific Journal “Central Asian courier”. 2026. Т. 2. № 3. 465–477 бб. (Ағылш.). DOI: 10.64970/3105-241X_2026_2_3_465-477

ОСВЕЩЕНИЕ ИСТОРИИ САМАРКАНДА В ЗАРУБЕЖНЫХ ИСТОЧНИКАХ: ИСТОРИКО-ИСТОРИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ РАБОТ НЕМЕЦКИХ, ФРАНЦУЗСКИХ И РОССИЙСКИХ ИСТОРИКОВ

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Аннотация. *Введение.* Самарканд долгое время был одним из важных исторических центров Центральной Азии, и благодаря своему расположению на перекрестке Великого Шелкового пути он оказал огромное влияние на политическое, экономическое и культурное развитие и привлекал внимание многих исследователей. Особенно в XIX и XX вв. работы немецких, французских и русских ученых служили важным источником для изучения археологии, архитектуры и исторических процессов города, но их интерпретации часто зависели от духа эпохи и взглядов автора. *Анализ литературы и методология.* Самарканд, будучи крупным культурным центром Центральной Азии и важным городом Бухарского эмирата, имел стратегическое значение для европейских стран, особенно для Российской империи; поэтому природные ресурсы, экономика и военный потенциал региона постоянно изучались купцами, послами и учеными. В XIX в. экспедиции таких исследователей, как Е.К. Мейендорфа и В.В. Радлова, собрали важную информацию о Зарафшанской долине, структуре населения, экономике и топографии, а вторжения 1868 г. под командованием фон Кауфмана закончились разрушением города и политическими переменами. Также в работах европейских авторов – Руи Гонсалеса де Клавихо, Генри Нормана и других – высоко ценились процветание, наука и архитектурное наследие Самарканда в эпоху Тимуридов, и к концу XIX в. регион стал объектом внимания западной историографии и прессы. *Результаты и обсуждение.* Археологические исследования в Самарканде и его древней части – Афросиабе – в XIX и XX вв. были неразрывно связаны с деятельностью местных и российских ученых, особенно открытие обсерватории Улугбека В.Л. Вяткиным и проведение масштабных раскопок принесли важные научные результаты. В этом процессе такие исследователи, как В.В. Бартольд, Н.И. Веселовский, А.Л. Кун, проводили исследования в области источниковедения, архитектурных памятников, эпиграфики и этнографии, способствовали созданию музеев и деятельности научных обществ. Также французские и немецкие экспедиции изучали археологию, этнографию и культурное наследие региона и представляли собранные материалы европейским научным кругам, в результате чего Самарканд стал важным объектом исследований в мировой историографии. *Заключение.* Хотя Самарканд изучался немецкими,

французскими и российскими историками с использованием различных научных подходов, их исследования дополняют друг друга. Несмотря на заметное идеологическое влияние в некоторых работах, критический и сравнительный анализ источников позволяет глубже понять историю города.

Ключевые слова: Самарканд, Центральная Азия, научные экспедиции, российские, немецкие и французские историки, зарубежные исторические источники, научные статьи и архивные материалы.

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Introduction. The city of Samarkand is one of the most ancient and historically rich settlements in Central Asia, which played an important role in the development of not only the region, but also world civilization. Located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, this city developed as a political, economic, scientific and cultural center at different times, attracting the attention of many tourists, historians and researchers. Especially in the 19th-20th centuries, scientific research conducted by European and Russian scientists formed important sources in the study of the history of Samarkand. Works written by German, French and Russian historians play an important role in illuminating the historical processes of Samarkand from ancient times to the Timurid era and subsequent periods. These studies put forward different views on the archeology, architectural monuments, political events, cultural life and economic relations of the city. At the same time, it can be seen that in foreign sources the interpretation of the history of Samarkand is often formed depending on the political views of the authors, scientific schools and the spirit of the era.

The main purpose of this article is to analyze the level of coverage of the history of Samarkand in the works of German, French and Russian historians, to conduct a comparative study of their scientific approaches and conclusions, and to determine the place of these sources in modern historiography. During the study, the similarities and differences in the reflection and interpretation of the history of Samarkand are shown on the basis of foreign historical literature, scientific articles and archival materials. The scientific significance of the article is that it serves to determine the place of foreign historiography in the study of the history of Samarkand, to analyze the views of various historical schools, and to enrich national historiography. This creates an opportunity to more deeply understand the place and significance of Samarkand in world history.

Literature analysis and methodology. Samarkand was, first of all, one of the major cultural centers of Central Asia, which had long been formed, but at the same time it was also strategically important for European countries and was one of the major cities of the Bukhara Emirate. The ruling circles of the Russian Empire, through merchants, tourists, natural scientists and other representatives, sought to consistently study the natural resources, economic system and military potential of the region. Therefore, before military campaigns, special scientific expeditions were organized, and mountain ranges, farming and craft industries, as well as political relations between local states were studied.

Information about Samarkand written by Russian authors can be divided into diplomatic mission documents, reports of military expeditions, road maps and statistical collections. Although scientific data collection in the Russian Empire began in the late 17th century, detailed descriptions of Samarkand began to appear mainly in the diaries and works of people who visited these places at the beginning of the 19th century. One of such authors was E.K.Meyendorff, an ambassador sent to Bukhara in the first half of the 19th century. Although his main task was not to study Samarkand, his works contained important historical information about the Zarafshan Valley, the population of the region, and Samarkand. E.K.Meyendorff visited the Bukhara Emirate in 1820 as part of the official embassy mission of the Russian Empire. At that time, the Bukhara Emirate was in the Mangid period, and the state administration was in the hands of Emir Heydar. In his work, E.K.Meyendorff first listed

the cities of the Miyankol oasis, and then focused on Samarkand. The Miyankal region was mentioned in this period in relation to the territory between the Akdarya and Karadarya rivers, and although this area was not very large, it was the center of the emirate's agriculture. According to him, the cities of Karmana, Payshamba, Ziyouddin, Khatirchi, Kattakurgan, Yangikurgan, Karshikeldikurgan, and Chelak were located in the Miyankal oasis (Meyendorff E.K., 1870: 3–4). The above-mentioned territories were the centers of the beyliks, and the author wrote these territories as cities. E.K.Meyendorff noted that the emir of Bukhara visited Samarkand every year. This tradition is associated with the Timurid rulers, and although Samarkand, which was the center during the Timurid period, did not fulfill the role of the capital in later periods, it was an important, strategic point of Central Asia. During this period, the ruler of the state was called the emir.

In 1867, the Russian Empire established the Turkestan general-governorate in the second stage of the colonization of Central Asia, and from that time on, extensive scientific study of the country began. In fact, this process began earlier, and after the capture of the city by the Russian Empire, in-depth study of Samarkand, which had been of interest for centuries, began. In the following year, in 1868, the Russian Empire organized an expedition under the leadership of V.V.Radlov for geological and geographical study of the region. The main goal of this expedition was to study the Samarkand region geologically and create a topographic map of the Zarafshan valley (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 337).

It would be correct to say that the first expeditions organized by the Russian Empire were primarily aimed at cartography. The Governor-General of Turkestan, von Kaufman, created all the conditions for Radlov to collect information about the unexplored regions of Turkestan. In 1869, in his report to the Geographical Society on the end of the expedition, V.V.Radlov provided information about the hydrographic and topographical features of the Zarafshan Valley, the population of Samarkand, in particular, the Jewish population, silk production, and Tajiks (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 341). It is clear from this that Samarkand has been multinational since ancient times, and we can also see Indian communities here. Later, V.V.Radlov also wrote an essay about the Zarafshan region, in which he mainly recorded information about the Zarafshan Valley, villages, cities in the region, water supply, and agriculture.

V.I.Mushketov's work on the geological description of the region also provided some information about Afrosiab, the ancient city of Samarkand, about Shahi Zinda, and about Amir Temur's Mausoleum. It is said that he tried to study the features of the tombstone of Amir Temur, and even took a small copy of the tombstone. Later, it was studied and presented to the Petersburg Academy of Sciences (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 342). We can also learn about the atrocities during the capture of Samarkand from the scientific work of several Russian orientalists. Kaufman led all the invasion campaigns of the Empire during this period. L.V.Kostenko, describing the capture of Samarkand by the Russian troops, writes: "Furious by the fierce resistance, von Kaufman gave the order not to take prisoners. The order was strictly carried out. 18 wounded were brutally beaten. By his order, the city of Samarkand was plundered and burned" (Kostenko L.V., 1871: 160–161).

The Russian artist V.V.Verschagin, who accompanied the Russian troops on this campaign, describes Kaufman as follows: "Now I see General Kaufman in our courtyard, judging and punishing various people. Surrounded by officers, Konstantin Petrovich sat on a marching chair and, while smoking a cigarette, without getting excited at all, gave the order: shoot, shoot, shoot" (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 344). The tragedy of the peoples of Turkestan became a triumph for Russian generals, including Kaufman, who received glory and titles for taking Samarkand, Kokand and participating in other campaigns, and his name was inscribed in gold letters on the board of the Petersburg Engineering School with the inscription "Samarkand – 1868". Kaufman also stood out as an official adaptable to different times (Mushketov I.V., 1877: 38–40).

After the capture of Samarkand by von Kaufman, the emir of Bukhara, Muzaffar, ordered the execution of the person who brought him the news of the capture of Samarkand, and he himself wept in grief. The emir of Bukhara gathered his troops and marched towards Samarkand to repel the enemy. Hearing this news, von Kaufman marched towards Bukhara. The armies of the two sides clashed at

Zirabulok on June 2, 1868, a fierce battle took place, and the emir's troops were crushed. Meanwhile, an uprising broke out in Samarkand against the invaders.

Shahrisabz, Kitab beks Jurabek and Bobobek, and the emir's son Abdumalik Tora arrived in Samarkand with an army on May 27 and, together with the rebels, fought fiercely with the military units left in Samarkand by von Kaufman under the command of Colonel Nazarov and Major Shtempel. The battle lasted 8 days. Out of the enemy force of 500 people, 275 were killed and wounded. Having learned about the events in Samarkand, von Kaufman immediately returned to Samarkand and on June 8 ordered the city to be shelled, the population to be shot indiscriminately, and the city to be burned. The population was massacred, mosques and historical monuments were burned, and ancient, unique material and spiritual monuments were taken to Petersburg. On June 2, 1868, a peace treaty was signed between Kaufman and Emir Muzaffar.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs criticized Kaufman's intention to grant the «legal status of citizens» to the residents of all cities in Turkestan and pointed out that such rights could only be enjoyed by residents of the historically formed large trade centers of Turkestan – Tashkent, Kokand, Namangan and Samarkand (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 362). As for the rest, it was intended to be granted to residents of settlements where Russians had migrated and where Russian trade had developed. Shymkent, Avliyo-ata, Kattakurgan and Turkestan were included in the list of such settlements (Chizhov V.A., 1915: 16).

Russia paid great attention to the political and social situation in Samarkand, as well as to archaeological excavations in the city. In 1874, the head of the Samarkand district, General Abramov, instructed Major Borzenkov to conduct trial excavations in Afrasiab. Borzenkov, due to his inexperience, began to conduct these amateur excavations in the northern part of the town and its outskirts, both longitudinally and transversely. At the same time, some objects of ancient times, the remains of «some» devices, were found; this was the end of the work. Borzenkov himself died soon after. M.N. Rostislavov gave some information about the excavations carried out by Borzenkov in his article for the newspaper (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 363).

In 1553, the work of the scholar Perondino "The Greatness of Tamerlane the Scythian" was published in Florence, Italy. The book put forward the first views on Amir Temur and his campaigns in Europe. It also contains valuable information about the development of the city, construction, population, and villages of Samarkand during the time of Amir Temur. Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo's "Diary of a Journey to Samarkand, to the Palace of Temur (1403–1406)" certainly ranks first among the written sources published in European languages (Spanish, English, French). This work was first published in Madrid by Gonzalez Argote de Molina. From 1582 until 1990, when Professor Lucien Keren published the last translation with extensive annotations, a total of 10 translations of the "Diary" were published, including one in Argentina, and a translation into Persian in 1958.

Von Soldern called Samarkand in the language of the Eastern peoples: "The paradise of the world – the earth – is a garden with which God is pleased" (Schubert von Soldern. 1898: 6). Norman in his work noted that Samarkand was the most luxurious city in the world after Athens, Rome and Constantinople (Henry Norman. 1902: 319). Moreover, Samarkand was equal to Athens in terms of the popularity of science and the grandeur of its monuments (Henry Norman. 1902: 248). According to Lehmann, the caravanserais of Samarkand served as a bridge between China, India and Persia during the Timurid era (Alexander Lehmann. 1852: 145). So it is clear that the coverage of the history of Samarkand was at the center of the interests of historical scholars of Western countries.

According to Fredric Starr, during this period, the English traveler Aderlard came to get acquainted with the scientific achievements of the Islamic world and, upon his return, brought back copies of the works of Eastern thinkers, which were translated into Latin and distributed throughout Europe. In later periods, it was precisely in the 15th-19th centuries that many tourists and ambassadors from Europe visited the territory of our state, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that the largest influx of them came in the 19th century. According to archival data, a total of 260 foreign tourists and researchers visited Turkestan in 1890–1898, including 75 English, 70 Germans, 57

French, 24 Austro-Hungarians, 15 Americans, 7 Danes, 4 Belgians, 4 Italians, 3 Swiss, and 1 Spaniard (Rasulova D.B. 2019: 4).

Afghanistan was a territory separating the British colony of India and the Russian colony of Central Asia. The next countries to show the greatest interest in the country were the French and Germans. At that time, these countries were also the most powerful colonial powers in Europe. During this period, the periodical press played a special role in the study of Central Asia. Its pages regularly published articles and news on the history of Turkestan, Bukhara and Samarkand, the political situation, the socio-economic situation of the region, the political situation, issues of Russian expansion, and the results of scientific expeditions. The first scientific periodical in France, the *Journal des Savants*, appeared in the 17th century. Important information on the history of the region was published in this journal in the 30s-40s of the 19th century (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 354).

Results and Discussion. The work of local archaeologists V.L.Vyatkin (1869–1932) is also noteworthy. In 1908, this scientist discovered the remains of the famous Ulugbek Observatory in Samarkand and, after many years of excavation, managed to fully open it. V.L.Vyatkin collected large archaeological collections, made a name for himself by studying and preserving the monuments of Samarkand, studied the ancient city of Afrasiab (Samarkand) and its environs, and collected a large number of historical and archaeological sources. His works "Afrasiab Fortress" and "Shepherd Father Hill" serve as the main sources in the study of Samarkand historiography (Vyatkin V.L., 1926: 41–42).

On December 15, 1896, a telegram from the Turkestan Amateur Archeological Society was sent from Tashkent to the Russian Archeological Society. It proposed plans for future archaeological and scientific expeditions in the country. In 1896, permission was granted to establish the Turkestan branch of the Russian Geographical Society in Tashkent. The branch began its activities on November 29, 1897. The Turkestan Amateur Archeological Society had already defined its functional tasks by this time. By 1901, a branch of the Society of Orientalists was opened. All of them were engaged in scientific research. Branches of the Turkestan Archeological Society were also opened. One of them was in Samarkand (Lunin B.V., 1958: 44).

It is clear from this that the Turkestan amateur archaeologists' circle did not begin its activities in a vast expanse, in a «blank space». After the Turkestan region was annexed to Russia, scientific research work was launched. He wrote about the work of N.S.Likoshin and P.Lerkhlar in 1867, and about the study of the ancient settlement of Samarkand by A.Khoroshkin in 1872. Thus, the archaeological study of Samarkand by the Russians began in the second half of the 19th century (Khoroshkin A.P., 1871: 21).

The city museum, opened in Samarkand on June 21, 1896, was an important event. The issue of opening this museum was raised several times by local historians. In 1893, D.I.Yevarnisky, an official of the Turkestan general-governorate office, published an article on this topic in the newspaper «Ukraine». On May 24, 1894, he gave a report at a meeting of the Moscow Archaeological Society. This information states that: «The captain of the 17th Turkestan battalion, L.S.Barshchevsky, collected the best examples of ancient local monuments, including many ancient objects and coins, and then developed the idea of the need to establish a museum in Samarkand as a center of historical monuments». D.I.Yevarnisky made a proposal to the Turkestan authorities to find funds for the establishment of a museum and to use the collections collected by Barshchevsky as the basis for this museum (Lunin B.V., 1958: 73).

V.V.Bartold's comments on the sources of Central Asian history have not lost their significance to this day. V.V.Bartold did not limit himself to this analytical work, but also followed archaeological excavations. An example of this is the excavations carried out at the site of the city of Afrasiab in Samarkand. In 1904, V.V.Bartold came to Central Asia for the third time. The site of the city of Afrasiab was studied in detail. Before arriving in Samarkand, V.V.Bartold expressed many ideas about future research in Tashkent on March 16, 1904. The archaeologist and local historian V.L.Vyatkin also participated in the excavations, for which V.V.Bartold published a special article about the water system in Samarkand (Bartold V.V., 1897: 35–36).

Afrasiab tried to connect the information about Samarkand given by Arab geographers of the 10th-12th centuries with research. According to V.V.Bartold, the site of the city of Afrasiab was located on the site of the Samarkand city. Until the Mongol era, it was important to determine the area of Afrasiab and the location of its buildings. V.V.Bartold also actively participated in museum work (Lunin B.V., 1958: 74).

As a result of archaeological excavations, a museum sector was formed in Central Asia. Russian orientalisks expressed interest in its development in Central Asia. V.V.Bartold published an album entitled "Samarkand Mosque" related to the burial of Amir Temur. In it, the scientist showed special interest in the relationship between Muslim priests who collected written sources related to the burial of Amir Temur and Amir Temur. He analyzed terms such as tomb, supa, dakhma, madrasa, khanaqoh, and collected historical ethnographic data. The Mongols compared the funeral rites and burial methods of the Kipchaks. V.V.Bartold actively participated in resolving the issue of opening an Institute of Oriental Studies in Tashkent (Lunin B.V., 1958: 80–81).

During his scientific work, N.I.Veselovsky also studied historical architectural structures in Central Asia. When N.I.Veselovsky arrived in Samarkand, he accidentally discovered ancient finds related to Afrasiab and its surroundings. He also provided a lot of information about the architectural ensemble of Shahi Zinda in Samarkand. He presented his research at meetings of the Eastern Department. Special attention is paid to the architectural features of this building. The structure has a complex structure. He carried out a lot of work on the study of historical architectural monuments. N.I.Veselovsky headed the historical architectural expedition in Samarkand. Plans and projects of the archaeological commission were developed. V.P.Vasiliev, V.V.Radlov, K.G.Zeleman, B.R.Rozen, V.A.Zhukovsky, M.P.Botkin expressed their opinions (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 371).

In June 1895, the architect academician Pyotr Petrovich Pokryshkin and the artist Samuil Martinovich Dudin arrived in Samarkand. On August 18, N.I.Veselovsky also arrived in Samarkand. In February 1899, the Russian government allocated 13.000 rubles for the registration of Samarkand mosques. On March 3, 1899, a meeting was held with the participation of A.A.Babrinsky, N.I.Veselovsky, A.A.Spisin, D.A.Braun, M.P.Botkin, K.G.Zaleman, V.V.Radlov, V.A.Zhukovsky, academician-architect N.P.Pokryshkin, N.I.Veselovsky, and plans for further research in the region were determined. Albums of the "Samarkand Mosques" were published. These albums provide information about the mosques that existed in Samarkand in the second half of the 19th century, their number and condition (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 372).

From this it should be concluded that the Russians, proceeding from the religion of the local people in Samarkand, began to deeply study the Islamic religion and its consciousness. Research was conducted based on the information provided by archaeologist V.L.Vyatkin. On March 14, 1896, at the meeting of the Eastern Department, N.I.Veselovsky presented information about the Kutbi Chaa degum tomb to the participants of the meeting. Photographs of the Nurad-Din Basir tomb, information about the destruction of tombs occupy a special place. N.I.Veselovsky further expanded the scope of his research based on the book «Samarkand». N.I.Veselovsky was engaged in reproducing handwritten documents and understanding their historical significance when he first arrived in Central Asia. Such inscriptions were studied on the stones of the tombs of Amir Temur and his sons, as well as on the inscriptions on the tombs of Childukhtaron Shaybanii and Khoja Ahrar. In 1885, N.I.Veselovsky examined the settlements in the village of Dahbet, located 12 kilometers from Samarkand. He continued his research at the tomb of Said Ahmad Kosoni (Makhdumi Azam), (the owner of the absolute power) (Lunin B.V., 1958: 82–83).

He wrote down the construction and year of construction of the Yalangtoshbiy mosque (1028/1619). He examined the grave of Makhdumi Azam in the area around the mosque. N.I.Veselovsky, having studied the epitaphs here, stated that Yalangtoshbiy died in 1066/1655–1656. He mentioned that there was a pedestal at the corner of the entrance to the "dahma" (burial place) (Лунин В.В., 1958: 109). A.L.Kun compiled the «Turkestan Album» and was able to develop numerous photographs of ancient monuments in the region, as well as plans for architectural monuments in Samarkand. The album is a very valuable source (Kun A.L., 1872: 24–36).

I.V.Mushketev also cited valuable source information for historiography. I.V.Mushketev's first research was not accidental. Other researchers testify to his high interest in Central Asia. Historian Rosen gave his comments on his chapter on Samarkand and local ancient monuments. I.V.Mushketev studied inscriptions (in Arabic) in Samarkand and Termez. Because Samarkand has been one of the centers of science and culture since the time of the Arabs (Mushketev I.V., 1877: 87). It is natural that there were a lot of Arabic manuscripts, books, and literature used in madrasas during the khanate period.

There was great interest in Samarkand's past. In 1881, I.I.Srezhevsky translated the collection of Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo. Clavijo was in Samarkand as an ambassador to Amir Temur in 1403–1406. Clavijo was the ambassador of the then King of Spain, Henry III, and was tasked with collecting information about the reign of Amir Temur, the customs of the peoples of the territory he conquered, the nature of Samarkand, and the local culture. Another participant in Samarkand, the artist N.E.Simakov, was engaged in registering ancient cultural monuments in Samarkand and its environs. His research was reflected in the album «Art of Central Asia» in 1883. The album was highly appreciated by many researchers, in particular by V.V.Stasov. It can provide valuable information on the art of Central Asia. It is clear from this that the Russian Empire, along with the historical monuments and population of Samarkand, was also interested in the culture and art of the region (Simakov N.E., 1882: 92–96).

In 1867–1868, V.V.Verschagin came to Central Asia. In 1869–1870, he managed to create his large-scale painting. It was called «Sherdor Madrasa on the Registan Square of Samarkand», and in addition, he created such works as «Temur's Door», «Doors of Mosques», «Shahi Zinda Mausoleum in Samarkand». V.V.Verschagin studied the unique styles of doors built in architecture. The artist put forward detailed foundations for material culture and its emergence, color images. V.V.Verschagin was particularly interested in the archeology of Central Asia, in particular, Samarkand, as well as the nature and living standards of the population. He participated in small excavations in the field of archeology. He managed to find and register many ancient artifacts (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 373).

The process of registering the architectural monuments of the Turkestan region, including the Samarkand region, that have come down to us, was not carried out quickly. The artist L.E.Dimitriev-Kavkazsky, who came to Central Asia in 1882–1888, also showed interest in the history of material culture (Dimitriev-Kavkazsky L.E., 1894: 17). On the instructions of the Academy of Arts, the artist N.N.Sherbin-Kramarenko recorded interesting information for research in Central Asia. On November 10, 1897, this artist made his report public. In 1895, Shcherbin-Kramarenko began studying the Bibi Khanym mosque in Samarkand and carried out excavations in its courtyard. He managed to collect a rich collection in this area (Sherbin-Kramarenko N.N., 1896: 59–60).

It is no coincidence that archaeologists, geographers, scientific expeditions, as well as art historians and artists, visited the region, and it was no coincidence that this region impressed the Russians with the idea that it was a completely new world. The geographer Fedchenko, who visited the Samarkand region in the late 1860s, conducted an in-depth study of its ethnographic composition, dividing the population into Uzbek, mountain Tajik, Tajik, Jewish, Gypsy, Arab, Indian, and other categories. The author noted that the word "Sart" used in relation to the local population does not have any political or ethnographic meaning (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 374–375). For information, it is worth noting that the original meaning of the term "Sart" was considered a merchant, and after the Russian Empire colonized Central Asia, an attempt was made to create the Sart social class in this region. The Sart language. However, this attempt ended in failure (Ingeborg Baldauf. 1991: 80).

Along with his official duties, A.D.Grebekin, who managed to get acquainted with the customs, ethnic composition, origin, main occupations, and wedding ceremonies of the population of Turkestan, publishes his memoirs about the Uzbeks of the Samarkand region. In his memoirs, he listed the large tribes of the Uzbeks and specifically touched upon the concept of «prince» that existed in each tribe. In his opinion, sedentary and nomadic groups live in the region. He was able to get acquainted with the economy, customs, and wedding ceremonies of sedentary groups. Groups whose main occupation was cattle breeding constantly moved from one place to another, that is, seasonally.

This situation increased migration in the region. In his memoirs, A.D.Grebenkin studies the Tajiks of the Zarafshan oasis and analyzes their relations with the Uzbeks. In Russian studies, the Tajiks and their customs in the Zarafshan Valley aroused the same interest as the Uzbeks (Grebenkin A.D., 1872: 35–36).

S.N. Sobolev, who served as the head of the Zarafshan district, personally participated in the population census held in the Zarafshan district in the early 1870s. In his memoirs, he specifically touched upon the administrative structure of the Zarafshan valley, the ethnic composition of the population, the number of inhabitants, occupations, customs, the irrigation system, the villages of the Zarafshan valley, and ethnic units in the villages. S.N.Sobolev noted that the ethnic group called "Kyrgyz" by the Russians living in the villages of Samarkand were actually Kazakhs (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 376). The works of G.A.Aranderenko, who served in various administrative positions in the Samarkand region in 1874–1889, also contain various information about the ethnography of the population of the region. In particular, his research sheds light on the migration of ethnic peoples to the Zarafshan oasis and their current situation (Arandarenko G.A., 1889: 14).

When the Russians registered ethnic groups living in the Samarkand region, the number of other nationalities was deliberately overestimated. However, various ethnographic expeditions also recognized that the largest population in Samarkand belonged to the Uzbek nationality. In particular, N. Aristov, who shed light on the origin and lineage of the Uzbek clans of the Zarafshan valley, came to the conclusion that the Uzbeks not only ruled the Samarkand region, the Bukhara emirate, and the Zarafshan valley for centuries, but also had a numerical advantage (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 390).

The materials on which the results of scientific expeditions are written are various scientific articles, journals, diaries, illustrations, reports on the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the Turkestan region, which are distinguished by their wealth of information on the culture of the population of Samarkand, Bukhara, Turkestan, the Zarafshan Valley, the ethnic composition of the region, and the geographical appearance of the region. Articles on geographical local studies were mainly published in journals such as «Annales des voyages», «Bulletin de la Societe de Geographie», «L'Exploration», «Revue de Geographie», «Revue geographique internationale». One of the largest results of the expeditions organized by the French was published in Paris in 1878–1880 in the six-volume work of M.Sh.Ujfalvy – «Expedition scientifique Franfaise en Russie, en Sibirie etdans le Turkestan» – «French Expedition in Russia, Siberia and Turkestan». Each volume of this book has its own characteristics and is dedicated to different stages of the expedition. In particular, the second volume of the work describes the Syrdarya basins, Tashkent, Samarkand and the Yettisuv region (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 355).

Special attention is paid to the scientific data of these regions, mainly in the geological, archaeological and ethnological fields. The materials of this expedition were also presented at major scientific conferences in St. Petersburg and Paris. After the expedition was completed, various reports, materials, and articles were written. The objects captured were put on display and shown to scientists at various exhibitions in Europe. In addition, at the end of the expedition, M.Sh.Ujfalvy visited the Afrasiab, Amir Temur's Mausoleum, Shahi Zinda, Bibi Khanum, Tillakori, Sherdor and Ulugbek madrasas in Samarkand. The fact that these buildings have been the «salon» of Samarkand for centuries is evidence of this.

Bonvalot Pierre Gabriel was one of the French explorers who studied the region in depth and left behind a wealth of information. In his work «In Central Asia. From the Mountains to the Caspian Sea», he describes the unique features of Samarkand, historical monuments such as Amir Temur's Mausoleum, Shahi Zinda, Bibi Khanum, and the Koktash, which served as the foundation for the throne of Amir Temur (Bonvalot Pierre Gabriel. 1885: 243).

Jean Chaffanjon (1854–1913), who visited the Central Asian region with a special scientific expedition in 1894–1895, was a naturalist by profession and an employee of the Lyon Scientific and Historical Museum (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 356). The archaeological research conducted by Chaffanjon at the Samarkand Afrasiab monument was not successful, because for the expedition members it was not important to study the historical significance of the city, but rather to search for

unique art samples proving the existence of an ancient civilization in Afrasiab. For this purpose, the main focus was on excavating as many finds as possible. Chaffanjon, dissatisfied with the excavations, appealed to the Russian government to attract sappers. Using gunpowder, many exhibits were collected in the ruins of Afrasiab in a complex manner, which caused great damage to the city. Upon returning to Paris, Chaffanjon published interesting information about the scientific expedition in the pages of the *Journal des Debats*. It reflected archaeological research conducted in the regions of Poykand, Merv, and Afrasiab, as well as information about the historical monuments built by Amir Temur in Samarkand and Jizzakh (*Departure of Mr. Chaffanjon's Scientific Expedition // Turkestan News*. 1895: 47–48).

A trip across the Caspian Sea was organized by Hugo Kraft, a member of the Paris Geographical Society, in 1898–1899, and he traveled through Turkestan. In his works, he provided information about the major historical monuments of Samarkand, such as Amir Temur's Mausoleum, Bibi Khanum, Shahi Zinda, and Registan. The history of Samarkand from Alexander the Great to the Mongol conquest was described. Hugo Kraft This work contains ethnographic information about the clothing of the local population, Jews and Russians, and the processes of making and selling traditional handicrafts. Along with the architectural monuments and population of Samarkand, the French also left special information about the railways being built in this region. The Frenchman Francois Lissip in his correspondence specifically mentioned the 12,000 km of railways being built from Orenburg to Samarkand, from Samarkand to Peshawar, and provided the necessary information about Samarkand. The above-mentioned works were published in famous French publications and took their rightful place in European historiography. Also, material finds taken from Central Asia are still kept in the Louvre, Bern, Guimet and Trocadero museums (Ziyaeva D.Kh., 2022: 359–360).

German schools of oriental studies consist of departments of linguistics and Turkology and later this method of studying the East spread to Russian schools. One of the German specialists who conducted extensive research in the country was Max Albrecht, who arrived in Turkestan with his wife in the fall of 1893. His work, written based on the information and impressions of this trip, is distinguished by its rich information about the history and life of the country. Based on his research, Max Albrecht came to the conclusion that the Zarafshan River once flowed into the Amu Darya near the city of Chorzhu. He said that the name of the Amu Darya in Chinese means «Bread River», that is, the river that feeds the country, and that the Zarafshan Valley is the best fertile land for farming on earth (Henry Norman. 1902: 422). From this we can conclude that Zarafshan, with its central city Samarkand, has been the center of the Bukhara Emirate for various periods, as well as the existing historical state.

Conclusion. The analysis showed that, although Samarkand was studied from the perspective of different scientific schools in the heritage of German, French and Russian historians, their research forms a set of complementary sources. While the works of German scholars are focused on archaeological accuracy and source studies, French researchers focused on a cultural-aesthetic approach, and Russian historians focused on a systematic analysis of political-historical processes. These differences reflect the diversity of scientific traditions and serve to illuminate the topic in a multifaceted way. At the same time, in some works, the influence of the authors' demands of the time, ideological views or stereotypes of the colonial period is noticeable.

Although this situation has led to some one-sided conclusions, when the available information is reviewed on the basis of a critical approach, it serves as an important scientific basis for a deeper understanding of the history of Samarkand. In general, the comparative study of foreign historiography has shown itself to be an effective methodological approach to comprehensively studying the past of Samarkand. In the future, by combining these works with new archaeological finds, local sources, and modern scientific methods, it is possible to create a more complete scientific picture of the city's history. This will not only enrich the history of the region, but also contribute to the formation of a true and complete picture of Samarkand in world historiography.

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