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Archivists of the State Bank of the Russian Empire: 1860-1917

Abstract

The article reviews official activities of the archivists of the State Bank from its establishment in 1860 to 1917. The author has followed the fates of 5 officials who served in the bank the longest. Many others also served in the archives of this most influential Russian credit institution, especially in its last decades of existence. However, they were employed only for a short period and at random, while Y. Y. Bunzel, G. G. Lyakh, I. Y. Mikov, A. A. Mironov, and A. G. Tereshchenko, taken together, held the position of archivist during 95% of the State Bank history. Each made their valuable contribution to developing the methods and systems of acquiring and storing documentation and other materials of the State Bank. The State Bank

could only be effective if its records were safeguarded and all the data supplied to employees in good time and that was exactly what the 5 archivists excelled at. Given the importance of the archive for transaction activities, senior bankers were very particular and searched thoroughly for employees to fill the vacancies at the archive department. Consequently, there were no careless and unprofessional workers among the archivists of the State Bank. Even those who did not associate their careers with this field of work were, nevertheless, duly responsible and productive when performing their official responsibilities. The article is based on documents and materials of the State Bank fond from in the Russian State Historical Archive. As the daily life of Russian state institutions officials is an extremely rare subject of historical research, it can be written drawing on the records of the State Bank. The author has tried to make his modest contribution to the development of this topic, believing that the fate of ordinary employees is an equally significant page in the national history.

Keywords

Archivist, archive, documents of management and record keeping, civil service, public service, State Bank of the Russian Empire.

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