

УДК 339.1

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-2-331-342

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Customs Book of Veliky Novgorod for 1677/78 as a Historical Source

Abstract

Customs books are the major mass source on the history of domestic and foreign trade of Russia in the 17th century. Then one of the most important national centers of trade was Veliky Novgorod. There are several Veliky Novgorod customs books stored in the archives of Moscow and Stockholm: for 1610/11, 1613/14, 1614/15, 1714. In 2019, the author got acquainted with the Novgorod customs book for 1677/78 from the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, no information on which has been cited in historical literature. This document was discovered by archeographer N. Ogloblin among the documents of the Siberian Prikaz in the mid-1890s, but was not included in the inventory of the Novgorod bureau of the Razryad and Siberian Prikazes

published in late 19th century. The article presents a brief archaeographic description of the Novgorod customs book for 1677/78: its format, volume, binding. The article lists the names of officials responsible for collecting customs in Veliky Novgorod in 1677/78, the customs head and his assistants (tseloval'niki); it also provides data on the customs head and treasurer (larechnyi) from the Veliky Novgorod census book for 1677/78. The structure of the customs book for 1677/78 and the forms of individual records (information on residence and social status of traders, type and quantity of goods) are analyzed in detail. Unique feature of the Novgorod customs book for 1677/78 is that it contains not only the composition of the goods offered for sale, but also of the purchased goods. The analyzed document is a valuable historical source, containing extensive statistical and factual material on the history of domestic and foreign trade, not only in Veliky Novgorod, but in the whole of Russia. It is to be published as a publication-study, in which the text of the source is to be accompanied by the research essay and biographical and terminological notes.

Keywords

Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts, archeography, source studies, history of trade, customs books, Veliky Novgorod.

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Submitted 30.07.2019, published (for citation):

RAZDORSKII, A. I. Tamozhennaya kniga Velikogo Novgoroda 1677/78 g. kak istoricheskii istochnik [Customs Book of Veliky Novgorod for 1677/78 as a Historical Source. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2020, no. 2, pp. 331-342. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-2-331-342

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