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Nikolai Aleksandrovich Ridinger, Polizeimeister and Researcher of the Oryol Region: From the Documents of the State Archive of the Oryol Region

Abstract

The article studies documents from the State Archive of the Oryol Region concerning Nikolai Aleksandrovich Ridinger's service and scientific work in 1859-1867. The importance of the research lies in the prospect of studying the provincial historical science development in the middle of the 19th century in Oryol gubernia. Scientific novelty of the work consists in identifying a document collection, which allows study N.A. Ridinger's biography and manuscripts. In order to reconstruct this biography, seven service records have been studied. These sources are very informative, as they include data on service, rewards, marital status, creed, class origin. N.A. Ridinger (1825-1894) came from a noble family well-known in Russian military history. He was not a professional historian, but an officer, a veteran of the Caucasian campaign of 1853-1854. Wounded, he continued service as Polizeimeister, or chief of police, in Kaluga, Oryol, Elets, St.-Petersburg and rose to the rank of major general. His literary heritage is

extensive. In 1860 N.A. Ridinger wrote a book on the Oryol of his times which was based on statistic data from 1856-1860. This book was not published, however, its manuscript is preserved in the Russian State Library. In 1865 he published a book "Materials for history and statistics of Yelets". A manuscript of the first version of this book, dated 1862, was discovered in the State Archive of the Oryol Region. It allows to see the original idea of the book, which was considerably abridged in publication. The manuscript discovery is a significant one for studying the development of the historic science in the Russian periphery. Of particular importance is the manuscript of "Orders for Oryol town police for 1859-1860," its contents reflecting the daily life and service of the police and firemen. Instructions for conducting criminal investigation addressed to the fire brigades are of particular interest. Remarkably, the figure of the policeman as a career-minded individual emerges from the issued orders.

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Keywords

N. A. Ridinger, archival documents, sources, Oryol chief of police, historical science in the periphery.

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