УДК 94(47)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-1-201-213

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# The Activities of the Upper Volga Departments of the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments in 1965-1985 in Archival Documents and Periodicals

Abstract

The All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments (VOOPIK) was founded in 1965. It was the first organization with public status engaged in preservation, restoration, popularization of historical and cultural monuments. The article studies the activities of its members. The author has studied the archival materials and publications in the newspapers of the Upper Volga region highlighting the activities of the VOOPIK. The chronological framework of the study is 1965–1985. Its territorial scope includes the Upper Volga region: Kalinin (Tver), Yaroslavl, Kostroma, and Vladimir regions. The source base

consists of office documentation and periodical materials. While previous studies put emphasis was on various aspects of state protection of monuments, this article highlights the role of public in the preservation of historical and cultural heritage. It studies the activities of the VOOPIK departments in the Upper Volga region, and, in particular, the articles which its members published in periodical press. Significant efforts of these regional public organizations were focused on preserving the historical appearance of the Upper Volga towns. The article analyzes the publications of the organization members in central and regional press and thus identifies the main activities of the VOOPIK. It underscores a high degree of awareness and involvement of the population, state agencies and local self-government organizations in its work. In addition to periodicals it draws on archival documents, primarily, documents of management and record keeping concerning the VOOPIK activities. They consist of correspondence of its local departments with the authorities, citizens of regional and district towns and reports on number of publications on issues of protection and beautification of historical and cultural monuments. The article concludes that the VOOPIK publication activity had a definite impact on raising the public awareness of historical and cultural monuments. Thus, the materials of periodicals and documentation of the regional departments of the VOOPIIK are an important source for studying the activities of public organizations for preservation and popularization of historical and cultural monuments in the Upper Volga region.

Keywords

All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments (VOOPIK), preservation of cultural heritage, region newspapers, Upper Volga region.

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Submitted 22.08.2018, published (for citation):

MAZALETSKAYA, E. N. Deyatel'nost' verkhnevolzhskikh otdelenii Vserossiiskogo obshchestva okhrany pamyatnikov istorii i kul'tury v 1965–1985 gg. Po arkhivnym dokumentam i materialam periodicheskoi pechati [The Activities of the Upper Volga Departments of the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments in 1965-1985 in Archival Documents and Periodicals. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2019, no. 1, pp. 201-213. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2019-1-201-213

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