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Sources on the History of Scientific School of Professor A. A. Chernov

Abstract

The article presents an overview of archival documents on the Soviet geologist, paleontologist, and researcher of the European Northeast of Russia A. A. Chernov (1877–1963) and his activities as leader of the scientific school. It attempts to identify sources and assess their information value for studying history of his scientific school. The formation of Chernov's scientific school coincided with the beginning of intensive scientific development of the European Northeast of Russia and institutionalization of science. Its foundations were laid while A. A. Chernov lectured at the Higher Women's Courses in Moscow in the 1910s. His school of researchers crystallized when he worked in the Komi branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1944–1963). The author has identified and analyzed documents from the fonds of the Russian State Archive of Economy, the National Archive of the Komi Republic, and the Scientific Archive of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The personal provenance fond of A. A. Chernov's and those of his students have been studied. The author offers the following grouping of documents: research documents; documents on the teaching activities of A. A. Chernov; record keeping documents; epistolary complex, including personal and business correspondence of the scientist. These documents contain information on research and teaching and social activities of A. A. Chernov, as well as his creative contacts. Sources reveal aspects of formation and development of the scientific school. It is possible to determine the personal composition of the school (V. A. Varsanofieva, T. A. Dobrolyubova, A. I. Eliseev, A. I. Pershina, D. M. Rauzer-Chernousova, M. V. Fishman, V. I. Chalyshev, M. I. Shulga-Nesterenko and others), its research topics, achievements, and contribution to the national science. Activities of Chernov and his students resulted in exploration of coal, oil, gas, and other mineral deposits, as well as in creation of the Komi Institute of Geology, a branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which has been successfully operating since 1958. The revealed archival documents en bloc allow to present an overall picture of the source base of the research.

### Keywords

Sources, personal provenance fond, A. A. Chernov, scientific school, geological study, archive, Komi Scientific Center, the North of European Russia.

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