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Archiving Development in Bashkiria in the 1920s: Pages of History

Abstract

The article examines problems of archival documents protection in the Bashkir ASSR in the first years of the Soviet power. History of the State Archival Service of Bashkiria goes back to August 11, 1919, when the Ufa Gubernia Division of the Glavarchive (Main Directorate for Archiving) was founded by resolution of the Collegium of the Glavarchive of the RSFSR. Alongside with the Ufa Gubernia Archive there was the Archive of the BASSR in Sterlitamak, capital of Small Bashkiria. It was established upon initiative of the Head of the Bashkir Revolutionary Committee A. Z. Validov on March 18, 1920. The article reviews the historiography of the issue. Its novelty is based on using unpublished sources from the fonds of

the State Archive of the Russian Federation, National Archive of the Republic of Bashkortostan, and State Archive of the Orenburg Region (one of major and oldest regional archives), that are being thus introduced into scientific use. The article reviews main episodes, concerning documents protection: loss of archival materials in the days of the Civil War, first attempts of acquisition and archive fonds systematization. It focuses on issues of preservation of archival fonds of the Ufa Gubernia Government, Ufa District Court, Ufa Religious Consistory, Ufa Gendarmery Department, Orenburg Mohammedan Religious Assembly, Orenburg Education District, Ufa Directorate for Agriculture and Public Property, Ufa Gubernia Zemstvo, Ufa Land Use Commission. It also describes identification of the 1920s volost and country manorial archives of the Usergan, Burzyan-Tangaur, Tabyn, and Yurmaty cantons of Bashkiria. The article addresses the loss of archival documents due to events of the Civil War, absence of archival repositories, insufficient funding of archiving, and stealage. Nevertheless, the analysis of regional archive activities in the documents preservation sphere demonstrates that invaluable archival documentary heritage of Bashkiria has mostly survived, despite poor conditions of archival records storage.

### Keywords

Archiving, sources, archives, documents, Civil War, Republic of Bashkortostan, history.

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