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Manuscript of E. D. Prokofieva “Fishing of the Taz-Turukhansk Selkups” from the Archive of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences as a Source on the History and Ethnography of Siberia: 1920s–60s

Abstract

In the archive of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian

Academy of Sciences, in the collection of famous ethnographers and researchers of Siberia, employees of the MAE RAS G.N. Prokofiev and E.D. Prokofieva there is an incomplete manuscript of an article by Ekaterina Dmitrievna Prokofieva “Fishing in the Taz-Turukhansk Selkups” (AMAE, fond 6, series 1, no. 104). In the first part of the manuscript, the author provides purely ethnographic data on traditional fishing methods among the population of the Taz River, characterizing the state of fishing in the region on the eve of Soviet modernization. The second part contains information about socialist changes that had taken place in the Taza region from the 1920s to the early 1960s: the transformation of the traditional culture of the local peoples, the change in the anthropogenic landscape, and the formation of the industrial fishing. The material, on which the work is based, was collected by E.D. Prokofieva during the expedition of 1962 to the Krasnoselkup district of the Tyumen region. The expedition was her last trip to the Northern Selkups. Alongside E.D. Prokofieva in the expedition there worked a young graduate student A.M. Reshetov, in future, well-known sinologist, historian of Russian ethnography, head of the department of East and Southeast Asia, and party organizer of the MAE RAS. The materials included in the text of the manuscript were obtained from direct participants and witnesses of the events or were taken from the economic documentation available at that time in the organizations of the district. The generation of informants has since changed, and the complex of documentation with which the researcher worked has become fragmented, scattered in the archives, and partially lost. This makes the manuscript a valuable source containing rare materials on unexplored issues of ethnography and history of the Taz lands of the era of intensive Soviet transformations. The purpose of this and several previous publications by the author, written on the basis of E.D. Prokofieva’s manuscript, is to introduce into the scientific use new data on the history, ethnography, and historiography of Siberia.

Keywords

Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, E. D. Prokofieva, ethnography of the indigenous peoples of the North, history of Siberia, history of northern industrial fishing, history of ethnography, Selkups.

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