

Scientific article

УДК 94(470)+930.253+651

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2021-2-343-355

Ilya O. Ivanov

Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russian Federation

Activities of the Spiritual Consistory Committee for Analysis and Systematization of Diocesan Documents: 1831–59

Abstract

The article details the activities of the Archive Committee of the Moscow Spiritual Consistory, set up on the initiative of Metropolitan Philaret Drozdov of Moscow to put in order diocesan archives, which had suffered in the Napoleonic invasion. The documentary complex of the

consistory was the backbone of the institution. The disastrous state of the archive not only undermined the activities of the consistory, but also hindered its socially important search for information in the parish records. Thus, the first priority and essential task of the Committee was to sort through and describe burial record books, which were in disorder. The filed away documents of the consistory expeditions, or structural subdivisions of the consistory, also required serious systematization. The same was true of the historical part of the complex dating back to the previous century. Thus, the Committee faced a choice of an optimal classification scheme: territorial grouping of files by soroks and churches, which dated back to the 18th century, or grouping by “substance” — subjects corresponding to the activity areas of the consistory desks and expeditions. The latter was impelled by the Statute of the Consistory (1841), as well as by the permanently increasing volume of records. So far, the Moscow Consistory Archive has been studied primarily from a pragmatic point of view: as a rich source base for diverse research on the history of the Church. The issues of archival document arrangement have attracted no special attention in scientific literature, although the surviving materials of the Committee reflect an interesting debate of diocesan archivists on the possible solution to the existing problem. In this respect, the documents left by the Committee are a valuable illustration of the Church archiving in search for a better organization of systematic preservation of diocesan administrative documents. The conclusion is made that the Committee was directly involved in the development of the consistory's document complex, its continuous processing, description, and adaptation to the new records management conditions, as well as to the modern structure of the Moscow Ecclesiastical Consistory collections. Stable organization of work with documentary material would have been impossible without appropriate staffing. The Committee was an unusual, beyond-the-limits-of-corporate-culture union of Moscow priests. Representatives of the Moscow clergy formed a special type of archivist, combining work in the archives with everyday parish practice.

### Keywords

Diocesan archivists, substance of files, archivist, Moscow Dicastery, Moscow Consistory, arrest certificates, metric books, systematization of documents, statutes of the consistories.

Download the article: [ivanov i o doi](#)

## References

KOLOUKHIN, S. O. Sistema organov upravleniya moskovskoi eparkhie Rossiiskoi Pravoslavnoi Tserkvi vo vtoroi polovine XIX – nachale XX vv. [System of management of the Moscow diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church in the second half of the 19th – early 20th century. In Russ.]. IN: Gosudarstvo, obshchestvo, tserkov' v istorii Rossii XIX – nachale XX vv. Materialy` mezhdunarodnoi konferentsii [State, society, church in the history of Russia of the 19th – early 20th century: Proceedings of the international scientific conference]. Ivanovo, Ivanovskii gosudarstvennyi universitet publ., 2016, pp. 185–190.

MATVEEVA, E. S. Dukhovnaya konsistoriya kak vysshaya tserkovno-sudebnaya instantsiya dlya prikhodskogo dukhovenstva v Rossiiskoi imperii [The Ecclesiastical Consistory as the Highest Church Judicial Instance for Parish Clergy in the Russian Empire. In Russ.]. IN: Srednerusskij vestnik obshchestvennykh nauk, 2015, no. 4, pp. 140–143.

OLEVSKAYA, V. V. K voprosu o stanovlenii moskovskogo eparkhial'nogo upravleniya v nachal'nyi sinodal'nyi period [Revisiting the formation of the Moscow diocesan administration in the initial Synodal period. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik Pravoslavnogo Sviato-Tikhonovskogo gumanitarnogo universiteta. Seriya II: Istoriya. Istoriya Russkoi Pravoslavnoi Tserkvi [Bulletin of the Orthodox St. Tikhon Humanitarian University. Series 2: History. History of the Russian Orthodox Church], 2009, no. 32. pp. 7–17.

ROZANOV N. P. Istoriya moskovskogo eparkhial'nogo upravleniya so vremeni uchrezhdeniya Svyateishego Sinoda [History of the Moscow diocesan administration since the establishment of the Holy Synod (1721-1821). In Russ.]. In 3 vols. Vol. 1. Moscow, Sinodal'naya tipografiya publ., 1869, 245 p.

ROZANOV, N. P. Ob arkhive moskovskoi dukhovnoi konsistorii [About the archive of the Moscow spiritual consistory. In Russ.]. Moscow, Universitetskaya tipografiya publ., 1868, 28 p.

SAVOST`YANOVA, N. Yu. Pravoslavnoe dukhovenstvo v fonde Moskovskoi dukhovnoi konsistorii [Orthodox clergy in the fonds of the Moscow spiritual consistory. In Russ.]. IN: Otechestvennye arkhivy, 2012, no. 4, pp. 50–54.

SPICHAK, A. V. Kadrovoe deloproizvodstvo v Tobol'skoi eparkhii v XVIII – nachale XX vv. [Personnel management in Tobolsk diocese in 18th – early 20th century. In Russ.]. Nizhnevartovsk, Nizhnevartovskii gosudarstvennyi universitet publ., 2018, 131 p.

#### About the authors

Ivanov Ilya Olegovich, Master of History, Russian State University for the Humanities, department of history of archiving organization, postgraduate student, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-915-379-48-99, inkanus453@mail.ru

Submitted 7.09.2020, published (for citation):

IVANOV, I. O. Deyatel'nost' Komiteta Arkhiva Moskovskoi dukhovnoi konsistorii po razboru i sistemizatsii eparkhial'nykh dokumentov. 1831–1859 gg. [Activities of the Spiritual Consistory Committee for Analysis and Systematization of Diocesan Documents: 1831–59. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2021, no. 2, pp. 343-355. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2021-2-343-355

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .