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'Collection of Waqf Deeds' as a Source for Studying the History of Waqf in the Khanate of Khiva in the 16th-20th Centuries

Abstract

The article is devoted to preliminary analysis of the waqf documents from 'Collection of waqf deeds' stored in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan (fond I-323). Specifically, it examines the history of waqf in the Khanate of Khiva. The fond contains waqf

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deeds; their historic-geographical footprint covers wide areas of Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, Kokand, Tashkent, and Balkh. The article provides information on the archival fond, its creation in the Soviet period, its internal structure and documents, scholars involved in the preparation of the catalogue. The author classifies the documents, studies external and internal features of the waqf deeds, carries out their historical source studies analysis. Waqfnama has legal force, it is considered a document reflecting procedure of donating property of a waqif (a person who establishes a waqf) and further spending of the income on that property it by a religious or educational institution for its needs or social services. From this point of view, waqf deeds are a valuable source for studying the history of religious foundations and educational institutions in the Khanate of Khiva. Naturally, these institutions had different activities and functions. Therefore, waqf documents registered theoretical and legal aspects of waqf, management of the waqf economy, organization of the activity of each institution. Results of a preliminary analysis suggest that mostly the Khiva documents in the first series of the I-323 fond are the following: 71 waqf deeds held by mosques, 22 – by madrasas, 12 – by cemeteries, and, finally, 5 – by qarikhana (lodges for reciters of the Quran). Drawing attention to the historical significance of this type of documents, the article briefly described the activities of these institutions on the example of their waqf deeds. 'Collection of waqf deeds' is of particular importance for studying the waqf in Central Asia, and also for the auxiliary branches of history.



Keywords

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Historical sources, collection of waqf deeds, waqf deeds, waqf, waqfnama, Khanate of Khiva, religious foundations, educational institutions.

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