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Chinese Programs of the Chair of Oriental Studies
(some results and perspectives)

The Chair for Oriental Studies of the Novosibirsk State University (NSU) was established as a special structure on April 23, 1999, in order to conduct graduate programs specialized on the history and culture of East-Asian countries (China, Japan and Korea).

The beginning of the Oriental Studies in the NSU dates to 1971. From this year the studying of two main languages of East Asia, Chinese and Japanese, was begun (See [6]). But the students groups were rather restricted and formed occasionally, only one group for three – four years. So, during this period about 70 Chinese and Japanese speaking students were prepared. Some of them have been continuing their professional activity as researchers of history and philology of the both countries, or as university’s lecturers (not only in Novosibirsk, but also in other Russian cities (Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Tomsk, Naberezhniye Chelny) and abroad (Japan, New Zealand).

Two years before (in 1969) the special research department of eastern history was organized (now included in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences). Its scholars have been published more then 60 books and hundreds of articles on the problems of ancient and medieval archaeology and history of, mostly, China and also Mongolia, Japan and Korea, in connection with the neighboring territories of Siberia and Far East. The library of the Institute contains a good collection of periodicals on the problems concerned.

All this activity served as a background and made it possible (in 1995) to make the next step in the development, i.e., to start the 5-years oriental education in Novosibirsk State University on regular basis. More than 30 students of this specialty enter the University every year. And as the special institute for coordination and promotion of all kinds of oriental programs within NSU the Chair of Oriental Studies was established in 1999. With education and scientific investigation as the main activities, the members of the Chair work in close contacts with local (regional and city) authorities as advisers and interpreters. They also spread the knowledge about traditional culture of the Eastern countries, especially China, among the citizens of Novosibirsk (publishing popular articles in newspapers, preparing radio programs, organizing celebrations of the traditional festivals).

Now the Chinese part of teaching includes basic courses of modern Chinese language (Mandarin), geography of China, history of China and Chinese literature (from the ancient times up to our days), with some special courses of Chinese archaeology, ethnology and linguistics. The classical ideology of China represents one of the main parts of the course on the history of Oriental philosophy; as well as modern situation and international activity of PRC are under analysis within the general course on the geopolitical situation in Asian-Pacific Region. The whole number of lecturers now is 20, including 7 specialists in the Chinese subjects. They are delivering lectures for more than 100 students, with about 40 Chinese-studying students among them. But the others who are studying Japanese and Korean also receive most important courses on the history, politics and culture of China as the undetachable part of oriental education.

The qualification level of the lectures is rather high. Their works were published not only in Russia, but also in China and Hong Kong (See [7–5, 8–15]).

Scientific investigations are considered to be the very essential for academic work. So, in 2000 the Laboratory for Eurasian Studies was established as the structural division of the Chair, with the special interest in the Eastern religions and geopolitics. It also takes part in preparing the international conferences in Novosibirsk under the title «Eurasia: the heritage of the ancient civilizations», and some other forums. One more direction of scientific development is connected

*Some articles on the problems of archaeology, history and ideology of China were published in the proceedings of the 1st Eurasian conference that was organized by the Chair in collaboration with other organizations [7]. See also the special information by V. I. Ozhogin in this issue.
LIST OF BIBLIOGRAPHY


