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XXXVIII INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC STUDENTS' CONFERENCE:  
THE BEGINNING OF THE SECTION OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

The regular Students' International Scientific Conference that took place in April, 2000, was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of academician M. A. Lavrentiev, the founder of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SB of RAS). It was for the first time within the Conference that there was arranged a separate Section of the oriental studies with its three subsections. 41 lecturers addressed the audience with their speeches focused on diverse subject-matters. The materials of the Conference were published in a special collection, with the authors of the most interesting works awarded with diplomas. It stands to reason that the majority of the participants were the students of Novosibirsk State University (NSU), the host-place of the Conference, which resulted as a certain advantage that emphasized topics on Japanese, Chinese and Korean matters.

Six reports presented by the participants from the National University of Usbekistan (named after Mirso Ulugbek) have brought in some Middle Asian atmosphere practically to all thematic sections, such as cultural studies, (Ye. G. Demchenko. «The Influence of Oriental Culture on the Evolution of the Olympic Games»), archaeology (V. R. Shaikhrasieva. «Archeological Study of the Early Iron Era Monuments of Southern Sogd»), historiography (R. H. Madaliyeva. «Middle Asia in the Russian Oriental Studies (the second half of the 19th – the beginning of the 20th centuries»), religions studies (Ye. Ye. Svensitskaya. «The Christianity Way from Syria up to China»), international relations (Yu. R. Ganiyeva. «Some facts from the history of Diplomacy of Middle Asian the period from the 7th century BC up to 8th century AD»; Z. M. Ussarova. «At the rise of the Silk Way»). Middle Asia was also a background of the lecture delivered by the representatives of Institute of Philosophy and Jurisprudence of the SB of RAS, who exemplified the problematic approach to giving an unambiguous evaluation of the drastic events of cultural and historical process, with the active international policies of Chingiz Khan and Timur.

Some glimpses of Mongol history and cultural contacts in ancient times between Europe, India and China were introduced by the lecturers from Novosibirsk Pedagogical University and the State University of Buriatia.

I. S. Dambiev presented her view on the phenomenon of s. c. Mongol-Tatar Yoke having interpreted it as an interaction of two civilizations, in the process of which the Orthodox Church was given some protection from the aggressive Catholicism, the Moscow statehood was brought up, both the mentality and psychology of the Russians were given shape and their cultural and economic ties with the Orient were established. This speech stirred up a lively discussion manifesting by itself that the issue of an updated perception of the past is quite pressing for our colleagues from the fraternal republic. There were received some more materials in written form from the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the SB of RAS, from Krasnodar, alongside with the Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography (Vladivostok) and Altay State University (Barnaul).

The students' reports and those of post-graduate students from NSU were dedicated to the history and the present-day situation in Far-Eastern Region, bringing forward historiographic and methodological issues. So, one of the fundamental work in this field appeared to be the review of the historiography of Chinese medieval architecture, made by N. A. Krivosheina.

«Mythology and Philology» section was predominated with the Korea-studying students who discussed mainly the questions of anthroponomy and the structure of a literary norm of the language. The listeners were also initiated into the specific form of secret communication the shamans resort to in their immediate circles. The lecture on the parallels in Korean and Japanese mythology was much of a disputable character.
The report made by Ye. V. Chechenina on the economic crisis of the 90-s in Japan was worth a special appreciation. It was in the highlight not only due to its rich illustrative material but to the ample use of diverse statistics data and well-selected facts. No wonder, the speech was delivered within the «Philosophy and Cultural Studies» sub-section, since economic analysis was logically connected with the historic and cultural context. The politics of modern Japanese society were speculated on by T. V. Kononova who, examining new streams in this sphere, has followed the growth of popularity of the «clear politics party» – Kōmeitō in Japan, which is closely connected to the neo-Buddhism organization Soka Gakkai. One more fundamental work, though representing other line of studies, belonged to G. R. Fahretdinova. The author has streamlined the summarized image of the Teacher in Chan-Buddhism, with the use of structural analysis method. To do this, it was necessary to define the main periods of the patriarchs’ biography, to detect the typical distinguishing features of the model «Teacher-Disciple» and the teaching method in Chan.

Apart from the said, one more research work was made prominent, the one delivered by T. V. Rudometova on the dynamism of the cultural ties of the People’s Republic of China in the first decades of its existence, with the USSR in the period of friendship between these two countries; the research was made on the basis content-analysis of the Soviet periodicals and the quantitative method. So, in the course of the «Oriental Studies» Section’s proceedings there were found out the main sphere of interests of the younger scholars, first of all, from Novosibirsk scientific center. Meantime, a tradition of scientific cooperation with institutes of higher education of the kind from other cities and regions was conceived.

The variety of topics discussed has conditioned the prospects of new sub-sections to be formed in the following proceedings. There was also expressed a wish to further develop the economic trend of the researches dealt with by Ye.V. Chechenina and supported by some other participants.

It stands to reason, some important issues directly related to the Orient studies haven’t been touched upon. The organizers of the Conference would also like to encourage the researchers and students on South-Eastern Asia region, Islamic world, Africa problems from educational institutes of Siberia, the Far-East, European part of Russia and former USSR republics to take an active part in the Conference. No doubt, this will enlarge the thematic pattern of our Conference and will give the scholars an opportunity to introduce the approaches of their scientific schools.