

Archaeological and anthropological exhibitions and Orthodox Church in the Russian Empire: different cases of cooperation in Belle epoch

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The Orthodox Christianity was the traditional religion of the Medieval Russian state. The Orthodox Church had a bearing on policy. In the middle of the 17th century, the Patriarch was a contestant of the Tsar. However, in the 18th century Russia became regular state of the Modern age. Emperor Pieter the 1st called off an election of a Patriarch. The Orthodox Church became a part of the state.

The Orthodox Christianity was official religion of Russian Empire. The Emperor must be Orthodox Cristian. His wife must be Orthodox Cristian. As a rule, future wives of the Russian Emperors were princesses of little European states. The future wife must be accept the Orthodox Christianity. Every Emperor took a part in ceremony of anointing to reign.

In the second half of 19th century different scientific discipline were separated from each other. For example, the physical anthropology was stood out from the natural sciences. However, correlations between different sciences were in that time.

The Society of Devotes of Natural science, Anthropology and Ethnography (SDNSAE) was founded in 1863 in the Moscow University (now Lomonosov Moscow State University). The founders of SDNSAE were professors of Moscow University Gregory Shchurovsky and Anatoly Bogdanov. Shchurovsky was geologist and paleontologist. Bogdanov was the professor of zoology and he started craniological and anthropological issues of materials from ancient kurgans. (**Fig. 1**). The rules of this society were confirmed by the Office of education in two versions in 1863 and 1868 (THE RULES 1868). The SDNSAE was consisted of three departments: natural science, ethnography and anthropology.

The society could organize exhibitions. The Ethnographic exhibition in 1867 was the first (ETHNOGRAPHIC 1878). The Slavonian congress was one of the parts of the exhibition. (SLAVONIAN 1994) The contemporaries considered it a major political statement, because Russian Empire claimed on a role as leader of the Slavic nations. However, Slavonian ethnic groups lived in different Empires in the Central and South Europe (the Austria-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire).



• Fig. 1. • A. Bogdanov (photo from arran.ru)



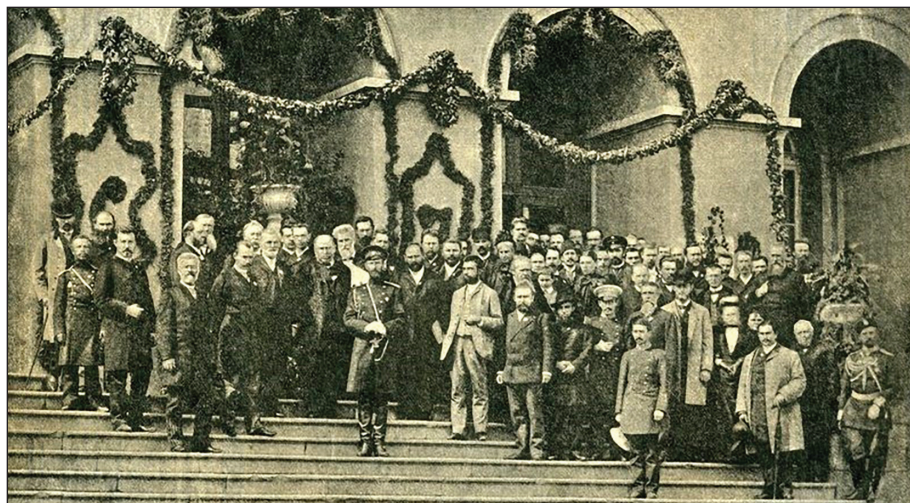
• Fig. 2. • A. Uvarov

S. Uvarov was author of conception of official ideology “Orthodoxy, autocracy, and nationalism”. “Nationalism” did not refer to ethnic groups, but was considered a complex term (MILLER 2010, 193–217; MILLER 2016, 44–78).

The MAS did not consist only of professional. Devotes and nonprofessionals were participants of it. Moscow archaeological society organized the Russian-wide archaeological congresses (RAC) with special archaeological exhibitions. RAC were in the different regions of Russian Empire. Sometimes it were instruments of politic. Departments of church artifacts were on special exhibitions. As a rule, artifacts of orthodox Christianity prevailed. On the 5th congress in Tiflis (Tbilisi) there were many Islamic artifacts. The difficult situation was in the process of preparations to the 9th congress in Vilno

• Fig. 3.

The participants of the International congress of Anthropology and prehistoric archaeology in Moscow in 1892 (photo from arran.ru)



For convenience of the SDNSAE the Moscow Anthropological exhibition came off in 1879. It consisted of the different departments. Some of its focused on Modern tribes, religions. There was a scandal. Some of visitors claimed different exhibit items offended religions. The Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna Macarius visited the exhibition. He was researcher of history of Russian Orthodox Church (METROPOLITAN 1889). After visiting the exhibition, Metropolitan Macarius held that this incident was not serious. He said that organizers are “men of science” and they had no idea against religion. (METROPOLITAN 1889, 40)

An interesting feature was, that one of departments focused on Prehistory displayed models of prehistoric animals in the exhibition. The collaboration between archaeology and anthropology was very useful in researching prehistory.

The Moscow archaeological society (MAS) was founded in 1864. The head of MAS was the Earl Alex Uvarov (Fig. 2) He was son of the minister of education

(Vilnius). The organizers discussed the issue of Catholic churches because it was a part of Poland culture dominance. (SERYKH 2014, 85; SMIRNOV 2012). It was illustration of national problems in Russian Empire (MILLER 2010, 113–142). Such situation was typically occurring for Continental Empire.

The religion doctrine would have be able to conflict with prehistory issues caused by chronology (SERYKH 2014, 83–84).

The International congress of Anthropology and prehistoric archaeology was in Moscow in 1892. The patron of it was Great prince Sergey (brother of Emperor). (Fig. 3) The Foreign Office of the Russian Empire helped in the organization of this scientific forum. Participants of this congress discussed different terms of prehistory, but there were not conflicts with the Orthodox Church (GUSEV 2013).

The Orthodox Christianity was the official religion of the Russian Empire and the Orthodox Church in reality was the part of the state. There was not special system of cooperation between academics and clergymen of the Orthodox Church in the Russian Empire in Belle epoch.

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List of abbreviations:

SDNSAE

Society of Devotes of Natural science, Anthropology and Ethnography of the Moscow University

MAS

Moscow Archaeological Society

RAC

Russia-wide Archaeological Congresses