

RUSSIAN MAPS OF ASIA

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Abstract: In this survey the author draws a clear historical picture of the development of cartographing the Asian part of Russia with Siberia, its adjacent territories and islands beginning at the end of the 16th century up to World War I.

Asian cartographers have made a contribution of honour to the study of Asia. The present report affords no exhaustive information about cartographing Siberia and contiguous territories, but it reflects main stages of the creation of maps for this region.

The initial period of the study of the territory beyond the Urals fell of the end of the 16th and of the 17th century when the strengthening of the Russian feudal state took place and when its boundaries began moving towards the East and the North of Asia which was well indicated in the "Atlas of geographical discoveries in Siberia and North-Western America" (1964). The Russian government would receive plenty of information about the newly gained land as well as data on the adjacent Eastern countries. Draughts of Siberia, composed by foreigners according to Russian eyewitnesses, were known to be in existence ever since the second half of the 16th century. They were highly schematic. In the 17th century Russian draughts of the Siberian land began to appear. The discovery of these territories went on especially actively in the end of the century by the military class, Cossacks, trappers. They were no cartographers, but they were charged with composing descriptions and draughts of the newly discovered and visited land. In many respects their surveys were primitive, they did not abide by the orientation by help of the cardinal points and assumed tales of the natives as bases for composing draughts.

The Draught book of Siberia (1701), compiled by the boyar's son Semyon Yemelyanovich Remezov of Tobolsk with his sons, can serve as a true monument of the ancient Russian cartography of that period. It was a Russian atlas of

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Siberia, which gave an authentic and detailed historic and geographical, cartographic characteristic of the territory. Its creation allowed the government to receive dispatches from Siberian regions and thus affect the improvement of the condition of the entire territory and to rule it.

A. Midendorf, a honorary member of the imperial academy of sciences, appraised it highly (1860). He pointed out that although the atlas had no mention of either longitude or of latitude, it afforded a relative notion of distances in both inhabited and uninhabited places of Siberia, the rivers were shown in the size of the little finger and lakes were depicted in the form of the half moon or of the full moon and the atlas contained plentiful information of great value. It concerned the accuracy of the depiction of settlements in the Tobolsk area on the Enisei. Tributaries of the Ob were shown carefully. The obtained materials permitted to master the new territories intensively.

The further blossoming in the study of Asia was bound up with expeditions towards the North-East. They entailed the more precise definition of the configuration of Chuchchee peninsula, the discovery of both a cluster of islands in the Arctic ocean and the ridge of the Aleutian and Kuril islands.

On the initiative of Peter the First systematic work was undertaken in order to study the inner parts of the country with the purpose of creating a general map of Russia. In the senate it was I.K. Kirilow who led the surveys. He composed the "General map of the Russian empire" (1734) which rendered the configuration of the North-East of Asia in detail. This portrayal of Asia remained in the atlas of the academic of sciences (1745) too.

The new stage of the study of the Asiatic part of Russia was tied up with the great Siberian-Pacific expedition of V.Bering and A.I. Chirikov (1724-1743). It resulted in the study and accurate cartographing of the North-Eastern Asia and in the discovery of the way to America and of the Aleutian islands.

The following stage in the cartographing of Asia was connected with the names of naval officers I.F. Kruzenshtern (Krusenstjerna) and Yu. F. Lisianskiy (Magidovich, 1967). Kruzenshtern was appointed chief of the first expedition round the world. Yu. F. Lisianskiy was attached to Kruzenshtern's expedition in the same year. Kruzenshtern was in command of 'Nadezhda' ship and Lisianskiy was in command of 'Neva' vessel. The ships sailed different courses: Kruzenshtern to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and Lisianskiy to the Russian America. By no means everyone knows that count N.P. Rumyantsev actively promoted and financed Kruzenshtern's expedition, whose book and cartographic collections underlay the Russian State Library, former Lenin State Library of the USSR. He

rendered energetic help during the organisation of Russian voyages round the world. The "Atlas to the tour of Mr. Kruzenshtern round the world" (1809-1812) including maps of the North-Western part of the Great or Pacific ocean, the Japanese and Kuril islands, the island of Sakhalin as well as magnificent engravings with views of towns, ethnographical sketches, portrayals of birds, the sea fauna and flora ensued from Kruzenshtern's voyage. The atlas featured prominently sketches of the natives - Aleutians and Kamchadals.

Having completed the first voyage round the world and returned to Russia in 1806 Lisianskiy out out at his own expense a description of his voyage and the atlas "Collection of maps and drawings belonging to the voyage of the fleet captain and cavalier Yuriy Lisianskiy on Neva-ship" (1812).

Besides sea voyages to America and round the world in the 19th century the regular survey of Siberia carried out by military topographers was set in. In 1825 the military topographic depot brought out the "General map of the Asiatic Russia", compiled by lieutenant Pozdnyakov. The map contained precise hydrographic network, outlines of the coastal line of the Arctic ocean and of the Pacific ocean, frontiers of provinces, regions, routes of Russian seafarers. Besides the map showed the territories inhabited by natives - Samoyeds, Ostyaks, Yakuts, Tungus and others. The map was executed on a scale 100 versts in one inch (1:4 200 000).

According to A.V. Postnikov (1985) from the beginning of the 18th century on the rivers gripped intent attention on the part of the Russian government as the interest of the state called for broadening and deepening data on the nature and economy of the separate parts of the spacious territory. In this connection the hydrographic network was carefully plotted on maps of the Asiatic Russia. Especially actively the hydrographic works started developing in the second half of the 19th century when sailing directions appeared. They were general maps of rivers with plans of separate sections of the waterways attached. The splendidly published "Atlas of the portage from the city of Bodaybo on the upper Vitim to the village of Narundukan on the Angara" could serve as an example. It was composed by the hydrographic expedition of the lake of Baikal commanded by colonel Drizhenko (1902). A detailed description of the portage Bodyabo - the upper Angara opened the atlas. Sheets of large scale maps followed characterizing both the river and its riverside strip.

Road maps began appearing in the same time with the hydrographic maps. One of such road maps was the 'Military road map of the Asiatic Russia' (1895), executed on a scale 1:2100000. The map had a special character indicating distances between railway stations and points with the accuracy of up to a fourth of a verst.

The Russian geographical society, founded in 1845, fulfilled significant work in Siberia. Valuable cartographic materials of little studied and unstudied areas were obtained by the expedition for the study of the Eastern Siberia and the Amur region in 1855. Such savants as N.A. Severtsev, N.M. Przhevalskiy, P.P. Semenov-TienShanskiy, G.N. Potapin and others took part in the expedition.

The development of capitalism in Russia necessitated a profounder study of the entrails of the earth and of the economy in Siberia. In the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century the subject cartography started to develop, economic maps appeared. Mining and industrial maps developed first and foremost, they showed deposits of minerals and works located in Siberia.

The "Atlas of the fatherland" (the second part Siberia and Turkestan), composed by N.N. Tornau, was published in 1907. This small economic atlas served as a teaching aid, but as far as the thoroughness and complexity of the maps as well as the originality and fullness of the statistical material exceeding its framework were concerned it could be regarded as a complex atlas. For the first time the atlas gave a complete economic characteristic of the Asiatic Russia. Its general economic maps paid special attention to the revelation of natural resources of the region. Besides the atlas included maps and statistical surveys of other states of Asia-Mongolia, the North-Eastern part of China, Korea, Japan. It corresponded to Russia's economic interests in the East.

The "Atlas of the Asiatic Russia" (1914) ranked among the best attainments of the Russian prerevolutionary cartography. The atlas was published in three volumes by the migrant administration with an extensive and richly illustrated text attached. Results of big work of different organisations and separate Russian scientists were reflected in the contents of the maps and the covering text.

The section about the history of the cartography of the Asiatic Russia introduced the atlas, followed by historical maps showing Russia at the time, when the Romanovs ascended the throne and when Peter the Great mounted the throne.

The economic maps made up the bulk of the atlas. The central section of the atlas contained maps of concrete provinces and areas with the general picture of the landowning and land-tenure shown. Here were results of the ten-year activities of the migrant administration concerning the settling of migrants. The map of trades or prevailing employments was of interest. It indicated the division of the territory in four areas by different colours of the background: the predominance of the agriculture; the agriculture and the cattle-breeding, the predominance of the cattle-breeding; the development of the Northern reindeer-breeding. Areas of the butter manufacturing, fishing; hunting were marked out by additional hatching in

the same place. The forest were represented on a separate map together with their distribution in compliance with their economic appurtenance. The agricultural cartogrammes indicated the specific gravity of diverse cultures in the tillage. The atlas lacked any industrial maps as the interest of the migrant administration called for it. For the first time in the atlas cartography these were maps of areas of the watering agriculture: from large scale maps (Murgab "Czar's estate", scale 1:168000) to small scale ones (the watering land of the entire Turkestan, scale 1:3360000). In spite of their versability the maps supplemented each other, they were mutually coordinated and compiled in a single aspect.

Thus on the eve of World War I the Asian part of Russia was mapped out rather well and not only its general geographic maps and atlases, but subject ones were compiled, too.

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