The Experience of Local History Bibliography and Culturography

Досвід бібліографії локальної історії та культурографії

Полознев Д. Ф.
Областина універсальна наукова бібліотека ім. Н. А. Некрасова,
Ярославль, Росія

Dmitry F. Poloznev
Yaroslavl Regional Universal Scientific Library named after Nikolay Nekrasov,
Yaroslavl, Russia

Полозньов Д. Ф.
Обласна універсальна наукова бібліотека ім. М. А. Некрасова,
Ярославль, Росія

Local history may be revised from the point of view of bibliography. Bibliography becomes a method of evaluation for the collection of publications and some kind of database for special studies. It may be used for analysis and understanding of facts and events in local history. In our case bibliography was added and combined with historic and cultural chronics of «exemplary» medieval Russian town — Yaroslavl of the XVII-th century. As the result of this work «the experience of culturography» has developed as a cognitive model allowing to study all types of sources for the reconstruction of local history events.

Опис локальної історії, переглянутої з точки зору бібліографії, стає методом оцінки корпусу публікацій і свого рода базою даних для специфічних досліджень. Бібліографія використовується для аналізу і понимання фактів і подій локальної історії. В нашому випадку вона поєднана з історико-культурною хронікою «еталонного» міста російського Середньовіччя — Ярославля XVII століття. Результатом цієї роботи став «досвід культурографії» як познавальної моделі вивчення всіх типів опублікованих джерел в напрямку реконструкції подій локальної історії.

Russian Middle Ages is rather poor in written evidences concerning historical «events» quell as the daily life of people. There aren’t any basic works devoted this topic in Russian historiography.

If the area of «high culture» (works of monastic scholars, court artists) or the «great» history (a court, hierarchy, monasteries) is presented as a lot of essays, publications and other issues, than affairs, acts, ideas and representations of the ordinary townspeople, events of local history, as a rule, are latent for the historian. They are shown in sources in extreme situations (epidemics, wars) or when the attention is paid to them from the outside (foreigners, opponents).

Thus, reconstruction of events of Russian Middle Ages history remains still current problem demanding the decision. As the fund of sources — which carry essential information, is rather insufficient, expansion of information potential of them is possible. The bibliography became an important tool for those purposes.

The classification (reconstruction) of those or other events can be based not only on the analysis of sources. It also should be stated on wider semantic context. This context sets the parameters of the search, reconstruction and the presentation of the facts. Such context is the picture of the world of the person of the Middle Ages. The choice from sources of those or other documents and reconstruction on their basis of events, representations, spiritual values and reference points becomes more productive, if we imagine a generalized and a little bit abstract philosophical experience of the townspeople.
Those numerous facts (as a little parts of the picture of the world) are gathered in the «stream of facts» and further in the experience of «culturography».

For example. The consecration of a church is recorded in a lot of sources as an important event for parishioners. However the set of the sources concerning different churches and concerning different time, shows, that this event «breaks up» into a lot of others. It was are the decision of parishioners to build a church, miracle vision as a sign of God’s charity, the application to the local bishop about the blessing for a building, the reception of the blessing, fund raising for a church, the actual construction, internal arrangement and contributions to a church, consecration, the appointment of the priest, writing of a parish chronicle, etc. All these events which have been taken together, extremely seldom meet in one source and with reference to one churche. But the knowledge of all probable sequence of actions makes possible the reconstruction of every event with reference to each concrete parish.

Written texts about events of city history had appeared rather late (in the middle of XVII century). They concern themes traditional for a medieval society and subjects of religious maintenance. Mutual relations in the city environment, political, artistic, religious and other spiritual preferences, system of values are not shown on the basis of direct reading of texts in which already there is a rational reflection of their creators. Similar reconstruction generally relies on the indirect data and demands «rereading» from texts of what is not said in them. And nevertheless thus written texts are more rational and «are open», rather than graphic monuments. Comparison of written texts and graphic «texts» allows the expansion of their cumulative information potential.

Graphic, material products are widely displayed in collections and expositions of museums, published in catalogues. Today attention more attention is paid to them than to monuments of art, their aesthetic value is cultivated. In much smaller degree they are valued as historical sources.

Our research addresses the reconstruction of the probable «picture of the world» of the townspeople by the example of Yaroslavl XVII century — the city which sets some kind of the standard for Russian Middle Ages in all areas of a political, economic and spiritual life. The Yaroslavl materials allow to investigate both blocks of sources: written and graphic. In Yaroslavl have been created and have reached our time the works of local scholars (legends on miracle-watching icons, parish annals) and numerous iconographic monuments (icons, wall-paintings of the churches, embroidered images, ornamental products and so forth). In XVII century in Yaroslavl had taken placed some kind of «cultural explosion». The most noticeable evidence of it became architecture of stone church the semantic forms of which was not a subject of special research yet. The abundance of graphic material demands its more active involvement in historical research and making a technique for its use.

The method of research consists in consideration and the integrated description the different components probable «pictures of the world» and events of everyday life of townspeople of XVII-th century in based on written and graphic sources.

Bibliography is the important part of this project. There are more than 700 records in it. The experience of local history bibliography is supported by the system of indexes (persons, geography, icons, etc.). The result of research is the historical and cultural chronic. It becomes the cognitive model which will allow to study all types of sources in a direction of reconstruction events of local history of Russian medieval city.