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# Importancia de la colección personal de la biblioteca de Michael Z. Vinokouroff como recurso de investigación

# Importance of the personal collection of the Michael Z. Vinokouroff library as a resource of research

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### Resumen

En el marco de este artículo, se intenta estudiar el potencial de información de los documentos de la colección personal de Mikhail Z. Vinokouroff, almacenados en la Biblioteca Estatal de Alaska, su análisis de fuentes determinará las direcciones de su uso científico posterior. Numerosos documentos y diarios, cartas y notas, libros y fotografías del fondo de archivo del bibliófilo son objeto de atención de científicos e investigadores de los problemas de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa, historiadores, bibliógrafos, lingüistas, eruditos literarios. Como resultado del estudio, las principales direcciones del uso científico efectivo de los documentos del archivo personal de M.Z. Vinokouroff. Además de estudiar los diarios inéditos y las notas de un bibliófilo, la colección contiene cartas de San Innokentii Veniaminov, así como documentos que reflejan la vida política y literaria de Yakutia en el primer tercio del siglo XX.

Palabras clave: archivo, texto, fuente, recurso de información, fondo de archivo, manuscritos.

# **Abstract**

Within the framework of this article, an attempt is made to study the information potential of documents from the personal collection of Mikhail Z. Vinokouroff, stored in the Alaska State Library, their source analysis will determine the directions of their further scientific use. Numerous documents and diaries, letters and notes, books and photographs of the archival fund of the bibliophile are the objects of attention of scientists and researchers of the issues of the Russian Orthodox Church, historians, bibliographers, linguists, literary scholars. As a result of the study, the main directions of the effective scientific use of documents from the personal archive of M.Z. Vinokouroff. In addition to studying unpublished diaries and notes of a

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bibliophile, the collection contains letters from St. Innokentii Veniaminov, as well as documents reflecting the political and literary life of Yakutia in the first third of the 20th century.

**Keywords:** archive, text, source, information resource, archive fund, manuscripts.

### Introduction

The scientific problem associated with the Russian Church in Yakutia is considered both in the context of the political, church, intellectual, and cultural history of the region, as well as in terms of Russian history in general. In the framework of the present article, the issues of the Russian Orthodox Church in Yakutia are considered in the context of the historical, cultural and scientific heritage of the Russian émigré community. Émigrés' archives and archive funds contain a number of private documents that reflect the perception of historical events and phenomena, which are scientifically and informationally valuable for Russian researchers.

Nowadays, there are many works that reveal the importance of studying archival funds as information sources. Archival materials that fall into the open information space can be used to implement not only scientific, but also political, social and educational projects (Petrov & Egorova, 2020; Yumasheva, 2017). In addition, the speed with which the globalization of society is taking place today suggests that very soon the idea of creating such archives that will go beyond the boundaries of one state will be realized (Bryukhanova, 2019).

One of the most fundamental electronic catalogs among the world's libraries is the archive of the Alaska State Library (USA). In this library is located the documental collection of Michael Z. Vinokouroff, a native of Yakutia, bibliographer, bibliophile, who devoted his activities to the study of Russian literature and the Russian Orthodox Church. The archival fund of the emigrant contains a large number of private documents reflecting the perception of historical events and phenomena of the late 19th - first third of the 20th centuries, and are also of scientific and informational value for Russian researchers.

### Materials and methods

The purpose of the study is to identify the information potential of the archival documents of the Michael Z. Vinokouroff fund, stored in the Alaska State Library (Louise, 1986). Their source analysis will determine the directions of their further scientific use. The research objectives are studying the life path of Michael Z. Vinokouroff and the history of his archive;

source analysis of documents from the bibliographer's personal collection.

The methodological basis of the research was the principles of historicism and scientific objectivity (Bryukhanova, 2019; Yumasheva, 2017). And also, source analysis and descriptive method were used, which made it possible to determine the information potential of the fund's documents.

The source base of the study was a set of archival materials that make up the personal fund of a bibliophile in the Alaska State Library. Namely, the numerous and varied materials of the "Vinokouroff diaries" fund (diaries, letters, notes, books, photos, etc.) are presented on the library's website in the "Historical Collections" section. Likewise, the authors conducted the source study to determine the information potential and the significance of the documents of the fund. In addition, the scientific method of classification and description was applied.

# Michael Z. Vinokouroff: the history of the personal archive and historiography

Michael Z. Vinokouroff was born in Yakutsk in 1894 into a family of priests who served in Russian America. His paternal grandfather was from Yakutsk and had been working in Alaska for about 20 years prior to his birth. Michael Vinokouroff followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, both of whom were clergymen, and graduated from the Yakut Theological Seminary. At the age of 18, he became a psalmist and conducted services in the Yakut language in St. Nicholas Church in Kyllakh, and then in Nyurba, Russia

In 1919, he moved to Japan and later to America, where he got a job at the U.S. Library of Congress and worked there for more than 30 years. For his long life, Vinokouroff amassed a comprehensive collection of books, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, and other documents relating to Eastern Siberia and Russian America, the Russian Orthodox Church, and emigrant literature. Vinokouroff bequeathed all the materials to the state of Alaska, which were transferred in 1983 and are currently stored in the Historical Library in Juneau. After long negotiations between the Republic of Sakha's (Yakutia's) government and *The Northern Forum* international organization, a trip was organized for a working group of Yakut bibliographers to study the Vinokouroff collection. Thus, according to the order of the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on January 10, 2008, the project was initiated to return the cultural heritage of the Sakha people, namely the preservation and return of the Vinokouroff archival fund from Juneau, Alaska

to his homeland. As a result, the scientists and researchers of Yakutia history and literature were given the opportunity to explore new, previously unknown information.

Foreign and Russian scholars studied both the historical and literary aspects of the biography and heritage of Michael Z. Vinokouroff. Foreign historiography on the study of the personality and heritage of M. Z. Vinokouroff is mainly presented with the works of the libraries staff. Antoinette Shalkop, who knew M. Z. Vinokouroff personally, was one of the first who "made an initial sorting and produced a preliminary inventory in 1984. Dr. Lydia Black, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks, arranged and described the Russian Orthodox Church series as well as those publications listed under ethnology, Alaska native languages, and the Russian Orthodox Church. Dr. Richard A. Pierce, a historian and specialist on Russian America, helped with sorting and prepared finding-aid descriptions for the personal papers, systematized and registered circulars and brochures. Abbot Herman from the New Valaam Monastery arranged and described the Father Gerasim Schmaltz correspondence on a volunteer basis" (Samsonova, 2002, pp. 51-52).

Russian historiography on the study of Vinokouroff's personality and heritage is not extensive, though three main directions can be distinguished among the relevant scientific works. The scientific works of the first group are the most numerous and are devoted to the study of Vinokouroff's life and the documents from his personal collection. It is worth highlighting an advanced study of the bibliophile's personality conducted by Oleg Dmitrievich Yakimov, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of the Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University (Yakimov, 1995, 2005). In the monograph "A Man from Nothingness", the author reveals the biography of M. Z. Vinokouroff along with the events related to the history of the Orthodox Church in Yakutia and Alaska, and to the political life of Yakutsk in the first quarter of the 20th century. In the context of the research related to the history of the periodical press in Yakutia, Yakimov explored the Vinokouroff archive, which comprises not only the newspapers of the Yakut period, but also rather late publications.

Direct participants in the present project implementation revealed the study of the Vinokouroff collection by the researchers from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) at the Alaska Historical Library. Great scientific contribution to the study of archival materials of the Vinokouroff collection was introduced by the chief librarian of the National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia): Valentina Andreevna Samsonova (Samsonova, 2019) and the researcher and

National Writer of Yakutia Vasiliy Egorovich Vasiliev (Kharyskhal, 2004). Samsonova emphasizes the contribution of M.Z. Vinokouroff in preserving the archives of the Russian Orthodox Church and introduces the main sections of the bibliographic index "Michael Z. Vinokouroff. In the Alaska Historical Library (A profile and inventory of his papers (MS81) and photographs (PCA 243)". In the periodicals, Vasiliev (Kharyskhal) shares his impressions of working in the archive of the Alaska Historical Library and describes the biography of M. Z. Vinokouroff.

The second group includes works on the Yakut emigration. The head of the Yakutia History Sector of the Institute of Humanitarian Studies and Problems of the Indigenous Peoples of the North of the SB RAS (Yakutsk), E. P. Antonov, in his research mentions M. Z. Vinokouroff as the first émigré to Yakutia (Antonov, 2004). The works of this group also contain some of V. E. Vasiliev (Kharyskhal), who was engaged in the history of the Yakut intelligentsia and emigration (Borisova, 2001; Samsonova, 2014).

The third group of works is rather fragmentary, although it reveals materials from the archive fund of M. Z. Vinokouroff in the context of the literary process in Yakutia in the first third of the 20th century. In this aspect, the author of the present article considers the personality of M. Z. Vinokouroff as a novice poet, an active participant in the first periodicals in Yakutia, as well as in terms of his friendship with the poet P. N. Chernykh-Yakutsky.

#### **Discussion**

Analysis of the archival fund of M.Z. Vinokouroff, his manuscripts and documents allow us to draw a conclusion about the significance and scale of the archive, about the huge bibliographic and research work of the bibliographer Mikhail Vinokouroff, who devoted his entire life during the emigration period to collecting and studying a large number of materials and documents on the history of the development of Eastern Siberia and Russian America.

The main description of the M. Z. Vinokouroff is presented in the bibliographic index of archival documents and photographs by M. Z. Vinokouroff, prepared by Louis Martin (Louise, 1986). Moreover, the main materials are available for viewing on the website of the Alaska State Library.

The National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) also contains copies of materials from the archive of M. Z. Vinokouroff, brought by the working group within the framework of the

project for the return of the cultural heritage of the Sakha people: the preservation and return to the homeland of the archival fund of M. Z. Vinokouroff (Samsonova, 2012).

Among all the materials and papers, there are quite rare items. Thus, Samsonova notes that "the reviewed archival papers relating to the activity of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska have no analogue in our archives and libraries and therefore the following documents are of the most interest to the researchers, namely:

- The Decree of the Tsar and the Holy Synod on Cossack service in Kamchatka to the Bishop of Irkutsk and Nerchinsk Sofroniy of February 18, 1764;
- Genuine spiritual instruction compiled by the priest I. Veniaminov;
- Instructions for a priest Ioann Veniaminov sent to North America on the island of Unashka (the document has a personal seal of Veniaminov, who later became the Metropolitan of Moscow);
- Diaries of St. Innokentii (Veniaminov);
- Instruction to missionaries, compiled by the Archbishop of Kamchatka, Kuril and Aleutian Innokentii in 1840 with corrections by Metropolitan of Moscow Filaret, published in Beijing in 1905;
- Archival documents about the Vinokouroffs, and M. Z. Vinokouroff's relatives, namely the religious clerics who served in the churches of Alaska in the first half of the 19th century;
- Rules of conduct for the students of the Yakut Theological Seminary and theological school;
- Directory of the Yakutsk diocese for the year 1889;
- The reports on the condition of the Yakut second-class parish school, headed by Zinovy Vinokouroff, M. Z. Vinokouroff's father;
- Personal papers of Michael Vinokouroff, the psalmist of the Kyllakh Church;
- A torn paper sheet signed by the regional commissar G. N Petrovsky, for conducting missionary sermons in the settlements situated on the other side of the river district, etc.

In addition to the introduced papers, there is an extensive correspondence of Vinokouroff with clergymen and Russian émigrés on the issues of the Russian Orthodox Church in America

from the 20s to the 60s of the 20th century, which is also significant for the researchers" (Samsonova, 2012, p.102).

Vasiliev (Kharyskhal) mentioned a unique document that was found in the Vinokouroff Collection, namely, "the testimony of the 2nd rank captain Peshchurov, Russian government commissioner for the assignment of North American territories to the United States of America, on the transfer of Spruse Island, which is two miles from the Kodiak Island, for the eternal use of the Russian Orthodox Church in 1868. The documents read as follows: "Spruce Island is neither for sale nor for rent; it is a holy island, which belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church" (Kharyskhal, 2008).

Additionally to the documents and diaries of St. Innokentii (Veniaminov), the archive also contains his linguistic work "An experimental grammar of the Aleutian-Fox Islander language" (1846). St. Innokentii (Veniaminov), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna, went down in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church as the saint of Alaska and Yakutia. Moreover, he was the author of the numerous works on the grammar of indigenous languages, which are the subject of many interdisciplinary studies. Subsequently, due to the missionary activity of St. Innokentii in Yakutia, the first translations of church literature in the Yakut language appeared as the prerequisites for the development of the Yakut writing system and literature in the Yakut language.

The works on the Yakut language, stored in the Vinokouroff fund, are scientifically valuable. It is worth highlighting "Alphabet Primer for Yakuts" (1897), which is in a Cyrillic-based script published in Kazan, and "Suruk-bichik" (1917), based on the Roman alphabet by S. A Novgorodov, which have already become a bibliographic rarity. The Vinokouroff Collection also contains one of the first books published in the Yakutsk regional printing house, namely, "Concise sacred history" (1867).

The source study analysis of the materials of the archival fund showed that their use in works and research, the object of which is the personality, heritage, views of M. Z. Vinokouroff; the history of the Vinokouroff family; history of the Russian Orthodox Church in Yakutia and America; the political life of Yakutia at the beginning of the 20th century; Yakutia of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; Yakut language and literature of Yakutia; creativity and personality of the Russian-speaking poet P. N. Chernykh-Yakutsky; history of periodicals in Yakutia, the literary process of the first third of the 20th century; personality, works and views of Innokentii Veniaminov; religious and everyday culture of the Russian diaspora; adaptation of Russian

emigrants; the richest correspondence allows to explore the circle of communication of M. Z. Vinokouroff and many other problems.

#### Conclusion

M. Z. Vinokouroff as a bibliographer and bibliophile, realizing the need to preserve and disseminate information, and also thanks to his personal interest and initiative, collected, preserved and transmitted a huge amount of materials, thereby creating an accessible information resource for many interdisciplinary researches. Thus, the archival fund of M. Z. Vinokouroff at the Alaska State Library is a massive information resource available for free social use in society. Researchers of the issues of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian America, as well as historians, bibliographers, linguists and literary scholars will be interested in numerous documents, diaries, letters, books and photographs from the archival fund of M. Z. Vinokouroff.

The main directions of the effective scientific use of documents from the personal archive of M. Z. Vinokouroff 's study and publication of his unpublished and little-known diaries and notes; personal correspondence; the study of issues of his individual ties with the Yakut intelligentsia; study of the poetic heritage of M. Z. Vinokouroff - "Taezhnik"; study and publication of documents on the history of the Russian Church in Alaska and Yakutia; documents and letters of St. Innokentii (Veniaminov); studying the issues of the political and literary life of Yakutia at the beginning of the 20th century; research of the first periodicals and literary editions of Yakutia; study of materials on the Yakut language and literature of Yakutia.

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