Nikolai Fyodorovich Katanov’s scientific expedition “for the study of the remnants of Turkic peoples” passed through the territories of Eastern Siberia, Tuva, Seven Rivers and Xinjiang in 1889–1892. This journey became a landmark for the development of Turkic ethnography and comparative linguistics. Nikolai Katanov (1862–1922) was the first Khakass scholar, doctor of comparative linguistics (1907), the author of the first generalizing study of the Tuvan language. Unfortunately, the publication of his research diary, begun in 1891, was delayed for a long time. His “Essays of the Uryankhai Land”, the diaries of the trip to Tuva in 1889, were published only in 2010.

This volume includes materials prepared by N. Katanov for printing in the winter of 1890 (journey to Khakasstaiga) and the ones concerning his summer voyage of 1890 from the Kazakh border to Urumqi and back. Our publication includes a detailed research introduction and diary texts with commentary. Katanov’s diaries contain both everyday details of the expedition, descriptions of the ethnographic work with local residents and the Russian translations of Khakass, Kazakh and Uighur folklore recordings. The publishers decided to reproduce facsimiles of the original diary, preserved in the National Archives of the Republic of Tatarstan. This is necessary to preserve them for future generations, as well as for the opportunity to be acquainted with diagrams and sketches made by N.F. Katanov.

The diaries are published with a preface by Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan A.M. Sibagatullin, Deputy Head of the Republic of Khakassia I.G. Smolina, and Rector of Kazan University, I.R. Gafurov.