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HISTORICAL SCIENCES

UDC94(5)(093) A. Y. KRYMSKY AND HIS LETTERS TO RUSSIAN SCHOLARS V. R. ROZEN, V. V. BARTOLD AND P. K. KOKOVTSOV (LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURIES) 1

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Abstract:
At the current stage academic and applied interest of scholars is attracted by theoretical, geopolitical, social, cultural and historical factors and areas of development for the key centers of practical and academic Oriental studies in Russia and Ukraine in the 19th – early 20th centuries – Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev. The turn of the epochs is marked by the variety, the richness and the tragedies in the lives of a lot of Russian orientalists, as well as by the creation of an original Russian institutional system of education and academic research of the East in the Asian museum of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow and Petersburg Universities and the Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages, in addition to academic societies, etc. The goal of this study is finding, analyzing, organizing and publishing the correspondence of an Arabian, Semitic, Turkic, Iranian and Slavic studies scholar A. Y. Krymsky with orientalists of the turn of the centuries period – V. R. Rozen, V. V. Bartold, P. K. Kokovtsov, F. Y. Korsch, V. A. Zhukovsky, S. F. Oldenburg, I. Y. Krachkovsky, N. A. Mednikov, V. F. Minorsky in 1890-1920.

Keywords: Oriental studies, archives, correspondence, colleagues, A. Y. Krymsky, V. R. Rozen, V. V. Bartold, P. K. Kokovtsov.

Biography and legacy of A. Y. Krymsky (1871-1941) have found their way into Russian and partially foreign literature and historiography 1. Nevertheless, further study of Asian and African research of this Ukrainian and Russian scholar and educator of Crimean Tatar, Polish and Belorussian origin is still relevant and promising. This Middle Eastern and Slavic studies scholar, academic and prominent public figure who possessed encyclopedic knowledge made a significant contribution to the history of Arab, Iranian and Turkic studies in Russia, Ukraine and the entire world. Language and literature, history and culture as well as the general cultural legacy of the Arab-Islamic civilization were the fundamental fields of study for A. Y. Krymsky. I. M. Smil'yanovskaya described the role and significance of this scholar to the history of Oriental studies in Russia and Ukraine in the 19th – early 20th centuries as follows: "A. Y. Krymsky astounds with the sheer diversity of the academic topics he took interest in, both for research and general cultural purposes. Being primarily a philologist, he was an expert in Ukrainian (and generally Slavic) studies, as well as an Arabian, Semitic, Iranian and Turkic studies scholar." [1, p. 303].

A. Y. Krymsky played an exceptional role in making Oriental studies in the world, particularly Arabian, Iranian and Turkic research in Russia and Ukraine, more professional and institution-based [2].

Indeed A. Y. Krymsky (1872-1942) has a special place in the history of Russian and Ukrainian Oriental studies. The life and biography of this Russian and Ukrainian Arabian, Iranian, Turkic and Slavic scholar can be divided into three phases: the Moscow period (1889-1918), the Beirut (Syrian-Lebanese) period (1896-1898) and the Kiev period (1918-1941). Being an expert on Middle Eastern languages, he created several fundamental works on the history of Arabs, Persians, Turks and other peoples of Western Asia [3].

In the Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages in Moscow he studied Arabic philology, Arab literature and Islam (1889-1892). Persian language and literature, Turkish language and literature were also the focus of his Asian and African education [4].

1 Исследование проведено в рамках гранта РФФИ № 18-09-00331 "Эпистолярное наследие российских востоковедов на рубеже веков: Переписка А. Е. Крымского, В. Р. Розена, Ф. Е. Корша, В. А. Жуковского, С. Ф. Ольденбурга, В. В. Бартольда, Н. А. Медникова, П. К. Коковцова, В. Ф. Минорского (1890 – 1930-е гг.)"
A. Y. Krymsky is legitimately one of the last "Mohicans" of the classical Oriental studies of the late 19th – early 20th centuries in the world, an outstanding representative of the Russian and Ukrainian schools of Oriental studies. Besides, he also is one of the originators of the Soviet school of Oriental studies, especially Arabian, Iranian and Turkic studies in the USSR in 1920-1930. In one of his letters to Academy of Sciences member I. Y. Krachkovsky (December 8, 1937) he compared the sessions of Arabian studies scholars of 1935 and 1937 in the following fashion: "It was a true unending feast of Arab studies at that time, nicely coinciding with your milestone birthday celebrations as well. Now... of course, even now that gratifying impression remains: the impression that, despite all the obstacles that have been put in front of Arab culture research for 20 years, it has not died. On the contrary, it has prospered in some respects. The inspection of our academic forces has turned to be impressive." [5, p. 277].

The epistolary legacy of Russian orientalists of the 19th – early 20th centuries presents an invaluable source of studying the history of Oriental studies in Russia and Europe. The letters are of particular interest in terms of understanding the lives, academic works and achievements and generally the intellectual experience of Russian orientalists.

In the Russian and foreign historiography and source studies of the history of Russian Oriental studies there is a tradition of researching the epistolary legacy of Russian and European scholars. These unique sources allow us to evaluate the social and psychological conditions and factors of the lives and works of famous and often forgotten academics and lecturers that worked for the main centers of Oriental studies in Russia.

In this respect, the epistolary legacy of A. Y. Krymsky is of great interest, particularly his correspondence with the leading Oriental scholars of Russia – V. R. Rozen, V. V. Bartold, P. K. Kokovtsov, V. F. Miller, F. Y. Korsch, I. Y. Krachkovsky, V. A. Gordlevsky, V. F. Minorsky, etc.

In relation to the publications of two members of the Academy of Sciences in 1923-1940, I. M. Smilyanskaya mentioned that "an invaluable source for learning the intellectual experience, the logics of their creative process, their scientific principles, the atmosphere of the academic and social life of these scholars during the first decades of the Soviet period, is the correspondence between A. Y. Krymsky and I. Y. Krachkovsky..." [5, p. 7].

At the current moment the most comprehensive publications on the epistolary legacy of A. Y. Krymsky are the following well-known works published in Russia and Ukraine in 1970-2000:


In general the phenomenon of A. Y. Krymsky's epistolary legacy should probably be understood as part of the assessment paradigm proposed by the outstanding Ukrainian writer I. Franko, who described the works of his friend and associate as follows: "He tries to be as objective and truthful as possible, not to lose a single grain of the truth he has grasped with all his heart, and he pours it to paper with all its, sometimes absolutely arbitrary, accessories, of which, of course, the primary ones are his personal sentiments and feelings." [6, p. 342]

The main goal of this paper is to review the unpublished epistolary legacy of the Academy of Sciences member A. Y. Krymsky and evaluate his importance in the history of the Russian and Ukrainian Oriental studies.

The primary attention in this study will be paid to A. Y. Krymsky's letters to his mentors and colleagues V. R. Rozen, V. V. Bartold and P. K. Kokovtsov that date back to the critical turning point between the 19th and the first two decades of the 20th century.

As a side note, of special interest, and not only for Oriental studies, are A. Y. Krymsky's letters to Academy of Sciences members A. A. Shakhmatov and V. P. Buzesku.

The total of 23 letters from A. Y. Krymsky to Aleksei Shakhmatov (СПбФА-РАН, ф. 134, оп. 3, д. 766) belong to the period of 1902 to 1911, are written on writing paper, except one dated 29 December 1907. The letters contain insertions and footnotes for clarification. The only letter from A. Y. Krymsky to Vladislav Buzesku (СПбФА-РАН, ф. 825, оп. 2, д.112) was written on 9 July, 1925 and sent from Kiev to Kharkiv. Of much importance are also the partially unpublished letters of A. Y. Krymsky to Academy of Sciences member F. Y. Korsch. These are stored in the Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow (Ф. 558, оп. 4, д. 170).

In general A. Y. Krymsky's letters kept among the personal papers of orientalist Academy members in the St. Petersburg branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Archives, they cover the period of October 1898 to August of 1932, are written in neat, somewhat small but readiable handwriting, with even lines. Among his letters to V. V. Bartold there is one dated October 14, 1925, written as dictated by an unidentified person, as well as one dated November 25, 1925, typewritten. The text of the letters contains some expressions in Arabic.

These letters from A. Y. Krymsky to several outstanding representatives of the St. Petersburg center of Oriental studies, being a very personal original source, objectively recreate the professional, social and cultural instant of this historical period and the history of Ori-
ental studies. They show the scholar with all his concerns and social ties at certain stages of his life and work.

The first letter from A. Y. Krymsky to V. R. Rozen (Moscow, 1898, 4.X.) is about his need for further professional training. In it, he writes: "During this academic year I will have to take a master degree examination on Arabic philology, so I am hereby making a humble request to you: could you please tell me the program of this examination, whenever it is most convenient for you."

Also, A. Y. Krymsky's surviving letters from Moscow: one to P. K. Kokovtsov dated March 6, 1901, concerning the preparation of the "Lecture on the History of Semitic Languages" (Moscow, 1902) and another to V. V. Bartold dated March 1, 1909, which is a letter of thanks for his book "Turkestan during the Mongolian Invasion" (P. 1-2, 1898-1900).

A. Y. Krymsky wrote to P. K. Kokovtsov: "The Lazarev Institute is printing the translation of Noldeke's "Semitic Languages", heavily annotated by me. As I know that this book may be of certain interest to you, I am taking a liberty of sending you the revised 1st sheet. It would be wonderful if you could attentively look through my notes and mark the ones that you do not agree with. Needless to say, your assistance will be credited in the foreword."

He also wrote the following to V. V. Bartold: "You cannot imagine how grateful I am to you for "Turkestan"! I thank you very, very much for it. But at the same time I would like to talk about my own listeners who would like to purchase this book and do not know its price. What price would be appropriate for mailing it to our students?"

On the whole A. Y. Krymsky's 15 letters to V. R. Rozen date back to the 1898-1906 period, 9 letters to P. K. Kokovtsov – to 1901-1932 and 7 letters to V. V. Bartold were written in 1909-1928. Undoubtedly, not all of A. Y. Krymsky's letters are of equal value in terms of whether their content contains sufficiently diverse information and his personal opinions.

When cataloging the contents of A. Y. Krymsky's letters to his St. Petersburg teachers and colleagues, we singled out the following strata: research themes and fields; bibliographical references and news of Oriental studies; highly subjective descriptions and assessments of Oriental studies in Russia, Ukraine and Europe, as well as Krymsky's colleagues and students; various facts about their lives, etc.

This stratum of epistolary sources is especially interesting for understanding the history of academic Oriental studies in Russia and Ukraine and it completes the already existing knowledge about the personal and professional contacts between researchers of Asia and Africa from Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kiev during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century.

The introduced letters of A. Y. Krymsky, and especially the letters addressed to him from other Oriental researchers can also be helpful to students and scholars in the following aspects. Firstly, they are autographs of the most prominent Russian orientalists of the 19th – early 20th centuries. Secondly, these letters present the personal position of a high-profile scholar and outstanding individual. Thirdly, here we find a unique assessment of the state of academic Oriental studies at that time, specifically its Arabian, Iranian, Turkic fields and the roles of the leading Russian scholars and thinkers. Fourthly, the letters convey the personal position and sentiments of this person and scholar particularly sharply. In general the contents of this short correspondence can serve as an original material for supposed biographies of Russian Oriental studies scholars of the 19th century.

The fundamental and applied research project and the comprehensive study done by scholars from Kazan, St. Petersburg, Kiev with the participation of some other foreign and Russian colleagues will allow us to study, systematize and prepare the unresearched and previously unpublished epistolary legacy of Russian orientalists at the turn of the century, and particularly the correspondence of the Russian and Ukrainian Arabian, Turkic, Iranian and Slavic studies scholar A. Y. Krymsky with his mentors and colleagues – V. R. Rozen, F. Y. Korsch, V. A. Zhukovsky, S. F. Oldenburg, V. V. Bartold, I. Y. Krachkovsky, N. A. Mednikov, P. K. Kokovtsov, V. F. Minorsky in 1890-1930s.

These unique letters remain an important source of studying the history of Oriental studies in Russia and Europe at the cusp of two different epochs, provide additional information about the contribution of these academicians to researching the intellectual culture of the Eastern peoples as well as their progressive views on studying the history and culture of the Muslim world.

It is the epistolary legacy, as well as the written legacy in general, of the Russian orientalists that helps to understand their biographies and works in historical, social-political and especially ethical and psychological aspects.

The results of this cooperative research work will allow to comprehensively search for, study and publish the epistolary legacy of these outstanding founders of Oriental studies in Russia. The letters under research are found in the main Russian and Ukrainian archive centers.

The main results of this academic project will be summarized in a publication called "Epistolary Legacy of Russian Orientalists at the Turn of the Century: Correspondence of A. Y. Krymsky with Russian Scholars – V. R. Rozen, F. Y. Korsch, V. A. Zhukovsky, S. F. Oldenburg, V. V. Bartold, I. Y. Krachkovsky, N. A. Mednikov, P. K. Kokovtsov, V. F. Minorsky (1890-1930s)" (to be published in 2019-2020).

Appendix: A fragment of A. Y. Krymsky's letter to Academy of Sciences member V. R. Rozen:

"I am eminently grateful to you for your kind letter in which you informed me about the examination program.

Besides the program, my attention was caught by some of your comments about my work "Study of the Development of Sufism", and they made me deeply regret the fact that I was not lucky enough to study under your tutorship. Your words were the first criticism I
have heard: for the nine years that I have been researching the East I have never been able to get any assistance from any of our orientalists, with the exception of philological help, and I had to **discover** everything (i.e. methods, sources and aids) on my own."

A fragment of A. Y. Krymsky's letter to Academy of Sciences member V. V. Bartold dated August 19, 1922, Kiev:

"Dear Vasily Vladimirovich!

I have received your letter dated 6.VIII, and it has saddened me unspeakably. A reproach of hatred toward all things Russian is a very tough and offensive one for me, because I actually belong to those Ukrainians who **struggle** here in Kiev against any sort of enmity to Russians and Russian culture and get reproached for "Russophilism to the point of treachery." The generations younger than me were even ready to cross me out of the list of Ukrainians but, unfortunately for them, there were two serious circumstances speaking against that, the first being that Krymsky cannot be crossed out of the history of Ukrainian literature in which he played not the least of roles by having contributed to it for thirty years, while the second is that Krymsky is a more **natural** Ukrainian than most new ones, and that these super-patriotic people are forced to acknowledge that Krymsky occupies a most respected position in terms of Ukrainian language competence and the mastery of its style with all its subtleties. In any case, I am used to hearing enough acidic words about my "Russification", and sometimes people take measures to eliminate me in the cases when I turn out to be "harmful"."

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