



## CENTRAL ASIA ON THE RUSSIAN CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES IN XVIII CENTURY

**Saidboboev Zokirjon Abdugarimovich**

Candidate of Historical Sciences,  
Professor of Department of History source  
and Archive studies of the National University of Uzbekistan

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### ABSTRACT

*The article is devoted to the problem of formation of cartographic traditions of Central Asia in Russia, especially in XVIII century. This period was one of the fundamental researching of the Central Asian territories by Russian specialists. Given detail information about the cartographic sources, its contents and influence for the future researching of the region.*

### DISCUSSION

The high stage of accumulation of Russian cartographic information about Central Asia is related to the activities of Russian ambassadors, travelers, geographers and cartographers during the reign of Peter I and then in XVIII century.

Also at the beginning of the XVIII century Russia has sought to consolidate their position in Central Asia. The territory of the Central Asian khanates was supposed to play the role of bailiff points on the way Russians to India. During this period, the problem of finding the shortest path from Russia to India through Central Asia was the main problem of research Russian geographers and cartographers. Activity of Peter I played a pivotal role in solving this problem. Solution such global problems required primarily ambassadorial expeditions to Central Asia and through their collecting detailed information about the region.

Proposal to send expeditions to Central Asia was Peter I well-known figure F.S. Saltykov, sent a letter to the Emperor on April 27, 1713, which offers: obtaining "... steppes between China and Bukhara, the lands between India and Tanguit, and thereby – Yorkent and Turfan".

In 1714, Peter I sends Lieutenant, prince A. Bekovich-Cherkassky the Caspian Sea, and instructs him to go out in the Khanate of Khiva.

In April, 1715 Bekovich went from Astrakhan eastern shores of the Caspian Sea [4:107]. His expedition is credited with drawing up the scientific maps of the Caspian Sea and Central Asia.

To implement the guidance of Peter I on the construction of military fortifications here and this by

setting on the east coast of the Caspian Sea influence Russian state, he is sent by sea on 69 ships. From Tikkaragan place he reached Mangishlak and erects military fortress here under the name of St. Peter. The second fort was built in Krasnovodsk [6:31].

As a result of this expedition were collected earlier materials on downstream and created a map of the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea.

Map of the Caspian Sea, mainly depicted its eastern coast, the Dead Gulf, Buzachi peninsula and Mangishlak, Alexander Bay and unnamed bay. Especially clearly shows the location Korabogaz Bay and Krasnovodsk, Balkhan bays.

Renowned scientist L.S. Berg on the article devoted to Caspian Sea, announces that this map was not found [8:9-13]. However, in the 60<sup>th</sup> years of XIX century E.A. Knyazhetskaya writes that this map with the map of Central Asia, compiled by Bekovich-Cherkassky Peter I takes to Paris [3]. Original map was found and researched by E.A. Knyazhetskaya.

In 1720 in Russia was published the first printed map of the Caspian Sea. But it was incorrectly listed bays east coast of the Caspian Sea. Although this map was compiled on materials F.I. Soymonov, photographed in 1719 the western and southern part of the sea, but the bays were not displayed previously indicated Bekovich-Cherkassky. And this, in turn, reduced the value of new scientific value and showed wrong information, in comparison with maps of the Caspian Sea, printed in Western Europe at the time.

Most scientifically effective for the first half of the XVIII century was traveling Dmitry Gladischev and Ivan Muravin to Khiva in 1740 – 1741. Records of this journey takes in that time (1760) P.I. Rychkov, but



the full text of the report and map published only in 1850, by famous orientalist Ya. Khanykov [2:40]. Advantage Ivan Muravin's map of previous maps was that many places (for example, the east coast of the Aral Sea) on it were first drawn on the basis of submissions received as a result of instrumental image [1:27]. For that, the map has become the basis for creating the next map of the Aral Sea. Map images mostly areas of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm are under the names of Khiva and the Aral possessions.

There are also maps I. Krasilnikov that were found promoting Russian Geographical society only after 125 years after their creation.

I. Krasilnikov was charged on the basis of the available materials to create the main map of the Orenburg province, as well as 10 special maps in 1752. Maps were prepared and sent to the Geographical Department of the Academy of Sciences in 1753. Composed of two I.Krasilnikov maps provide information on the territory of Central Asia. The map shows rivers, lakes, prairies, mountains, forests, hills and fortifications [5:35].

Along with the existing old materials, I. Krasilnikov when drawing up their maps, and took advantage of the new information. For example, land on the right bank of the Syr Darya are called "Barsukova Sands". Sarasu river before reaching the Syr Darya flows into Lake Telegul. On the banks of the Syr Darya marked cities such as Saran, Tashkent, Otrar. More precisely mapped sources of the Amu Darya.

After maps of I. Krasilnikov the Russian cartography was not found other new information in XVIII century. There are some opinions that after map of I. Krasilnikov in the XVIII century the Russian cartographic work about Central Asia found their completion [1:27]. However, several Russian maps relating of Central Asia the end of the XVIII century were found in the Central State Military History Archive (Moscow) and studied by geographer R.L.Yugay in the 60<sup>th</sup> years last century. Author was Russian soldier, Maj.-Gen. Yacob Bower. In describing the Aral and Caspian Seas were used I. Krasilnikov map attached to P. Rychkov to his work "Topography of Orenburg Province", and a map I. Muravin.

Zarafshan river n flows as shown in the Amu Darya, but it named Kuhak on the map. Showing the towns and villages along the banks of the Amu Darya. On the delta between the two main tributaries of the Amu Darya specified region, referred to as the "Housing Karakalpaks" [9:187].

Although inaccurate showed the first source of Zarafshan, its environment and lower reaches are depicted mostly correct. Quite clearly indicated the location of settlements in the Zarafshan valley, such as Samarkand, Kattakurgan, Pandzhiken, Hatirchi, Bukhara, Karmana, Yangikurgan, Gijduvan, Romitan, Karakul and others.

Map of Colonel Ivan Lyutov related to the end of the XVIII century. The territory of modern Uzbekistan shows "nomadic steppe – Kirgyzkaysakov" land between the Caspian and Aral seas are named as "Trukhmen ownership". Eastern coast of the Caspian Sea, in comparison with a Yacob Bower's map far right shows the total length of the sea from north to south is 11 latitude (47-36 north latitude) [10:188].

More correctly displayed upper Amu Darya region, in particular, shows the Vakhsh and its tributaries Surkhon. Fully depicted possession of Khiva (Khorezm Valley) and closely spaced irrigation canals around Khiva. Opposite Khiva, two coasts of the Amu Darya town located Azaris (Khazorasp) Ugrani (Urgench), Khecht (Cat) Vizirat (Wazir) and Navat.

As the all maps of the XVIII century, the upper reaches of the Syr Darya River displayed incorrectly.

I. Lyutov's map is considered one of the best cartographic sources XVIII century depicting territory coming into modern Kazakhstan, Central Asia and nearby regions.

Timofy Burnashev with Alexei Beznosikov visited Bukhara and collected rich material about this region in 1774 – 1775. Alexei Beznosikov made four maps about the territory of Central Asia [7:58-61].

But in these maps relief depicts a very schematic way, and the mountains are depicted the way ordinary figure. However, hydrography and irrigation sources are sufficiently accurate and complete. On the territory of modern Uzbekistan shows the area of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara, Samarkand region, as the area on one point refers to the Khanate of Kokand.

Interesting is the fact that for the first time on this map of Russian cartographic sources occurs in the form of the Kyzyl Kum placename "Kyzyl Kum Sands". On the Burnashev's report Kyzylkum given the following description: "The lands between Cheese and Jani a lot of saxauls, but there are also the area with water and crops, the road starting from Jani, and passes through waterless of groves Kyzyl Kum (Red Sand)" [11:104].

The availability of information from the Russian did not belong to the domain of Russian Central Asian lands confirms that what the government has paid special attention to the southern regions of Russia that Russia has established its international relations not only with the West, but also with the countries of Central Asia. In this regard, the Russian cartography developed, enriching the information available on Central Asia with new materials. Although not created most faithful and accurate mapping images of the southern (current Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya) and eastern (present Fergana valley) regions of the edge, but in this field has already made the first steps. The period up to the XVIII century Russia is considered to time with reference Central



Asian territory and collect materials about them, but at that time were still represented the first attempt to create some cartographic materials about the region. From the XVIII century replace created before this time, "drawing" it began to come relatively accurately and thoroughly designed maps. In general, XVIII century is considered new, more advanced stage in the creation of geographic and cartographic research, in terms of growth in their number, quality improvement and expansion of the field of study.

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