

Artículo de investigación

Discovering “site of memory”: publication of sources as a means of preserving historical and cultural heritage

Открывая «места памяти»: публикации источников как средство сохранения историко-культурного наследия

Descubriendo el "sitio de la memoria": publicación de fuentes como medio para preservar el patrimonio histórico y cultural

Recibido: 20 de agosto del 2019

Aceptado: 24 de septiembre del 2019

Written by:

Evgeny Nikolaevich Bikeikin¹⁴

ORCID: 0000-0002-7301-0264

SPIN Code: 1732-1478

Tatyana Mikhailovna Guseva¹⁵

ORCID: 0000-0001-7417-6664

SPIN Code: 9915-3591

Galina Aleksandrovna Kursheva¹⁶

ORCID: 0000-0001-6151-0977

SPIN Code: 4696-0040

Sergey Viktorovich Pershin¹⁷

ORCID: 0000-0001-9405-7005

SPIN Code: 6106-9623

Abstract

Introduction. The article presents the possibilities of implementing one of the promising concepts used recently in scientific and practical activities aimed at preserving “site of memory”. The authors focus on the prospects of using collections of documents and materials in the practice of memorialization of historical and cultural heritage. Materials and methods. The research is based on the concept of historical memory, the intellectual tradition of comprehending and describing which became a reflection of the development of scientific discourse throughout the 20th century. The material of the study was the unique evidence included in the “Code of documents on the history and culture of Mordovia”. Results. Setting the formation of a certain cultural and historical code as the main task of this concept, the authors suggested that collections of documents and

Аннотация

Введение. В статье представлены возможности реализации одного из перспективных концептов, используемых в последнее время в научно-практической деятельности, направленной на сохранение «мест памяти». Авторами акцентируется внимание на перспективах использования сборников документов и материалов в практике мемориализации историко-культурного наследия. Материалы и методы. В основу исследования положена концепция исторической памяти, интеллектуальная традиция осмысления и описания которой стала отражением развития научного дискурса всего XX века. Материалом исследования послужили уникальные свидетельства, вошедшие в «Свод документов по истории и культуре Мордовия». Результаты. Устанавливая в

¹⁴ Doctor of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Deputy Director of the Institute, Scientific Secretary Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, Russia.

¹⁵ Doctor of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Chief Researcher, Head of the Department of History Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, Russia.

¹⁶ Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Director of the Institute Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, Russia.

¹⁷ Doctor of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Leading Researcher, Department of History Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, Russia.

materials can be identified in the modern humanitarian space as significant "site of memory" much more than many other phenomena of material and spiritual culture. Such symbolic constructs are particularly relevant for settlements and regions of Russia, where a significant part of archaeological and architectural monuments has been destroyed or is at the last stage of destruction. The study was conducted on the materials of the Republic of Mordovia. An analysis of the experience of Mordovian scientists, who quickly identified and published a significant body of historical sources, showed their wide thematic and chronological spectrum. Thematically prevailing military-patriotic publications, chronologically related to the first half of the XIX and the first half of the XX century. Findings. Presenting modern publications of sources as an established form of broadcasting and updating cultural meanings, a way of preserving historical and cultural heritage, and the authors suggested that targeted activities to expand such "site of memory" (which are collections of documents and materials) should be expanded and deepened. The key problems of regional history - the national policy of the 1920s and 30s, collectivization, industrialization, etc., are its promising directions.

Key words: Cultural and historical heritage, site of memory, identity, collection of documents and materials, source.

качестве главной задачи указанной концепции формирование определенного культурно-исторического кода, авторы предположили, что сборники документов и материалов в гораздо большей степени, чем многие другие явления материальной и духовной культуры, могут идентифицироваться в современном гуманитарном пространстве в качестве значимых «мест памяти». Особую актуальность подобные символические конструкты имеют для населенных пунктов и областей России, где значительная часть археологических и архитектурных памятников была уничтожена или находится на последней стадии разрушения. Исследование проведено на материалах Республики Мордовия. Анализ опыта мордовских учёных, в кратчайшие сроки выявивших и опубликовавших значительный корпус исторических источников, показал их широкий тематический и хронологический спектр. Тематически преобладают издания военно-патриотической направленности, хронологически касающиеся первой половины XIX и первой половины XX в. Выводы. Представляя современные публикации источников в качестве устоявшейся формы трансляции и актуализации культурных смыслов, способа сохранения историко-культурного наследия, авторы предположили, что целенаправленная деятельность по расширению таких «мест памяти» (какими являются сборники документов и материалов) должна быть расширена и углублена. В качестве ее перспективных направлений выступают ключевые проблемы региональной истории – национальная политика 1920-30-х гг., коллективизация, индустриализация и т. д.

Ключевые слова: культурно-историческое наследие, места памяти, идентичность, сборник документов и материалов, источник.

Resumen

El artículo presenta las posibilidades de implementar uno de los conceptos prometedores utilizados recientemente en actividades científicas y prácticas destinadas a preservar el "sitio de la memoria". Los autores se centran en las perspectivas de utilizar colecciones de documentos y materiales en la práctica de la memorización del patrimonio histórico y cultural. Materiales y métodos. La investigación se basa en el concepto de memoria histórica, la tradición intelectual de comprender y describir que se convirtió en un reflejo del desarrollo del discurso científico a lo largo del siglo XX. El material del estudio fue la evidencia única incluida en el "Código de documentos sobre la historia y la cultura de Mordovia". Resultados Estableciendo la formación de un cierto código cultural e histórico como la tarea principal de este concepto, los autores sugirieron que las colecciones de documentos y materiales pueden identificarse en el espacio humanitario moderno como un "sitio de memoria" significativo mucho más que muchos otros fenómenos

de material. y cultura espiritual. Tales construcciones simbólicas son particularmente relevantes para los asentamientos y las regiones de Rusia, donde una parte significativa de los monumentos arqueológicos y arquitectónicos ha sido destruida o está en la última etapa de destrucción. El estudio se realizó sobre los materiales de la República de Mordovia. Un análisis de la experiencia de los científicos mordovianos, que rápidamente identificaron y publicaron un importante cuerpo de fuentes históricas, mostró su amplio espectro temático y cronológico. Publicaciones militar-patrióticas predominantemente temáticas, cronológicamente relacionadas con la primera mitad del siglo XIX y la primera mitad del siglo XX. Recomendaciones. Al presentar publicaciones modernas de fuentes como una forma establecida de transmisión y actualización de significados culturales, una forma de preservar el patrimonio histórico y cultural, y los autores sugirieron que las actividades específicas para expandir ese "sitio de memoria" (que son colecciones de documentos y materiales) deberían ser expandido y profundizado. Los problemas clave de la historia regional: la política nacional de los años 20 y 30, la colectivización, la industrialización, etc., son sus direcciones prometedoras.

Palabras clave: Patrimonio cultural e histórico, sitio de memoria, identidad, colección de documentos y materiales, fuente.

Introduction

The processes of fragmentation of public consciousness and the identity crisis, largely caused by the revision of state ideology and the closely related dominant historical narratives, significantly update the problems of preserving the cultural and historical heritage as the basis for the formation of historical memory. In recent years, the emergence of various populist-speculative interpretations of history and the emergence of new historical myths characterized by serious ideological and political commitment, which leads to significant reassessment of priorities in the choice of means and methods of historical memory formation, and, as a rule, its distortion, has become increasingly noticeable. The situation is aggravated by the crisis of humanitarian knowledge, the main consequence of which was a decrease in the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the activities of academic institutions and universities, as well as the leveling of the importance of humanitarian science in the public mind. Meanwhile, the results of humanitarian science, recorded in specific scientific and popular science publications, are a kind of matrix, an outline for the formed historical memory. Scientific books should be regarded as "site of memory" containing and storing fragments of historical and cultural heritage. In this regard, the experience of the Republic of Mordovia in creating such "site of memory" is a promising object of study.

Materials and methods

The methodological basis in the study is the concept of historical memory. The intellectual tradition of comprehending and describing this concept has become a reflection of the

development of scientific discourse throughout the 20th century. There are works by A. Bergson, M. Halbwax, J. Assman, P. Ricoeur, P. Nora and others (Bergson, 1999; Halbwax, 2007, 2017; Assman, 2004; Ricoeur, 2004; Nora, 1999, 1984, 1986; Halbwachs 1994).

While writing the article, the achievements of such modern domestic researchers as Zh. Toshchenko, L.P. Repina, L.N. Mazur were actively used (Toshchenko, 2000; Repina, 2004; Mazur, 2013).

The theoretical constructs of P. Nora's "site of memory" made it possible to analyze in detail scientific publications and their role in preserving the cultural and historical heritage in particular and historical memory in general. Methods of source study, comparative, critical, conceptual and problem analysis of texts contributed to the comprehensive disclosure of the topic.

Results

The concept of "site of memory" is one of the promising concepts used by scientists in studying the problems of historical and cultural heritage. Back in the 80s of the 20th century, the French scientist Pierre Nora proposed the following definition of "site of memory": "the past we lost, which is still alive somewhere in the consciousness of a social group, but it may soon disappear forever" (Nora, 1999). In another definition of a site of memory, Nora is presented as the "remains" of the past, but at the same time as "the extreme form in which there is a commemorative consciousness in a history that ignores it but needs it" (Nora, 1999).

P. Nora drew attention to the fact that people, having lost their cultural and historical identity, often feel the need to preserve memory, maintain peculiar legends and myths in history. The researcher focuses on the fact that “site of memory” exist due to the desire to remember and as a result of purposeful activities: “We need to create archives, we need to celebrate anniversaries, organize celebrations, make tombstones, notarize acts, because such operations are not natural” (Nora, 1999). Nora includes museums, archives, cemeteries, collections, holidays, anniversaries, treatises, protocols, monuments, temples, associations as “site of memory” (Nora, 1999).

Given the breadth of the interpretation of the term (“site” in the understanding of Nora is not necessarily a specific point on the map, it can be people, objects, events, legends, traditions, compositions, etc.) and the scale of the problem being analyzed, we decided to dwell on the prospects the use in practice of memorialization of the historical and cultural heritage of such a kind of memory sites as “treatises”. By the latter, we primarily understand texts as the most adequate reflection of reality.

Due to the fact that the main task of “site of memory” is the formation of a certain cultural and historical code, collections of documents and materials to a much greater extent than many other phenomena of material or spiritual culture can be identified in the contemporary humanitarian space as significant “site of memory”.

Such symbolic constructs are especially relevant for settlements and regions of our country, in which a significant part of archaeological and architectural monuments was destroyed, or they are at the stage of their loss. The Republic of Mordovia currently belongs to such areas. For example, the destruction of the few buildings of civil and church architecture that survived during the Soviet era in cities in the first decades of the 21st century (primarily in the capital of the republic, Saransk), a steady decrease in the number of representatives of the titular ethnic group, etc.

Search and publication of unique documents on the history of the Mordovian Territory and the Republic of Mordovia is the main goal of the comprehensive project “Collection of documents on the history and culture of Mordovia”, which began in 2010 at the Scientific Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia (hereinafter NIIGN).

The intensification of work in this direction was facilitated by:

- A change in the historical paradigm in the post-Soviet period and, in connection with this, significant changes in regional historical science;
- The opportunity to work with new documents not previously accessible to specialists and the public;
- Implementation by the institute staff of comprehensive research projects. For example, the series “Mordovia. XX century”, in the framework of which studies of the sociocultural, economic, socio-political spheres of life of the Mordovian region in different periods of history were carried out; One of the results of the research activity was the annually increasing volume of newly discovered archival documents that shed light on many little developed problems of regional history.

The first edition of the Code was the two-volume “Society and Power (1918 - 1920). Documents of the county congresses of the Soviets of Mordovia” (Society, 2010, 2013). It should be noted that this publication not only opened a new field of activity in the history of NIIGN, but also became, without exaggeration, a milestone in the scientific life of the region. In the post-Soviet period, this was the first scientific thematic publication of documents.

The background of the book is very revealing. Preparation of the collection began in the second half of the 2000s as part of a joint NIIGN project with the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences “Power and Society: Russian Province”. However, the publication was not financed due to objective reasons (Bikeikin et al., 2016). Due to the fact that the employees of the History Department of NIIGN revealed a lot of valuable material devoted to the formation and first years of Soviet power in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Mordovia (hereinafter - CSA RM), the institute management decided to raise funds for this publication and the first volume of the collection was released in 2010 year.

The two-volume includes documents of the organs of Soviet power and public organizations that have been preserved in full and comprehensively reflect the political and economic realities, cultural and religious life of the Mordovian region in the first post-revolutionary years. For example, the minutes of

meetings of the Soviets of Workers', Peasants' and Red Army Deputies, congresses of the Soviets of Peasants' Deputies, congresses of chairmen and heads of departments of the administration of the city executive committees of the Ardatov district, Ardatov district food congress, and the Muslim congress of Temnikovskiy district.

Some materials were published in collections prepared by Soviet historians in the late 1950s - "Establishment of Soviet Power in Mordovia", "Mordovia in the Period of Strengthening of Soviet Power and Civil War". However, these publications are characterized by biased selection of documents and materials. The activity of the Soviets in the territory of the Mordovian Territory by the compilers of the mentioned publications was presented unilaterally, from the position of the authorities, which significantly limited the possibilities for their use.

The first volume of the collection determined the structure that is subsequently maintained in the entire series "Code of documents and materials on the history and culture of the Mordovian Territory": introductory article; archaeographic preface; body text accompanied by notes; biographical information; name and geographical signs; list of abbreviations and list of published documents.

The result of the fruitful cooperation of historians and archivists was a serious academic publication, appreciated not only by professional researchers, but also by ordinary readers. The collection of documents of the county congresses of the Soviets of Mordovia in 2014 was recognized as the winner of the international competition "The Best Scientific Book in the Humanities" in the nomination "History; archeology; ethnography".

Collection of scientific articles and documents "The Great War and the Russian province. 1914 - 1918" made a certain contribution to the expansion of "site of memory" associated with the events of the First World War (The Great War and the Russian province, 2013). The book, which was published in 2013, is the result of substantive processing and critical reflection of extensive documentary material on selected little-studied issues of the history of the Mordovian Territory. The priority problems in the collection are the formation of the rear, patriotism and collaboration during the war, demographic, economic, socio-structural and mental-cultural consequences of the First World War.

The First World War is of great interest not only for all-Russian, but also for regional historiography; therefore, the compilers expressed the hope that the scientific articles and unique materials of their publication will supplement and correct key aspects of the history of the First World War, as well as "help to save science from misconceptions "inhibiting its development and forcing to move on the wrong path". (The Great War and the Russian province, 2013).

Despite the fact that our mentioned sources are located in the book after solid scientific articles, nevertheless, they did not get lost on their background and attract the attention of both historians and everyone interested in regional history. There are two reasons for this: first, most of the texts in the book have never been published before; secondly, the collection contains mainly recollections of ordinary soldiers, that is, primary sources that allow you to see epoch-making events and military everyday life through the eyes of an ordinary person, collectively referred to in the writings of historians as "soldier mass". The images of the "forgotten war" are complemented by unique photographs, mostly presented for the first time to the general public.

In our opinion, memories are an important part of the cultural and historical heritage. In the figurative expression of V. A. Yurchenkov, memoirs are "one of the bridges connecting the past with the present, one of the sources generously endowing with facts of past but not indifferent reality today" (World War II: oral history, 2015).

Memories are not only an unsurpassed means of displaying the emotional background of the era, the mentality of everyday ideology, the level of spiritual life, but also an unsurpassed means of civic-patriotic education. According to A. G. Tartakovsky, the specific social function of memoirs as a type of source lies in the historical self-awareness of the person that they realize (Tartakovsky, 1980).

A special site in the series of memoirs is occupied by the five-volume book "The Great Patriotic War: oral history: Testimonies of participants in battles, rear services workers and children of the war" (World War II: oral history, 2015; The Great Patriotic War: oral history, 2015 The Great Patriotic War: oral history, 2016; World War II: oral history, 2016; The Great Patriotic War: oral history, 2017).

Published in 2015 - 2017, the collection is the most comprehensive documentary publication on this topic. The unprecedented volume of work on the history of the Great Patriotic War (in total 5 volumes of the series include more than 3.6 thousand pages of text) differs from previous editions not only by introducing new documents into the scientific circulation, but also by the complexity of the approach - it contains memoirs of war veterans, partisans, rear workers and children of war. The publication has no analogues in other regions.

The book is based on archival sources stored in the collections of CSA RM, NIIIGN, the Memorial Museum of the Military and Labor Feat of 1941-1945, and the personal archive of V. A. Yurchenkov. Most of the texts in the selection have never been published before.

Compilers preferred archival materials presented in their original form without censorship and ideological corrections. Employees of the history department and editors sought to convey texts of memoirs (especially those that were reproduced from original notebooks or front-line diaries), leaving semantic lexical errors, obscure words and dialectisms. Sometimes this causes a certain inconvenience when reading, but it preserves, perhaps, the main thing in memoir literature is its liveliness and emotionality.

Texts for the collection were collected and processed in accordance with a strict scheme, according to clearly defined criteria. All material was classified by origin (memoirs of front-line soldiers, partisans, rear workers, war children, prisoners of concentration camps, etc.), by the form and method of reproduction (memoirs proper, literary processing, questionnaire-memoirs, autobiography, etc.) As a result, preference was given to the direct author's text, rather than essays or literary-processed memories. The collection did not include front-line letters, since in connection with strict censorship they represent a rather specific type of sources. All texts of memoirs are provided with a brief biography of the author, date and search data.

In our opinion, the compilers of this collection quite reasonably decided to reproduce the memories that have already left the press. The basis for the selection of material from periodicals, television interviews, thematic collections and books was the fact that texts essentially revealing the problems of the Great Patriotic War were often issued in small print runs. An example is the first publication of

personal impressions of experienced veterans (who at that time had not lost their liveliness of mind and remembered the details of the war) in regional newspapers in the 1960s.

The quality of the material included in the next collection of documents on the war was positively influenced by the socio-political situation that has developed in the country at the present stage. Unlike books prepared in the Soviet era, this publication does not bear the stamps of censorship and ideological restrictions. The texts of the memoirs were published mainly without abbreviations; omissions were allowed only in those cases when the memories contained derogations and reasonings that were not relevant to the topic.

The compilers of the collection preferred archival materials presented in their original form. The texts of the memoirs, especially reproduced from the front-line diaries and notebooks, are given practically without corrections; Researchers and editors retained semantic and lexical errors, outdated words and dialectisms. The compilers, realizing that all this can cause certain inconvenience when reading books by our contemporaries, nevertheless decided in this way to convey with texts the main thing inherent in memoir literature - its liveliness, truthfulness, emotionality.

Scientific reference apparatus, which includes an introduction, an archaeological preface and notes, facilitate the use of materials by both professional historians and a wide range of readers.

It should be noted that the analyzed publication has a certain value not only as a means of civil-patriotic work: the book made a concrete contribution to the development of historical source studies. The introductory article shows the specifics of memoirs as a type of sources, defines the site of memoirs in various areas of historical science, presents the possibilities of attracting this type of sources for scientific research.

Based on a generalization of their experience, the compilers proposed an expanded classification of memoirs of the Great Patriotic War: 1) recollections of participants in events; 2) literary record (processing); 3) artistic memoirs (defined by scientists as "new prose"); 4) recording of memories (written, tape, dictaphone, video); 5) application form, autobiography; 6) interview; 7) memoirs-portrait (World War II: oral history, 2015).

It should be noted that during the work on the collection in the history department of NIIGN, discussions constantly arose about the methodology for selecting and processing sources, which was repeatedly transformed and refined. For example, at first it was planned to include essays written by journalists from the words of veterans in the collection, but then this idea was abandoned due to the inauthenticity of such materials.

In connection with the aforementioned, we especially note that the five-volume book “The Great Patriotic War: Oral History” not only became a continuation of the series of publication of primary sources in Mordovia, but also made a certain contribution to the development of regional historical science.

Expanding the range of sources on the history and culture of the Mordovian region, accessible not only to specialists, but also to a wide circle of readers (using the terminology of P. Nora, thereby creating another “memory site”), the NIIGN team presented a collection of works of I. V. Selivanov “Provincial Memoirs: From the Notes of the Eccentric” (Selivanov, 2014). The courage of the intention of the compilers of the collection was that in order to recreate the features of the daily life of the county town, paintings of peasant life, the orders that prevailed in the landlord village and in the judicial institution, the scientists used an artwork.

The basis for the implementation of this technique was the assumption of culturologists about the unique significance of prose in the reconstruction of the worldview and mentality of a person who lived in the distant past. It is assumed that vivid and often pretentious scenes of everyday life of the “hinterland” significantly complement the dry statistics and allow the most complete reconstruction of the socio-cultural image of the province. In our opinion, “Notes of the Eccentric” is a vivid confirmation of this.

For several years, Ilya Vasilievich Selivanov was associated with the Mordovian region: here he served his service, personal life and social activities, from which plots for literary works were drawn. The introductory article proved the connection of a significant part of the plots from the life of the population of counties, which later became part of Mordovia. Scientists came to this conclusion by comparing the storylines with the writer's personal memories and archival materials extracted from the CSA RM funds.

The works of I. V. Selivanov are of particular value from the point of view of reconstruction of the pre-reform court. Being a lawyer by training and a judge by office, he reliably reproduced the situation that prevailed in a provincial judicial institution. Well acquainted with the investigative system, the author showed in detail the process of investigating criminal cases, investigative measures, the psychology of the investigator and the suspect.

Undoubtedly, “Provincial Memoirs”, the last full publication of which belonged to the middle of the 19th century, will be in demand among a wide circle of readers and will occupy a worthy site on the bookshelf of a local historian. Ⓜ

Fiction as a means of transmitting the color of the era was also used in preparation for the publication of the book “The Russian Province of the First Quarter of the 19th Century of the Mordovian Region through the Eyes of Participants and Contemporaries of the Patriotic War of 1812”, which included both memoirs and prose. The works of art (The Tempter by M. N. Zagoskin and Aleksey Slobodin by A. I. Palma) stand out against other texts in the book: they, of course, are not historical sources in the traditional sense of the term, but they have a memoir basis, differ in the depth of perception of reality, immersion in the era. The presence of artistic fiction, believes the author of the archaeological introduction D. S. Schukin, “adorns the work, gives a certain color to the events and facts described, liveliness of the portraits of people who often have a collective image of a certain figure of the era or a representative of any social stratum of society” (Russian province of the first quarter of the XIX century, 2013).

From the point of view of source study, the compilers reacted more to the memoirs cited in the book. Each memoir is critically analyzed, which, in our opinion, is quite justified. Texts written under the influence of personal experiences of the authors often “sin” with the subjectivity of assessments of personalities, the events described are also far from reality.

Notes by I. T. Shishkin “The revolt of the militia in 1812” are one of the most striking sources in the history of the Penza militia (Russian province of the first quarter of the XIX century, 2013). The shock and fear experienced by I. T. Shishkin in Insar (during the day the house in which he was being besieged by the rebels) influenced the emotional coloring of the text. Memories abound with emotional distractions, despite this being

considered the “most detailed and intelligibly written source” (Russian province of the first quarter of the XIX century, 2013) on events related to the uprising of the Penza militias.

Sharp and sometimes overly critical memories of individual members of the provincial society of the first decades of the 19th century belong to the famous memoirist F.F. Vigel. The difficult relationship that developed between his father, who held the post of governor, and the local elite left a certain imprint on his opinion about the Penza nobility. F.F. Vigel did not conceal a negative attitude towards the inhabitants of Penza, whom he even accused of betraying the interests of the fatherland. The bias, along with some distortions of the facts, is identified by researchers as the main shortcomings of the “Notes” by F. F. Vigel as a source (Russian province of the first quarter of the XIX century, 2013).

Today, when interest in the history of settlements, the life and moral condition of the Russian peasantry is reviving, the book “Shepherds about the flock: a historical and statistical description of the Russian villages of the Penza province by parish priests” will be important, complementing the “Code of documents and materials on the history and culture of Mordovian land” in 2018.

In the second half of the 19th century, the correspondents of the Penza Diocesan Vedomosti newspaper, mainly parish priests, highlighted various aspects of the life of parishioners in their publications. Possessing research inclinations, priests collected rich historical material, which was included in extensive essays. Interesting everyday sketches testify to the observant and thorough literary preparation of authors who were serious about the study of ethnographic features and the analysis of traditional life.

Due to its poor preservation, this source is still insufficiently put into scientific circulation and little known to the general public. In this regard, the essays are undoubtedly of interest to the public interested in preserving the traditional culture.

Conclusion

D.S. Likhachev defined memory as the cultural heritage of mankind, capable of creating, acting and resisting time (Likhachev, 2019). Erosion of historical memory is one of the problems of modern Russia. Historical memory as a means of

transmission from generation to generation of values and concepts accepted in society is subject to significant distortions. Humanitarian knowledge as a whole and historical science in particular can effectively resist these destructive processes, if they use collections of documents and materials as effective means (referred to as significant “site of memory”).

An analysis of the experience of scientists of the Republic of Mordovia in introducing historical sources into circulation showed a wide thematic and chronological spectrum of the latter. Subjects dominated by military-patriotic orientation, chronologically - the first half of the XIX and the first half of the XX century. Presenting modern publications of sources as an established form of broadcasting and updating cultural meanings, a way of preserving historical and cultural heritage, we believe that targeted activities to expand such “site of memory” as collections of documents and materials should be expanded and deepened. The most promising vectors of activity in this direction, in our opinion, are the coverage of the key problems of regional history, as well as the publication of documents that can eliminate the most significant “white spots” of the past (national politics and culture of the 1920-1930s, collectivization, industrialization, etc.).

References

- Assman J. (2004). *Cultural memory: Writing, memory and political identity in the high cultures of antiquity*. Translation from German by M. M. Sokolskaya. Moscow: Languages of Slavic culture, 368.
- Bergson A. (1999). *Creative evolution. Matter and memory*. Minsk: Harvest, 1408.
- Bikeikin N. E., Bibin M. A., Ivliev S. A., Zorkova N. N., Vidyaykin S. V. and Zadkova T. Yu. (2016). Department of History: stages of development, research guidelines and scientific priorities. *Bulletin of the Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia*, 4 (40), 59.
- Halbwachs M. (1994). *Les cadres sociaux de la mémoire*. Paris: Albin Michel, 374.
- Halbwachs M. (2007). *Social memory framework*. Translation from French and introductory article by S. N. Zenkin. Moscow: New Publishing House, 348.
- Halbwachs M. (2017). *Collective and historical memory*. Available at: <http://magazines.russ.ru/nz/2005/2/ha2.html>.
- Likhachev D. S. (2019). *Art of memory and memory of art*. Available at: http://www.likhachev.ru/pic/site/files/fulltext/isk_ustv_pam.pdf.

- Mazur L. N. (2013). The image of the past: The formation of historical memory. *News of the Ural Federal University. Series 2: Humanities*, 3, 243-256.
- Nora P. (1984). *Les Lieux de memoire*. Vol. 1. La Republique. Paris: Gallimard, 595.
- Nora P. (1986). *Les Lieux de memoire*. Vol 2. La Nation. Paris: Gallimard, 662.
- Nora P. (1999). Problems of site of memory. Nora P., Ozuf M., Puymezh J. de, Vinok M. *France-memory*. Translation from French Dina Hapaeva. St. Petersburg: Publishing House of St. Petersburg University, 17-50.
- Repina L. P. (2004). Historical memory and modern historiography. *New and modern history*, 5, 33-45.
- Ricoeur P. (2004). *Memory, history, oblivion*. Moscow, 728.
- Russian province of the first quarter of the XIX century (2013). *Mordovian Territory through the eyes of participants and contemporaries of the Patriotic War of 1812*. Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia; compiled, introductory article and comments by S. V. Belousov, D. S. Schukin; archaeogric foreword by D. S. Schukin. Saransk, 484.
- Selivanov I. V. (2014). *Provincial recollections: From notes of an eccentric*. Scientific research institute of humanitarian. Sciences under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia; compiled, introductory article and comments by O. A. Pivtsaykina, L. V. Suldina; archaeogric foreword, geographic and name indexes by O. A. Pivtsaykina. Saransk, 696.
- Society and Power (2010) - *Society and Power (1918–1920): doc. county. Congresses of Soviets of Mordovia*: in 2 volumes. Saransk: Scientific Research Institute of the Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 1, 481.
- Society and Power (2013) - *Society and Power (1918–1920): Document of Congresses of Soviets of Mordovia*: in 2 volumes. Saransk: Research Institute of the Humanities, 2, 581.
- Tartakovsky A. G. (1980). *1812 and Russian memoirs*. Moscow, 447.
- The Great War and the Russian province (2013) - *The Great War and the Russian province. 1914 - 1918: a collection of scientific articles and reports*. Compilers: E. N. Bikeikin, V. A. Yurchenkov; Edited by Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor V. A. Yurchenkov; Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia. Saransk, 312.
- The Great Patriotic War: oral history (2015) - *The Great Patriotic War: oral history: Testimonies of the participants in the battles, rear workers and children of the war: in 5 volumes*. Saransk: Scientific Research Institute of the Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 2, 724.
- The Great Patriotic War: oral history (2016) - *The Great Patriotic War: oral history: Testimonies of the participants in the battles, rear workers and children of the war: in 5 volumes*. Saransk: Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 3, 728.
- The Great Patriotic War: oral history (2017) - *The Great Patriotic War: oral history: Testimonies of the participants in the battles, rear workers and children of the war: in 5 volumes*. Saransk: Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 5, 788.
- Toshchenko J. (2000). Historical consciousness and historical memory. Analysis of the current state. *NiN*, 4, 3-14.
- World War II: oral history (2015) - *World War II: oral history: Testimonies of combatants, rear workers and children of the war: in 5 volumes*. Saransk: Research Institute of Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 1, 696.
- World War II: oral history (2016) - *World War II: oral history: Testimonies of the participants in the battles, rear workers and children of the war: in 5 volumes*. Saransk: Scientific Research Institute of the Humanities under the Government of the Republic of Mordovia, 4, 740.