
On the Question of Krachkovsky's Translations of Arabic Geographers and Travelers

Zainabiddinova Zebiniso Madaminovna

Teacher of the Department of World History of Fergana State University

Abstract: The article highlights and describes the characteristic features of Academician I.Y. Krachkovsky's research on translations of Arabic geographical science. Special attention is paid to the process of formation of the classical school of Arab geographers. The article summarizes some results of the study of the formation of the Russian school of Arabic studies.

Keywords: geographers, travelers, primary source, Arabic literature, Arabs, Krachkovsky, translations.

The relevance of the topic: In the modern world, the study of the Eastern Renaissance is of great importance, since the scope of such research is very diverse and has received coverage in a number of scientific areas. The undoubted importance of these works lies in the fact that the path of social development of Muslim culture is sufficiently well-known from historical sources and historiography, which make up the wealth of modern historical science.

The purpose of the study based on the relevance of the topic and the degree of its study, the purpose of the dissertation is a comprehensive study and generalization of the contribution of I.Y. Krachkovsky in the development of the Russian school of Arabic studies. In this regard, the following tasks are defined:

- to show the role of I.Y. Krachkovsky in the development of Arabic studies in the world;
- to highlight the scientific and political activities of I.Y. Krachkovsky;
- to reveal the contribution of I.Y. Krachkovsky to the study and coverage of topical issues of Russian Arabic studies;
- to analyze the works of I.Y. Krachkovsky devoted to Arabic philology;
- to show the contribution of I.Y. Krachkovsky in the formation of the Russian school of Arabic studies.

The object of the study: Scientific activity of I.Y. Krachkovsky

The subject of the Scientific achievements in the field of Arabic medieval and New Arab literature, Arabic literary language, history of Arab culture, Islam, history of native and foreign Oriental studies

The practical significance of the study: The practical and scientific significance of the scientific research of the work lies in the fact that for the first time, on the basis of a large number of sources and 10 diverse factual materials, the scientific activity of I.Y. Krachkovsky is summarized in it. The results of the study can be used in the further development and writing of individual sections of the history of Uzbekistan, can be effectively used in raising the national consciousness of the Uzbek people, in the patriotic education of the youth of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan.

The scientific novelty of the study of the thesis is as follows:

- ✓ introduction into scientific circulation of a wide range of archival sources, including previously unpublished;
- ✓ the use of a wide range of foreign Oriental and historiographical materials in English, Arabic;
- ✓ the use of a comparative method when considering Russian Arabic studies in the context of the development of European Oriental studies.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study

Arabic studies in Central Asia has its deep origins, it is conditioned by the penetration of Islam into the regions of Central Asia, from the 2nd half of the 7th century. A deep and comprehensive consideration of various aspects of the theory and practice of Arab-Muslim culture is contained in the works of academician I.Y. Krachkovsky. The scientific heritage of Academician I.Y. Krachkovsky is large in volume and diverse in subject matter. Most of his works are devoted to the history of Arabic literature, artistic and scientific; he also owns works on Arabic linguistics, Ethiopian studies, Islamic studies, historiography and paleography, the history of Oriental studies, publications and translations of numerous historical and literary monuments.[1] Among the works of the academician, special attention is paid to translations of ancient Arabic manuscripts, which are important historical sources. Academician I. Y. Krachkovsky showed interest in the geographical literature of the Arabs from the very first days of his scientific studies. Back in 1909, during his scientific trip to the Arab East, he attended lectures at Cairo University (in Arabic) on the history of Arabic astronomy by the largest specialist in the field of the history of astronomy and mathematical geography of the Arabs, the famous Italian scientist K. A. Nallin (1862-1938)[2]. I.Y. Krachkovsky devoted a considerable number of general reviews and special studies to the geographical literature of the Arabs. The author showed this especially vividly with the examples of al-Khorezmi, Ulugbek, al-Beruniy, the famous pilot Vasco da Gama, Ahmed ibn Majid. As a result of a detailed analysis of a large number of works by more than two hundred and sixty authors, I. Y. Krachkovsky establishes the degree of reliability of the facts they report and their importance as sources for studying the historical geography of the countries they concern.

The above emphasizes the need for a thorough consideration of the question of the significance of I. Y. Krachkovsky's translations of manuscripts of Arab geographers and travelers of the Muslim Renaissance. It was from this period that the classical school of Arab geographers was created with an emphasis on the description of "paths and countries" (al-masalik val-mamalik), associated with the "Atlas of Islam", the highest achievement of Arab cartography [3].

Working on translations of the works of Arab geographers and travelers, Krachkovsky gives an almost exhaustive bibliography on the subject under study from the Middle Ages to the present day with a critical assessment of editions of texts and special studies. The fourth volume of the Selected Works of Academician I. Y. Krachkovsky is devoted to this issue, where, relying on primary sources, as well as on all the achievements of modern science, he traces the origin of mathematical geography among the Arabs, considers questions about its links with Greek and Indian science and the gradual creation of various branches of geographical science among the Arabs (descriptive geography, travel, marine geography, general and regional geography, etc.), with its own centers, scientific schools, directions and various genres.[4] In his research, Krachkovsky I.Y. understands the term "descriptive geography" as "the science of ways and states" in cases where special emphasis was placed

on routes, it was called "the science of postal stations". The predominance of the cosmographic element with a touch of wonderfulness was emphasized by the term "science of the wonders of countries". Trade, which used both land and sea routes with equal ease, not only united the most remote areas of the caliphate, but went beyond its borders, which allowed expanding the scale of travel [6]. All this led to the expansion of geographical information. We traveled from Andalusia to Bukhara, from Baghdad to Cordoba to listen to famous scientists. The academician considers Ibn Faldan, Masudi, Abudulaf, Ibrahim Ibn Yaqub and many others to be prominent representatives of descriptive geography. Representatives of the "regional geography" include Ibn al Mujawir, Ibn 'Arabshah, al-Badri, Hafizi Abra who left a lot of ethnographic information.[7].

The appearance of marine geography was promoted by a lively marine life, the brightest representatives of which are Ibn Majid, Suleiman, Sidi Ali, Piri Reis and others. At the same time, the characteristics of the majority of the main and most typical representatives of all genres and directions of Arabic geographical literature are given, indicating their interrelations and influences.

As a result of a detailed analysis of a large number of works by more than two hundred and sixty authors, I. Y. Krachkovsky establishes the degree of reliability of the facts they report and their importance as sources for studying the historical geography of the countries they concern. For a more complete description of the issue under consideration, the main monuments of Arabic geographical literature have been studied. It proves that even among the most fantastic descriptions of the wonders of various countries and cities, with a careful approach to them, the researcher can extract material more or less relevant to reality and able to benefit from the study of issues not only historical geography, but history, archeology, ethnography, etc. The work of a similar nature, which was created by I. Y. Krachkovsky with such a wide coverage of material, both primary sources and scientific literature on them, does not exist in all Arabistic science, the academician confirmed better and clearer than any of the other scientists at based on a large number of materials, the well-known fact of the importance of Arab culture in world history has shown that in this regard, Arab geographical science occupies one of the leading places[8].

Conclusion. Summing up the above, it should be noted that thanks to the research work of I.Y. Krachkovsky, the manuscript base of Russian Arabic studies has significantly expanded: in the 20-30s, the collections of the Asian Museum (later the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences) were significantly enriched, in the same years and later new centers for the collection and storage of manuscripts in Tashkent, Kazan, Baku, Tbilisi, Makhachkala, Dushanbe, Samarkand, Yerevan. according to their purpose, they are essentially capital studies, also making a great contribution to world Arabic studies.[9] Consequently, he managed to brilliantly prove that in the creation of this culture, in addition to the Arabs themselves, representatives of the cultural world of Central Asia, the Caucasus, Iran, Turkey and other countries took an active part, from among which a number of outstanding successors of the traditions of Arab geographical science emerged. It follows from this that Krachkovsky, better and clearer than any of the other scientists of that era, confirmed on the basis of a large number of materials the well-known fact of the importance of Arab culture in world history and showed that in this respect Arab geographical science occupies one of the leading places. The research of academician I.Y.Krachkovsky formed the basis for the formation and formation of the Russian school of Arabic studies[10].

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