



**State policy on cultural
heritage protection in
Tatarstan during 1970-ies**



STATE POLICY ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION IN TATARSTAN DURING 1970-IES

POLÍTICA ESTATAL DE PROTECCIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL EN TATARSTAN DURANTE LOS AÑOS SETENTA

ABSTRACT

1970-ies are an important period of Soviet history concerning the protection of monuments. By this time, the protection of monuments in the USSR went beyond the competence of only state bodies, an active role in cultural heritage preservation was played by the public. All-Russian Society for the Protection of Monuments (VOOPIiK), established in 1966, performed its work. In Tatarstan, this society was established on February 8, 1966. In 1970-ies they adopt the law in the country (The law of the USSR "On the Protection and the Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments" issued on October 29, 1976) [1] regulating this sphere. It becomes the first comprehensive state document on the protection of monuments. In TASSR, the protection of monuments, and decisions taken in this area, corresponded to the general state policy for the preservation of the historical and the cultural heritage of the USSR. Some progress was made, but many problems remained unresolved.

KEYWORDS: Tatarstan, historical and cultural monuments, law restoration preservation

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RESUMEN

Los años 1970 son un período importante de la historia soviética en relación con la protección de los monumentos. En este momento, la protección de los monumentos en la URSS iba más allá de la competencia de los organismos estatales, el público desempeñaba un papel activo en la preservación del patrimonio cultural. La Sociedad Rusa de Protección de Monumentos (VOOPIiK), establecida en 1966, realizó su trabajo. En Tatarstán, esta sociedad se estableció el 8 de febrero de 1966. En 1970 adoptaron la ley en el país (Ley de la URSS "Sobre la protección y el uso de monumentos históricos y culturales", emitida el 29 de octubre de 1976) [1] Regulando esta esfera. Se convierte en el primer documento estatal integral sobre la protección de monumentos. En TASSR, la protección de los monumentos y las decisiones tomadas en esta área correspondían a la política general del estado para la preservación del patrimonio histórico y cultural de la URSS. Se hicieron algunos progresos, pero muchos problemas quedaron sin resolver.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Tatarstán, monumentos históricos y culturales, conservación de la ley.

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INTRODUCTION

On 16th November of 1972, during the 17th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, they adopted the Convention "On the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage" (Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972), the main objective of which is international cooperation concerning the protection of cultural monuments and natural sites. The USSR ratified the Convention only in 1988, but a lot of work was done in this area during the decades preceding this event.

The 1970-ies in the Soviet Union were marked by an active public activity in the field of monument protection, the adoption of laws, the identification and accounting of monuments for the compilation of the "Code of Monuments of the USSR History and Culture."

The problem of cultural heritage preservation during this period was reflected in foreign and domestic works (Kelly, 2009). The studies A.H. Halikov and Kazakov E.P. were devoted to the archaeological monuments of the TASSR (Halikov, 1972; Kazakov, 1987). The works by Valeev R.M. were devoted to the preservation of cultural heritage in the Tatar Soviet Republic (Valeev, 2007). State activity in the sphere of monuments protection during the Soviet period is quite fully represented in the works by A.M. Kulemzin, Shamanaev A.V., Galay Yu.G. , Polyakov M.A. and Shulepova E.A. (Kulemzin, 2001; Shamanaev, 2005; Galay, 2008; Polyakov, 2005; Shulepova, Shulepova, 1979).

The purpose of the study is to examine the main results of the state policy in the field of monument protection in the TASSR during the 1970-ies.

METHODS

The general scientific methods of cognition were used in the work: analysis, generalization and special historical methods - historical-comparative (it helped to identify common features in the preservation of the USSR and the Tatar Soviet Socialist Republic cultural heritage) and problem-chronological (helped to consider the issue in a chronological sequence).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the 1970-ies, broad public masses were involved in the protection of monuments in the USSR. This was facilitated by the creation of the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Monuments in 1966, in order to attract the public to the monument-protecting activities. The initiators of the creation were the intelligentsia: the writer Leonov V.I., the artists Glazunov I.S., Korin P.D., Plastov N.A., the composer Sviridov G.V., the academicians of the USSR Academy of Sciences Petryanov-Sokolov I.V. and Rybakov B.A., and the Director of the Hermitage Piotrovsky B.B. The first chairman of the society was the Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Kochemasov V.I. In Tatarstan, the society was established on February 8, 1966. The primary objectives of the society were to assist state bodies in the protection of monuments, to promote knowledge about the cultural heritage, to involve young people in monument preservation. The heyday period of VOOPiK was during the 1970-ies and 1980-ies.

During the designated period, a lot of work was carried out to identify, survey, record and study the historical and the cultural monuments in connection with the preparation of Historical and Cultural Monument Collection. Back in 1967, the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Culture of the USSR adopted the resolution "On the Preparation of the Collection of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the USSR." In Tatarstan, the work on the preparation of the Code began in the late 1970-ies with the participation of experts from the Kazan State University, the Institute of Language, Literature and History named after G. Ibragimov, the Institute of Culture, the Kazan Civil Engineering Institute, the Scientific-research institute of culture under RSFSR Ministry of Culture. In 1977, more than 200,000 monuments were

revealed in the RSFSR, of which more than 37,000 were protected by state.

At the same time, according to the plan of ILLH named after G.I. Ibragimov under KFAN of the USSR, the group of archeologists from archeology and ethnography department carried out the work on the identification and the study of archaeological monuments of Tatarstan to develop the Archaeological Map of Tatarstan (Valeev, 2007).

In the 1970-ies there were several important dates for the Soviet state - the 50th anniversary of the USSR creation (1972), the 30th anniversary of the Victory (1975), the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution (1977). Monuments were timed to the jubilee dates throughout the country. State, party, trade union organizations, industrial enterprises, educational institutions, cultural institutions took part in them. So, in the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the USSR, the Kazan travel and excursion bureau, with the participation of the Tatar branch of VOOPiK, prepared new excursion routes in Kazan: "We will be worthy of the fallen memory," "Take care of your tie when you put it on", "Tataria in the fraternal glory of the USSR peoples".

The Tatarstan Society for the Preservation of Monuments during the year of the review (1972) actively conducted its work throughout the country. Over 4,000 lectures were read on the monuments of Soviet society. Lecture propaganda was most successful in Apastovsky (427 lectures), Drozhzhanovsky (86 lectures and reports), Chistopol (53 lectures), Baumansky (131 lectures), Mamadyshsky (62 lectures and reports) and in other regions.

Student detachments contributed to the restoration work and the preservation of cultural heritage. In 1972 the students of Kazan State University took part in the improvement of the Kazan Kremlin and the monasteries of Sviyazhsk, the students of the Kazan Civil Engineering Institute were engaged in identification, photographing and monument measuring in the regions of Tatarstan.

The active changes that took place in the preservation of cultural heritage required the improvement of legislation. A significant event in the cultural life of the USSR was the

adoption of the Law on the Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments in 1976, and a similar law was adopted in the RSFSR in 1978. For the first time, they defined the concept of "a monument of history and culture" ("the monuments of history and culture are the structures, the sites and the objects related to historical events in people life, the development of society and the state, the works of material and spiritual creativity, representing historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value" (The USSR Law, 1976), its main types are identified and they determined the procedure for state registration, the responsibility for the violation of legislation and the procedure for the operation of the USSR international treaties to preserve cultural heritage. But the law did not solve all modern problems. As Kulemzin A.M. notes, "it did not reflect such frequently encountered situations in practice as the transfer of monuments owned by the state to the balance of local bodies for the protection of monuments, the conclusion of contracts for the lease of monuments, the procedure for the removal of monuments from the owner and the tenants in the case of legislation violation on the use of monuments, etc." (Kulemzin, 2013).

During the 1970-ies, the issues with the improvement and the restoration of monuments (the monuments of Sviyazhsk, Gostinodvorskaya church and the church and the temple of Nikola the Low in Kazan) remained. The problem of object demolition was also actual (the demolition of the house of the former owner of the Alnafuzov textile factory due to the reconstruction of the ventilating production at the enterprise). In 1975, the Kazakovskaya mosque was demolished for unknown reasons.

In connection with the supposed celebration of the 800th anniversary of Kazan in 1977, first of all the monuments in the historical center were restored: the Kazan Kremlin (walls and towers, the Annunciation Cathedral), the Peter and Paul Cathedral, the Azimov Mosque and others. This can be seen from the estimates and the plans of the repair and restoration works of the designated period. By the decree of the Council of Ministers of the TASSR No. 873-r issued on August 5, 1977, the commission was established to determine the state and priority measures for

the elimination of the metal belt deformation of the first tier of the Syuyumbike tower.

However, in spite of the fact that in the 1970-ies the protection of monuments became a nationwide, significant violations were noted on the monuments of history and culture.

Thus, in 1976, the Ministry of Culture of the TASSR reported on gross violations concerning the preservation, the maintenance and the use of cultural monuments of the Kazan Kremlin in the closed territory of military unit 45463. The guards of the Ministry of Culture monuments did not have permanent passes to the territory of the military unit. And a number of auxiliary buildings was built on it in its turn: two garages, a canopy and the parking for cars, a gas storage and a checkpoint. The snowdrifts were not removed from the walls and the towers of the Kremlin in time. And starting from the spring car washing was carried out in the upper part of the yard. Thus, the streams of mud meltwater were seeping into the thickness of the fighting corridors and led to the destruction of the already damaged sections of the walls. Since May 1976, the works began on the construction of a capital garage building, during which they discovered an ancient burial with valuable finds.

In 1976 the State Inspectorate for the Protection of the RSFSR Monuments of History and Culture noted that restoration works in the Assumption Cathedral of Sviyazhsk were not carried out, despite annual allocations by the RSFSR Ministry of Culture.

In 1977 the violations were also noted in the village of Lenino-Kokushkino. There were temporary buildings, sheds and farm buildings near the places related to V.I. Lenin's life.

All the above mentioned issues are just a small part of the problems that existed during the 1970-ies in the country and the republic.

CONCLUSION

In the 1970-ies the interaction of state bodies and the public, the involvement of young people in the preservation of cultural heritage, transformed the activities for the protection of monuments into a national cause. The Law on the Protection and the Use of Histori-

cal and Cultural Monuments in 1976 did not solve all existing problems and was of declarative nature. The problems in the country and in the union republics still existed: the demolition of monuments, the need to restore cultural heritage sites, the identification and the record of historical and cultural monuments.

SUMMARY

By the 1970-ies, the problem of cultural heritage preservation is recognized all over the world a global one. The evidence of this is the adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as several UNESCO Recommendations (Recommendation, 1972; 1976; 1978). Each state had its own state policy in the field of monument protection, which developed over the centuries. In the Soviet Union, the decisions made in this field were sometimes contradictory and inconsistent. The cultural policy of the republics, including the Tatarstan, corresponded to the general cultural policy of the USSR during this period. However, the 1970-ies preceded the period that was named as "perestroika", and during this period the greatest success will be achieved in the protection of monuments during the whole history of the Soviet Union.

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