

MUSEUM NETWORK DEVELOPMENT IN SIBERIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY- THE PRESENT TIME

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Abstract

The paper describes the long-time period of formation and development of museums in Siberia. This process can be divided into three stages: 1) the 18th to the early 20th century- the foundation of museums in Siberia was connected with public needs, and the main role belonged to private initiative and public organizations; 2) 1920 to 1991– the mainstream national policy defined the museum network in Siberia; 3) 1991 to the present time - adaptation of the Siberian museums to changes in political, economic and socio-cultural situation; features of this process. The main features of each stage have been shown briefly in the paper. Museums in Siberia began to be created in the 18th century in line with nation-wide trends of museum business, mainly due to the personal initiative of the activists. The Imperial Russian Geographical Society (1845) and its subsidiaries: the East Siberian in Irkutsk (1851), the West Siberia in Omsk (1877) played a leading role in the development of museums in Siberia in the 19th century. The 1860's reforms stimulated the activity to open museums in Siberia. During this period the public initiatives played a great role. The first Siberian universities: Tomsk Imperial University (1888) and Tomsk Technological Institute (1900) influenced greatly the foundation and development of museums in Siberia. As a result of the establishment of Soviet power in Siberia (1920) the development of Siberian museums tended to follow national trends: the formation of the museum network, the creation of public museums, the opening of art museums, the creation of museum systems and the formation of associations, museum conservation areas. However, the latter phenomenon - the centralized management of the museums - was not enough effective in the vast regions of Eastern Siberia. The museums were affected in consequence of changes in the political, economic and socio-cultural situation in 1990's in Russia. As a result of the adoption of new legislation museum sphere, as well as the current financial conditions, some of the museums were closed. The other museums had to be reconstructed: the new museum technologies not only in management, but also in the expositions and work with visitors were started using. The characteristic feature of modern museum work was the revival of such museums as private and church. The features of Siberian museum network foundation at every stage of its development attract the greatest interest: the role of public and private initiatives, the specific work in nation-wide trends, difficulties in adapting to modern conditions, and so on.

Keywords: Museum network, Siberia, types of museum