

An Overview of the Photo Collections of the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (the *Kunstkamera*), RAS

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In this report, we will try to give a brief overview of the early Mongolian photographs stored in the MAE, as well as compare them with some photo collections from other institutions of St. Petersburg.

In 1882, the MAE received a collection from A.V. Adrianov, about which the first sheet of the inventory says - "Collection of photographic types and types of the North-Western Mongolia, compiled by A.V. Adrianov in 1879 ". In total, the collection has 64 prints glued on white cardboards, on which signatures have been stamped with gold. Some of the photos were signed in Russian - "Types and types of the North-Western Mongolia. Mongolian expedition of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. With negatives by Adrianov", and part in French – «Vues et types de la Mongolie Occidentale. Expédition de la Société Impériale Russe de Géographie dans la Mongolie Occidentale par G. Potanine et A. Adrianoff. Photographie par A. Adrianoff».

In 1879, Adrianov took part, as a photographer in an expedition organized by the Imperial Russian Geographical Society to Northwestern Mongolia and headed by a well-known geographer, ethnographer, botanist G.N. Potanin. A special camera, built by L. Warnerke, was bought for this purpose.

Their route ran through the Altai, North-Western Mongolia, and the territory of the contemporary Republic of Tuva (Russian Federation). During the trip Adrianov made about 70 high-quality photos, some of which were the basis for the drawings published by G.N. Potanin in his work **Sketches of Northwestern Mongolia**.

In 1881, Adrianov's photos were exhibited in the Imperial Russian Geographical Society in St. Petersburg.

The prints completely coincide with the route of the expedition. The collection can be divided into three parts - Altaic, Mongolian, and Tuvinish. In the Altai part we can see portraits of Altaians, an image of the Telengit shaman and his tambourine, ayles (dwellings) of "newly baptized" Altaians, tamed roe deer, and views of the city of Ulala (Gorno-Altai).

The Mongolian part is represented mainly by portraits of durbets (derbets). Some are photographed sitting or standing in full growth, but most of the photos are portrait profile and full face portrait. This type of portrait was very common in the ethnographic photographs of the 1870s -1880 and was called "anthropological types". Later, in 1888, on the instructions of the same G.N. Potanin, another photographer N.A. Charushin made a series of "types of Mongols". Representatives of different social strata and groups

- "simple" Mongols, lamas, musicians, and princes are shown on portrait photos by Adrianov. In this collection, there are also images of yurts. In all, there are 50 photos stored in the Department of East and Southeast Asia of the MAE, some of the photos are in the Department of Siberia MAE. 43 prints are glued on cardboards with signatures in Russian, and 7 with signatures in French. The "French" sheets were apparently made for the album, which was donated by the Russian Geographical Society to the French Prince Bonaparte in 1884.

The Tuvinish part is represented by "anthropological types".

In the Petersburg's headquarter of the Russian Geographical Society there, are two albums entitled "Types of North-Western Mongolia. G.N. Potanin, A.V. Adrianov ", as well as a collection of photographs of Adrianov, glued on cardboards. This collection has 177 prints, but includes a large number of duplicates. In general, in various scientific institutions of St. Petersburg, it seems to us that the complete collection of photographs by Adrianov from the expedition of 1879 are preserved.

These photos are among the earliest photographs taken in Mongolia. P.P. Semenov-Tyan-Shansky appraised Adrianov's work in this way: "The Society received equally good photographs of Mongolia's species and types, the first and only of its kind, up to 70, made by Adrianov".

They are even considered the first photographs from Mongolia. However, in the Archives of the Institute of History of Material Culture of the RAS are pictures made by a member of the Russian scientific-commercial expedition to China in 1874-1875, A. N.E. Boyarskiy. Among them is a photo of the Palace of Hutuhta in Urga, as well as some photos taken in Inner Mongolia. Judging from the documents, the same album is in the archives of the RGS.

In the archives of IIMK. RAS also has photos taken by Vladimir Lenin during his travels in 1875-1876 from the Far East in Irkutsk. In this collection there are several images of Maimacheng.

Researcher of the history of photography in China, T. Bennett notes that in 1875, a Scottish scientist George Forbes took photos of Urga. Unfortunately, we don't know where these photos currently or whether they survived at all.

In any case, the work of A. N.E. Boyarsky, V.V. Lenin, and possibly D. Forbes are the earliest known to us of Mongolia. However, the pictures by Andrianov behind them just for a few years far exceed them quantitatively and introduce us to different social strata of Mongolian society In the 1870s, Adrianov managed to visit and photograph the most remote areas of Mongolia.

It is also important that many of the portrait photos that are stored in MAE have descriptions and the names of the depicted people.

In addition, we tend to think that the "Tuvinnish" and "Altaish" photos of Adrianov are the first photographic images made in the territory of the modern republics of Tuva and Altai (Russian Federation).

In 1894, the Museum acquired a collection of photos from N.A. Charushin and S.M. Dudin. It presents the work carried out in Mongolia and Transbaikalia by different photographers at different times. A significant portion of the photos were made directly by Charushin and Dudin, but there are pictures of others as well.

Nikolai Apollonovich Charushin – known revolutionary-Narodnik and a professional photographer. His Mongolian photos are part of two collections No. 1697 and 1359.

In 1874, N.A. Charushin was arrested for propaganda against the government and in 1878 was sentenced to 9 years in prison. In the spring of 1881, he was released and sent in to exile in one of the towns in Zabaykalsky province. In Nerchinsk, Charushin met with Alexei Kirillovich Kuznetsov, (former Nechaevets), who was engaged in photography and became Charushin's teacher. In 1885, Charushin, as a photographer's assistant, visited with Kuznetsov, the gold mines on the border with Mongolia, where he took photos. He later moved to the city of Troitskosavsk, where he opened a photography studio. His assistant was an experienced photographer, Ivan Fedorovich Fedorov, from Irkutsk. In the summer of 1888, Potanin, Charushin, and Fedorov went to Mongolia. The main base of the expedition was in Urga.

The collection of photos stored in MAE features a separate image of the temple of Maidari, and a view of the Winter Palace of the Bogd Gegen. You can also see the tombs of the 5th and the 7th Bogd Gegen in Gandan and the gate "Yampay" (now lost). In these pictures we can see Urga, as it was described by Alexey Matveevich Pozdnev.

Coming to Russia, Nikolai Apollonovich began to prepare "Mongolian" albums. Photos from this expedition were sent to the Russian Geographical Society, Irkutsk Branch of the Russian Geographical Society, Moscow and Tomsk Universities. One of Charushin's albums is kept in the department of rare editions of the Russian State Library. In ROSPHOTO, there is an album; "Mongolia. 1889". Most likely made in 1889 as an album because we can precisely date the Mongolian pictures by Charushin 1888.

The second photography collection is that of Samuel Martynovich Dudin (1863-1929), a painter, ethnographer, photographer, and collector. He was also a revolutionary, and in 1887, was exiled to Eastern Siberia, where from 1890 to 1891 he worked in N.A. Charushin's photo studio. Apparently, the period of this photo "Woman Buryat woman in winter costume," can be dated. This photo is dual-signed "N. Charushin, S. Dudin".

In 1891, Dudin took part in the famous Orkhon expedition headed by V.V. Radlov. V.A. Prishchepova writes that he was invited to the expedition as a draftsman-photographer. In the collection, there are 1697 pictures from the Orkhon expedition, signed by Dudin, but Radlov in his book did not mention Dudin as a photographer. He noted that the photographs were taken by Yadrintsev and his son, Alexander Radlov. In the MAE, there is a photo signed by A. Radlov. We think that the authorship of the "Orkhon" photos requires further study, but, in any case, they can be accurately dated as 1891.

In 1905. our museum received a collection of photographs from N.N. Petrova. We can assume with reasonable certainty that this is N.N. Petrov, a revolutionary populist Nikolai Nikolaevich Petrov (1851-1934?), who was sentenced in 1880 to four years of hard labor and arrived in the Middle-Carian prison in 1881. In 1899, he received permission to settle in Troitskosavsk, and in 1905 he left for Paris and returned to Russia in 1909.

Apparently on the way to Paris in 1905, N.N. Petrov sold the MAE photo collection. Only two photos in this collection were signed by N.N. Petrov, with a number of photographs signed N. Charushin. Particularly curious is the imprint number 1359-44, depicting Tushetu-khan, and almost entirely coinciding with the picturesque depiction of this Mongolian aristocrat from the Museum of Fine Arts in Ulaan Baatar. In our collection there is also a photograph of his wife, as well as the wife of the brother of Bogd Gegen, and mistresses of the Dalai Lama.