

© *Ekaterina Romanova and Lena Stepanova*

## SERGEY ALEXANDROVICH TOKAREV AND THE INTELLECTUAL LANDSCAPE OF SOVIET YAKUTIA: A HISTORICAL AND HERMENEUTIC RECONSTRUCTION

*This article is devoted to the Yakut period in the biography of the famous scientist S. A. Tokarev. The Archive of the Yakut Scientific Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences contains a corpus of a few ego-documents related to the period of collaboration between Professor Sergei A. Tokarev and the Yakut Institute (1935-1959), the personal fund of the repressed ethnographer and orientalist Gavriil V. Ksenofontov and the historian Vasilii N. Chemezov. The study employs the methodology of “new biographical history” (social personal history), through which the formation of S. A. Tokarev’s individual scientific strategy during the period of early Soviet society’s construction is traced. The intellectual biography is reconstructed in the historical and hermeneutic space of the studied era, which allows the authors to reveal the social context of the historical narrative in which S. A. Tokarev’s scientific worldview was formed. The new interpretation of the scientists’ biography highlights the moment when the academic northern studies commenced in Moscow and the development of regional ethnography in Siberia, while S. A. Tokarev was actively involved in the scientific discourse between the «center» and the «periphery» on both sides of the complex integration process.*

**Keywords:** *Soviet Yakutia, intellectual landscape, biographical and hermeneutic reconstruction, discussions, national narrative, memory, northern studies and Yakut ethnography, scientist’s strategy*

**Authors Info:** **Romanova, Ekaterina N.** — Dr. of History, Chief Researcher in the Center for Intellectual History and Culture, the Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian branch — Federal Research Centre «The Yakut Scientific Centre of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences» (Yakutsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [e\\_romanova@mail.ru](mailto:e_romanova@mail.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6973-0608>

**Stepanova, Lena B.** — Ph.D. in History, Senior Researcher in the Center for Intellectual History and Culture, the Institute of the Humanities Research and the Indigenous Studies of the North, Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch — Federal Research Centre «The Yakut Scientific Centre of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences» (Yakutsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [solo007\\_79@rambler.ru](mailto:solo007_79@rambler.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2826-6295>

**For citation:** Romanova, E. N. and L. B. Stepanova. 2024. Sergey Alexandrovich Tokarev and the Intellectual Landscape of Soviet Yakutia: A Historical and Hermeneutic Reconstruction. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 4: 45–63.

**Funding:** The research was carried out using scientific equipment of the Federal Research Centre ‘Yakutsk Scientific Centre of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Science.

## References

- Alekseev, V. P. 1985. Pamyati Sergeya Aleksandrovicha Tokareva [In memory of Sergei Alexandrovich Tokarev]. *Sovetskaya etnografiya* 4: 168–172.
- Anchabadze, Yu. D. 2010. S. A. Tokarev: nachalo puti [S. A. Tokarev: The Beginning of the Path]. *Etnograficheskoe obozrenie* 3: 120–133.
- Artamonova, N. Ya. and L. V. Astashkina. 2008. Professor S. A. Tokarev i ego vklad v razvitie vysshego obrazovaniia Khakasii v gody Velikoi Otechestvennoi voiny [Professor S. A. Tokarev and his Contribution to the Development of Higher Education in Khakassia during the Great Patriotic War]. In *Chelovek — tvoretz istorii Rossiiskogo gosudarstva: Materialy 52-i Vserossiiskoi zaochnoi nauchnoi konferentsii* [A Man is the Creator of the History the Russian State: Proceedings of the 52-nd All-Russian Correspondence Scientific Conference]. Saint Petersburg: Nestor. 102–105.
- Arzyutov, D. V., S. S. Alymov and D. G. Anderson (eds.). 2014. *Ot klassikov k marksizmu: soveshchanie etnografov Moskvy i Leningrada (5—11 apreliia 1929 g.)* [From Classics to Marxism: The Conference of Moscow and Leningrad Ethnographers (5–11 April, 1929)]. Saint Petersburg: MAE RAS. 511 p.
- Batianova, E. P. 2013. Severnaia ekspeditsiia Instituta etnografii (1956-1991) [The North Expedition of the Institute of Ethnography]. *Etnograficheskoe obozrenie* 4: 17–33
- Chesnov, Y. V. 1999. Po stranitsam rabot S. A. Tokareva o proiskhozhdenii i rannikh formakh religii [By the Pages of S.A. Tokarev's Works on the Origin and Early Forms of Religion]. *Etnograficheskoe obozrenie* 5: 16–24.
- Dunaevskii, L. R. 1932. Nauchno-issledovatel'skaia rabota v oblasti voinstvuiushchego ateizma za 15 let [Research Work in the Field of Militant Atheism for 15 Years]. In *Voinstvuiushchee bezbozhie v SSSR za 15 let. 1917–1932: sbornik* [Militant Atheism in the USSR for 15 Years. 1917–1932: a Digest], ed. by M. Enisherlov, A. Lukachevskii, M. Mitin. Moscow: OGIZ. 432–461.
- Khokhlachev, V. V. 1946. Pervyi plenum Yakutskogo nauchno-issledovatel'skogo instituta [The First Plenum of the Yakut Research Institute]. *Voprosy istorii* 1: 153–155.
- Kozlov, S.Ya. 1999. I dol'she veka dlitsia zhizn' (Zametki yubileinye i ne ochen') [The Life Lasts More Than a Hundred Years (Anniversary and Not So Anniversary Notes)]. *Etnograficheskoe obozrenie* 5: 3–15.
- Komarova, G. A. 2013. Professiiia antropologa neobyknovenno rasshiriaet krugozor [The Anthropologist's Profession is Incredibly Broadening]. *Antropologicheskij forum* 19: 329–359.
- Ksenofontov, G. V. and S. A. Tokarev (eds.). 1930. *Legendy i rasskazy o shamanakh u yakutov, buriat i tungusov* [Legends and Stories about Shamans among the Yakuts, Buryats and Tungus]. 2-nd edition. Moscow: Bezbozhnik. 123 p.
- Ksenofontov, G. V. 1929. *Kul't sumasshestviia v Uralo-Altayskom shamanizme: (k voprosu ob "Ob umiraiushchem i voskresaiushchem boge")* [The Cult of Madness in the Ural-Altai Shamanism: (to the Question «About the Dying and Resurrecting God»)]. Irkutsk. 19 p.
- Lashuk, L. P. 1969. Sergey Aleksandrovich Tokarev [Sergey Aleksandrovich Tokarev]. *Vestnik MGU. Istorija* 6: 86–91.
- Nikolaeva, A. B. 2018. Germenevticheskii istorizm onto-tekstual'nogo prostranstva sovremennoi nauchnoi biografii [Hermeneutic Historicism of the Onto-Textual Space of Modern Scientific Biography]. *Context and Reflection: Philosophy of the World and Human Being* 7 (4a): 3–8.
- Nikolaeva, A. B. 2022. *Tekstual'no-kul'turnoe prostranstvo sovremennoi biografii uchenogo v germenevticheskom osmyslenii* [Textual and Cultural Space of the Modern Biography of a Scientist in Hermeneutic Understanding]. Ph.D. diss. abstract, The Chelyabinsk State Institute of Culture and Arts.
- Nikolskii, V. K. 1931. Yavlyetsya li magiia religiei [If Magic is a Religion]. *Voinstvuyushchii ateizm* 12: 55–93.
- Petruhin, V. Ya. (ed.). 1994. *Istoriko-etnograficheskie issledovaniia po fol'kloru. Sbornik statei pamiati Sergeia Aleksandrovicha Tokareva* [The Historical and Ethnographic Research on the Folklore. Collection of Articles in Memory of Sergei Alexandrovich Tokarev]. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo: Vostochnaya literatura. 278 p.

- Prokhorov, A. M. (ed.). 1989. *Sovetskii enciklopedicheskii slovar* [Soviet Encyclopedic Dictionary]. Moscow: Sovetskaia Enciklopediia. Ed. IV. 1632 p.
- Repina, L. P. 1999. «Personal'naia istoriia»: biografiia kak sredstvo istoricheskogo poznaniia [Personal History: Biography as a Means of Historical Knowledge]. *Kazus. Individual'noe i unikal'noe v istorii* 2: 76–100.
- Repina, L. P. 2001. Personal'nye teksty i «novaia biograficheskaia istoriia»: ot individual'nogo opyta k sotsial'noi pamiaty [Personal Texts and the «New Biographical History»: from Individual Experience to Social Memory]. In *Sotvorenii Istorii. Chelovek — Pamiat'* [Creation of History. Human — Memory]. Kazan': Izdatel'stvo Kazanskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. 344–360.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1931. Yakuty [The Yakuts]. In *Religioznye verovaniia narodov SSSR. Sbornik etnograficheskikh materialov* [Religious Beliefs of the Peoples of the USSR. Collection of Ethnographic Materials], ed. by M. G. Levin, V. K. Nikolskii. Moscow; Leningrad: Moskovskii rabochii. Vol. 1. 160–179.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1935. Yakutskaiia ekspeditsiia Gosudarstvennogo Muzeia narodov SSSR [The Yakut Expedition of the State Museum of the Peoples of USSR]. *Sovetskaia etnografiia* 2: 177–180.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1940. *Ocherk istorii yakutskogo naroda* [An Essay about the History of the Yakut People]. Moscow: Gosudarstvennoe sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoe izdatel'stvo. 247 p.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1944. Retsenziia [Review]. *Uchenye zapiski Yakutskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo i uchitel'skogo instituta* 1: 121–124.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1945b. *Obshchestvennyi stroi yakutov XVII–XVIII vv.* [Social System of the Yakuts in the 17th–18th Centuries]. Yakutsk: Yakutskoe gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo. 414 p.
- Tokarev, S. A. 1945a. Novaia nauchnaia literatura o Yakutii [New Scientific Literature about Yakutia]. *Propagandist* 13: 58–59.
- Tokarev, S. A. (ed.). 1948. *Sbornik materialov po etnografii yakutov* [Collection of the Materials on the Ethnography of the Yakuts]. Yakutsk: Yakutskoe gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo. 139 p.
- Tokarev, S. A. (ed.). 1970. *Materialy po istorii Yakutii XVII veka: (dokumenty yasachnogo sbora): v 3 chastyakh* [Materials on the History of Yakutia of the 17-th century: (documents on yasak collection): In 3 parts]. Moscow: Nauka, Glavnaia redaktsiia vostochnoi literatury. Part 1. 213 p.
- Tokarev, S. A. *Rannie formy religii* [Early Forms of Religion]. Moscow: Politizdat, 1990. 622 p.
- Ursynovich, S. L. 1930. O rabote G.V. Ksenofontova “Khrestes. Shamanizm i khristianstvo” [About the Article of G. V. Ksenofontov «Chrestes. Shamanism and Christianity»]. *Antireligioznik* 2: 116–117.