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SOURCE LEARNING ANALYSIS OF ARCHIVES DOCUMENTS OF THE TRADING HOUSE OF “BROTHERS KRAFT” IN KOKAND

Abstract: The article is dedicated to the investigation of structure 91 of the house of “Brothers Kraft in Kokand” organized in 1889, kept in the Central state Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Key words: archive, trade, Kokand, Turkestan, industry, economy.

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Introduction.

Emerging of industrial enterprises in Turkestan General Governor (1867-1917) in the second half of the 19th century began a new period in the system of public-economic relations in the region. Naturally, this condition sets the problem for researchers to learn the activity of trading house enterprises of the region. In this respect archives funds of the activity of industrial enterprises are the main source. Namely, the funds of tens of trading partnerships which are placed in the Central Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan have important value in the learning of the history of trade-industrial enterprises of the Turkestan. We tried to bring light upon the activity of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand[1] on the basis of documents of which are placed in the central archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

First of all we will speak about the Family of the Kraft and their activity in Central Asian cotton trade. The Krafts were German commercialists in Russia, their ancestors first to the city of Tallin from Germany in the end of the 18th century. Later, in 1838 Julius Kraft came to Moscow from Tallin as a merchant of the top gild and began his activity with opening a trading house trading with dye of fabrics. Beginning from 1880 his sons continued his work. As a result of increased demand for cotton of the Russian industry, the trading house of Kraft began dealing with cotton trade from 1885. By 1889 J.Kraft’s sons Paul Frederic and Nikolay Eduard established the trading house of “Brothers Kraft”

(торговый дом «Братьев Крафт» в Коканде) whose main office was in Moscow. Its activity of cotton trade was widened.

“Trading House of Brothers Kraft” was established in Kokand, Fergana valley where was very important cotton agricultural region of Turkestan. Later Krafts offices were opened in the other regions of Russian Turkestan, a building of the main office was built in Kokand (architect W.S. Heselmann) and it became the second residence of the control over the activity of the trading house in Turkestan. On September 10, 1909 the trading house got the right of buying real estate in Turkestan; a little later launched cotton cleaning, oil processing and soap manufacturing enterprises [2, 127]. In 1913 after the death of Nikolay Eduard management of the trading house goes to his son A. Kraft (1874-1935). During his government the activity of the trading house “Brothers Kraft” in Turkestan reached its peak. By 1916 it even became one of the five largest partnerships in Turkestan dealing with cotton manufacture [3,161]. If we speak about the activity of the trading house “Brothers Krafts” in Turkestan it was not the only enterprise belonging to German businessmen. In 60s and 90s of the 19th century many German entrepreneurs like N.A.Grinberg, I.I.Krauze, R.F.Schoobert, I.P.Sneider, G.W.Durchshmidt carried out their activity in the region. Among them only the Krafts carried out many branch trade of cotton [4, 46-55].

The trading house “Brothers Kraft” being involved in the structure of the union “Caspian

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Manufacturing Society” (“Каспийское мануфактурное общество”) and cooperating with “The Society of Russian Spinning Manufacture” (“Обществом Российской прядильной мануфактуры”) and “Russian-French Weaving Society” (“Ткацкой мануфактурой русско-французского общества”) carried out the activity of delivering cotton to the large factories of the Russian Empire in such cities as Voskresenskiy, Bogorodsko-Gluhovskiy, Reutov.

The coup d’etat, which took place in 1917 resulted in confiscating the real estate of the trading house “Brothers Kraft” in Turkestan and in other central cities of Russia like of many other manufacturing enterprises. As a result in 1919 A. Kraft with his family moved to Germany; first to Berlin and then to Freiburg and lived there until his death. N. Potapova studying the archive material concerning the history of enterprises in Turkestan divided the sources of the theme into three groups: official, manufacturing and statistic character [5, 58]. Archives of trade-manufacturing are stipulated in the sources of the character of manufacturing shown in the second group. The archive fund of the trading house “Brothers Kraft” which is kept in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan goes exactly to this second group. Nowadays this institution has written documents of the period from 1899-1918 of the activity of the main office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” organized in Turkestan and its 11 branches as well as a loan-in-savings association serving the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” and its plant [6, 127] The trading house of “Brothers Kraft” carried out activity of purchasing and selling cotton, seeds and cocoon. The following is short information about the given funds:

1. The trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in the city of Kokand. I-91 fund, list (*opis*’) 1, 158 folders (*delo*), 1899-1917.
2. Oltiariq office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-583 fund; list 1, 2 folders, 1907-1908.
3. Andijan office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-577 fund; list 1, 13 folders, 1899-1917.
4. Asaka office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-582 fund; list 1, 2 folders, 1901-1907.
5. Beshariq office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-588 fund; list 1, 5 folders, 1912-1916.
6. Konibodom office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-586 fund; list 1, 1 folder, 1901-1902.
7. Kokand plant of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-581 fund; list 1, 3 folders, 1909-1911.

8. Namangan office of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand. I-588 fund; list 1, 8 folders, 1902-1917.

In the process of sorting and putting in order of the funds of the historical period, all funds belonging to the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Kokand are united into one single fund numbered I-91. “Trading house of Brothers Kraft in Kokand” in 1963. Short description of 256 single units included in the given fund was done by an employee of the Central State Archive P.Agafonov [7, 36].

In close investigation of the structure of the fund, one can see the distinctive points of the system of business correspondence of other companies dealing with purchase and sale of cotton in Turkestan. This can be clearly seen in mutual correspondence of the given trading house and in establishing full scale trade relations with European partners. In analyzing the documents we can see that close partners of the trading house of “Brothers Kraft” in Europe were Knop&Co (London), Weld&Co (Liverpool), Schutz&Zimmerman (Batumi), Wierzbolowski&Sohne (Aleksandrovo), S.Kuznitsky and Company (Eydkyunen), GmbH Gliemarode (Braunschweig), Fridrich Krupp A.G (Magdeburg) and Breymann and Huber CO (Hamburg). One more point of the question is that correspondence with foreign partners and Moscow central office and internal correspondence connected with it was carried out in German. Mutual correspondence was mainly reports of transfer of money, accounting affairs and insurance of shipped cotton. For example, the letter which was sent from Osh office to Magdeburg, Germany on July 12, 1910, reports that a check 7300 rubles was sent to Berlin from the central office in Moscow and asks to be more responsible in the correspondence in the future. The letter sent October 12, 1909 from Kokand to Bremen, reports that 368 poods of lucern in 647 sacks and notes about their insurance numbers and prices were sent in 4 cars from the station of Aris of Tashkent-Orenburg railway [8, 44].

In general, as it was mentioned above, not only foreign correspondence, but also mail correspondence and telegrams between the central office in Moscow and offices in Kokand, Oh, Andizhan was carried out in German. In particular the majority of the telegrams and the letters sent in 1900-1909 to the Moscow office were written in German.

Correspondence in separate cases were carried out mainly in Russian, but there are some documents written in German. But there is very little correspondence in English. It’s natural that abundance of correspondence in German. First of all is connected with the rules of internal system of correspondence of the trading house. Besides this condition can be explained with the management correspondence in the system of Crafts in Turkestan

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and Moscow, the majority of employees were of German origin. Namely, such employees managing the most responsible tasks as (F.Mayer in Riga), (P.O.Hahr and W.Hoyer in Kokand), (H.W.Durchschmidt in Tashkent), were of German nationality.

The correspondence with foreign partners kept in the fund of the trading house of "Brothers Kraft" in Kokand serves as an important source in learning international trade relations of the trading house. The volume and types of documents of the activity of textile factories of the Russian Empire in the first half of the 19th century were much more little [9, 124]. With the enlargement of cotton trade in Central Asia and with going to the world market of the Russian industry in the last quarter of the 19th century, in the archives of companies dealing with this field there appeared a group of documents belonging to their international relations. But learning the funds of cotton trade-industry companies of Turkistan, kept in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, we cannot see wide scale international cooperation of all of them. In the legislation of the Russian Empire strict rules on differentiation and separation of types of documents are introduced. Every document connected with a ministry, position, form of sender and receiver, as well as object had to meet the demands of special forms regulated on the basis of legislation acts of the Russian Empire. Here, creation of legal system of correspondence in the state language is taken into consideration on the one hand and it was the state policy of forming archive funds, belonging to the activity of government and none-government institutions on the other [10, 2]. And one of the researchers of the development of trade industry of Russia A.Lappo-Danilevskiy writes that disordered correspondence of trading industry companies until 1720 made great problems bringing light upon the activity of trade industry companies [11, 3].

A specialist L.E.Shepelev making a decision about general archive fans of such companies and documents belonging to them divides such document in to ten types. Among them the main place is occupied by reports of meetings of constitutors, different reports, circulars, correspondence between state bodies and colleagues, agreements and deals

and accounting reports [12, 76]. For example a letter sent from Kokand office of the trading house "Brothers Kraft" to the transport office of "Caucasus Mercury" it is asked to send 5 cars of the local cotton in January of the next year not to the station of Bogorodsk but to Moscow. In an order letter, sent from Kokand office of the trading house "Brothers Krafts" to Asaka office on September 8, 1899 it is asked to hand immediately cotton fiber procured in Asaka and Niyozbotir cotton recycling factories to the transport office of "Caucasus and Mercury" as soon as it was 60 or 61 bales (that is 1 car).

As it was usual for all companies dealing with cotton quick and immediate information exchange of information concerning the business was the most important factor. Changes connected with price and trade in big cotton exchange and trading centers were sent to different parts of Turkestan. For example: in telegrams sent on October 5, 1900 from Kokand office to Andizhan office it was asked to send information about the amount of cotton purchased by factories daily, so that the price should not be upper than 3 rubles, brokers were also warned to give information about purchased cotton. In telegrams sent on November 16, 1900 from Kokand office to Andizhan and Margilan offices it was informed that resellers and brokers should immediately gather deposits.

In conclusion we can say that the trading house of "Brothers Kraft" dealing with cotton in Turkestan was connected with the colonial regime of the Russian Empire in the area. Documents in archive, fund in the example of its participation in international cotton trade, bring light upon the process of entering of such companies in Turkestan into world cotton trade and their importance. Besides, investigating thoroughly the structure of the fund and documents kept in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan and reflecting the activity of the given organization, on the one hand, makes it possible to deeper learn the history of tradeoff cotton in Turkestan. On the other hand, it makes it possible to analyze documents belonging to cotton growing kept in the archives of trading organizations of archive funds of the colonization period from the point of view of source study.

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