
BOOK REVIEWS

Arabskie istochniki XIII—XIV vv. po étnografii i istorii Afriki iuzhnee Sakhary (Arabic 13th—14th Century Sources on the Ethnography and History of Africa South of Sahara), IV, translated from Arabic by V. V. Matveev, L. E. Kubbel', M. A. Tolmachëva in cooperation with N. A. Dobronravin. Edition prepared by N. A. Dobronravin and V. A. Popov. Moscow. Vostochnaia literatura, 2002, 623 p. (Pamiatniki pis'mennosti Vostoka, CXVI).

At the end of the 1950s on the initiative (and under the editorship) of an outstanding specialist in African studies D. A. Ol'derogge, preparation of a series called "Drevnie i srednevekove istochniki po étnografii i istorii narodov Afriki iuzhnee Sakhary" (Ancient and Medieval Sources on the Ethnography and History of the Peoples of Africa South of Sahara) began in the Kunstkamera in cooperation with a prominent specialist in Arabic studies V. I. Beliaev. It was planned to publish three volumes containing texts which date to the 7th—15th c. V. V. Matveev and L. E. Kubbel' worked on the preparation of texts and their translations.

The first volume of the series was published in 1960 with the subtitle "Arabskie istochniki VII—X vv." (Arabic Sources of the 7th—10th c.), although in the preface the compilers wrote about the 9th—10th c. works. It contained fragments of the works by 23 authors. The second edition was published in 1965 with the subtitle "Arabskie istochniki X—XII vv." (Arabic Sources of the 10th—12th c.) and contained fragments from the works of 15 authors. The third volume was published in 1985 with the subtitle "Arabskie istochniki XII—XIII vv." (Arabic Sources of the 12th—13th c.) and contained fragments of the works of 25 authors. By that time it had become obvious that the program manifested in the first edition of the series did not fit into three volumes and the work would be continued. New participant — M. A. Tolmachëva — was involved in the work. L. E. Kubbel's death in 1988 and V. V. Matveev's death in 1995 did not allow them to complete the work on the next volumes. V. A. Popov and N. A. Dobronravin undertook the work on the preparation of the preserved drafts for publication.

The book published in 2002 has many differences from the previous volumes. It was published as volume CXVI of the series "Literaturnye pamiatniki Vostoka" (Literary Monuments of the East). Although this was an academic series, it was very popular among a wide range of readers.

It does not bear the name common for the multi-volume series, however, it is marked as "vol. 4". Instead a certain hybrid was formed from the original title and subtitle: "Arabskie istochniki XIII—XIV vv. po étnografii i istorii Afriki iuzhnee Sakhary" (13th—14th Century Arabic Sources on the Ethnography and History of Africa South of Sahara). This new title, in combination with the mark "vol. 3" may mislead the reader, as this is the first volume for the 13th—14th c. sources.

On the other hand, the book contains few inner differences from the previous editions. In a short preface V. A. Popov tells about the principles of work with the heritage of the original compilers of the series: the texts of their translations and comments have been preserved as fully as possible. Then there follows a short introduction by M. A. Tolmachëva in which she gives a general characteristics of the Arabic works published in this volume and the description of the general state of world studies of the Arabic sources on Africa.

Most of the book is formed by fragments from the texts by 19 authors and their translations: al-Darjīnī, Ibn Khallikān, Ibn al-Sā'ī al-Bagdādī, Zakariyyā' al-Qazwīnī, Ibn Sa'īd al-Maghribī, al-Malaḥī, al-'Abdarī, al-Waṭwāṭ, al-Tijānī, Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shirāzī, Ibn 'Idhārī al-Marrākushī, Ibn Abī Zar', Yūsuf al-Miṣrī, Abu al-Fidā, al-Ḥarrānī, al-Dimaṣḥqī, al-Nuwayrī, al-'Umarī and Ibn Baṭṭūṭa. They all are represented in the following way: a short characteristic of the author with the mention of the source of the published text, bibliography, the Arabic text, the Russian translation.

What concerns the Arabic original texts, most of them are quoted from the already existing publications, Arabic as well as European. The papers of the compilers did not always contain the original text, and then the publishers had to search for the source, and sometimes even introduce some additions. Thus, *Kitāb ṭabaqāt al-maṣhā'ikh bī-l-Maghrib*, referred to by V. V. Matveev as "not yet published", and quoted from *Kitāb al-siyar* of al-Shammākhī, was published in Algeria in 1974 and its fragments were added by the editors; the editors have not found the Cairo edition of the *Wafayāt* of Ibn Khallikān, which was used by V. V. Matveev, and have to use an earlier one.

Only when publishing *'Ajā'ib al-buldān* by al-Qazwīnī the compiler compared the F. Wustenfeld edition with the manuscripts from the funds of the St. Petersburg Branch of