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SIGNIFICANCE OF SLAVIC WRITTEN SOURCES IN STUDY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GANJA CITY

Abstract: The purpose of the study is research of Slavic written sources, also the archival materials, those have a great importance in the study of the historical past, cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. Especially the military archive's materials have rich information.

The methods used for this study included historical and comparative research methods, chronological, source method etc.

For the first time various written documents such as the archival sources for the late Middle Ages have been investigated as the important springs in study of historic-cultural heritage of Ganja city. Information about fortress walls, palaces, caravanserais, baths, houses, bridges and other buildings of Azerbaijani cities is preserved in the archive. The documents of the archives are important historical sources in the study of material culture of Azerbaijan during this period. There are many documents in the archive about the history of Ganja Khanate.

The official military documents contain detailed historical information about the economy, culture, demography and political history of the city of Ganja and the Khanate. The materials in the funds of different archives, together with other sources of the researched period, allow to objectively illuminate the study of the history, also cultural heritage of the Ganja Khanate and this ancient city.

Keywords: cultural heritage; Azerbaijan; Ganja; Slavic written sources; khanate; Russian State Archive of Military History

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Introduction. Ganja, which has become one of the most important political, economic and cultural cities of Azerbaijan since the early Middle Ages, still maintains this status. Ganja witnessed most of the important political events that took place in the history of Azerbaijan in the last 1000 years and sometimes stood at the center of them. The city of Ganja is located on the northeastern slope of the Lesser Caucasus mountains, on both banks of the Ganjachay. The favorable geographical position has led the city to own trade routes since ancient times. Trade routes from Georgia and the Black Sea coast to the South passed through here, which made the city an important trade hub. For this reason, Ganja has been the capital of independent states or the center of large state provinces since the early Middle Ages. Ganja Khanate was one of the independent khanates that emerged in the territory of Azerbaijan in the second half of the 18th century.

During this period, due to its political and economic importance, Ganja was the center of attention of both internal and external powers. The khanate constantly fought against external and internal forces. For this reason, its political history during its existence is rich with various events.

Various sources are used in researching and writing the history of Ganja Khanate. Various sources are used in researching and writing the history of Ganja Khanate. In the investigation of the historiography of the khanate, priority is given to local sources. Sometimes they act as important sources in the study of the history of the city in foreign sources. Russian sources play an important role in the study of the history of the Ganja Khanate. Thus, since the end of the 18th century, the Russian Empire, which showed interest in Azerbaijan, sent merchants, spies, and ambassadors to our country and collected information through them. These materials are stored in various archives of the Russian state together with the documents on the military expansion of Russia at the end of the Late Middle Ages [33, p.28].

Among these archives, the Russian State Archive of Military History occupies one of the main places. The documents of the archive play an important role in the study of the history of Azerbaijan during the Khanate period and the Russian military expansion into Azerbaijan. Among the important documents reflecting the history of Azerbaijan, there are also materials on the Ganja Khanate and city in the RSMHA [19, pp. 39-77]. Rich information about Ganja Khanate and its city can be found among these materials.

In the aforementioned archive, one can get extensive information about the fortress walls, palaces, caravansaries, baths, residential houses, bridges and other buildings of Ganja dating back to the 18th century. Thus, it is possible to study the urban planning and general architectural landscape of the period through the documents related to Ganja city and fortress in the RSMHA funds.

Archive documents are not only a means of determining the general nature of the development of Ganja city but also allow obtaining detailed historical information about its economy, culture, demography, and political history.

The information contained in the RSMHA funds starts from the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century. Since the city of Ganja was part of the Ganja Khanate at that time, these materials are mainly related to the economic, political, and military life of the Khanate. Official diplomatic correspondence between the Ganja Khanate and the Russian Empire, military letters, spy reports, requests to the emperor, trade agreements, summaries and military campaigns, military documents during the war are preserved in the archive's funds [30, p. 2].

Also, the materials related to the march of Russian troops to Azerbaijan in 1796 are especially valuable in the archive [24, p.49-51].

Most of them are collected in 41 funds of the mentioned archive. In these materials, the march on Ganja and its results are reflected. From these documents, it is possible to get detailed information about the history of Ganja during this period.

Materials and research methods. The main point of attention in the archive is the preservation of the plans of the fortresses and cities of Azerbaijan. In the funds of the Russian State Military-Historical Archive, drawings of the city-fortress plans of Baku, Ganja, Shamakhi, Shusha, Sheki, Guba, Lankaran, Nakhchivan for different years are preserved [27, p. 3329-3345]. The plan of Ganja city and fortress is among the documents preserved in the archive. The plan of the fortress was drawn by military cartographers during the military campaign. Thus, in 1796, under the leadership of Count Valerian Zubov, Russia's military expansion to Azerbaijan began. In addition to soldiers and officers, the Russian army included many engineers-cartographers during the military campaign [20, p. 50].

Their goal was to prepare schemes and drawings of Azerbaijani cities, fortresses, fortifications, bridges, and roads.

In the 18th century, many defensive buildings existed in Azerbaijan. One of the cities distinguished by its strong fortress walls was Ganja [31, p. 14].

The plan of Ganja city kept in the archive was drawn for the first time in 1797. The purpose of Zubov's military expedition was invasion, and because of the campaign, Darbend, Baku, Guba, Shamakhi and Mugan were occupied. [15, p. 208; 20, p. 50].

For this reason, all kinds of comprehensive preparations were made. So, to ensure the military success of the campaign, navigation, and supply great attention was paid to the issues and the study of local conditions. According to Zubov's

instructions, an accurate drawing of all buildings of military interest was being prepared. The drawing of Ganja Castle was one of these documents.

On the plan in document No. 6055 of the work folder No. 12 in the RDHTA fund 349, it is noted that it was drawn up by engineer-major Ivan Garting on February 24, 1797. It is possible to get detailed information about the architecture of the city within the Ganja fortress from the master plan located in the 12th folder of the 349th fund.

For example, from document 6055 included in this folder, you can get acquainted with the Juma mosque in the city and its detailed description. The document also contains a general description of the mosque, the square in front of it, and the architectural ensemble. The madrasah included in the mosque complex is reflected in the main plan. From the plan, there is a cemetery behind the mosque and a bath adjacent to the mosque building on the west side [35, p.126].

From the plan, one can also see the similarity of the urban architectural ensemble with other Azerbaijani cities. Thus, the fact that Juma Mosque is next to the city's main market square was one of the architectural features of other Azerbaijani cities at that time.

From the plan in the archive, the city of Ganja covers a large area. It is also clear that the defensive fortress surrounding the city of Ganja is a fortified military fortification. In the plan, it was mentioned that the Ganja fortress was built in the shape of a 6-pointed angle and had three main entrance gates. The name of the entrance doors is also reflected in the drawing. These are written as Iravan, Shusha and Kura, Tiflis gates [36, p.28.] Most likely, the doors were named according to the direction they opened.

From the drawing, Ganja Castle consisted of two layers of walls during this period. Sometimes the distance between them reached 70-80 meters. But the main wall was the second wall with 6 towers. The suburbs were called Naringala [12, 227].

The khan's palace was in the central part of the city surrounded by the walls of the Ganja fortress. The Khan's palace included large building complexes [12, p.126.]

The presence of several water pools inside the palace allows us to talk about high cultural taste. The most interesting fact that distinguishes the city inside the fortress from other Azerbaijani cities is that the main streets in Ganja are straight. So, while the streets in other cities consist of twists and turns, in Ganja straight streets stretching from west to east and from south to north attract attention. This suggests that the construction of the city was carried out in a planned and highly architectural manner.

The Ganja city plan also has features that allow us to study its economic life. Thus, the plan reflects the presence of many orchards in and around Ganja. This feature allows you to get information about the occupation of the city population and its food supply.

Plans for the later period of Ganja are available in the archive. So, in the 12th work folder of fund No. 349, on sheet No. 6057, there is another plan of Ganja city from 1804. This plan is almost no different from the previous plan. For this reason, the speed of the 1797 plan can be considered. For this reason, it can be considered that the Russian Empire, which was preparing for the invasion of Ganja, made thorough preparations and seriously prepared for this purpose [29, p.78-83].

During Zubov's military campaign to Azerbaijan, Ganja city and fortress were studied in detail. After the occupation of the city in 1804, attention was not paid to the drawing of the fortress as before. This is confirmed by two plans of the city drawn up in the later years when Ganja was already called Yelizavetpol. Although the exact date is not indicated on any of the plans, they are marked with the words "Yelizavetpol city plan" [28, p. 14-15].

Both plans are incomplete. However, they are also reflected in the central Friday Mosque and madrasa bath.

In addition to the city of Ganja, the archive's funds also contain documents reflecting its political situation. These documents are related to Ganja Khanate. The documents allow us to assess the political importance of the Ganja Khanate in the Caucasus at that time. In addition to the official state correspondence in the archive, summaries and descriptions can also be considered valuable historical sources.

In this regard, one of the most interesting documents on the history of the Ganja Khanate stored in the Russian State Military History Archive is the 23-page short work of Stepan Burnashev, a colonel and spy of the Tsarist army, published in Kursk in 1793. His work is called "Description of Azerbaijani provinces in Persia and their political situation".

Note that many reports and letters of Stepan Burnashev, who worked as both a military representative and a spy in Tbilisi, are stored in the archive. From these documents signed by Burnashev, it is possible to get information about the political and economic situation of all of Azerbaijan, including the Ganja Khanate.

In this published work of Burnashev, he provides general information about the Azerbaijani khanates and important political forces. Stepan Burnashev writes that the land called Azerbaijan is bordered by Kartli-Kakheti kingdom from the north, the Caspian Sea and Gilan province from the east, and the Ottoman Empire from the west [34, p. 204]. S. Burnashev mentions the name of the Ganja Khanate in his description and states that its capital Ganja is a large commercial city. He informs that Ibrahimkhalil Khan, the Shusha Khan, and Iraqi II, the Tsar of Kartli-

Kakheti, fought for Ganja. However, he writes that Ganja resisted this and in the end Javad Khan took power in the khanate. Burnashev writes that 3000 thousand families live in the city of Ganja and its surroundings.

In addition to the city being the settlement of large merchants, he notes that Tbilisi's trade with Iran and India was carried out through Ganja. He writes that Ganja used to be the capital of the Karabakh Beylarbey and that Gazakh, Shamshadil and Shamkir were subordinate to it [34, p. 209-210].

Comparing S. Burnashev's notes with other documents of the archive, Ganja Khanate had a developed economic life as well as trade. Thus, it is stated in Russian sources that Javad Khan had 10 artificial canals in Ganja Khanate [18, p.11].

It is also mentioned from the documents that Ganja Khanate is administratively divided into 5 districts [18, p.15]. The fact that Ganja is one of the major trade centers of the South Caucasus was the fact that Russian merchants were regularly found in its markets. The city of Kizlyar in the North Caucasus was considered the busiest trade center of the Caucasus region with Russia. Russian, Azerbaijani, Georgian and Dagestani merchants engaged in mutual trade here. Goods from Russia were sent to Shamakhi, Sheki, Gubay, Ganja, Karabakh and Georgia through Kizlyar and Darbend [18, p.24].

For this reason, along with goods from Eastern countries, Russian goods could also be found in Ganja markets. Russian goods such as fur, honey, wax, fabric, velvet, etc. are sold in Ganja markets. Also, Ganja goods were transported to Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod fairs through Kizlyar [18, p.28].

Ganja city's special place in Russia's South Caucasus policy was not only related to commercial interests. Due to the desire to occupy the South Caucasus, the khanate was constantly in the center of attention of the Russian authorities. Thus, the city of Ganja was one of the main trade and production centers of the economically reviving region, starting from the middle of the 18th century. During the Khanate, the production of silk and other handicrafts increased significantly [1, p.19].

The location of Ganja at the intersection of the mainland trade routes and the roads connecting neighboring countries also contributed to the development of trade. Most of the caravan routes from Azerbaijan to Iran passed through Ganja. For this reason, this road was sometimes called "Ganja Road".

It should be noted that detailed information about the road is given in sheet 353 of document No. 416 of the 52nd fund of RSMHA. There, the length of the distance from Tbilisi to Ganja is shown as 110 versts, 225 versts to Karabakh, 265 versts to Shusha, and 265 versts from Ganja to Darban. The document also mentions that the road from Ganja to Tbilisi branched from the Red Bridge to Yerevan. It is reported that another road leads to Shusha 22 km from Ganja [23, p.17]. Thus, it is

clear from the documents in the archive that Ganja is an important trade junction connecting Tbilisi with Iran and passing through it with other Eastern countries.

The main sources of income of the Ganja Khanate were the daily tribute collected from the bridges on these roads, along with the trade routes. Thus, only the Red Bridge under the control of Ganja Khan brought a large amount of income. There were wooden and brick bridges in several parts of Kur in the Khanal territory [2, p.84].

Among the archival documents in general, especially in the 52nd fund called "Pyotomkin fund", there are many documents related to Ganja Khanate. It is through the documents stored in this fund, that we can get valuable information about the most difficult period of the Ganja Khanate, its dependence on the Kartli-Kakheti and Karabakh Khanates for 6 years and remaining without a Khan. As we mentioned above, the fund contains many reports and letters sent by S. Burnashev to Field Marshal-General Grigory Pyotomkin, the commander-in-chief of the Russian armies in the south [8, p.224].

In these letters, the military representative of Russia in Tiflis informs about the struggle of Kartli-Kakheti Tsar Irakli II, Karabakh Khan Ibrahimkhalil Khan, Sheki Khan Muhammadhasan Khan, and the campaigns on Ganja for Ganja [3, p. 212]. Burnashev's reports were reflected in the 50-70 sheets of document No. 281 of list 1 of the 52nd fund of the archive, as well as in document No. 286. In these reports, it was reflected that Irakli II informed the imperial court about the attempts to seize the Ganja Khanate. He writes about his fear of marching on Ganja alone and therefore entering into an alliance with Ibrahim Khan [9, p. 43].

On pages 45-46 of document No. 281, there is information about the besieging of the Ganja fortress by the allies at the beginning of 1780. The defense forces of the fortress led by Ganja Khan Mammad Khan could not resist the allied army for a long time. The document informs that Mammad Khan himself and his family were captured, and his property and wealth were confiscated. The Allies appointed their representatives to rule the Khanate of Ganja.

They chose Ibrahimkhalil Khan Hazratgulu Bey, II Iraqi Prince Keikhosrov Andronikashvili as their representatives [18, p.8]. It should be noted that the "allies" who made the Khanate of Ganja dependent on them were wary of the population of the Khanate and kept many troops here. From the report of S. Burnashov, it is known that there was a force of 3,000 men in the khanate under the sole command of Prince Keikhosrov Andronikashvili [31, p.46].

In the 32nd page of Part I of Document No. 286 of this archive fund, it is known that other Azerbaijani khans, especially Guba Khan Fatali Khan Irakli II and Karabakh Khan Ibrahimkhalil Khan, were dissatisfied with these actions and sent a letter of complaint to the Russian government about it. His ambassador, Haji

Yuzbaşı Bey, who wrote the letter on behalf of Fatali Khan, demanded that the Russian government recall Irakli II from Ganja under his protection [10, p.32].

On page 61 of document No. 281, Burnashov reported that in 1783 the relationship between the allies was broken and they did not trust each other [32, p. 61]. Because each of the allies wanted to seize power in the khanate alone. This struggle of theirs ended with the youth rebellion. As a result, the uprising led by Haji Bey, a descendant of Ziyadoglu, resulted in the liberation of Ganja. The invaders were expelled from the khanate, and at the end of 1783, Haji Bey began to rule the khanate alone [2, p.94].

The Georgian king did not intend to lose his power over Ganja. Irakli II appealed to the Russian government for this. In the letter of Irakli II to the Russian government on page 17 of document No. 331, Irakli II asks for protection against the peoples of Dagestan, and even requests that Nakhchivan be placed under his control [23, p.17].

The attack of the Ganja Khanate seriously affected his economic life. In his letters to Georgy Pyotomkin II of Iraq, he complained to Karabakh Khan Ibrahimkhalil Khan and stated that the struggle for Ganja aggravated the economic situation of the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom. He complains that Ganja and Shamkir are out of their control, and that the sultanates of Gazakh and Shamseddin are not subject to him as before [25, pp. 251-252].

In 1786, the "allies" again marched on Ganja. Both Irakli II and Ibrahim Khan intended to take over the Khanate alone. However, seeing the support of S. Burnashev, the representative of the Russians in Tbilisi, Ibrahim Khan proposed to the Georgian tsar to rule Ganja together again [5, p.224].

Ibrahimkhalil khan and Irakli II, who did not intend to accept joint management over Ganja, accepted that Karabakh khan was stronger and agreed with this proposal. He agrees to recognize Rahim Khan as Ganja Khan [5, p.5-7].

In 1787, a military detachment under the leadership of Colonel Burnashev marched to the Karabakh Khanate to make Ibrahimkhalil Khan compromise with the Georgian Tsar. The military detachment stopped near Ganja [33, p.14]. Fortified city fortifications forced them to retreat.

It should be noted that in addition to the external struggle, there was also a struggle for power within the Ganja Khanate. So, the people of Ganja did not want to accept direct dependence again. For this reason, the struggle for power within Ganja intensified. As a result, Rahim Khan's rule in Ganja lasted for one year. A year later, he was overthrown by his brother Javad Khan. Javad Khan's independent policy after coming to power and his unwillingness to submit to the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom became the excuse for Irakli II to march on Ganja again. This time Irakli II started looking for new allies in the east. This time he found these allies in the

form of Guba Khan Fatali Khan and Shaki Khan Muhammad Hasan Khan [6, pp. 248-251]. In December 1788, II Irakli Fatali Khan and Mohammad Hasan Khan marched on Ganja and surrounded it. At the beginning of 1789, Georgian troops led by Prince Vakhtang, son of Irakli, defeated Javad Khan. The Tsar of Kartli-Kakheti planned to remove Javad Khan, who disobeyed him, from power and establish his own power in Ganja [3, p.69].

But his allies Fatali Khan and Muhammad Hasan Khan opposed it. As a result of the negotiations, Javad Khan was able to protect the independence of Ganja Khanate. But in return, he agreed to pay annual tribute to Irakli II and his allies. But with the weakening of the Guba and the Sheki khanates, he stopped paying tribute. On the eve of Agha Muhammad Shah's campaign, he did not pay the annual payments to Irakli II [11, p.78]

Another important event related to the political history of the Ganja Khanate is the information about the march of the Russian expeditionary corps to Azerbaijan in 1796 under the command of Count Valerian Zubov. The information about Zubov's march is preserved in the 41st fund of RSMHA. In this fund, especially in folders No. 614 and 629, there are many documents related to the commander-in-chief of the military campaign, Count V.A. Zubov, his brother P.A. Zubov, and the commander of the Russian troops on the Caucasian line, General I.V. Gudovich. The documents include the number of troops during Zubov's military campaign, commanders' reports, generals S. Bulgakov, G. Rakhmanov and I. Savelyev's reports and letters are kept. Also, the diary entries of V. A. Zubov reflecting the military campaign lasting several months are preserved here [17, p. 3].

The study of these documents in the 41st fund, as well as their comparison with other historical sources, allows for a more detailed and accurate description of Zubov's military expansion against Azerbaijan, including the Ganja Khanate. These documents make it possible to study the number of the army during the march of the Russian troops on the Ganja Khanate, the course of military expansion and the issues that led to its collapse [7, p.1].

Also, archival documents reveal the facts of the attitude and resistance of the population of Ganja Khanate to Russian aggression.

It is known from pages 331 and 332 of document 614 a stored in the list No. 200 of the 41st fund of the archive that Zubov's military expedition was supposed to enter Azerbaijan from Darban through the Daryal pass, occupy Baku, Shamakhi and Mugan, and march on Ganja [26, p.331- 332]. At this time, the Caucasian corps from the Georgian side should have started the march and the parties should have occupied Ganja and united here. From here, the Russian army had to march on Karabakh [12, p. 207].

As can be seen from the military plan, Ganja occupied an important place in the occupation of Azerbaijan. Russia could not invade Azerbaijan without capturing it. However, this cunning plan was not fully implemented due to organizational issues [21, p.444].

Zubov, who entered Azerbaijan through Darbend, received additional forces on October 7, 1796, and sent a 1,000-man detachment headed by General Rimsky-Korsakov to Ganja [17, p.21].

On December 13, 1796, the Caucasian corps reached Ganja. The Ganja Khanate, weakened by feudal interwars, could not resist the Russian army armed with the latest modern weapons. Ganja Khan Javad Khan left the city and met Rimsky-Korsakov outside the city [16, p.141].

After the Caucasian corps marched to Ganja, the main forces of the Russian troops left Yeni Shamakhi and decided to spend the winter here, settling at the confluence of the Araz and Kura rivers on November 21 [16, p.142].

Apparently, Russia gave Ganja an important place in the occupation of Azerbaijan. It is for this reason that in 1804, the Russian army led by Sisianov invaded Azerbaijan and made its first attack on Ganja. After capturing Ganja, he began the invasion of Azerbaijan.

Conclusion. The documents of the Russian state military history archive are one of the important sources in the study of the history of the Ganja Khanate and its city in the 18th-19th century. The archive contains a rich database of information about the historical appearance, architecture, and economic life of the city of Ganja. Especially at the end of the 18th century, research and study of documents reflecting information about the city allows us to get information about Ganja. These documents allow for a wider study of the situation of Ganja city and fortress in the 18th and 19th centuries.

However, it should be noted that because of the drawing up of the city's plan by military experts, the city's defensive character was enhanced. This makes it difficult to study the economic and cultural history of the city. Other documents in the archive come to the aid of researchers, helping to study the history of the Ganja Khanate and complete the general results.

For this reason, various types of documents stored in the Russian State Military History Archive are a valuable source for studying the history of the Ganja Khanate. It allows us to say that the military, economic and political importance of the city not only for Azerbaijan, but also for the entire Caucasus continued during this period.

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