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## ASSEMBLY MATERIAL AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE AND METHODS OF ITS STUDY

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**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the actual materials and methods of studying historical sources, to diplomacy as a special specifically - source study discipline, analyzing documents as a historical source and methods of comprehensive study of these actual documents, allowing revealing the norms of economic and social relations.

**Key words:** source, historical source, legal document, source study, term "diplomacy", systematic review, document functions.

The achievement of independence by Uzbekistan influenced the growing interest of our people to the knowledge of their homeland, its language, culture, values, and history. Today, issues of historical heritage, the return of historical memory are in the center of attention not only of historians, but also the general public and the main source of our knowledge of the past are historical documents. On the basis of a historical document, the researcher restores historical events, reveals, sometimes complex connections between them, gives them an explanation and establishes patterns. It is time for a serious study of these unique manuscripts reflecting the life experience that our ancestors accumulated over the centuries, their religious, moral, scientific views, surviving inscriptions and drawings on stones in the ruthless time trials and today stored in libraries more than 20 thousand manuscripts in which dozens thousands of scientific papers on history, literature, art, ethics, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy,

architecture, agriculture, invaluable spiritual wealth and our pride.

Scientific research on the history of Uzbekistan is unthinkable without the involvement of relevant materials. Among the most important in scientific terms is a comprehensive study of these legal documents, allowing revealing the norms of economic and social relations.

Historiographical analysis convinces us that a great deal of work has already been done in the study of evidence material as a historical source and the use of documents in history teaching. Many Russian historians raised issues of studying documents, determining their authenticity. S.M.Kashtanov, I.H. Danilevsky, M.K. Surguladze and others consider the main aspects of this problem: the concept of diplomacy, its tasks, the relationship with other historical disciplines, practical application[1, p. 30-33]. A special place in the works of these scientists is occupied by the principles of classification of the act material on the example of Russian documentary sources. A great attention to characteristic of

legal acts is paid in the work of A.P. Pronshteyn, some of the issues of diplomacy described in the book N.A. Erofeev. The use of content analysis is revealed in the work of J.B.Mannheim and R.K. Rich as well as in the article "Content analysis: the history of the method". There are many famous and well-known names such as Yuldashev M., Ibrahimov B., Jalilov O., Urunbaeva A. and others at the school of diplomacy, formed in Uzbekistan. They made a valuable contribution to the study of historical documents stored in various collections and archives. A great merit in the development of methods of using documents in the teaching of history belongs to P.A Nekrasov, A.A. Vagin, N.V. Speranskaya and Z.A. Ogrisko. In their works, these methodologists describe the types of documents, the principles of their selection and traditional methods of use; clearly demonstrate the techniques of working with documents for educational purposes[2, p. 130-136]. Methodical recommendations on the use of documents in the teaching of history are also found on the Internet. Articles found on the sites that were used differ from others by highlighting the modern methods of working with documents, applications of gaming technology. A special place is occupied by the literature on the use of information and communication technologies in the teaching of history. Diplomacy is engaged in a comprehensive study of acts. This is special straight-source study analyzing documents as a historical source. N.A. Yerofeyev defines diplomacy as a science that studies historical documents, first of all, public law acts, in order to establish their degree of authenticity, time of preparation, etc. S.M. Kashtanov believes that diplomacy is a scientific discipline that studies the origin, form and content, functioning, history of text reproduction and the archival fate of

documents of a legal nature, and to a greater extent those where the author and the addressee or counterparties (the participants of the transaction, the contract) are indicated, often not only the addressee, but also the actual counterparty not identical to the addressee.

The term "diplomacy" was introduced into science by a historian, a great connoisseur of ancient acts, Jean Mobilon (1632-1707). His work, which gave the name of the historical discipline to diplomacy, was entitled "De re diplomatica libri sex" (1681), meaning "Six books on diplomacy". It was a systematic review of the techniques aimed at establishing the exact date of writing the document, its authenticity, etc. The emergence of this work marks the birth of a new science - diplomacy. The Latin term *diplomatica*, by its origin, is a feminine adjective from the noun *diploma* and is translated as "diploma related" [3, p. 130-136]. In ancient Greek, the term **bin'kbyoq** - "double folded" - was designated wax-coated writing boards. In Rome, a terminological diploma is marked by complex double bronze plates with text written on them. In the middle Ages, under the name "diplomas" some categories of "public law" letters appeared. Thus, at the very beginning of the existence of "diplomacy" there was not a sufficiently complete terminological, denoting this science, as well as sources that have the self-name "diplomas". Increasingly intensified in the XIX century, when in diplomatic wars were "private law" acts, never called "diplomas" [4, p. 112-113].The word "diploma" in its later meaning lost its connection with the original form of the source, from which the term originated, and, on the one hand, began to be used in legal practice to designate certain varieties of modern public-law documents, and on the other hand, turned into scientific concept,



covering more or less a wide range of relevant sources.

It should be borne in mind that diplomacy is not the science of “diplomas” in one or another narrow sense of the word, but the science of documents in a broader sense.

The emergence of diplomacy was associated with purely practical purposes. The documents confirmed important rights and claims, in particular, the right of ownership, and therefore it became necessary to establish their authenticity. In history, the question of authenticity retains its importance, and historians continue to make a lot of effort to further develop methods for determining authenticity. In our time, the subject of diplomacy has expanded considerably: it deals with all documents in which economic and political transactions, treaties, etc. are fixed. Diplomacy reveals the origin of various acts, studies their content, form, etc., seeking to extract the maximum of factual material for understanding the past.

The inordinate expansion of the content of the concept “document” is based on its approximation to the concept of “source” or “historical source”. Documentalists actually divide all sources into two large groups: sources with intentional information (documents) and sources with unintended information (objects without inscriptions and drawings, both created and not created by a human hand). However, the information content of the source is not its function, but a feature. Even sources with intentional information are not created for the sake of transmitting information as such (information transfer is not an end in itself) [5, p. 45-48], but to perform a certain impact function by transmitting certain information. The origin of historical sources, and above all sources that carry deliberate information, can only be

understood in the light of social analysis, that is, when clarifying how the source should have been affected in order to preserve, strengthen or change, or destroy other specific relationships or ideas.

Sources created for the purpose of influencing directly socio-economic, political or legal relations form a large group of monuments, which in historical science is commonly denoted by the general term "documents" or "documentary sources". Sources created for the purpose of directly influencing only feelings, attitudes, worldview, world perception, knowledge, tastes of people, are usually combined into groups of "narrative" or "normative" and didactic sources, whose goal is exposure to material relations acts only in mediated form [6, p. 35-36]. The documents have the following general properties, due to the function of influencing directly on the material relations: 1) the modernity of the main events referred to in the source; 2) the presence of a certain legal form in which the document is prepared; 3) the ability to serve as a more or less official evidence of the right granted or an accomplished event.

Documentary scholars point out that the document is “multi-functional” and the following functions are distinguished from it: “informational, social, communicative, cultural, managerial, legal, accounting, historical source”. At the same time, they say that “the function of a document is its intended purpose; organically inherent in it, regardless of whether it is realized or not realized by the author”. When the source is “multi-functional”, does it not have too many dissimilar "target purposes"?

The main goal in our opinion is the goal set by the social function of the source - to serve as a certain means of influencing a certain sphere

of relations. We see the “multi-functionality” of the source not so much in that it can be at the same time or with time gaps and a means of information, and a means of communication, and a means of control, and a means of accounting, and the object of study by historical science, but in the fact that every specific source is generated by only one social function, for example, only contractual or legislative. Quite a few sources arise and form species as a result of a combination, synthesis of several social functions, let’s say, legislative and contractual, contractual and administrative, etc. [7, p. 10-17]

It is fundamentally important to separate acts from laws (especially since the latter are often called legislative acts, expanding the meaning of a word). Unlike the laws that establish, formulate legal norms, acts only use them; relations that are fixed by acts should not violate the adopted legal norms (including, by the way, the norms of customary law which are usually not fixed in laws).

At present, it can be considered generally accepted that acts are the subject of diplomacy. Which of all types of documentary sources should be considered an object of diplomacy? What is an “act” as an object of diplomacy? The word is (from Lat. ago - “act”, actum est - done, committed”) is polysemantic: on the one hand, it means documents representing any rights and serving as evidence of such rights; on the other hand, these are business and service records that carry information about a particular event, state of affairs, property status, etc. Acts in the narrow sense of the word are usually understood not as the whole complex of disparate documents, but only those of them that establish certain legal relations either between counterparties of a transaction or

between the author and the addressee. [8, p. 24-25] With a narrow definition of acts, three groups of documents fall into their number: 1) publicly and private law contracts; 2) resolutions and orders of various authorities, having an individual or collective address or addressed to everyone, but relating to a specific legal or physical counterparty of the author; 3) orders of property owners, addressed to agents in their service. By fair remark of S.M. Kashtanov, “the contractual documents of different epochs and peoples form one type due to their common external documentary and legal features: their origin - is the result of the counterparty transaction, the content - is the definition of mutual conditions, the form - is a combination of stable articles and formulas. In the origin of all multi-temporal and multi-lingual administrative documents, the general verbal formal legal moment is unilateral will of the bearer of the power or subject of law, the content - is the specification of the will in the form of orders on certain issues, the form - is an instruction to execute orders given to a person”. Conventionally, court orders and wills come in here. Such documents have a dual basis: on the one hand, they are administrative, on the other (especially when it comes to late court decisions or spiritual certificates of the rulers) - legislative. Unlike them, registration, informational, requesting, reporting and other documents in case of absence in them – apart from the main - contractual or administrative functions, S.M. Kashtanov proposes not to refer to acts. [9, p. 55-58]

With a broad understanding of the actual sources for these groups are also record keeping, private-public documents and private correspondence.

An attempt to single out “acts” as a special object of scientific study is due to the following tasks of source studies:

- 1) the need to study the origin and evolution of species of historical sources as part of the historical process in connection with the clarification of the function of the species in public relations;
- 2) the need to develop methods of source analysis and synthesis not only by deduction, i.e. attachments of already known techniques and principles to all sources in general, but also by an inductive method, which gives the most effective results when homogeneous and comparable objects are investigated that require specific methods.

The goal of diplomacy is, firstly, to determine the origin of various groups of acts and their role in the system of social relations and, secondly, to extract from act sources the tactical basis for the historical constructions of different plans - to prepare the source for use for historical purposes.

The first task requires clarifying, first of all, the essence of the content of the act, its political focus, the degree of voluntariness of the parties to conclude an agreement and the degree of compromise of the conditions. Resolving the first task is impossible without parallel execution of the second — processing the source for using its content in historical construction. This does not mean, however, that the second task is completely subordinate to the first. The first task requires historical construction only in one plan - revealing the role of acts as a means of influencing the re-divided spheres of social relations. The source reflects, although equally, various aspects of social life and, therefore, can be used in a number of historical constructions. It is clear that the second task is reduced to ascertaining

the degree of authenticity of the act as a whole and requires its comprehensive study.

The problem of establishing the authenticity of relevant materials, i.e. the problem of distinguishing genuine acts from counterfeit ones is not distinguished among the main tasks of diplomacy, because the solution of it – inevitable side effect of implementation of the above mentioned two tasks [10, p. 12-15].

Being a part of source studies, diplomatics is not an auxiliary discipline in relation to it. Diplomacy and source study do not differ from each other in the tasks and objectives of the study, but only the object (sources of different types in source studies and sources of a particular type - acts - in diplomacy).

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