

Caravan trade Russian with China and national science of the eighteenth century. SPb.: Peter the Great Museum of anthropology and ethnography Russian Academy of Sciences, 2017. (Kunstkamera Petropolitana).

The monograph, based on archival sources, published documents, analysis papers and articles XVIII–XXI centuries, studies the influence of the Russian-Chinese caravan trade on the exchange of correspondence between the St. Petersburg scientists and the Beijing Jesuits, the acquisition of the Museum collections to the Kunstkamera, in the delivery of the Qing dynasty in the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences materials on the ethnography, geography, language, history, culture of peoples of the Far East, the development of Russian science in the eighteenth century. Russian trade caravans of the eighteenth century, also called the Chinese caravans, Chinese expeditions went to Beijing from Moscow and carried furs, cloth, iron, books, letters. Back they were returning with silk, tea, tobacco, drugs, items of Chinese art, scientific materials. Caravans under the direction of L. Lang, E. Firsov, G. Lebratovsky, A.M. Vladykin made a detailed track logs of their journeys, indicating the ethno-cultural characteristics common peoples of the Far East and East Asia. Caravans transported the academic students, members of Spiritual mission. L. Lang and F.L. Jelačić with trade caravans brought a variety of objects that illustrate aspects of Chinese culture, which as Museum exhibits have enriched the Kunstkamera. The study of these collections continues experts the Kunstkamera until the present time. With the help of caravan and E. V. Firsova in Russia was delivered monograph a Chinese diplomat and Ambassador Tulishen about the trip to Kalmyk Khan Auke in 1712–1715 years, with the description of the Russian lands and customs. Caravan A. M. Vladykina brought from China to Russia of the geographical map, which shows a huge area, including part of Russia, China, and Korea, the scientific work “A Detailed description of the origin and state Manchu’s of the people and the army, consisting in eight banners” about the ethnic history of a many ethnic groups, who interacted with each other for several centuries.

Clearly shows their ethno-cultural features, political structure, social organization, economy, material culture, language, beliefs, systems of upbringing and education. Many aspects of this work were not known to European scientists of the XVIII century. Members of the caravans were collected modern for that time, ethnographic, historical, and geographical materials of the Siberian and Far Eastern regions, about of Amur river basin, about the history and culture of peoples of Siberia and East Asia. The results of the Russian-Chinese caravan trade of the eighteenth century the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences and the national science received a positive impact for further development.