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SCHOLARS' PERSONAL FUNDS IN THE SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVE OF "GYLYM ORDASY" AS A PHENOMENON OF HISTORICAL MEMORY

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Abstract. *Introduction.* The article examines personal archival funds of scholars preserved in the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (which currently contains 63 personal funds). *Purpose and Objectives.* The main objective of the study is a comprehensive analysis of the documents contained in the personal fund of Edige Aydarbekovich Masanov, one of the founders of ethnographic scholarship in Kazakhstan. Tasks: studying the life and scholarly career of E.A. Masanov and the history of his archival fund; identifying the composition and content of the documents of the creator; determining the possibilities for using documents from the scholar's personal archive. *Materials and Methods.* The study draws upon documents of personal provenance from the funds of the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences, with particular emphasis on the personal fund of E.A. Masanov (Fund No. 103). The methodology includes source analysis, biographical, archival, and communicative approaches. Methods include historical-comparative, analysis and synthesis. *Results.* Documents of personal provenance in the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences constitute an integral part of the National Archival Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The findings indicate that personal funds represent a relatively small proportion of the archive's holdings. To enrich the Scientific Archive with documents of personal origin, greater efforts are needed to promote the historical and cultural heritage of scholars through television, mass media, and branding initiatives. Of particular interest, and still largely unexplored, is the collection of documents belonging to the renowned scholar Edige Aidarbekovich Masanov. *Conclusion.* Documents from personal funds not only enable a more comprehensive understanding and evaluation of E.A. Masanov's contribution to the development of historical scholarship but also contain materials of significant research value.

Keywords: personal fund, scholar, E.A. Masanov, documents of personal provenance, of the creator, Academy of Sciences, historical memory, ethnography.

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«ҒЫЛЫМ ОРДАСЫ» ҒЫЛЫМИ АРХИВИ ҒАЛЫМДАРЫНЫҢ ЖЕКЕ ҚОРЛАРЫ ТАРИХИ ЖАДЫ ФЕНОМЕНІ РЕТІНДЕ

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Аңдатпа. *Kіріспе.* Мақалада Қазақстан Республикасы Ғылым академиясының Ғылыми архивіндегі ғалымдардың жеке қорлары қарастырылады (барлығы 63 жеке қор бар). *Мақсаты мен міндеттері.* Зерттеудің негізгі мақсаты – Қазақстандағы этнография ғылымының негізін қалаушылардың бірі Едіге Айдарбекұлы Масановтың жеке қорының құжаттар кешенін жан-жақты талдау. Міндеттері: Е.А. Масановтың өмір жолын және оның қорының тарихын зерттеу; қор құрушының құжаттарының құрамы мен мазмұнын анықтау; ғалымдардың жеке қорларының құжаттарын пайдалану мүмкіндіктерін нақтылау. *Материалдар мен әдістер.* Ғылым академиясы Ғылыми архиві қорларының жеке тектік құжаттары пайдаланылды, Е.А. Масановтың жеке қорына (№103 қор) баса назар аударылды. Әдіснама деректанулық талдау, өмірбаяндық, архивтанулық және коммуникативті тәсілдерді қамтиды. Әдістері: тарихи-салыстырмалы, талдау және қорыту. *Нәтижелер.* Ғылым академиясы Ғылыми архивінің жеке тектік құжаттары Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық архив қорының ажырамас бөлігі болып табылады. Зерттеу нәтижелері архивтегі жеке қорлардың үлесі аз екенін көрсетеді. Ғылыми архивті жеке тектік құжаттармен толықтыру мақсатында ғалымдардың тарихи-мәдени мұраларын теледидар, БАҚ және брендинг арқылы дәріптеу қажет. Белгілі ғалым Масанов Едіге Айдарбекұлының құжаттық мұрасы қызығушылық тудырады және әлі де толық зерттелмеген. *Қорытынды.* Жеке қордың құжаттары Е.А. Масановтың тарих ғылымын дамытуға қосқан шығармашылық үлесін толық бағалауға мүмкіндік беріп қана қоймай, сонымен қатар, зерттеушілер үшін құнды ғылыми дереккөзі болып табылады.

Түйін сөздер: жеке қор, ғалым, Е.А. Масанов, жеке тектік құжаттар, қор құрушы, Ғылым Академиясы, тарихи жады, этнография.

Дәйексөз үшін: Мырзақұлова Р.М., Алпысбаева Н.К. «Ғылым ордасы» Ғылыми архиві ғалымдарының жеке қорлары тарихи жады феномені ретінде // Отан тарихы. 2026. Т. 29. № 1. 235–248-бб. [ағылшынша]. DOI: 10.51943/2788-9718_2026_29_1_235-248

ЛИЧНЫЕ ФОНДЫ УЧЕНЫХ НАУЧНОГО АРХИВА «ҒЫЛЫМ ОРДАСЫ» КАК ФЕНОМЕН ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЙ ПАМЯТИ

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Аннотация. *Введение.* В статье рассматриваются фонды личного происхождения ученых в Научном архиве Академии наук Республики Казахстан (всего насчитывается 63 личных фонда). *Цель и задачи.* Основная цель исследования – всесторонний анализ комплекса документов личного фонда Эдиге Айдарбековича Масанова, одного из основателей этнографической науки в Казахстане. *Задачи:* изучение жизненного пути Э.А. Масанова и истории его фонда; определение состава и содержания документов фондообразователя; определение возможностей использования документов личного фонда ученого. *Материалы и методы.* Используются документы личного происхождения фондов Научного архива Академии наук, акцент был сделан на личный фонд Э.А. Масанова (фонд №103). Методология включает источниковедческий анализ, биографический, архивоведческий и коммуникативный подходы. Методы: историко-сравнительный, анализа и синтеза. *Результаты.* Документы личного происхождения Научного архива Академии наук являются неотъемлемой частью Национального архивного фонда Республики Казахстан. Результаты нашего исследования показывают, доля личных фондов в архиве невелика. С целью комплектования Научного архива документами личного происхождения необходимо популяризовать историко-культурное наследия ученых через телевидение, СМИ и брендинг. Практически не изучено документальное наследие известного ученого Масанова Эдиге Айдарбековича. *Заключение.* Документы личного фонда позволяют не только более полно представить и оценить творческий вклад Э.А. Масанова в развитие исторической науки, но также содержат материалы, представляющие научную ценность для исследователей.

Ключевые слова: личный фонд, ученый, Э.А. Масанов, документы личного происхождения, фондообразователь, Академия наук, историческая память, этнография.

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Introduction. At present, growing attention in archival studies is being devoted to the identification, acquisition, and use of documents of personal provenance. In this context, the study of scholars' personal funds has become particularly relevant, as these funds make it possible to reveal the scholarly potential of individual researchers, trace the main stages of their professional careers, and assess their individual contributions to the development of national scholarship.

The Scientific Archive of the Republican State Enterprise “Gylym Ordasy” is the largest repository of documents related to the scientific and organizational activities of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) and its research institutions, reflecting the development of science in Kazakhstan. In 2026, the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR marks its 80th anniversary. The archival holdings of the National Academy of Sciences of RK include documents of the presidium, departments, sectors, and divisions. They contain materials on research activities, international scientific cooperation, scientific works, photographs illustrating the historical development of Kazakhstani science are preserved within the collection. The holdings comprise the following categories of documentation: administrative records, research materials, and personnel files.

Of particular value within the Scientific Archive are the personal funds of scholars, full members and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR. These documents represent unique sources that reflect the social, public, psychological, and spiritual aspects of both individual and societal life. In this regard, the concept of the Scientific Archive as a space for preserving “historical memory” is of considerable interest. Another dimension of the study's relevance is associated with the insufficient theoretical and methodological development of issues related to the formation, systematization, and use of personal archival funds of scholars in Kazakh archival science.

Materials and Methods. The source base of this study consists of unpublished documents from the Scientific Archive of the RSE “Gylym Ordasy”. The author examined documents from the personal funds of historians and archaeologists: Kh. Alpysbaev (Fund 81), G.I. Patsevich (Fund 99), historians, E.B. Bekmakhanov (Fund 23), G.F. Dakhshleiger (Fund 112), T.E. Eleuov (Fund 76), A.N. Nussupbekov (Fund 92), S.N. Pokrovsky (Fund 72), E.D. Dilmukhamedov (Fund 108), E.A. Masanov (Fund 103) and others, are introduced into scholarly circulation.

In writing the article, the main sources were documentary materials from the personal funds of E.A. Masanov (Fund No.103, Inventory No. 1): scholarly works, biographical materials, documents on official activities, correspondence, minutes of meetings of the Department of Ethnography of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, research reports of the institute, materials from ethnographic expeditions, and the guide to the Scientific Archive. Normative legal acts in the field of archival management were also used as sources: «On National Archival Fund and Archives» the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1998).

The study of historians’ personal funds is based on source criticism, historical-anthropological, biographical, communicative, and archival approaches, viewing the materials as a corpus of documentary evidence reflecting both scholarly and personal life.

- *Source-critical analysis* involves assessing the authenticity of documents (diaries, letters, drafts, manuscripts) and determining their value for an objective representation of history.

- *The historical-anthropological approach* is applied to examine in detail the scholar’s everyday academic life.

- *The biographical approach* is directly connected with personal-origin sources and involves studying the distinctive features of the scholar’s life path and academic career, which is essential for revealing their informational potential in historical research.

- *The archival approach* entails a systematic analysis of documents created by an individual, focusing on their provenance, authenticity, classification, and informational value. It includes analyzing composition and content, classification, appraisal, and the use of documents.

- *The communicative approach* relates to the study of personal-origin sources within the framework of the “concept of the individualization of the person”.

Key theoretical perspectives also include structural-functional analysis (documents as reflections of creative activity), the phenomenological approach (analysis of personal experience), and the history of mentalities method, which explores the intellectual environment. The study employs methods of historical-comparatives, analysis and synthesis.

Discussion. The historiography of the problem is examined from two perspectives: 1) theoretical works on personal funds, including the personal funds of scholars; 2) studies of the biography and legacy of E.A. Masanov and publications of documents from his archival collection.

From a theoretical perspective, personal archival funds have been examined in the works of T.I. Khorkhordina [Khorkhordina, 2024: 808; 2025: 9–21]. The author analyzes the anthropological turn in historical and archival studies at the end of the 20th century and emphasizes the exceptional value of documents of personal provenance, noting that no official document can compare with diaries, memoirs, or personal notebooks that capture both major and minor events of everyday life [Khorkhordina, 2024: 805]. Furthermore, she highlights the growing scholarly focus on individual memory and the process of emotional and spiritual development within everyday contexts, which contributed to a surge of interest in personal sources and encouraged archives to actively collect personal documents from representatives of various social groups and professions through proactive identification methods [Khorkhordina, 2025: 14]. Khorkhordina’s works are characterized by a strong anthropological orientation.

Studies devoted to the personal funds of scholars are represented by the works of V.G. Iofe [Iofe, 2024: 152–166], V.L. Gentshke and Kh.A. Babakhodzhaeva [Gentshke, 2012: 261–270], E.V. Kosyreva [Kosyreva, 2013: 156–159], M.Yu. Kiselev [Kiselev, 2018: 126–133], A. Limanova [Limanova, 2019: 85–96], N.V. Elizarova [Elizarova, 2020: 537–541], and A. Archimaeva [Archimaeva, 2022: 54–64]. O.V. Medvedeva’s article, focusing on the archival preservation of documents of personal provenance, addresses key issues such as acquisition, appraisal, and use of these materials [Medvedeva, 2022: 1098–1107]. Altman’s study examines the experience of the Russian State Archive of the Economy (RGAE) in collecting personal documents, identifies current challenges in this area of archival practice, and outlines possible solutions [Altman, 2021: 28–38]. As the literature analysis shows, the study of personal archives is

mainly conducted within traditional themes such as collection development, archival surveys, and the use of archival materials.

In contrast to the post-Soviet space, where personal archives are studied primarily from a historical perspective, international scholarship approaches personal archives from an interdisciplinary standpoint, encompassing information technology, information management, history, and archival studies. For example, V. Sloyan examines specific cases of the transfer and reception of personal digital archives for archival storage [Sloyan, 2016: 20–36.]. The practices of maintaining personal digital archives have been investigated by Becker and Nogues [Becker, 2020]. Researchers such as Molloy (Molloy, 2019: 327–342] and Schneider, Adams, and DeBauche [Schneider et al., 2019: 306–326] have studied the personal archives of literary figures, highlighting challenges encountered in working with these collections. Issues of access to archival documents have been explored by Jaillant [Jaillant, 2019: 285–304], while Owens [Owens, 2018: 242] addresses theoretical and practical aspects of personal digital archives in the context of long-term preservation.

In Kazakh historiography, T.E. Abilova has made a significant contribution to the theoretical study of the acquisition of personal documents in archives [Abilova, 1986: 22]. The works of O. Mukhatova, A. Yskak, and A. Maksymkhanova examine the history of the formation of personal funds, demonstrating the composition and content of personal documents through the example of republican archives. In the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the authors identified 65 collections belonging to scholars across various fields [Mukhatova, 2029: 91–95].

A.T. Suleimenova's studies focus on also analyze the legal and regulatory framework governing archival acquisition [Suleimenova, 2021: 14-18].

In their historiographical analysis, N. Alpysbaeva and K. Alimgazinov review the works of domestic researchers on contemporary issues of archival acquisition [Alpysbaeva, 2025: 30-41]. However, the historiography of personal collections in Kazakh archival science remains underexplored. Examination of domestic scholarship on archival acquisition, including documents of personal provenance, indicates a scientific interest that can contribute to methodological refinement and the identification of new directions in archival studies. Among recent Kazakh authors studying the formation of personal collections in national archives, the works of T. Tulebaev and A. Maksymkhanova are particularly noteworthy [Tulebaev, 2021: 43–54]. These studies address issues such as the categorization of formed personal archival collections, criteria for appraisal of acquired documents, and the systematization of documents in inventories according to genre and type.

The works of the second group focus on the study of the life and scholarly career of E.A. Masanov, his contribution to historical scholarship, and the publication of documents from his personal funds. Information about the life and activities of E.A. Masanov was first published in “Soviet Ethnography” [Soviet Ethnography, 1965: 143-144].

The first specialized study in this line was the joint article by Zh. Abylkhozhin and N. Masanov, “Edige Masanov: The Fate of a Man, the Fate of a Family, the Fate of a Country”, [Abylkhozhin, Masanov, 2007: 25–44] examines in detail the formation of Masanov's personality, his family that became victims of repression, his military service, academic career, and family life. The author characterizes him as follows: «By nature, Edige Masanov was a true leader, always ready to challenge fate, fearing no one and nothing. He could be strict and severe, but more often he was strong, just, and confident in his convictions. Not everyone liked him, and he did not maintain friendly relations with all, yet almost everyone deeply respected him. He mainly conflicted with those ‘vested with power’ and was never afraid to express his opinion» [Abylkhozhin, Masanov, 2007: 41– 42].

The article by S. Sabazova is devoted to the life of the well-known ethnographer Edige Masanov and his scholarly contribution to the study of the ethnography of the Kazakh people [Sabazova, 2009: 40–41].

Articles by A.T. Abdulina [Abdulina, 2021: 66–79, 2022: 101–108] and G.U. Orynbayeva [Orynbayeva, 2025: 732–748] published in the journal *Otan Tarikhy* examine issues related to the ethnography of the Kazakh people and analyze the fundamental works and views of E.A. Masanov.

A review of the historiography shows that only a small portion of the documents from Masanov's fund has been used in scholarly publications.

Documents from the Archive of the Academy of Sciences were also analyzed in the article by A.T. Kapaeva, has analyzed the personal files of prominent scholars and organizers of academic historical science, including A.N. Nussupbekov, G.F. Dakhshleiger, Kh.A. Argynbayev, B.S. Suleimenov, V.Ya. Basin,

and others, in the context of their participation in the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union [Капаева, 2020: 5–14].

Currently, Kazakh archival studies lack comprehensive works on the personal funds of the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences. No specialized studies explore the process of acquiring personal documents of scholars for the Scientific Archive. This highlights the pressing need to study the personal funds of the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences as a phenomenon of historical memory.

Results. In accordance with the Decree of the Council of People’s Commissars of the USSR dated 26 October 1945, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, and the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of Kazakhstan adopted Resolution No. 439 “On the Establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR” based on the existing branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. This decree established 1 June 1946 as the official founding date of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR. The first membership of the Academy included leading figures in science, technology, and culture in Kazakhstan: 14 academicians and 16 corresponding members. At the inaugural general assembly of the national Academy, the president was elected corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, academician K.I. Satpayev. According to the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR “On the Structure of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR” dated 29 April 1946, the Academy’s structure included the Central Library and the Scientific Archive [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F.103. In.1. C. 21–23]. Alongside materials from academic institutions, the Scientific Archive began to store manuscripts of scientific works, biographical documents, and correspondence of Academy members. Initially, acquisitions were sparse, scattered, and largely random. From the mid-1950s, following a series of organizational measures, the Archive gradually became the primary repository for the documentary materials of Academy scholars. In accordance with its functional mandate, the archival institution is responsible for collecting and ensuring the preservation of documents of cultural value. Documents of personal provenance play a significant role in the Archive’s acquisition system. These documents, received historically and continuing to arrive from the original owners and holders of archival materials, constitute a distinct type of historical source in which past events and facts are filtered through the individual, subjective perception of specific persons – direct participants or witnesses of historical processes – who were actively involved in professional, social, scientific, or creative activities.

The Scientific Archive holds personal collections of scholars who were full members and corresponding members of the Academy, including mathematicians T.I. Amanov (1939–1983) and K.P. Persidsky (1960–1968); biologists I.G. Galuzo and B.A. Dombrovsky (1917–1973); philologists A.P. Polosukhin (1934–1965), N.T. Sauranbaev (1910–1958), and M.S. Silchenko (1915–1971); astro-botanist G.A. Tikhov (1912–1960); economist G.Ch. Chulanov (1935–1966); glaciologist N.N. Palgov (1889–1970); metallurgist A.L. Tsetf (1904–1971); among others. In total, the Archive holds 63 personal funds. Table 1 presents the number of personal collections of historians and archaeologists in the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences [Directory, 2021: 1–16].

Table 1. Personal Collections of historians and archaeologists

No	Collection No	Name	Coverage Dates	Number of Files	Notes
1	23	Bekmakhanov E.B.	1944-1967	762	Historian
2	72	Pokrovsky S.N	1919-1978	557	Historian
3	76	Eleulov T.E.	1949-1967	72	Historian
4	81	Alpyspayev Kh.A.	1943-1979	71	Archaeologist
5	89	Urazbayev A.M.	1932–1983	452	Archaeologist
6	92	Nussupbekov A.N.	1932-1983	452	Historian
7	99	Patsevich G.I.	1894-1966	26	Archaeologist
8	108	Dilmukhamedov E.D.	1922-1981	55	Historian
9	103	Masanov E.A.	1952–1965	102	Historian
10	112	Dakhshleiger G.F.	1932-1985	180	Historian

From the table, it is evident that the majority of personal archival funds belong to historians – 7 collections) and archaeologists – 3, making a total of 10 funds.

According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On the National Archival Fund and Archives” documents of personal origin are considered an integral part of the National Archival Fund of Kazakhstan [Law of RK, 1998]. However, this law and the accompanying Rules on the acquisition, storage, registration, and use of documents of the National Archival Fund and other archival materials by state and special state archives do not provide a formal definition of the term “personal archival funds”.

The State Standard of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ST RK 1037-2001 “Records Management and Archival Work: Terms and Definitions” defines a personal archival funds as: “an archival funds consisting of archival documents created during the life and activities of an individual or family” [ST RK 1037-2001: 3]. In other words, a personal archival funds consists of documents that originate from the life and activities of a specific individual or family and are incorporated into the National Archival Fund.

“The Rules on the acquisition, storage, registration, and use of documents of the National Archival Fund” also specify the chronological boundaries of personal archival funds. According to the Rules, “the chronological limits of a personal archival funds correspond to the dates of birth and death of the individual, their family members, or lineage”. The Rules further clarify that “the chronological boundaries of an archival funds may not coincide with the extreme dates of the documents it contains. In a personal archival funds, this may occur due to documents collected by the creator, materials generated during commemorative events, and other circumstances” [Rules, 2023]. In other words, a personal archival funds may include documents created after the death of the collection’s creator. For this reason, it is more appropriate to understand a personal archival funds as a body of documents resulting from, rather than strictly generated during, the life and professional activity of a specific individual.

A particularly notable collection is Fund No. 103 of E.A. Masanov, covering the years 1952, 1953, and 1956–1965. It currently comprises 102 storage units, reflecting various aspects of his biography and scientific activity. The materials of Fund No. 103 are organized according to the traditional structure of personal archival funds and are conventionally divided into seven sections:

1. Documents of E.A. Masanov’s scientific activities
2. Documents of professional service
3. Biographical documents
4. Documents specifically about E.A. Masanov
5. Correspondence
6. Collected materials on subjects of personal interest
7. Photographic documents

Edige Aydarbekovich Masanov was born on November 19, 1926, in Semipalatinsk, in the family of a prominent public and political figure Aydarbek Baimukhamedovich Masanov and his wife Zeynep Valievna Masanova. On November 15, 1937, A.B. Masanov, who held the position of Deputy Head of the Planning Department of the People’s Commissariat of Light Industry of the Kazakh ASSR, was arrested (for the third time) and sentenced by the NKVD troika of the Alma-Ata region. He died in 1945 from a stomach ulcer in one of the labor camps of the Magadan region. Eleven-year-old Edige, together with his mother and younger sister Gulbanat, as members of the family of an “enemy of the people,” were exiled from Alma-Ata. After long wanderings, they eventually settled in the village of Uzun-Agach in the Dzhabul district of the Alma-Ata region. The documents concerning the repression of his father are not reflected in Masanov’s personal archival funds.

After completing secondary school, he was drafted into the Soviet Army in February 1941. He initially served as a cadet at an infantry military school and, from June 1943, as a private in the 8th Guards Airborne Brigade. From January 1945, he served as an aerial gunner in the 502nd Assault Taman Aviation Regiment. Between January and May 1945, he participated in operations on the 2nd Baltic and Leningrad Fronts during the Great Patriotic War. He was demobilized in March 1947 and remained in military service until January 1948.

In 1948, E.A. Masanov enrolled at Lomonosov Moscow State University, graduating in 1953. He then worked as a secondary school teacher in Karaganda. In 1955, he entered the postgraduate program at the N.N. Miklukho-Maklai Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR. On July 14, 1965, at the age of 38, Edige Aydarbekovich Masanov died during an ethnographic expedition in the Karaganda region, drowning while attempting to save a colleague.

The personal fund of E.A. Masanov, donated to the Central Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR by his son, N.E. Masanov, on 23 December 1988, is of significant scientific value.

Through the prism of the personal documents of E.A. Masanov, it is possible to reveal not only the personality of the scholar and his academic legacy, but also his work at the Ch.Valikhanov Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, as well as the formation of ethnographic science in Kazakhstan. The core of his scholarly interests was the ethnography of the Kazakh people. The peak of his academic activity occurred between 1958 and 1965, during which he authored around 40 scholarly works.

Of particular scientific value are his theoretical works and related materials preserved in the first section of his personal archive, “Documents of Scientific Activity”, which consists of 53. These include his monographs, essays on the first Kazakh scholar-educators such as Ch.Valikhanov, I. Altynsarin, and others, as well as articles including “Some New Materials on Ch.Ch. Valikhanov”, “The Communist B.B. Karataev”, and “New Information on V.N. Plotnikov”. Of special interest is the manuscript of his monograph “From the History of the Ethnographic Study of the Kazakh People in Russia (15th–17th Centuries)” [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F. 103. In.1. C.1. P.1–262].

The preserved text, with the author’s revisions and notes, makes it possible to reconstruct Masanov’s creative process, from initial drafts to final versions, trace the evolution of his research approaches and methods of working with historical sources, and observe the formation of his conceptual framework and scholarly methodology. In preparing his monograph “An Essay on the Ethnographic Study of Kazakhstan in the USSR”, the author collected, critically analyzed, and synthesized an extensive body of literature and sources, many of which were introduced into scholarly circulation for the first time.

According to the recollections of his contemporaries, E.A. Masanov was responsible, meticulous, passionate, and active, as evidenced by the historical materials preserved in his personal funds. Historian Zh.B. Abylkhozhin especially noted his research talent: “The work of Edige Masanov was by no means confined to the study. As the leader of numerous ethnographic expeditions across the republic, he traveled throughout Kazakhstan, collecting vast ethnographic material on various aspects of the history and culture of the Kazakhs. He may rightfully be considered one of the most brilliant experts on Kazakh ethnography; it is no coincidence that he became the author of the first specialized ethnographic monograph in Kazakh historiography” [Abylkhozhin, Masanov, 2007: 39].

He devoted his entire life to the study of Kazakh ethnography. This is evidenced by the list of his scholarly works preserved in his personal archive”) [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F.103. In.1. C.66. P.1–2].

The materials of his archive allow us to trace the accumulation of knowledge concerning the development of crafts and their significance in the economy and daily life of the Kazakhs, as well as the formation of ethnography as a discipline in Kazakhstan. His candidate dissertation (1960) was devoted to the topic “Domestic Crafts and Handicrafts of the Kazakh People in the Second Half of the 19th – Early 20th Century (A Historical and Ethnographic Essay Based on Materials from the Northern Regions of Kazakhstan)”. His academic supervisor was T.A. Zhdanko, a well-known researcher of the history and ethnography of the peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

The materials from the ethnographic expedition, concentrated in a separate folder [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F.103. In.1. C.54] are of particular interest. The collection mainly preserves orders from the Institute of History, Archaeology, and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, the 1959 program for the ethnographic survey of the South Kazakhstan region, statistical data from the field expedition, resolutions of the Academic Council on ethnographic expedition work in 1960, requests for the release of equipment and materials for the expeditions, and loose sheets. For example, one loose sheet issued by the Institute of History, Archaeology, and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, signed by the institute’s director A. Nussupekov and addressed to the head of the ethnographic expedition, E.A. Masanov, states: “Comrade E.A. Masanov is authorized to conduct topographic surveys (plans, leveling), photography, and sketches of the remains of both pre-revolutionary and contemporary irrigation systems and water-lifting structures, objects of material and spiritual culture of the Kazakhs, settlements and dwellings, interior decorations of Kazakh homes, and to interview local residents on issues of interest to ethnographic science” [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F.103. In. 1. C. 54. P. 23]. These documents allow us to trace the entire process of conducting a scientific ethnographic expedition.

He is regarded as a founder of the historiography of ethnographic science in Kazakhstan, and his contributions to these issues have exceptional methodological and practical significance. He published a series of works on the first Kazakh scholar-educators: Ch. Valikhanov, I. Altynsarin, M. Babadzhanov, and M. Shormanov. Masanov was the first to highlight the research activities of M. Shormanov related to the collection, systematization, and publication of materials on traditional Kazakh culture.

The next subsection within the section on scholarly activity comprises reviews and critical assessments of his colleagues' works. These include reviews of books by Z.L. Amitin-Shapiro and K.I. Antipina, such as "Literature on the History, Archaeology, and Ethnography of Kyrgyzstan (1750-1917)" and "Features of the Material Culture and Applied Arts of the Southern Kyrgyz", as well as reviews of articles by M.S. Tursunova and A.A. Vakhidov, including "From the History of the Kazakhs in the Second Half of the 19th Century and On the Spread of Islam in Eastern Turkestan", among others. All materials are arranged in chronological order and constitute a valuable source for studying both his scholarly priorities and the broader development of ethnographic science during this period. The thematic diversity of the reviewed works deserves particular attention.

The next section, "Documents about E.A. Masanov", includes reviews by A.Kh. Margulan, Kh.A. Argyntbaev, and Kh.A. Alpysbaev of his articles such as "Kazakh Felt Production in the Second Half of the 19th – Early 20th Century", "The Works of G.N. Potanin as an Important Source on the Ethnography of Kazakhstan", and "Some Results of the 1959-1960 Ethnographic Expeditions", among others [Scientific Archive of RSI "Gylym Ordasy," Fund 103, Inventory 1, Case 67-74]. This body of materials is of particular interest for understanding how his work was received within the professional community and for tracing the emergence of scholarly discussions on the key issues he addressed.

The fund also contains texts of E.A. Masanov's reports and speeches delivered at various events, demonstrating his active civic stance, professional engagement, and organizational skills. The documents reflect the wide thematic range of his presentations at different professional forums, including "The Main Tasks of the Ethnography of Kazakhstan, Considering the Decisions of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU", "State Building and the Further Development of Socialist Democracy", and "Some Reflections on the Work of the Institute's Academic Council", among others.

The fund contains handwritten manuscripts, typewritten copies, and typewritten drafts with the author's revisions of his scholarly works dating from 1958 to 1965.

In E.A. Masanov's archival fund, the epistolary genre is represented by letters and telegrams arranged chronologically. In total, there are six archival units. The correspondence is primarily official in nature and reveals various aspects of his professional activity.

E.A. Masanov authored a number of articles for the "Soviet Historical Encyclopedia". This is evidenced by his correspondence with the editorial board of the journal "Soviet Historical Encyclopedia", in which he pointed out errors in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia concerning such historical figures as Muhammad Shaybani, Muhammad II Ala al-Din, and Muhammad Haydar. For example, he wrote that "in the GSE Muhammad Haydar is unjustifiably described as Uzbek by origin. In fact, Muhammad Haydar, on his father's side, came from a separated Kashgar branch of the Dulat tribe..." [SA of RSI "Gylym Ordasy". F.103. In.1. C.77. P. 1–2].

Of considerable historical value is Masanov's correspondence with members of the editorial board of the journal *History of the USSR*, in which he requested the publication of a review of the first volume of the works of Ch.Ch. Valikhanov [SA of RSI "Gylym Ordasy". F. 103. In. 1. C.76. P. 1–3].

Of particular interest to researchers is a letter from E. Mikulskaya containing comments on Masanov's articles. In her letter, she wrote: "I read your article with great pleasure. It is very interesting and, in my opinion, comprehensive. However, I would have liked at least some brief information about the nature of the patterns... I would have liked to see a more substantiated (as you know so well how to do) confirmation of your interpretation of the 'syrnak', especially since this is a new point of view. If you have decided not to address ornamental art, you should at least mention this, otherwise it appears that the artistic aspect does not deserve attention" [SA of RSI "Gylym Ordasy". F. 103. In. 1. C. 79. P. 1].

Another highly informative section of the personal archive consists of E.A. Masanov's correspondence with various organizations regarding scholarly matters. In particular, it includes his exchanges with the Deputy Academic Secretary of the Higher Attestation Commission concerning the defense of his candidate dissertation [SA of RSI "Gylym Ordasy". F.103. In.1. C. 75. P.1-2] as well as a letter from G. Averyanov informing Masanov about decisions of the Council of the Institute of Ethnography of the USSR Academy of Sciences [SA of RSI "Gylym Ordasy". F.103. In.1. C. 78. P. 4].

The preserved letters demonstrate the scholar's wide professional network, including colleagues, domestic and foreign researchers, and official institutions. The combination of personal and professional themes in this correspondence gives this part of the archive particular value, revealing the close interconnection between his scholarly and private life. Unfortunately, no personal correspondence with relatives or close acquaintances has been found in the collection.

The photographic collection of E.A. Masanov is relatively small in quantitative terms (56 storage units). It primarily consists of photographs from the Alma-Ata ethnographic expedition conducted in the kolkhoz “Zhetysu”. The images depict the kolkhoz’s equipment (machinery and vehicles), agricultural fieldwork, and group and individual portraits. Among them, in the fund, we found a photo of E.A. Masanov himself on the expedition.



Photo 1. Photographs of E.A. Masanov during the Alma-Ata ethnographic expeditions at the “Zhetysu” collective farm, Taldy-Kurgan district, Alma-Ata region [SA of RSI “Gylym Ordasy”. F.103. In.1. C.101. Pp. 1–2. Positive print].

All of these photographs are unique and may be studied as a source on the history of everyday life, capturing significant moments of the ethnographic expedition. The photographs have been preserved in an envelope, all are black-and-white (positives and negatives), in good condition, and include nine film rolls. All images are dated 1964. The photographs preserved in the personal fund of E.A. Masanov are not annotated (there are no descriptions of the selected documents), and the photographer is not indicated. These photographic documents from Masanov’s personal fond may be used for exhibition design and can serve as illustrative material for scholarly works. Overall, E.A. Masanov’s personal archival collection vividly illustrates his scientific achievements and contributions to historical and ethnographic studies.

The personal funds of prominent Kazakh scholars – including historians, archaeologists, and ethnographers – are of significant interest to researchers. Examples include the personal funds of historians E.B. Bekmakhanov (1944–1967), S.N. Pokrovsky (1919–1978), T.E. Eleuov (1949–1967), Kh.A. Alpysbaev (1943–1979), A.N. Nussupbekov (1932–1983), G.I. Patsevich (1894–1966), E.D. Dilmukhamedov (1922–1981), and F. Dakhshleiger (1919–1983).

Consulting these collections allows researchers to address numerous questions regarding the scientific legacy of scholars, identify missing links in research, collect facts illuminating social events, and more fully analyze various aspects of history, including the history of science and technology. It is noteworthy that the Scientific Archive of the Academy of Sciences has extensive experience working with personal collections of scholars, some of which could be applied in regional state archives.

To the greatest extent, the Scientific archive contains materials on history, technical sciences and biology; to a lesser extent – on chemistry and physics. There is a notable absence of personal funds from scholars in law and sociology, highlighting the need for archivists to pay greater attention to these gaps.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the archival fund of E.A. Masanov holds considerable informational and historical value. These documents provide a rich source for understanding the life and work of an exceptional scholar. From the entire body of documents in the fund, the materials related to scholarly activity appear to be the most valuable sources. Overall, the documents of E. Masanov’s personal fund are of considerable scholarly interest for researchers of his personal history. They allow for a detailed reconstruction of the formation of his intellectual environment, reflecting his creative path, social networks, sources of ideas, and

the influence of the era on his development. They reveal his inner world, intellectual pursuits, and evolution of views, making them a key source for studying the broader cultural and academic context.

Unfortunately, personal archival funds of Kazakhstani researchers are seldom consulted, highlighting the importance of more active use of these materials. It is necessary to popularize the historical and cultural heritage of scientists through television, mass media and branding.

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