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|  | <p style="text-align: right;">Date : 31/05/2007</p> <p>Maps of Africa in Russian Libraries</p> <p>Ludmila Kildushevskaya The National Library of Russia Saint-Petersburg Russian Federation</p> |
| <p>Meeting:</p> | <p>110 Geography and Map Libraries</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 73RD IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL 19-23 August 2007, Durban, South Africa http://www.ifla.org/iv/ifla73/index.htm</p> | |

Abstract

In the years following the Second World War in the USSR the interest in the complex study of Africa states notably arose. By this time many of these countries became free from the colonial dependence. In 1946 African departments were created in the Institutes of Ethnography and of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In 1959 the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences was organized. The issues of Africa were discussed in many other institutions as well. Accordingly, as one of consequences of the studies conducted by these institutes the considerable number of Africa maps appeared. Besides, the scientific needs of these institutions caused the necessity of creation of maps of African countries (including topographical) by the state cartographic services.

All maps edited in USSR were received (and being received now) by great libraries in accordance with the Law of the legal deposit copy. The most complete set of cartographic editions arrived at the Library of Academy of Sciences (Saint Petersburg), National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg) and at the Russian State Library (Moscow). Thus the structure of the collection is almost identical. All maps and atlases edited in USSR are listed in the

Cartographic chronicle edited since 1931. The structural analysis of African territory's maps edited in USSR and later in Russian Federation given in this lecture was carried out on the basis of the Cartography chronicle.

The analysis of foreign Africa maps is given on the basis of the summary catalogue of foreign maps and atlases called "The Cartographic provision of Asia, Africa and Latin America countries. Part I. Africa" edited by the Library of Academy of Sciences. It includes the description of maps from the collections of eight libraries. In spite of the date of its edition – 1980es it sufficiently covers the collections of maps of Africa's territories, as since then the interest in African states gradually reduced and by the 1990es it almost disappeared. Accordingly the number of maps acquired by the libraries also came down. The information from the print catalogues of the new acquisitions of the greatest libraries edited in last years is also included in this analysis.

More than 800 maps in total concern Africa as a whole. One may divide them into four groups.

- General topographical maps of 1:1,000,000 scale (130 pages) and 1:500,000 (more than 500 pages) scale, prepared by the Ordnance Survey Departments.
- Training charts for schools and other educational establishments: physical maps, political maps, subject charts (climatic, native zones maps, flora maps, population and economical maps) – over 100 editions.
- Generalized geographical reference maps of the African countries within the Countries of the World Series, being issued by The Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography. Each map is accompanied by a brief geographical reference describing environmental conditions, the population characteristics, major features of the economy and a place-name index. Depending on the area size, the scales of the maps range from 1:1,000,000-scale maps to 1:4,000,000-scale ones. In sum, the series covers more than thirty countries, at that almost all maps have been repeatedly reissued. The reissuing enabled to keep them updated. Specialists count about a hundred of such editions.
- There is a group of subject maps prepared by various departments for scientific and practical purposes. First, a series of 1:5,000,000 scale geological maps is of great interest, each one includes nine pages. There are generalized geological maps, maps of quaternary deposits, break tectonics, charts of mineral wealth, and oil and gas fields.

Various geologic research institutes have mapped them. Two charts concern the population, i.e. the ethnographic one and the population density map.

ATLASES

A number of original atlases concerning the territory of Africa are not too large. Reference media are represented by several issues of the Reference Political Atlas of Africa produced on the base of the World Atlas published by the USSR Central Administrative Board of Geodesy and Cartography (today it is called The Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography of the Russian Federation). Another edition is miniature (10×8 cm), i.e. the geographical Atlas of Africa, which also draws attention to it containing maps of separate countries accompanied by brief statistics.

The complex Atlas of Africa prepared by the above mentioned science institutions of the USSR Academy of Science in 1968 is of the greatest interest too. It includes a comprehensive characteristic of the African continent, including the set of maps concerning the environment, history, and economy; there are also ethnographical and medical-geographical charts. It was designed either for use as a reference media, or for use in the scientific work. A range of maps included in it was produced by the original methods. For example, the map of peoples was drawn up by the method of separation of 210 ethnical areas, while the map of population density was compiled taking into consideration the real settling regions.

In 1978, the two-volume Climatic Atlas was published. It contained maps of the range of meteorological elements.

FOREIGN CHARTS

The joint catalogue includes descriptions of cartographic editions regarding territory of Africa, which are kept at the following institutions:

- National Library of Russia
- Russian State Library
- Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS)
- Library of the Institute of Africa of the RAS
- Library of the Institute of Geography of the RAS
- Library of the Institute of Ethnography of the RAS
- Library of the Russian Geographic Society
- Central Science Library of the Ukrainian Academy of Science

The first three institutions are the major repositories of maps.

The catalogue contains 584 annotated descriptions of charts and atlases. It bases on the geographical principle and contains subsidiary indexes. Editions represented in it are arranged as follows:

AFRICA IN GENERAL AND ITS LARGE REGIONS

ATLASES: In total, there are 35 atlases represented (included complex - 11, historical - eight, economic -7, various subject - solitary).

CHARTS: 118 editions: Major groups include generalized geographical (25), geological (21), political (19), and economic (14)

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

Altogether there are materials represented, which concern the territory of 50 countries. Among atlases, national atlases of the Ivory Cost, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, and Uganda are of particular interest. The largest number of maps and atlases represent Nigeria (44), South African Republic (30), Madagascar (24), Zaire (23), Ghana, Algeria (in eighteens), and Kenya (15).

Among charts, the maps prevail as follows: geological and geophysical (over 130), generalized geographical (67) and political ones (52). The rest of charts have very diverse subjects, i.e. agro-potential (Lesotho), preserves (Nigeria, Sierra Leone), medicinal (Nigeria), the maps showing the level of area exploration (Nigeria, Sudan), etc. Nevertheless, single editions represent these subject groups.

France (more than 100), Great Britain (90), and USA (20) are major publishers of maps included in the catalogue. One should mention South African Republic (43), Morocco, and Nigeria (more than 30) among the African states.

Considering foreign maps received since The Joint Map Catalogue being published, one should note the following.

In eighties-nineties of the past century due to certain economical difficulties that Russia faced, the libraries reduced resources allotted for acquisition of foreign editions, at the same time geological subjects of maps kept prevailing. Nevertheless, specialists received the national atlases of Namibia and Malawi as well as the complex Atlas of the Central African Republic.

In the last ten years, the acquisition activity has risen though with a certain change in structure of entries. Historical atlases and cultural history atlases have begun dominating. In the recent years, libraries began purchasing more tourist maps that is a result of the rapid growth of foreign tourisms in Russia.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Altogether specialists have revealed more than 1,500 maps and atlases regarding the territory of Africa published in Russia and abroad and received by libraries since 1950-s.

The period before nineties was characterized by a rather high interest in the African countries among Russian customers. These interests lead to the necessity to complete library stocks actively with relevant charts and atlases. As a result, the cartographic data regarding these countries and available to Russian readers were sufficiently comprehensive.

Nowadays, there is a need in up to date reference materials either regarding the continent as a whole, or its separate states. At the same time, acquisition of libraries with these materials is still insufficient. Russian libraries should intensity their work in this direction in particular.

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