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TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF RAILWAYS' DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF BULGARIA

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Abstract. Based on the Central State Archives (CSA) and Ruse's Archives' data, we analyze the state of railways transport between the 19th and 20th centuries' Principality of Bulgaria. Its underdevelopment and insufficiency are justified. It is established that its condition during the examined period hinders the country's economic development and negatively impacts on the development of sea and river transport. The different Bulgarian governments have established the latter and are trying to overcome the problem by renovating the locomotive fleet.

Keywords: history of Bulgarian transportation system; Bulgarian governments; railway transport

Introduction

The Bulgarian transportation system's history from the 19th century has been a research interest to both Bulgarian and foreign researchers (Roberts 2019, pp. 33 – 34). The main research interest is primarily on the construction of ports and railway stations, carried out at the beginning of the last century¹. The focus, however, is not so much on the facilities themselves but the monumental sculptures adorning them². Even in the period between the world wars, researchers inquire on...

1. Principality's transportation system's characteristics

Until now, the development of the Principality's transportation system for the researched period has been reconstructed mainly through the Central State Archive's data and partially through Russe and Plovdiv's State Archives (Yalin 2016). The stated one-sidedness of historical reconstruction has been noticed by modern researchers (Gogov et al. 2018). A significant and complex highlight of the problem was the discovery of Vidin's State Archive (VSA) and State Military Historical Archive (SMHA)³, which...

2. Development of railway transport through renovation of locomotive fleet and railway bridges' construction

In an article, Jivko Egov is the first to point out the importance of the information provided by the newly opened funds of VSA. He especially considers the documents highlighting the renewal stages of the locomotive fleet (Egov 2020, p. 19) and the

quality training in the Railway School that opened at the beginning of the last century⁴. The article pays special attention to the analysis of the curriculum⁵, which was first published by Yavor Popov (Popov 2017, p. 28)...

Conclusions and summary

As a result of the inspection of the newly opened funds in the VSA and SMHA, the visible modernization of the locomotive fleet was established. The latter allowed a new reading of railway's transport development in the Principality of Bulgaria from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

The most informative is the financial statements found in the funds of the State Military Historical Archive ...

NOTES

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3. LUDOGOROV, Rusen [Major]. 13.10.1914. *Order on the railway company no.37*. Order. In: Fund of railway company. F. 1077, op. 1, a.e. 13, pp. 12 – 13. At: SMHA, Veliko Turnovo. Digital surrogate available from: <https://www.military.com/2019/12/11/Echo=15764514>. [Viewed 2019-3-11].
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