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**JEAN-CLAUDE SCHMITT AS A RESEARCHER OF THE MEDIEVAL EUROPE:
THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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research

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF WORK

The relevance of the research. The development of historical science at the end of XX - the beginning of XXI c., evaluated as "historiographical revolution", made more active the search of methodology, opened new objects and fields of research. Zinaida Chekantseva determines the historical anthropology as "interdisciplinary research field, that study the man itself as a generic being, its history and culture". Historical anthropology became one of the most important "laboratories of innovation" that work out in response to the challenges of the historiographical revolution. Active supporter of this trend is the leading French historian and professor at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris, **Jean-Claude Schmitt** (born March 4, 1946). He led a Group of historical anthropology of the medieval West, which created by Jacques Le Goff in 1978, over 20 years.

The Russian scientific community is not sufficiently familiar with the Schmitts' works. His works are not fully translated into Russian, except for a few articles. Meanwhile, his works shows an example of the successful implementation of an interdisciplinary research program to study the medieval history.

In the light of the new intellectual history and in the conditions of necessity to fill a gap of historiography, the study of Schmitts' scientific work in the context of epistemological turning points in history is a topical problem of research.

The review of the used literature. There are no special studies dedicated to the Schmitts' works in Russian historiography. Jean-Claude Schmitt as representative of the French historical anthropology is linked with the historical movement of the "Annales", that's why the Russian literature devoted to "Annales" was studied substantially.

Historical anthropology has been the subject of reflection of the world historiography. The interest in the study of historical anthropology in Russia are reflected in the works of Yuriy Bessmertnyj, Aron Gurevich, Lorina Repina, Svetlana Kim, Michail Krom, Zinaida Chekantseva etc. For the first time the name of J.-Cl. Schmitt as young and talented student of J. Le Goff was used in the works of A. Gurevich.

The first Russian article about Jean-Claude Schmitt was published in 2013 by Oleg Voskoboinikov in the book "The students about the teachers". The author

creates expressive portrait of the teacher, but the scientific work of the French historian is outside the genre of this article.

Works of Jean-Claude Schmitt were in the focus of the researchers, who investigate some historiographical problems (the history of the individual, the development of the French medieval studies, the methodological problems of the study of the image). There is no holistic view of the scientific work of Schmitt in these studies. Nevertheless, these works are important, because they show the value of the works of Schmitt.

Also the reviews on Schmitts' works, published in the scientific journals, were used for this research. Such as «Archives des sciences sociales des religions», «Annales» etc. There is only one review of Schmitts' works in Russian historiography. The review was published in "Odyssey. Man in History" in 2004 by Oleg Voskoboynikov.

The interdisciplinarity of historical anthropology predestined to use literature on the theory and methodology of history, and studies describing the concepts and methods of the scientific disciplines that have influenced the development of a new direction.

Also the literature that characterizes the country and the time, in which Schmitt was born, studied, worked and continues to work was used.

The object of the study is a modern French medieval studies.

The subject of research is scientific work J.-Cl. Schmitt.

The purpose is to determine the contribution of Jean-Claude Schmitt in the study of history of the Western Middle Ages, in the context of "anthropological turn" in historical science.

In accordance with the purpose of the thesis **following tasks** were formulated:

- ◆ to consider the career of Jean-Claude Schmitt, to determine the socio-cultural conditions of formation of a historian, to describe his scientific and professional activities;
- ◆ to analyze the formation of the theoretical and methodological views of Jean-Claude Schmitt, identifying different forms of communicative practices which influenced on this process;
- ◆ to describe the theoretical views of the historian and the methods of his working with visual sources;

- ◆ to trace the activities of the Group of historical anthropology of the medieval West in the process of the development of historical anthropology in France and to determine the participation of Jean-Claude Schmitt in this group;
- ◆ to show the role and place of the Schmitts' works in the field of religious anthropology of Middle Ages;
- ◆ to characterize the views of the French historian on the problems of medieval visual culture;
- ◆ to examine the Schmitts' views on the issue of the individual and the time in the medieval history.

Sources:

- Schmitts' scientific texts. Particular attention was paid to the works¹ that are the result of long-term researches.
- Scientific works of predecessors and contemporaries of Jean-Claude Schmitt that had a considerable influence in shaping of the views of historian and his methodology.
- "Ego-documents" (memoirs, letters, interviews). The special value had Schmitts' letter to the author of the thesis.
- The materials of websites of institutions and research center, where Schmitt has studied and worked.
- "sources of source", medieval verbal and visual texts, which were used by Schmitt.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research is the systematic approach, involving the consideration of the object of study as a complex structural system of interaction of social and cultural environment, scientific knowledge, the process of creating scientific ideas by scientist, the definition of space scientist in the scientific community. The complex analysis of the system requires the application of scientific principles: the principle of historicism, objectivity and integrity.

¹ Schmitt J.-Cl. 1) Mort d'une hérésie. L'Église et les clercs face aux béguines et aux béghards du Rhin supérieur du XIV^e au XV^e siècle. Paris, La Haye, New York, 1978. 264 p.; 2) Le saint lévrier. Guinefort, guérisseur d'enfants depuis le XIII^e siècle. Paris, 1979. 278 p.; 3) La raison des gestes dans l'Occident médiéval. Paris, 1990. 432 p.; 4) Les revenants. Les vivants et les morts dans la société médiévale. Paris, 1994. 306 p.; 5) Le corps, les rites, les rêves, le temps. Essais d'anthropologie médiévale. Paris, 2001. 446 p.; 6) Le corps des images. Essais sur la culture visuelle au Moyen Âge. Paris, 2002. 409 p.; 7) La conversion d'Hermann le Juif. Autobiographie, histoire et fiction. Paris, 2003. 373 p.

The research also is based on the new intellectual history. The modern intellectual history, according to Repina, involves the study of the results of intellectual activity, the history of the activity, cultural environment, biographies of creators, their interpersonal communication and the history of dissemination and perception of new ideas and knowledge.

Some various scientific methods were also used.

The scientific novelty of the thesis is derived from its purpose and object of research.

Firstly, new historiography sources entered in scientific circulation in Russian historiography;

Secondly, for the first time in the Russian historiography was described the scientific biography of French medievalist - Jean-Claude Schmitt and his scientific works were analyzed;

Thirdly, the theoretical and methodological foundations of the French historical anthropology were examined through the prism of Schmitts' work;

Fourthly, for the first time in the Russian historiography the activity of the GAHOM was described.

Fifthly, for the first time the contribution of Jean-Claude Schmitt in the study of the history of Western European was appraised.

Structure of the thesis consists of an introduction, two chapters on the three sections, conclusion, a list of sources and literature, the attachment.

Chapter 1. JEAN-CLAUDE SCHMITT AND THE FRENCH HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1.1 *The scientific biography of Jean-Claude Schmitt* (the author shows the stages of the life and work of Jean-Claude Schmitt, identified socio-cultural conditions of formation of historian, described Schmitts' scientific activity).

1.2 *The theoretical and methodological views of historian* (deals with Schmitts' theoretical opinions, their formation and development in the modern situation)

1.3 *The group of historical anthropology of the medieval West and Jean-Claude Schmitt* (analysis the activity of the GAHOM in the light of the

development of a new trend in the French historiography and the role of the historian in the Group)

Chapter 2. MEDIEVAL PICTURE OF THE WORLD IN THE SCHMITTS' WORKS

2.1 *The problems of medieval anthropology of religion in the Schmitts' work* (take up questions of religious life of medieval man in research of Schmitt)

2.2 *Jean-Claude Schmitt as a researcher of visual culture of the Middle Ages* (shows research practice in the study of historian of the medieval visual culture).

2.3 *The problem of the individual and the problem of time: opinion of the medievalist* (shows the attitude of the French historian to the problem of person and to the problem of time).

MAIN CONCLUSIONS:

This study has allowed to consider the scientific biography of Jean-Claude Schmitt and his works in the context of the "anthropological turn" and interdisciplinarity in history and determine his contribution to the study of Medieval culture of Europe.

The formation of the theoretical and methodological views of Jean-Claude Schmitt had a significant impact socio-cultural and intellectual conditions of formation of a historian, which had made a topical the problems of man and his perception of the world, had focused on the dialogue of sciences as a necessary requirement for the development of history. A communicative practice of the historian in the form of seminars, academic mission, conferences and scientific discussions played the important role in shaping of the Schmitts' views. Also transtemporal and interpersonal communication, especially the relationship between Jean-Claude Schmitt and Jacques Le Goff, the interaction of student and teacher (tacit knowledge) made an influence.

The pivot of theoretical Schmitts' views is the conceptual fundamentals of the movement of "Annales". His view was changing with «critical/pragmatic turn» and continues to develop in the network of the fourth generation of the movement "Annales". Also Schmitt adopts the theory and methods of anthropology, sociology, folklore and other scientific disciplines and he is always opened to interdisciplinarity.

Group of historical anthropology of the medieval West is an active participant in the development of historical anthropology. The main activity of the Group is study of exempla and images, creating a database of sources, teaching and advanced training of young historians. Replacing J. Le Goff at the helm of the Group, Jean-Claude Schmitt, in crisis for historical anthropology time, continued the work of the teacher, stepped up research projects in the field of visual studies of the Middle Ages.

According to Schmitt, historical anthropology focused on the study of human, man in the society, in space and in time, a man in all his relationships, including individual and collective activities, representation, beliefs, emotions, and the relationship to the cosmos, to nature, to others.

Jean-Claude Schmitt as a researcher of the Medieval Europe drew attention on the study of new problems in historical science. His first works in the field of medieval anthropology of religion touch upon the issue of ritual, sacred, faith, holiness, etc. They caused a great resonance in French historiography.

Jean-Claude Schmitt, one of the first in the French medieval studies, used the works of medieval art as the sources of full value in historical research. Together with colleagues from the «Group image» Schmitt has contributed to the development of the method of analysis of medieval visual sources, based on formal analysis, methods of serial and relational iconography, semiotics, and comparative method. The system and structural-functional approaches are the most important for French historian in the study of medieval images. Jean-Claude Schmitt explored the different aspects of visual anthropology of the Middle Ages (the visual representation, image, dreams, gestures, etc.).

The main achievement of Schmitts' research is the definition of medieval culture imago as a system combining theological and anthropological understanding of image, symbolic understanding of the image and its material embodiment, mental images. The comprehension of the meaning of this culture requires, according to Jean-Claude Schmitt, the study of the entire field of imago in its internal relations and in its historical development.

Schmitt is an active participant in the development of historical anthropology and sees the future of this trend in intensification the interdisciplinarity, in the usage of the concept of rhythm, the implementation of the comparative method.

**Articles in journals recommended by Higher Attestation Commission in
Russia:**

1. Saetzyanova G.D. Jean-Claude Schmitt: an intellectual biography of historian // *Uchenye Zapiski Kazanskogo Universiteta* [Proceedings of Kazan University]. - Humanities Series. - 2014 - T. 156, Vol. 3. - P. 258-266.
2. Saetzyanova G.D. Medieval image in a research field of French historians XX-XXI centuries // *Teacher - XXI century*. - 2015. - № 2. - Part 2. - P. 296-304.
3. Saetzyanova G.D. Problems of religious history in the works of Jean-Claude Schmitt // *Vestnik Udmurtskogo Universiteta* [The Bulletin of Udmurt University]. - Ser.5. History and Philology. - 2015. - T. 25. - Vol. 4. - P.152-156.