

Al'bin M. Konechnyj's Studies on Pre-revolutionary Cultural History of St. Petersburg

Tokuaki Bannai

In the Soviet era, Russian popular fairs (narodnye gulyan'ia), amusements and leisure, which were one of the most basic aspects of pre-revolutionary Russian culture, had hardly been researched because of the many "taboos" in Soviet Humanities, although cultural models had indeed been offered by M. Bakhchin, Yu. Lotman, and so forth. Al'bin M. Konechnyj's studies in these fields, especially those on festivals in St. Petersburg which started in real earnest from the beginning of the 1980s, were exceptional, fundamental and epoch-making.

In this article it is explained that his academic standpoints have been based on discoveries and reconstruction of "missing link" texts, and that his works have succeeded to the tradition of pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary studies on St. Petersburg's cultural history (such as those of M. Pylyaev, P. Stolpyanskij, V. Kurbatov, A. Benua, N. Antsiferov, etc.), and also to academic interests in the structure / history of manners or way of life ("byt" in Russian). It is clear that Konechnyj's works and his viewpoints are of profound significance to the perspective of new Russian cultural history.