

Abstract

In my thesis I intend to analyse development of russian documentary photography in years 1839–1917, in other words in period since the birth of photography to the downfall of tsarism. We may divide documentary photography into few categories – photography of landscape, architecture, objects, events and people. This general division helps to outline the worldwide development, which will be introduction to the main theme of this thesis. I will analyse russian documentary photography in contexts of its birth, contributions of foreigners who worked in Russia, photographic societies, organization of technological, scientific and photographic exhibitions and national (Volga river) and imperialist (Central Asia) symbols of the Russian Empire. I will analyse works of photographers Maxim Petrovitch Dmitriev and Sergey Mikhaylovich Prokudin-Gorsky, who dedicated their lives to photograph Russia, in detail.