DECR secretary for interreligious relations takes part in the forum in Elista



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On October 6, an interregional reflection-action conference on ‘Nikolay Palmov: Personality and Time’ was opened in Elista. It was devote to the 150th birthday of Nikolay N. Palmov, an historian of the Church, the founder of Kalmyk studies, an educator and the founder of the museum and archive work in Kalmykia.

The conference was organized by the Palmov National Museum of the Republic of Kalmykia with the support of the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, the diocese of Kalmykia, the Kalmykia National Archives and the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Kalmykia Academic Center.

The conference was attended by historians, regional ethnographers, archaeologists, archivists and librarians, professors and students of educational institutions.

Archbishop Justinian of Elista and Kalmykia greeted the participants in the plenary session. He spoke about the topicality of Palmov's academic legacy and his unique contribution to Kalmyk historical studies. He also recalled that Nikolay Palmov, a son and grandson of Orthodox priests, rose as a scholar in the church milieu. He called upon the participants to resort to Nikolay Palmov's works more often as they have remained relevant today.

A message of greeting was sent to the attendees by the Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk. It was read out by Rev. Dimitry Safonov, executive secretary of the Interreligious Council in Russia, who came to Elista with a blessing of the DECR chairman.

Then Father Dimitry delivered a paper on 'Nikolay Palmov as a historian of the Church' with an analysis of Palmov's academic studies in church history, archaeology and heortology and historical liturgics.

On the side-lines of the conference, the DECR secretary for interreligious relations had a meeting with the senior administrator of the Central Khurul 'Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni' to inform him about the work of the Interreligious Council in Russia and the experience of Orthodox-Buddhist relations.

On the same day, the work of the conference was summed up at the RIA Kalmykia Press Center. In his remarks, Father Dimitry Safonov stressed that Nikolay Palmov as an Orthodox scholar, who devoted his last fifteen years to studies in the history of the Kalmyk people and culture, is a unique example of selfless service for both ecclesiastical scholarship and the Kalmyk people. He called upon scholars to joint their efforts for preparing and publishing a collection of Nikolay Palmov's ecclesiastical studies.

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