It is known that ethnic maps belong to the most ancient ones. So the first maps we know, for example, maps of Gekatey Miletsky (the V-th century B.C.) and Eratosphen (the III-rd century B.C.) may be called not only geographic but also ethnic ones, as main object of them were the peoples shown by the inscriptions in the areas of their settlement. All mentioned is especially characteristic of medieval maps. In these maps one can see not only the settlement of peoples, but they also include the data on their life, economy, etc.

The history of establishment and development of Russian ethnic cartography is of great interest. Unfortunately the earliest Russian maps (which undoubtedly included ethnographic information too) have not been kept. It is obvious that cartography in Russia has been well developed since ancient times, which can be explained by multinational structure of the country and great interest in life and economy of the peoples.

The book “Kniga Bolshomu chertezhu” of 1627 is well-known. In fact this book is a description of the greatest map of the Russian state. At the end of the XVI-th century (1598) Afanasie Mesentsev compiled Bolshoi chertezh of “all Moscow state with adjacent states”. In May 1626 there took place a great fire in Moscow, as a result of which many valuable documents and maps were burnt down. During the works on the restoration of the lost documents it became clear that Bolshoi Chertezh had suffered badly. In 1627 new Bolshoi Chertezh was compiled. The description was made along the main rivers (the Volga, the Kama, the Yaik and others). In “Kniga” there mentioned many objects and the distance between them. It also includes some interesting ethnographic data about the peoples of Russia.
For example, in the description of the South Urals territory one can find interesting ethnographic facts about the Bashkirs: “… from the mouth of the river Belaya and up, and along the river Ufa, on both banks up to the Urals and farther there live Bashkirs and their food are honey, meat, fish, but they have no tillage”. So, we can say that in the XVI-th – the first half of the XVII-th centuries in Russia there were created the draughts and maps, which included ethnic data too.

New stage in the development of Russian ethnic cartography began at the end of the XVII-th – the beginning of the XVIII-th centuries. It was connected with the annexation of new lands and moving of the Russian state to the east. In this period in 1667 there was compiled “Chertezh Sibiri” under the guidance of P.Godunov (Fig. 1). On this draught there was presented a large territory to the east of the Volga and the Pechora including Siberia and the Far East. As most Russian maps, it is oriented by the south, meridians and parallels are absent. The Urals mountain range was truly shown for the first time on the draught of Siberia. There was also shown the settlement of some peoples of the Urals and Siberia on this map.

The map of Tobol Metropolitan Kornili “Chertezh i skhodstvo nalichiya zemel vsei Sibiri, Tobolskogo goroda i vsekh raznykh gradov i zhilisch i stepi” compiled in 1673 became an achievement of the Russian ethnic cartography of the XVII-th century (Fig. 2). S.U.Remezov included this map in his atlas “Chertezhnaya kniga Sibiri” (1701). On the map of Kornili there were shown with descriptions and colors ethnoses and ethnic groups, settled in the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East. An important feature of this map is the presence of ethnic borders. Data on the peoples of the country were on the other maps of “Chertezhnaya kniga Sibiri” too. Interesting information on ethnography one can also find in the other works of S.U.Remezov: Khorograficheskaya chertezhnaya kniga” (1697-1711); “Sluzhebnaya chertezhnaya kniga” (1702-1730).

Much material for the characteristics of the ethnic structure was obtained as a result of the census of the male population, bound to pay taxes and to perform military duties (so-called “revisions”), which took place in Russia in the XVII-th – XIX-th centuries. There took place 10 revisions (the first – in 1719-22), and the last – in 1857-58). After first revision there appeared district maps of Peter’s the Great geodesists with the presentation of
ethnoses. In the second half of the XVIII–th century and especially in the first half of the XIX–th century there appeared more such maps.

In 1845 there was established Russian geographic society. In the department of physical geography, ethnography and statistics of the society there was organized the Commission for the creation of ethnic maps of Russia. The appearance of ethnic maps in Russia in the middle and in the second half of the XIX–th century was connected with the work of outstanding scientists and organizers of Russian geographic society. So, the initiation and the author of the first “Ethnographic map of European Russia” was an academician P.I.Keppen. The map was compiled on a scale of 75 versts in an inch (1: 3 150 000) on 4 sheets. In the map with various colors there were presented the areals of settlement of 38 peoples of the European part of Russia (territories, in which Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians prevailed, are not coloured). More than ten years R.I.Keppen collected ethnostatistic materials on the population of almost all governments of the European Russia. While making the map there were taken into account the answers to the ethnographic programme, which was spread in 1848 by the Russian geographic society, and also plans and maps of foreign settlements in Russia belonged to the Ministry of state property. In his map P.I.Keppen for the first time put forward an idea of ethnic territories.

A great achievement in the development of Russian ethnic cartography was a map of A.F.Rittikh “Ethnographic map of the European Russia”, published in 1875. It differs from the map of P.I.Keppen by a larger scale (60 versts in an inch – 1: 2 520 000). Besides, it includes larger territory – there are presented west governments and the Caucasus. Though in the map of A.F.Rittikh, as in the map of P.I.Keppen there are presented the ethnoses prevailed in a territory it is better because it’s more detailed and there are presented more ethnoses. On the whole there are shown 46 peoples, each of them with its own colour. While making the map A.F.Rittikh used the results of the last, 10-th revision of 1858, and the lists of settlements of Russian empire collected by the Ministry of interior affairs. For the first time in ethnic cartography peoples were grouped in legends according to the linguistic principle, and ethnoses with related languages, are shown with the same colour.
Other ethnic maps were published in the XIX-th century, there were compiled ethnic maps of separate peoples and territories. We can find some ethnographic data in other maps (maps of economic branches, industry, etc.). We see that ethnic cartography presented an important part of Russian cartography.

Fig. 1. The map of P. Godunov
Fig. 2. The map of Tobol Metropolitan Kornili