

ABSTRACTS

I. S. Dmitriev. And still they write... (The trial of Galileo as interpreted by contemporary Russian intellectuals). This essay offers a critical review of S. V. Devyatova and V. I. Kuptsov's 2011 paper, «The fate of Nicolaus Copernicus», and of several other recent Russian works on Galileo's trial. It points out numerous factual errors and discusses interpretations of the nature and causes of the 1633 inquisition against Galileo. Contrary to the assertions of Devyatova and Kuptsov, it can be demonstrated that Urban VIII put Galileo on trial not for the defense of Copernican theory as such, but because of the latter's conviction that science can reveal true causal relations in nature, which put into question God's omnipotence.

D. L. Saprykin. The history of engineering education in Russia, Europe, and the United States: Institutional developments and comparative quantitative analysis. The article provides an overview of the three centuries of institutional evolution of engineering education in Russia in comparison with European and global developments. It presents the results of a system analysis of the dimensions, structure, and conceptual programs of engineers' professional training. Detailed quantitative assessments of key indicators in the growth of engineering education in Russia are compared to those of the United States, Germany, France, England, Italy, and Sweden for the period from 1800 to 1930.

V. S. Sobolev. «To assist scientific investigations...» (From the history of the Moscow Society for the Study and Advancement of the History of Science). The Moscow Society for the Study and Advancement of the History of Science was founded in May 1920 on the initiative of a group of leading Moscow scientists, including physicist P. P. Lazarev, philologist N. I. Novosadsky, astronomer V. V. Stratonov, chemist A. E. Chichibabin, philosopher G. G. Shpet, and others. This article uses archival documents recently found in the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences to analyze this important episode in the institutionalization of the history of science in our country. Some of the society's founders subsequently participated in the Academy's Commission on the History of Knowledge.

G. P. Matvievskaia. P. I. Rychkov and his works (on the 300th anniversary of his birth). This essay surveys the life and work of the distinguished eighteenth-century scientist P. I. Rychkov, whose research focused mainly on the exploration and scientific investigation of the Orenburg region. His activities received high evaluations from V. N. Tatishchev, M. V. Lomonosov, and G. F. Miller, and in 1759 the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences elected him its first ever Corresponding Member. Rychkov's essays on «Orenburg History» and «The Topography of the Orenburg Province» serve as major sources on the history of the Ural area and on Russia's relationship with Kazakhstan and Central Asia during the eighteenth century. The author traces the history of the publication of these works and some other local Orenburg editions.

Yu. V. Stepanchuk. Biographical materials on V. P. Zenkovich (1920s through the 1940s). V. P. Zenkovich—prominent scientist and geomorphologist, doctor of

geographical sciences, and laureate of the Lenin and State Prizes—participated in numerous expeditions that collected unique data on the morphology and dynamics of the sea coast of the Soviet Union. After his death, Zenkovich's personal papers and documents from his expeditions were deposited in the archives of the Museum of the World Ocean in Kaliningrad. The present article provides biographical information about Zenkovich and analyzes his contributions to science.

G. G. Grigorian. The collection of the Polytechnic Museum as a material chronicle of Russian achievements in technology and techno-science. The article describes the history of the collection of the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow and offers a periodization based on major shifts in the concept of the museum since the time of its founding. The museum's thematic structure at various stages of its development reflected dramatic changes in the country's social life. The author provides some specific examples of characteristic material collections, explains their significance for the history of science and technology and provides a bibliography of important works that analyze their cultural value.

English translation by J. Wang