ABSTRACTS

- Kulakova I. P. Minerva's Temple (Moscow and Moscow University in the 18th Century). In this account of its early history, Moscow University is viewed not so much as an institution as a cultural-historical organism closely linked to the life of the city. The "University space" is reconstructed as a certain cultural realm in which the life of the university people was going on. Its basic component was the architectural one. Such a view helps see the shaping of a European-type institution within the domain of traditional Russian culure, the spatial forms into which the university life was being moulded, and the channels through which the interaction was effected between science, education, and society.
- Krivonosov Iu. I. Philosophical Discussion of 1947: Prologue to the Ideological Pogrom of Soviet Science. The article analyzes the previously unavailable archival documents of the supreme CPSU bodies, bearing on the social aspects of the history of Soviet science and the characteristic traits of interaction between power and science in the USSR of the late 1940s.
- Sonin A. S. An Unfulfilled Assignment. The article describes the unsuccessful attempt of "assigning" the Russian scientist B. Chicherin the founder of the modern theory of the structure of atom (against E. Rutherford), viewing it in the context of the Soviet postwar campaign for the priority of the national science.
- Gvozdetskii V. L. Sadi Carnot and Heat Energy Production. The article discusses the emergence of heat energetiss and Carno's role in this process, paying particular attention to the development of the heat-engine theory and heat-energy plants. Analyzing the interactions between fundamental thermodynamical knowledge, applied engineering disciplines, and the practice of energy production, it outlines the structure and levels of the relevant sciences.
- Grigorian A. T., Kirsanov V. S. To the 150th Anniversary of N. E. Zhukovskii. The article presents a vivid portrait of N. E. Zhukovskii, one of the most remarkable Russian mathematicians, a founder of modern aerodynamics.
- Vizgin VI. P. Zhukovskii and the Theory of Relativity. The article discusses N. E. Zhukovskii's opinion on the theory of relativity, which was highly critical, as is shown by the analysis of his 1918 speech "Old mechanics in the new physics." This criticism was rooted in his belief in the permanence of classical mechanics and the "mechanistic revenge" in "new physics."
- Tutubalin V. N., Barabasheva Iu. M., Grigorian A. A, Deviatkova G. N., Uger E. G. Differential Equations in Ecology: An Historical-Methodological Account. The article discusses mathematical models of dynamics of ecological communities, developed in the 1930s, juxtaposing them with the traditional type of mathematical modelling in physics.