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The Pedagogical Periodical Press in the Kazan Educational District, the Russian Empire (1865–1917)

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Abstract

This study explored the pedagogical periodical press in the prerevolutionary Kazan Educational District, the Russian Empire.

The study relied on a set of relevant reference, encyclopedic, and academic sources. In terms of methodology, use was made of content analysis and the historical-chronological method.

The study's findings revealed that the pedagogical periodical press in the Kazan Educational District emerged in 1865. Before the downfall of the Russian Empire in 1917, the region published 10 academic journals. Most of these periodicals were published in Kazan – 6 items (inclusive of a periodical originally created in Simbirsk, which eventually was moved to Kazan). Two of the 10 journals were produced in Samara, 1 in Astrakhan, and 1 in Saratov. The majority of the journals were connected to the Ministry of Public Education. As a result, these periodicals remained in existence up to 1916–1917. There were exceptional cases, which included *Zhizn i Shkola*, a politicized pedagogical periodical that eventually was closed down by the government, and *Sbornik Semeyno-Pedagogicheskogo Kruzhka v Gorode Kazani*, a journal created on the initiative of a small group of people.

Keywords: periodical press, Kazan Educational District, pedagogical journals, Russian Empire, period 1865–1917.

1. Introduction

The Kazan Educational District was established on January 24, 1802, by a decree from Emperor Alexander I. By the end of the 19th century, the district included Vyatka, Kazan, Samara, Saratov, Simbirsk, and Astrakhan Governorates. The most influential educational institution in the district was Kazan Imperial University (founded on November 5, 1804). This enabled Kazan to play

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a key role in organizing science throughout the district. The organization of the pedagogical periodical press was no exception.

2. Materials and methods

The study relied on a set of relevant reference, encyclopedic, and academic sources. In terms of methodology, use was made of content analysis and the historical-chronological method.

3. Discussion

The existing historiography on the subject is focused on (1) regional pedagogy and (2) the periodical press in the Russian Empire. The first group of works includes E.A. Abdrashitova's 'The Role and Significance of the Pedagogical Legacy of A.I. Anastasiyev' (Abdrashitova, 2008). Another work in this group, 'A.I. Anastasiyev: A Prominent Figure in Russian Regional Education' by V.B. Pomelov, likewise, explores the pedagogical legacy of this prominent pedagogue, considered a promoter of science by the author (Pomelov, 2019). An attempt to investigate the development of pedagogical science, including in the prerevolutionary period, was undertaken by I.E. Yarmakeyev in 'The Development of Pedagogical Science: Traditions and Prospects' (Yarmakeev, 2006), which examines theories by various prerevolutionary pedagogues related to public education.

The second group, most notably, includes 'The Russian Periodical Press (1702–1894)' (Russkaya periodicheskaya..., 1959), a reference work released under the editorship of A.G. Dement'yev and his colleagues, which provides a wealth of information about periodicals published in the Russian Empire. A similar principle underpins N.A. Ablov's 'The Pedagogical Periodical Press (1803–1916): A Bibliographic Survey' (Ablov, 1937). Of particular note are 'The Tatar Pedagogical Periodical Press During World War I' by Z.Z. Gilazev and R.A. Aynutdinov (Gilazev, Ainutdinov, 2017) and 'The Journal *Vestnik Obrazovaniya i Vospitaniya* on Issues of Teaching Language Arts (Kazan, 1914–1916)' by Yu.V. Lazarev (Lazarev, 2010). The pedagogical periodical press in the Caucasus was explored by A.M. Mamadaliev and his colleagues (Mamadaliev et al., 2022).

4. Results

The Kazan Educational District comprised six governorates, with academic pedagogical life therein chiefly developing in the gubernia capitals Kazan, Astrakhan, Samara, Saratov, and Simbirsk (i.e., all of the capitals except for Vyatka). Overall, in 1865–1917 the district published 10 pedagogical journals (6 in Kazan (inclusive of a journal that initially was published in Simbirsk before it was moved to Kazan), 2 in Samara, 1 in Astrakhan, and 1 in Saratov).

Quite naturally, the district's first academic pedagogical journal, *Tsirkulyar po Kazanskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu* (Russian: 'Bulletin of the Kazan Educational District') (Figure 1), emerged in Kazan. It happened in 1865, i.e. when both Kazan University and the educational district were older than 60 years. The periodical was published from 1865 to 1916. From 1865 to 1869, the journal had a publication frequency of two times per month. Beginning in 1869, it became a monthly (it would stay that way for the rest of its existence). Arguably, the fact that it was the official organ of the Kazan Educational District is what ensured permanence in the publication of this journal. In terms of subject matter, in addition to carrying official information, the journal also had an unofficial pedagogical section. This section contained articles on teaching methodologies in the secondary school context, teaching-aid catalogues, and lists of books recommended for reading (Russkaya periodicheskaya..., 1959: 469). The periodical's first editor was A.N. Troitsky, the district's Chief Clerk.

The district's second pedagogical journal, *Gorodskoy i Selsky Uchitel* (Russian: 'Urban and Rural Teacher') (Figure 2), emerged in Simbirsk, the capital of Simbirsk Governorate. It was published from 1894 to 1899. It had a publication frequency of six to eight issues per year. Of note is the fact that in 1894–1896 the journal was published in Simbirsk, and in 1897–1899 in Kazan (Yarmakeev, 2006: 153).



Fig. 1. Title page of the journal Tsirkulyar po Kazanskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu



Fig. 2. Cover of the journal Gorodskoy i Selsky Uchitel

The journal was launched by pedagogue A.I. Anastasiyev (Pomelov, 2019: 156). It carried government ordinances, articles on education in urban and rural schools, as well as pedagogical news items, criticisms, and bibliographies. The journal had a special focus on local pedagogical life. Following the appointment of A.I. Anastasiyev in 1897 to the position of Director of Kazan Teacher's Institute, the publication of the journal was moved from Simbirsk to Kazan (Abdrashitova, 2008: 108).

The third journal, *Trudy i Protokoly Pedagogicheskogo Obshchestva* (Russian: 'Works and Proceedings of the Pedagogical Society'), was launched in Kazan by the Pedagogical Society, an organization within Kazan Imperial University. It was published once and twice per year. It had 1 issue published in 1900, 1 issue in 1902, 2 issues in 1903, 1 issue in 1904, 2 issues in 1905, and 2 issues in 1906. Its last issue was published in 1916. In addition to the society's proceedings, the journal also carried pedagogical reports and articles on the history of public education. Its contributors included some of the time's prominent pedagogues, namely V.N. Aristov, Ye.F. Budde, A.V. Vasil'yev, F.G. Mishchenko, and P.M. Kulsky (Ablov, 1937: 59-60).

The district's fourth journal, *Sbornik Semeyno-Pedagogicheskogo Kruzhka v Gorode Kazani* (Russian: 'Digest of the Pedagogical Family Club in the City of Kazan'), was produced between 1901 and 1902. It had a publication frequency of four times per year. Its editor was F.G. Mishchenko, Chairman of the Board of the Pedagogical Family Club, and its publisher was the club's Board. The journal published a number of pedagogical articles, some of which were concerned with kindergartens and some examined the work of various prominent pedagogues (e.g., K.D. Ushinsky).

The district's fifth journal was *Nachalnoye Obucheniye* (Russian: 'Primary Education'). This pedagogical journal was produced under the supervision of the Kazan Educational District as a supplement to *Tsirkulyar po Kazanskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu*. It was published in Kazan from 1901 to 1917. A narrowly specialized journal, it carried articles on primary education and on out-of-school education and local pedagogical news items. Its contributors included A.I. Anastasiyev, A.A. Krasnovsky, and N.A. Bobrovnikov. The journal's editor was A.I. Anastasiyev, who previously had published the journal *Gorodskoy i Selsky Uchitel*.

A.I. Anastasiyev, who played a significant role in the development of pedagogy in the Kazan Educational District, deserves a few words. He was born on November 30, 1852, in the village of Khodary in Simbirsk Governorate. He went to Alatyr Ecclesiastical School, and later to Simbirsk Ecclesiastical Seminary. Subsequently, he attended the Faculty of History and Philology at Kazan University. His service as a teacher began at Poretskaya Teacher's Seminary. He later taught Russian at Kazan Teacher's Institute. Beginning in 1885, he worked in administrative roles – first as Inspector of Public Schools in Simbirsk Governorate. He was appointed Director of Kazan Teacher's Institute in 1896. In 1903, he became Director of Primary Schools in Vyatka Governorate (Pomelov, 2019: 153).

The district's sixth journal, *Zhizn i Shkola* (Russian: 'Life and School'), emerged during the First Russian Revolution. It was published in Saratov between 1906 and 1907. It was a weekly, and its editor was A.R. Morrison. The journal was founded by a group of pedagogues, who were social democrats promoting antigovernment ideas (e.g., "The autonomous school with free science will give society the people it needs to fight the old system" (Ablov, 1937: 67)). Quite naturally, the journal was eventually closed down on January 5, 1908.

The district's seventh journal, *Izvestiya Samarskogo Obshchestva Narodnykh Universitetov* (Russian: 'Bulletin of the Samara Society of Folk High Schools'), was published in Samara from 1910 to 1916. In 1910, the journal had 20 issues published. Subsequently, it was published on and off. Its Issues 1 through 9 were released in 1910 under the editorship of N.A. Shishkov. Starting with its 10th issue, the journal's editor was P.A. Preobrazhensky. The periodical was mainly concerned with the activity of folk high schools. Its contributors included prominent scholars such as A.A. Borovoy, Ye.A. Jelačić, N.I. Kareev, and M.M. Rubinstein.

The district's eighth journal, *Semeynoye Vospitaniye* (Russian: 'Family Education'), emerged in Astrakhan. This periodical, focused on rational education, was published from 1911 to 1914. Its editor was A.A. Dernova-Yermolenko. The journal had a publication frequency of 10 issues per year. However, it had just two issues published in 1914. The journal's editorial board subsumed under the term 'family education' both preschool education and school education. The periodical carried pedagogical articles, reports describing the activity of various pedagogical societies, and

pedagogical news items. It also had a section on books and journals. The journal devoted special attention to issues related to protecting children and caring for orphans.

The district's ninth journal, *Byulleten Spravochnogo Byuro Otdela Narodnogo Obrazovaniya Samarskoy Gubernskoy Zemskoy Upravy* (Russian: 'Bulletin of the Information Office of the Public Education Department of the Samara Gubernia Zemstvo Council'), emerged in Samara. It was published between 1914 and 1915. Overall, the journal had seven issues published. Compiled by P. Kazantsev at the instance of the council, the journal carried extensive material on the development and organization of out-of-school education in the governorate (e.g., weekend schools, public readings, and public reading rooms) and reviews of the state of the public education system. Information on public education was normally accompanied by introductory pedagogical articles (Ablov, 1937: 100).

Lastly, the district's 10th journal, *Vestnik Obrazovaniya i Vospitaniya* (Russian: 'Bulletin of Education and Upbringing') emerged in 1914 in Kazan. The editor of this academic pedagogical journal, published under the supervision of administration of the Kazan Educational District, was V.S. Bogoyavlensky, then District Inspector of the Kazan Educational District. The journal was a monthly. Produced until 1916, it had 36 issues published (Lazarev, 2010). It carried articles of a general academic nature, works on pedagogy, reviews of journals, school life news items, and news stories about foreign school life. Most of the journal's content was written by Kazan University and Kazan Ecclesiastical Academy instructors. Each issue of the journal had a table of contents. The periodical had a special focus on issues related to family, moral, physical, religious, and school education.

5. Conclusion

The pedagogical periodical press in the Kazan Educational District emerged in 1865. Before the downfall of the Russian Empire in 1917, the region published 10 academic journals. Most of these periodicals were published in Kazan – 6 items (inclusive of a periodical originally created in Simbirsk, which eventually was moved to Kazan). Two of the 10 journals were produced in Samara, 1 in Astrakhan, and 1 in Saratov. The majority of the journals were connected to the Ministry of Public Education. As a result, these periodicals remained in existence up to 1916–1917. There were exceptional cases, which included *Zhizn i Shkola*, a politicized pedagogical periodical that eventually was closed down by the government, and *Sbornik Semeyno-Pedagogicheskogo Kruzhka v Gorode Kazani*, a journal created on the initiative of a small group of people.

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