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Pedagogical Journals Produced by Educational Institutions in the Russian Empire in the Period 1873–1917

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Abstract

This work examines a set of pedagogical journals published by educational institutions in the Russian Empire in the period 1873–1917.

In terms of the study's sources, use was made of some of the diverse reference literature on the Russian academic periodical press of the imperial period, including the fundamental work by A.V. Mezier, 'A Dictionary Index of Bibliology', L.N. Belyayeva's 'A Bibliography of Periodicals in Russia. 1901–1916', and N.N. Ablov's 'The Pedagogical Periodical Press (1803–1916)'.

The study's findings revealed that the production of academic pedagogical journals by educational institutions was something quite rare in the Russian Empire. Normally, such journals were produced through the efforts of small action groups and academic clubs functioning at educational institutions. In the period from 1873 to 1917, there were at least 14 pedagogical journals published at educational institutions in Russia (7 in Saint Petersburg, 2 in Moscow, 2 in Orenburg, 1 in Nizhny Novgorod, 1 in Chita, and 1 in Kiev). Most of those journals did not last long, with only two of them, *Zapiski Matematicheskogo Kruzhka Pri Orenburgskom Real'nom Uchilishche* and *Vestnik Psikhologii, Kriminal'noy Antropologii i Pedologii*, making it to 5 years. The main reasons behind the closure of the journals were either World War I or the revolutionary events.

Keywords: pedagogical journal, educational institution, Russian Empire, period 1873–1917.

1. Introduction

Pedagogical journals produced by primary, secondary, and higher educational institutions in imperial Russia were a fairly unique phenomenon in Russian academic life. As a reminder, in the 19th century it would take a group of like-minded individuals (e.g., academic societies and

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benefactors) to create an academic pedagogical journal with no government funding. Therefore, such journals normally emerged in the capitals – as major centers of academic life. Starting in the second half of the 19th century, pedagogical journals were also produced at educational institutions in the Russian Empire, which is indication that certain institutions of learning across the country now had teams of like-minded scholars of their own. The present work explores the experience of publishing pedagogical journals at educational institutions in the Russian Empire in the period 1873–1917.

2. Materials and methods

In terms of the study's sources, use was made of some of the diverse reference literature on the Russian academic periodical press of the imperial period, including the fundamental work by A.V. Mezier, 'A Dictionary Index of Bibliology' (Mezier, 1931), L.N. Belyayeva's 'A Bibliography of Periodicals in Russia. 1901–1916' (Belyayeva, 1958), and N.N. Ablov's 'The Pedagogical Periodical Press (1803–1916)' (Ablov, 1937).

In terms of methodology, use was made of the chronological, statistical, and content-analysis methods. The careful selection and classification of relevant materials helped obtain a comprehensive picture of the production of academic pedagogical journals at educational institutions in the Russian Empire in the period 1873–1917.

3. Discussion

The historiography on this subject is fairly thin. That figures, as there were just a handful of academic journals of this kind, 14 to be exact, most of which lasted very short periods. The subject's historiography may be divided into two groups: 1) publications devoted to pedagogical periodicals produced by secondary and higher educational institutions in Russia and their editors; 2) publications devoted to a different segment of the prerevolutionary pedagogical periodical press.

The first group includes A.V. Ageyeva's 'Organization of the Leisure of Children and Adolescents in Cadet Corps Across the Russian Empire in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries (Based on the Materials From the Journal *Voyennaya Byl'*)' (Ageyeva, 2015), V.V. Astaf'yev's 'Shelter of Doctor Malyarevsky' (Astaf'ev, 2006), N.M. Novak's 'The Journal *Zapiski Matematicheskogo Krushka Pri Orenburgskom Real'nom Uchilishche* as a Reflection of the Level of Mathematical Education in Orenburg Governorate in the Early 20th Century' (Novak, 2011), and I.S. Sidorchuk and Ye.A. Dolgova's 'Facts From the History of One Initiative: A Tribute to the 110th Anniversary of the Launch of *Vestnik Psikhologii, Kriminal'noy Antropologii i Gipnotizma*' (Sidorchuk, Dolgova, 2014). Of note are also the following works devoted to the life and work of D.D. Semenov, the editor of *Pedagogicheskiy Yezhegodnik Kubanskoy Uchitel'skoy Seminarii*: V.V. Makayev's 'The Life and Pedagogical Work of D.D. Semenov' (Makayev, 1956), N.V. Zikeyev's 'D.D. Semenov: Russian Methodologist-Geographer' (Zikeev, 1949), U.P. Oboladze's 'New Facts About the Pedagogical Work of D.D. Semenov in Georgia' (Оболадзе, 1955), and S.V. Izvekova and Yu.V. Kholodkova's 'D.D. Semenov: Russian Pedagogue of the Second Half of the 19th Century' (Izvekova, Kholodkova, 2015).

The second group includes a set of works produced with participation from the author of the present article – more specifically, those focused on the pedagogical periodical presses in the Kiev, Kharkov, and Caucasus Educational Districts (Mamadaliyev et al., 2023a; Mamadaliyev et al., 2023b; Mamadaliyev et al., 2022) and the one covering the pedagogical journals produced by the Russian Empire's highest ecclesiastical body between the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Mamadaliyev et al., 2022a).

The present study aimed to fill a research gap in the literature relating to the periodical presses of secondary and higher educational institutions in the Russian Empire.

4. Results

The first pedagogical periodical produced by an educational institution in the Russian Empire was *Pedagogicheskiy Yezhegodnik Kubanskoy Uchitel'skoy Seminarii* (Russian: "Pedagogical Yearly of Kuban Teacher's Seminary"), founded in 1873 and launched in 1874. Its editor was D.D. Semenov, the Seminary's director, and it was published in Saint Petersburg. The yearly was produced by the Kuban Pedagogical Club, headed by D.D. Semenov (Figure 1). The periodical was intended to facilitate information exchange with other teacher's seminaries with a view to improving the quality of education in those educational institutions. It published

materials on organizing the educational process and extracurricular work, and also detailed the scholarly-pedagogical work done by the seminary's instructors over a 3-year period (Izvekova, Kholodkova, 2015: 73). Its first issue carried a number of interesting articles, including D.D. Semenov's 'Teacher's Seminaries in Russia'. Despite the hopes for a long life for it, the production of *Pedagogicheskiy Yezhegodnik Kubanskoy Uchitel'skoy Seminarii* was eventually discontinued, with its first issue being its last.



Fig. 1. Dmitry Dmitriyevich Semenov (1835–1902)

A few words as to the editor of the first-ever publication produced by an educational institution in the Russian Empire. Dmitry Dmitriyevich Semenov was born on January 3, 1835, in Vitebsk Governorate into the family of a teacher of Russian. In 1852, D.D. Semenov graduated from Vitebsk Gymnasium, and in 1859 – from the Saint Petersburg Teacher's Courses. He went on to become a geography teacher. In the 1860s, he taught at a number of gymnasiums. In 1870, he headed up Kuban Teacher's Seminary. In 1878, D.D. Semenov assumed the office of Director of Transcaucasian (Gori) Teacher's Seminary (Oboladze, 1955: 82-86). In 1888–1891, he was the editor of the journal *Detskoye Chteniye*. One of his top works is the geography reader 'Native Land Studies', published in six volumes in the period 1864–1867, which was a mandatory part of the gymnasial curriculum up until 1917 (Zikeev, 1949: 38). D.D. Semenov passed away on March 21, 1902, in Moscow.

The second periodical, *Mediko-Pedagogicheskiy Vestnik* ("Medical-Pedagogical Bulletin"), emerged as early as 1885. A generally accessible academic-literary journal, it, likewise, was published in Saint Petersburg. It focused on issues relating to the education of feeble-minded and defective children. Its editor was physician M.V. Malyarevsky (Astaf'ev, 2006: 126). The journal was published monthly over a 3-year period. The key areas covered in the journal included the following: general and medical issues; hygiene in the family and the school; pedagogical anthropology; observation of phenomena in social life; school organization and management; theory of pedagogy. Famous scholars who contributed to the journal included V.M. Bekhterev, N.P. Wagner, A.Ya. Heard, and M.M. Manasseina.

The third publication, *Malen'kiy Zhurnal* ("Little Journal"), was a literary, pedagogical, and popular science journal. It was published at Nikolayev Cadet Corps (Saint Petersburg). Its publisher and editor was I.V. Kaznitseyev. The journal was published in the period 1906–1908 (Ageeva, 2015: 38) at a frequency of nine issues per year. It was published with participation from cadets at Nikolayev Cadet Corps, yunkers, officers (former Corps students), and the Corps's pedagogical staff. The journal had the following sections: 1) General Section (mainly fiction); 2) Pedagogy; 3) Study Guides and Learning Resources.

The fourth periodical, *Vestnik Vysshikh Zhenskikh Yuridicheskikh Kursov v Moskve* ("Bulletin of the Higher Women's Legal Courses in Moscow"), was published by S.K. Golitsyna and

V.A. Poltoratskaya. Its editors were Privat Docent V.A. Krasnokutsky and Yu.I. Eichenwald. Published in Moscow in 1907–1908, it came out twice a month. The journal carried a variety of materials – from lecture notes to quizzes and from specialized bibliographies to practical class plans. It also carried materials on the history of the Courses. In 1908, one of the publishers, S.K. Golitsyna, gave up her founding rights to the Courses, and the production of *Vestnik Vysshikh Zhenskikh Yuridicheskikh Kursov v Moskve* was consequently discontinued (Belyaeva, 1958).

In 1907, *Yzhegodnik Orenburgskogo Real'nogo Uchilishcha* (“Yearly of Orenburg Real School”) was launched in Orenburg. The periodical lasted 3 years and as many issues (Ablov, 1937: 71).

In 1908, *Yezhegodnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Vos'miklassnogo Kommercheskogo Uchilishcha v Lesnom* (“Yearly of Saint Petersburg Eight-Grade Commercial School in Lesnoye”) was launched in Saint Petersburg. Its editorial team consisted of B.Ye. Raykov, N.M. Sokolov, and the School’s director. The periodical was published in 1908, 1910, and 1911. The editors argued in its first issue that Russia had very few general pedagogical journals at the time and that those that were around lacked two-way communication with schools that employed new teaching methods. These ideas formed the actual basis for the production of this periodical, which had two major sections: 1) General Pedagogical Section; 2) Materials Dealing with the Commercial School in Lesnoye. The first issue came out in the form of a general pedagogical journal, with much of its content contributed by the School’s instructors (Ezhegodnik..., 1908: 2). The second issue focused on the organization of school trips, and its third – on the use of visual aids in class. Participation from well-known pedagogues earned this periodical a prominent place in the pedagogical literature.

In 1908, the seventh periodical, *Zapiski Matematicheskogo Kruzhka Pri Orenburgskom Real'nom Uchilishche* (“Papers of the Mathematics Club at Orenburg Real School”), was launched in Orenburg. The journal was published from 1908 to 1914. A total of 10 issues were produced. The periodical sought to bring instructors and students together in the area of educational and academic work. Apart from articles on mathematics-related issues, it also carried general pedagogical publications, like those relating to school trips (Novak, 2011: 95-101).

The eighth periodical, *Yezhegodnik Nizhegorodskogo Kommercheskogo Uchilishcha* (“Yearly of Nizhny Novgorod Commercial School”), was launched in 1910. It was published in the period from 1910 to 1915 in Nizhny Novgorod. In that period, six issues of this periodical were produced. It published information about educational work in the School and carried news items relating to student life. It also published certain official materials – such, for instance, as teacher absentee records. In addition, it carried pedagogical articles by members of the School’s teaching staff, which included publications on children’s reading. It also had a special section, ‘Educational Cinema’, which covered the work of the Hygiene, Nurturing, and Education Unit within the Nizhny Novgorod Department of Health (lectures, readings, and chats involving watching films) (Ablov, 1937: 83).

The ninth periodical was *Listok Studentov Psikhoneurologov* (“Psychoneurology Student Sheet”), a newspaper for students at the Institute of Psychoneurology. It was published in Saint Petersburg starting in October 1911. Its editors-in-chief in the 1911–1912 and 1912–1913 school years were M. Kostin and G. Malitsky, respectively. The newspaper was a mouthpiece for students and was intended to keep one informed about various aspects of life at the Institute (Mez'er, 1931: 758). It carried materials relating to curriculum design, academic student clubs, and much more.

The 10th periodical, *Vestnik Psikhologii, Kriminal'noy Antropologii i Pedologii* (“Bulletin of Psychology, Criminal Anthropology, and Paedology”), likewise, emerged at the above-mentioned school – the Institute of Psychoneurology in Saint Petersburg (Figure 2). The journal was published under the editorship of V.M. Bekhterev in 1911–1917 at a frequency of five issues per year. It focused on issues relating to psychology, including that of childhood. It devoted some attention to pedagogical psychology and issues relating to pedagogy (Sidorchuk, Dolgova, 2014: 128-137). Prominent scholars who contributed to the journal included A.F. Lazursky, V.A. Wagner, S.K. Gogel, and N.I. Kareyev.

The 11th periodical, *Izvestiya Pedagogicheskogo Instituta Imeni P.G. Shelaputina* (“Bulletin of P.G. Shelaputin Pedagogical Institute”), was launched in 1912. The journal was published in Moscow under the editorship of A.N. Yasinsky, the Institute’s director. A total of six issues were published from 1912 to 1916. Apart from official materials, the journal also published articles relating to pedagogy and publications on general issues relating to public education (Belyaeva, 1958). The Institute’s pedagogues who contributed to the journal included A.V. Bakushinsky, V. Lysogorsky, and M. Fenomenov.

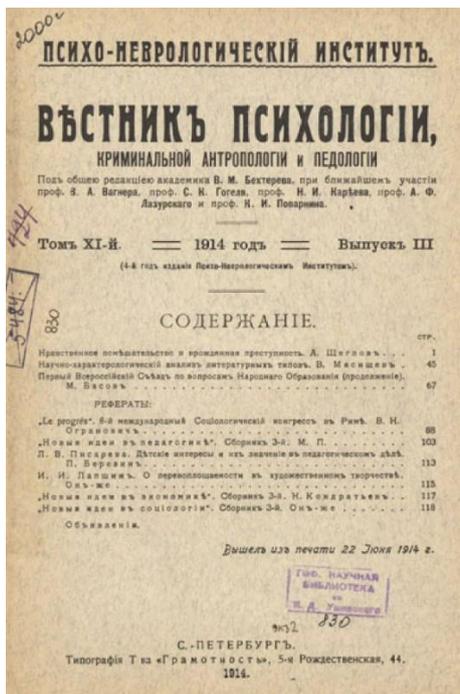


Fig. 2. Cover page of the journal *Vestnik Psikhologii, Kriminal'noy Antropologii i Pedologii*

The next periodical, *Kommercheskaya Shkola i Zhizn'* ("Commercial School and Life") (Figure 3), emerged in 1913 in Saint Petersburg. It focused on issues relating to commercial education and socio-economic life, with an accounting slant (Bol'shoi bukhgalterskii..., 1999). The journal was produced by the Courses of M.V. Pobedinsky. Its editor was M.V. Bernatsky. It ran until 1917 and had a frequency of four issues per year.

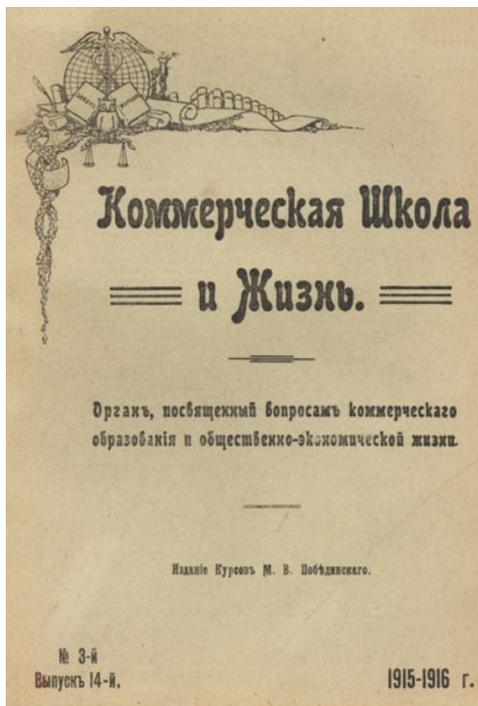


Fig. 3. Cover of the journal *Kommercheskaya Shkola i Zhizn'*

In 1914, the next periodical, *Letopis' Vechernikh Zhenskikh Kursov* ("Chronicle of the Evening Women's Courses"), was launched in Kiev. The founder of the Evening Women's Courses was A.V. Zhekulina. The journal's editor was Academic Professor V.N. Peretz. Just one issue of this

periodical was produced. The journal was divided into two parts. The first part carried information relating to the Courses, curricula, and teaching plans and covered various educational-pedagogical issues. The second part included works by the institution's students (Ablov, 1937: 99).

In 1915, the 14th periodical, *Voskresnaya Shkola* ("Sunday School"), was launched in Chita. It was the organ of Chita Sunday School. Its editor was N. Krause. The journal was launched in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Chita Sunday School. Despite the original plan to publish three issues per year, the periodical lasted only one issue. Its first (and only) issue was devoted to the school's anniversary. It carried a review of the school's work, its history, articles by its students, and reminiscences (Mamadaliyev et al., 2023: 298).

5. Conclusion

The production of academic pedagogical journals by educational institutions was something quite rare in the Russian Empire. Normally, such journals were produced through the efforts of small action groups and academic clubs functioning at educational institutions. In the period from 1873 to 1917, there were at least 14 pedagogical journals published at educational institutions in Russia (7 in Saint Petersburg, 2 in Moscow, 2 in Orenburg, 1 in Nizhny Novgorod, 1 in Chita, and 1 in Kiev). Most of those journals did not last long, with only two of them, *Zapiski Matematicheskogo Kruzhka Pri Orenburgskom Real'nom Uchilishche* and *Vestnik Psikhologii, Kriminal'noy Antropologii i Pedologii*, making it to 5 years. The main reasons behind the closure of the journals were either World War I or the revolutionary events.

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