

# The TPU library

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*as a part of literary culture of Tomsk*



A book is one of the important components of literary culture of society. Since the invention of book printing and periodicals the diversity and amount of books, papers, magazines per capita have showed the degree of cultural development of the society. Libraries are the custodians of our national heritage.

In Tomsk literary culture was formed in the 19th - 20th century with the establishment of large libraries at Tomsk State University (1888), Regional Pushkin Library (1899), and Tomsk Polytechnic University (1900). During that period the main readers were the city intellectuals and undergraduates. The Library of TPU played the important role in the foundation and formation of book culture in Tomsk. Since their opening our libraries have built up the richest funds

not only in educational but also in scientific literature and theoretical matters in physics, chemistry, mathematics, mechanics, mining, and other engineering disciplines and exact sciences. It was mentioned in the project of Tomsk Institute of Technology's curriculum and staff submitted by the Director E.L. Zubashev to the Ministry of Public Enlightenment in March 1899.

Besides E.L. Zubashev, many teachers of TIT participated in the organization of the Library's book fund. Thus, V.P. Alexeevsky, N.N. Saltykov, A.I. Efimov, D.T. Turbaba, and V.N. Johns made a list of books and magazines on mathematics, theoretical mechanics, physics and chemistry. According to that list E.L. Zubashev made queries. Zubashev's friend D.S. Zernov, the former Director of Kharkov Institute of Technology assisted in making the queries in applied mechanics.

In autumn 1900 E.L. Zubashev acquired for the Institute the collection of the mining engineer S.N. Kulibin, the Secretary of St.-Petersburg Academic Board of Mines. The acquisition of that collection was not accidental because in a year one more Department has been added to Chemical and Mechanical Departments – the Mining Department for which that collection of books was of great importance. Kulibin's collection (about 2 thousand books) was purchased at 1500 roubles and delivered from St.-Petersburg to Tomsk. The collection is comprised of books and journals dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries among which there are rare editions. Like this two editions of S. Pallas 'Travelling about the Provinces of the Russian Empire' are published in Russian and



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German; 'Description of Kamchatka' by P. Krasheninnikov; German and Russian editions of the 18th century about travels round Siberia by academicians Miller and Gmelin. To rare editions belong Lomonosov's books 'First Foundations of Metallurgy and Ore Engineering' (1763) published during his life and the convolute made up by S.N. Kulibin and consisting four Lomonosov's speeches delivered by him in 1757-1761 in the Academy of Sciences: 'The Tale of the Birth of Metals...', 'Discussion of the more accurate sea way...', 'Discussion of solid and fluid bodies...' and 'The phenomenon of Venus on the Sun...'.

About the half of books are published in foreign languages. The rarest edition is the book 'Description of the important minerals and mines...' (Frankfurt on Mine, 1580) by L. Erker, the mining engineer. He describes the production method of saltpetre which has been a strategic raw material for a long time.

After a year in December 1901 the Institutional Board and the Library Board (Chairman V.A. Obrutchev) decided to ask the Head of Altai Mining District to assist the Library with the acquisition of work duplicates in mechanics, chemistry, mining allocated in the library of the Mining District Office in Barnaul. In 1903 106 book-copies of the 18th and the 19th centuries were received. These books are also literary monuments belonging to the culture of our country. Among them some books on ore engineering and standard silver and gold by Academician I. Schlatter worth noting: 'Detailed directions on ore engineering...' (1760), 'Description of monetary craft...' (1739) and the rarest edition called 'Tasks concerning the monetary craft...' (1754). Those books belonged to the library of Kolyvano-Voskresensky plants. The figured ex libris 'KB3' on title pages of each book testifies to that.

In 1904 the Library received the book collection on pure mathematics of A.K. Zhbikovsky, the Associate Professor of Khazan University. Among books on mathematics of the 19th century there are editions in Polish. Here belong one of the last textbooks of the days of Riech Pospolitaya 'Practical Geometry' by Ignacy Zaborovsky published in Warsaw in 1792; 'Fundamentals of Analytical Geometry' by Biot translated by A. Byrvich and published in Vilno in 1825.

The fund of rare books consists of books from private collections of TIT professors: L.L. Tove, A.E. Sabek, I.N.

Butakov, A.A. Vorobiev. There are many books with dedications from their friends and colleagues. The books presented by professors characterize the sphere of professional and social activities of each of them.

In the early part of 1920 The Public Committee on Enlightenment decided to present books from the fundamental library of Tomsk Technical College to our Library. The Library received books on chemistry and chemical engineering, mechanics, mining, minerals, and other sciences of the second part of the 19th century. Among them such rare editions as 'Iron' by V. Ferber (1864), 'Instructions on chemical iron samples...' by Eggertz (1872), and the collection 'Manufacturing of clay products...' by A. Jakovlev (1880).

The cultural heritage presented by the richest book collections dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries exercise a great influence over the formation of Tomsk literary culture. As early as 1926, at the 2nd All-Russia Conference of libraries it was stated that '...the Library of Tomsk Siberian Institute of Technology plays the important part not only in Tomsk but also in Siberia'.

Today the University Library keeps about 3 million books and journals on different fields of knowledge. The throughput of our Library is 1,5-2 thousand readers per day. The richest fund of periodicals is used not only by the University faculty but also by research workers of Tomsk.

