

ABSTRACTS

Kolchinskii E. I., Kozulina A. V. The Burden of Choice: Why Did V. I. Vernadsky Return to the Soviet Russia? Based on the archival materials (primarily from the Bakhmetev Archive at the Columbia University), the article reveals the social-psychological and axiological factors which moved V. I. Vernadsky to return to the USSR in 1926. The decision to return was not easy for him. His own children and intimate friends from the cohort of Russian politicians who had left the country after the revolution tried to prevent him from this step, while his students and friends in the realm of science urged him to come back. Besides, there was his negative attitude to the Bolshevik politics. Still, Vernadsky was convinced that science is the main goal of human existence, and believed that its development would transform the communist regime and result in the emergence of a social order conformable to the laws of the biosphere. After several attempts of establishing his studies of «live substance» abroad, Vernadsky came back to the USSR, realizing it was only there that he could fulfill his scientific mission and get the necessary means for his biogeochemical research. The peripeteia of Vernadsky's emigration help one see the reasons as well as the limits of his cooperation with the totalitarian regime, and thereby eschew dilletantish moralization in studying his work in Stalinist Russia.

Todes D. Pavlov and the Bolsheviks. Part of a larger project aimed at writing Pavlov's biography, this article traces the history of Pavlov's complex relationships with the Bolshevik regime, which eventually became mutually beneficial, making it possible for him to exercise control over his great scientific empire, conduct his research successfully and without financial constraints, and live comfortably in accord with his conscience. Bolsheviks, on their part, could demonstrate to the world a Nobelist working creatively in the revolutionary Russia and use Pavlov's international prestige for their own political goals.

Markova E. V., Rodnyi A. N. Science at Vorkutlag as a Phenomenon of Totalitarian State. The article analyzes the peculiar character of Soviet regional science in the GULAG conditions, exemplified by one of the country's largest prison camps, Vorkutlag. Established in Northern European Russia in 1929 for industrial development of Pechora Coal Basin, Vorkutlag became a peculiar center of scientific research in such fields as geology, coal chemistry, permafrost studies, mine building, all of which was initially carried out by imprisoned scientists and engineers. The article describes the organization of their work and its dynamics from 1930s through 1950s.

Semenov N. M. Oldest Russian Funiculars. The article describes the establishment (in 1896) and the usage of the oldest Russian funiculars in Nizhny Novgorod, their present-day condition and the possibilities of restoring this unique monument of transportation.

Balabin V. V. English Submarine under the USSR Navy Banner. The article tells a little-known story of an English submarine «L-55» drowned in the Baltic waters in 1919 and elevated from the sea bottom by the Soviet specialists in 1928, to be restored and recruited into the USSR Navy. Many a technical ingenuity of its construction were used in the making of the first Soviet submarines. The story is illustrated with a number of photographs recently discovered in the archives.

Vizgin VI. P. Moral Choice and Responsibility of the Nuclear Scientist in the History of the Soviet Atomic Project. This paper reviews a round-table discussion devoted to the moral issues in the work of nuclear scientists and weaponeers, which took place in the Institute for the History of Science and Technology in July 1988. The discussion focused on such problems as ethical motivation of developing nuclear weapons, the ethos of nuclear scientists and weaponeers, and their responsibility for ensuring national security and public safety. Major attention was paid to the cases of such veterans of the Soviet Atomic Project as Iu. B. Khariton, P. L. Kapitsa, A. D. Sakharov, I. V. Kurchatov, and L. V. Al'tshuler.

Kalashnikova M. V. L. D. Bel'kind: the Historian of Technology and His Manuscript Legacy. The article provides a concise account of the life and career of L. D. Bel'kind (1896—1969), a well-known Russian scientist and historian of science and technology. An important figure in the development of lighting engineering in the USSR, L. D. Bel'kind combined scientific and pedagogical work in this field with writing a number of articles and monographs devoted to famous Russian and foreign scientists and engineers. The article is based on the personal archive of L. D. Bel'kind and gives a description of its contents as a fruitful source for studies in the history and historiography of science and technology. Appendant to the article is a publication of L. D. Bel'kind's autobiography.