

PREFACE

Chief Editor Dr. paed. **Ilgonis Vilks**

The Series of History of Science and Museology explore history of sciences at the University of Latvia (UL), highlighting different science branches and specialities starting from the beginnings of UL in 1919, describe history of its scientific institutions, departments and chairs, reveal development of scientific schools, tell about life and activities of well known professors and researchers. Some articles are devoted to the history of science and technologies in Latvia before establishment of UL, revealing the foundations of our first national university. Fewer, but nevertheless significant articles are devoted to museology and its methods, description of specific museums and their collections.

The current issue is No. 14 in the Series of History of Science and Museology. The scientist in charge of compiling this issue Arnis Vīksna provides an overview of the annual Scientific Conferences of UL since 2001 and highlights the activities of the section of the conference devoted to the History of Science and Museology. Approximately a half of the reports given at this section will later be published in these series. People interested in the content of previous issues of the Series of History of Science and Museology (2001–2014) should look for the issue No. 12 (LU Raksti. R., 2015, 809. sēj., 186.–199. lpp.).

This issue covers many of the topics mentioned above. Three articles are devoted to the history of science and technologies in Latvia before establishment of UL. Sarma Kļaviņa provides an insight into the opinions of 19th century linguists (F. Bopp, R. K. Rask, J. Grimm, A. F. Pott, A. Schleicher, etc.) regarding Baltic languages, their descent and relationship with the other Indo-European languages, as well as the naming of this group of the languages. The results of their research were used by Jānis Endzelīns who later became a famous linguist of Baltic languages. Dzintars Mozgis and Inese Sviestiņa tell the life story of outstanding Baltic German surgeon Leo Bornhaupt who worked in Riga at the late 19th century and early 20th century. He also acted as a medical officer in different military conflicts – Second Boer War in Africa, the 1905 revolution, the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, Latvian War of Independence and Bermont adventure. Ilgonis Vilks gives an overview of time counting in the territory of Latvia during 1899–1923 that could be useful for historians who require an exact dating of events, because this topic is poorly researched.

Four articles are devoted to development of different science branches at UL by analyzing the articles published in the Collection of Scientific Papers of the UL. Raivis Bičevskis concludes that philosophy articles were present from the very first publication of Acta Universitatis Latviensis of the UL in

1921. It included articles by known professors published before World War II, publications on the methods of philosophy during the Soviet times and attempts to join contemporary philosophic discussions and topics in recent issues. Emīlija Černova and Līga Āboltiņa explore the subject of preschool pedagogy from the historical perspective. Different periods of time (inter-war period, Soviet times and independent Latvia) have characteristic trends of the political and economic development that are reflected in the content of the preschool research and determine the development of the preschool pedagogy thought. Ilgonis Vilks reviews astronomical publications at the University of Latvia during 1926–2015. The history of these publications also reflects evolvement of the 20th century astronomy in Latvia. The fruitful inter-war period was succeeded by emigration of almost all astronomy specialists of UL in 1944. After the war they were replaced by the new generation of astronomers, and astronomy research resumed with good results. Jēkabs Raipulis also writes about the influence of the politics and ideology upon the scientific research and genetics in particular. After World War II, a difficult period began for genetic research in Latvia because the leading lecturers of the UL had emigrated and genetics was forbidden as a harmful science. In 1964, genetics was rehabilitated and studies, research and practical usage thereof resumed.

A major part of the articles is devoted to the teaching staff of UL working in different fields – medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, mineralogy, architecture, engineering and also military education. Arnis Vīksna found that among the members of the German researcher's academy Leopoldina (established in the 17th century), there were several scientists from Latvia, including three members of the UL Faculty of Medicine teaching staff, – pharmacologist Caesar Amsler, court physician Ferdinand Neureiter and anatomical pathologist Roman Adelheim. Ilgars Grosvalds and Irēna Berga write about Eduards Svirlovskis, one of the establishers of higher pharmaceutical education in Latvia, who laid the foundations of pharmacognosy in Latvia, – investigates science investigating the use of the substances of plant and animal origin for the production of medications. E. Svirlovskis is the founder and head (1920–1949) of the Pharmacognosy Chair at the UL. The article written by Elvigs Kabucis, Inta Vegnere, Inguna Cīrule and Ieva Pīgozne is also devoted to the history of pharmacy. The Pharmacy Museum celebrated the 120th anniversary of Mag. pharm. Viktors Šķilters with an exhibition dedicated to him in 2016. This article reviews the main facts about V. Šķilters, provides a short summary of his scientific papers and describes the exhibition dedicated to him in the Pharmacy Museum of Riga.

Uldis Alksnis and Ilgars Grosvalds wrote about the founder of colloid chemistry in Latvia Aleksandrs Janeks who worked at the UL from 1919 to 1944 and published several chemistry textbooks. After his emigration, during the World War II he continued scientific research in the United States. The article by Ilgars Grosvalds, Māris Rudzītis and Angelīna Zabele is devoted to one more pioneer, the establisher of mineralogy and petrography at the UL, Boris Popoff. He published influential works about the spherocrystals and developed a methodology of practical works in crystallography, mineralogy and petrography. B. Popoff taught numerous students who later became scientists.

Karīna Horsta analyses two sanatorium buildings designed by architect Ernests Štālbergs. He was not only active in pedagogical work at the UL Faculty of Architecture, but also was an author of well known objects in Latvian architecture, such as the Great Hall of the UL and the Freedom Monument. Sanatoriums “Taliņa” and “Gaujaslīči” designed by him show two very different stages of architect’s oeuvre. Vēsma Klūga gives an overview of the life and the work of the civil engineering specialist Arturs Tramdahs, who constructed several bridges. The information about his trips to Germany and Switzerland to study the advancement in use of concrete is given.

The topic about the teaching staff of UL is continued by Gunta Marihina who characterizes the life and work of lawyer and educator Lidija Krastiņa, closely connected to UL. She was one of the first Latvian women who graduated the university as a lawyer but continued her career as a private teacher. Indulis Zvirgzdiņš writes about the unusual destiny of the officer of the Latvian Army Oto Ūdentiņš. During World War II, when a large number of former Latvian Army officers were under Soviet arrest, O. Ūdentiņš became a lecturer at the War Academy in Moscow. After the war, he was the Head of the War Department at UL and managed the military education of students.

A great attention in this issue is dedicated to the museology, represented by three articles. Astrīda Cīrule and Valdis Gavars write about the summer cottage of the well known Latvian poet and politician Jānis Rainis. After J. Rainis went into exile to Switzerland, the cottage was sold. During the Soviet time, the cottage was turned into a pioneer camp but later abandoned. At present, the restoration of the cottage has started with a great attention to the memorial room of Rainis and his wife Aspazija. Vija Hodireva’s article reflects the investigation of the mineral collection transferred from the Latvia University of Agriculture to the Museum of Geology of UL in 2015. This collection contains about 900 specimens, including some rare minerals. This yields an opportunity to create an important mineral reference collection at the Museum of Geology. The article by Andris Piterāns and Uģis Piterāns for the first time summarizes the information about the history of the UL Museum of Zoology from the early days to the present. The development of the museum was directly or indirectly influenced by many remarkable zoologists who worked at UL or assembled zoological collections. Many of them shared their knowledge with the students who later became lecturers or zoologists themselves. Ilga Mantiniece writes not about museum but about the foundation and development of the library of the Faculty of Philology and Philosophy of UL that grew from 350 books in 1919 to more than 40 thousand 20 years later. This article mostly explores the first years of the formation of library.

Clearly, the issue No. 14 in the Series of History of Science and Museology is very rich in topics and definitely will be useful for the historians, researchers and students of natural sciences and humanities.