

The Pulkovo Observatory Library Develops Electronic Services

Natalia Markova

Pulkovo Observatory Library, 65 Pulkovo, 196140 St-Petersburg, Russia
conf@pulkovo.spb.su

Abstract. Based on the “Struve Fund”, the Pulkovo Observatory library is working on a new electronic catalogue. The existing printed catalogue was created in the 19th century and does not reflect the present due to losses incurred during WWII and the fire of 1997.

The Pulkovo Observatory library started an electronic catalogue comprised of publications about the institution. This catalogue will include bibliographic descriptions of the literature we house, as well as pictures and photos. We consider placing the catalogue on a web site important because we receive many requests for this type of information from around the world.

1. Introduction

The Pulkovo Observatory library needs a new electronic catalogue that will reflect a modern state of funds formed from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries, the period when Wilhelm and Otto Struve were directors. These funds were described in printed catalogs in 1845, 1860 and 1880. Due to the Second World War and a fire in 1997, many parts of the collection were damaged beyond redemption.

Thus, the librarians have decided to create an electronic catalog based on subject divisions that will be the most in demand.

2. The Corpus of the Catalog

The corpus of the catalog was created in the 1930s and 40s. During this time, jubilee speeches, obituaries, and other materials about the Observatory and its scientific staff were collected. At present, the main collection includes 156 descriptions of significant Russian contributions to science. These materials include Director’s reports from 1863 to 1929 or archival documents from the Academy of Sciences, 1839 to 1917, and published in 1994, V. K. Abalakin, ed. The history of Struve’s dynasty is also reflected in this corpus. At present, the most monumental work is the monograph of Batten A.H., *The Lives of Wilhelm and Otto Struve: Resolute and Undertaking Characters*, which appeared in *Astroph. and Sp. Sc. Lib.*, Vol. 139, Dordrecht. Included are articles about different scientists, both Russian and foreign, as well social and cultural observations from the Observatory’s visitors and staff. Furthermore, the political repression that

took place during these writings, reveals both the courage and confusion of a people confronted with the difficulties of attempting scientific research during a Revolution. Now, the Pulkovo Library is providing these materials for many investigators, who are keen on gaining access to understanding the documents and the writings from this era.

3. Descriptions of Major Documents

Herein follows descriptions of some of the major documents:

1. *Struve Otto*. Wilhelm Struve, memory about father addressed to brothers and sisters. - Karlsruhe, 1895. P. 79. *At frontispiece there is a portrait of W. Struve (painter C. A. Jensen).*
W. Struve (1793-1864) the first director (1839-1862) of Pulkovo Observatory.
O. Struve (1819-1905) the second director (1862-1889) of Pulkovo Observatory.
2. *Gros M.* [Ist. Astroph. Paris]. Charles Piazzi Smyth (1919-1859). Impressions from trip to Russia in 1859 // *l'Astronomie*. 1994. May. Vol. 108. P. 170-172.
Pencil drawing of Charles Piazzi Smyth: Otto Struve at telescope in Pulkovo.
3. *Tenn J. S.* Oskar Backlund: the eleventh Bruce Medalist // *Mercury*. 1991. Nov. / Dec. P. 175-178.
4. Oskar Backlund. Obituary // *Bulletin of Central Astronomy Obs. in Pulkovo*. 1916. Vol. 7. N 79.
O. Backlund (1846-1916) the fourth director of Pulkovo Observatory.
5. *Parijskij N. N.* A quarter of century near A. A. Mikhajlov // *Historical-astronomical investigations..*- M.: Nauka, 1990. Iss. XXII. P. 311-331.
1914.
hand).
A. A. Mikhajlov (1888-1983) the eleventh director (1947-1964) of Pulkovo Observatory.
6. Opening of restored Pulkovo Observatory.- M.; L.: Nauka, 1955. P. north.
7. Orlova N. B. Maximilian Maximilianovich Musselius (1884 - 1938) and Dmitrij Ivanovich Eropkin (1908-1938) // *Historical-astronomical investigations*. - M.: Nauka, 1992. Vol. XXIII.- P. 144-242.
Publication of Natalia Borisovna Orlova (1958-1994) (in marriage - Val'skaja) is one of the first (if not a first) investigations pertaining to the repression of scientists. M. V. Orlova - granddaughter of A. Ya. Orlov - astronomer, a Corresponding member of Academy of Sciences of the USSR

and a daughter of Pulkovo astronomer B. A. Orlov, cite in her work a letter of her grandfather from August, 6, 1953 to his son B. A. Orlov: *“I wish you a success in composing of history of Pulkovo Observatory. The subject is difficult from two sides: an old is too much known. To write about new is frightful. It is not such time yet. Never-the-less, name of many Pulkovo astronomers could not be efface from history. Your duty is to say about them all good that they deserved.”*

B. A. Orlov wrote articles, saying, “It is not such time yet”. This work was done by his daughter. From the archives of the Naval KGB and private archives of M. M. Musselius and D. I. Eropkin and their families.

An article includes a humorous story about astronomer M. M. Musselius’s son (also M. M. Musselius) “About Pulkovo and Pulkochi” (p. 219); fragments of remembrance of T. K. Stanjukovich (son of known writer K. M. Stanjukovich) about D. I. Eropkin (p. 221-225); notes of D. I. Eropkin “How I watch a solar eclipse” - about solar eclipse in 1936 (p. 225-228); bibliographies of M. M. Musselius (p. 220-221) and D. I. Eropkin (p. 242-244) are given.

Description of two illustrations - 1) photo: A death certificate of D. I. Eropkin, given in 1955. In a paragraph “a cause of death” was written “pneumonia” (p. 221); 2) photo: A death certificate of D. I. Eropkin given in 1989. In a paragraph “a cause of death” is wrote “death by shooting” (p. 213).

Natalia Borisovna didn’t continue her investigations because she died early and unexpectedly. People remembered her as being an outstanding investigator and talented representative of the Russian Orlov family. Lives of repressed astronomers are continually being studied by scientists in Russia and foreign countries.

8. As an example of personal, not scientific remembrance can be found in the article “Before the War I was a Small Child”. *Publication of V. Yu. Zhukov and N. L. Markova // Facts and versions.* - SPb.: IMISP, 2000. Ess. I. - P. 37-48.

Pulkovo astronomer’s bibliographies were reconstructed from childhood remembrances as little Leningrad citizens.

9. “Three Hundred Years of Astronomy in Saint-Petersburg”.- SPb.: Almanakh, 2000. - 44 p.

Publication includes 83 colored illustrations Pulkovo Observatory’s astronomical museum.

Illustrations: N 26. W. Ya. Struve (sculptor N. A. Teplov, 1965, marble); N 27. A. A. Mikhajlov (sculptor S. E. Sazonenko, 1982, plaster cast); N 28. Center of Round Hall - original reference point of geodesic and geographical coordinate system of Russia.

4. Conclusion

This is a brief survey of the catalog. A work to transform it into electronic form is difficult because the library has one computer that four librarians and readers share. The library has no scanner. We hope these difficulties are temporary.