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The Russian Prerevolutionary Periodical Press on Out-Of-School Education (1907–1917)

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Abstract

This work examines the Russian prerevolutionary periodical press on out-of-school education.

The study's source base was a diverse body of literature exploring the periodical press of the Russian Empire period. The use of the chronological method helped gain an insight into the impact of World War I on the nation's periodical press on out-of-school education, and the use of the content analysis method helped establish which of the journals were produced by individual publishers and which were published by academic societies.

The study's findings revealed that out-of-school education was covered in prerevolutionary Russia by 12 academic pedagogical journals, which were produced from 1907 to 1917. Due to their distinctive nature, these journals were edited and published by private societies or private publishers. It was rare for most of them to be produced for a long time (e.g., *Samoobrazovaniye* and *Izvestiya Samarskogo Obshchestva Narodnykh Universitetov* were published from 1909 to 1917 and from 1910 to 1916, respectively). Half of the journals, 6 of the 12, lasted between 1 and 3 issues, which mainly was due to the outbreak of World War I and the use of tougher censorship measures.

Keywords: periodical press, Russian Empire, pedagogy, out-of-school education, period 1907–1917.

1. Introduction

Issues related to out-of-school education were typically treated in the Russian Empire as narrowly focused pedagogical ones, and predominantly were addressed during the later imperial

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period. This was due to the brisk development of the so-called folk high school sector and the establishment of various pedagogical courses in the period following the First Russian Revolution. The objective behind promoting out-of-school education was to engage large masses of the population in self-education beyond the walls of educational institutions. Consequently, journals on out-of-school education began to come out in Russia only in 1907.

2. Materials and methods

The study's source base was a diverse body of literature exploring the periodical press of the Russian Empire period. This, most notably, includes L. Belyayeva's 'A Bibliography of Russian Periodicals, 1901–1916' (Belyaeva, 1958) and N. Ablov's 'Pedagogical Periodical Press (1803–1916)' (Ablov, 1937).

The use of the chronological method helped gain an insight into the impact of World War I on the nation's periodical press on out-of-school education, and the use of the content analysis method helped establish which of the journals were produced by individual publishers and which were published by academic societies.

3. Discussion

The historiography on the subject can be divided into several independent groups.

The first group deals with issues related to out-of-school education, and includes the following works: V. Alekseeva and T. Aminov's 'Concepts Underpinning the Education of School-Age Children in the Pedagogical Science of Late 19th and Early 20th Century Russia' (Alekseeva, Aminov, 2016). M. Venikova's 'Creation of Moscow Folk School in the Context of the Development of Civil Society in Russia in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries' (Venikova, 2016), and the same author's 'Institutionalization and Educational Activity of Folk High Schools in Imperial Russia' (Venikova, 2017).

The second group of publications deals with specialists in the area of out-of-school education. Specifically, the legacy of one such prominent specialist, V. Charnolusky, is examined in the following works: N. Parshikov and Yu. Stolyarov's 'V.I. Charnolusky – The Founder of Russian Pedagogical Bibliography' (Parshikov, Stolyarov, 2016) and T. Butorina and L. Ul'yanovskaya's 'The Issue of the Essence of Out-Of-School Education in the Works of V.I. Charnolusky' (Butorina, Ul'yanovskaya, 2015). V. Charnolusky's work was explored with keen interest during the Soviet period as well. Of particular note are P. Pidkasiisty and S. Stepanov's 'The Preeminent Figure in Public Education' (Pidkasiisty, Stepanov, 1966) and S. Stepanov's 'V.I. Charnolusky' (Stepanov, 1985).

The third group deals with the narrowly focused periodical press. This topic has seen a renewed interest recently. Specifically, the periodical press of the Ministry of Public Education was researched by R. Allalyev and colleagues (Allalyev et al., 2022), and that of the Kazan Educational District was explored by V. Muzykant and colleagues (Muzykant et al., 2022). In addition, the author of the present paper and his colleagues explored the periodical press of the Ecclesiastical Department (Mamadaliyev et al., 2022), that of the Caucasus Educational District (Mamadaliyev et al., 2022a), and that of the Kiev Educational District (Mamadaliyev et al., 2023).

It is to be noted that up to now there has been no dedicated research on Russia's periodical press on out-of-school education. The present work aims to fill this gap.

4. Results

Russia's first periodicals on out-of-school education emerged only in the later imperial period – in the early 20th century.

The first such periodical was the journal *Yezhegodnik Vneshkolnogo Obrazovaniya* (Russian: 'Out-Of-School Education Yearbook'). Its first issue was published in 1907 in Moscow by a publishing house run by I. Sytin. The periodical was published under the editorship of V. Charnolusky. It had two issues published. The second issue was published in Saint Petersburg in 1910 by the publishing house Znaniye. Through this periodical, V. Charnolusky sought to give the reader "a comprehensive picture of the current state of affairs in all types and levels of public education" (Stepanov, 1985: 119-120). *Yezhegodnik Vneshkolnogo Obrazovaniya* carried various reference materials related to out-of-school education. Information provided in these reference materials was gathered from first-hand sources, which explains their significance for the history of public education in Russia.

Since V. Charnolusky will be mentioned in the present work more than once, it may be worth saying a few words on his biography. Vladimir Ivanovich Charnolusky (1865–1941) was a recognized specialist in the area of public education and a prominent figure in the social-pedagogical movement. He was one of the founders of the All-Russia Teacher's Union and the founder of Russian pedagogical bibliography (Parshikov, Stolyarov, 2016: 49).

The First All-Russia Congress of Folk High School Figures was held in January 1908. As is commonly known, the idea behind folk high schools was placing a premium on out-of-school education. The event resulted in the production of 'Diary of the First All-Russia Congress of Folk High School Figures'. Published daily in January 1908, it carried the program, presentation abstracts, and other materials for the Congress (Belyaeva, 1958).

In 1909, Moscow became home to the journal *Samoobrazovaniye* ('Self-Education'), focused on students preparing for their exams independently. The journal's publisher was M. Gur'yanova, and its editor was P. Gur'yanov. Published from 1909 to 1917, the journal catered to individuals preparing for exams to enter an educational institution or for school finals (the high school level). The journal did not aim to be a pedagogical platform on out-of-school education – it was primarily focused on independent preparation for exams. Hence, it typically carried course notes and exemplary problems designed to help one prepare for an exam (Ablov, 1937: 79).

The journal *Vestnik Narodnykh Universitetov* ('Folk High School Bulletin') was launched in 1910. It was published by the Board of the Saint Petersburg Society for Folk High Schools. The journal's publisher was V. Filosofov, and its editor-in-chief was M. Gran. Produced from May 1910 (Issue 1) to April 1911 (Issue 8), the publication was devoted to the work of the Saint Petersburg Society for Folk High Schools. It also carried learning plans and outlined best practices employed by pedagogical staff. The journal, which brought together specialists in the area of out-of-school education, published writings by prominent scholars such as A. Kremlev, N. Mogilyansky, M. Novorusky, V. Pekarsky, V. Svyatlovsky, V. Syromyatnikov, and V. Filosofov (Belyaeva, 1958).



Fig. 1. Title page of the journal *Izvestiya Samarskogo Obshchestva Narodnykh Universitetov*

The journal *Izvestiya Samarskogo Obshchestva Narodnykh Universitetov* ('Proceedings of the Samara Society for Folk High Schools') began to be published in Samara at the same time as *Vestnik Narodnykh Universitetov*. Its editor from Issue 1 to Issue 9 for 1910 was N. Shishkov. Subsequently, beginning with Issue 10, the post was held by P. Preobrazhensky, who would remain

in it all the way until 1916. In 1910, 20 issues of the journal were published. It is not known how many issues of it were published in the years since. The journal was concerned with the activity of the Samara Society for Folk High Schools and its participation in the educational work of Samara Folk High School. In addition, the journal carried discussions on various narrowly focused issues related to education (e.g., cinema's effect on education ([Obrazovatel'nyi kinematograf, 1914](#))). It published writings by prominent scholars such as A. Borovoy, Ye. Jelačić, N. Kareyev, N. Preobrazhensky, M. Rubinstein, N. Rumyantsev, and B. Syromyatnikov.

The journal *Narodnyy Universitet* ('Folk High School') was launched in 1911 in Moscow. It was produced by the Moscow Society for Folk High Schools. The journal was published monthly beginning in October 1911. It carried materials on the activity of the Moscow Society for Folk High Schools, course notes, information on core and additional learning resources, etc. ([Ablov, 1937: 98](#)).

In 1914, Petrograd became home to the first issue of the monthly journal *Vneshkolnoye Obrazovaniye* ('Out-of-school Education'). The project's editor and publisher was A. Valyayev. The journal was an appendix to the publication *Zemstvo i Narodnoye Obrazovaniye* ('The Zemstvo and Public Education'), and was focused on informing the public about the work done by the Zemstvo in the area of out-of-school education. However, the outbreak of World War I and the subsequent introduction of tougher censorship measures would result in the discontinuation of the journal ([Belyaeva, 1958](#)).

In early 1914, Saint Petersburg became home to the journal *Volnyy Universit* ('Free University'). The journal was positioned as a popular science and social publication. Its editor and publisher was Ya. Dushechkin. Overall, 16 issues of the journal were published in 1914. *Volnyy Universit* was produced jointly with the journal *Uchitel i Shkola* ('Teacher and School'). It carried popular science articles on various pedagogical issues, with a focus on self-education. The journal published writings by prominent scholars such as D. Aleksandrov, L. Kupriyanova, Ye. Kuskova, V. Levitsky, V. Lvov-Rogachevsky, K. Pozhitnov, Ye. Smirnov, and M. Smit. It was announced in Issue 16 that the publication would be discontinued until the end of World War I and the "advent of suitable conditions for the production of the journal" ([Ot redaktsii, 1914](#)).

In 1915, Chita became home to *Voskresnaya Shkola*, the journal of Chita Sunday School. Its first issue, which came out in November 1915, was dedicated to the school's 20th anniversary. The initial plan was to produce three issues a year. However, the publication would eventually last just as many issues. The journal's first issue provided a review of the work of Chita Sunday School, facts about its history, articles by students, reminiscences, and some other materials ([Ablov, 1937: 104](#)).

In September 1916, Penza became home to the first issue of *Vestnik Vneshkolnogo Obrazovaniya* ('Out-Of-School Education Bulletin'). It was published by the Penza Society for the Support of Out-Of-School Education. Its editor-in-chief was I. Iosinsky. Its editorial board sought to unite the local cultural forces around the journal, familiarize the public with the Society's work, and keep the public informed about educational work in the city of Penza ([Ot redaktsii, 1916: 1](#)). However, due to World War I the journal was discontinued, with just its first issue produced.

In 1916, Petrograd became home to the journal *Vneshkolnoye Obrazovaniye i Samoobrazovaniye* ('Out-Of-School Education and Self-Education') ([Figure 2](#)). It was positioned as a monthly desk reference for out-of-school education institutions. Its editor and publisher was Ye. Proskuryakov. The journal was produced with participation from V.I. Charnolusky, the prominent specialist in this area. In 1916, three issues of it were released. While the journal was an extraction from the pedagogical reference publication *Vestnik Narodnogo Obrazovaniya* ('Public Education Bulletin'), it was primarily concerned with issues relating to out-of-school education. It published laws, carried circulars and explanations from the Governing Senate, and listed new books on out-of-school education, new academic books, new children's books, and banned books. It had a section entitled 'From Literature and Life' and a separate section concerned with self-education ([Soderzhanie, 1916: 1-2](#)).



Fig. 2. Title page of the journal *Vneshkolnoye Obrazovaniye i Samoobrazovaniye*

In 1916, the same editor and publisher team (editor and publisher Ye. Proskuryakov, in conjunction with V. Charnolusky) launched in Petrograd another monthly desk reference, *Narodnaya Shkola* ('Folk School'), which was focused on folk schools and folk teachers. As was the case with the reference *Vneshkolnoye Obrazovaniye i Samoobrazovaniye*, the publication lasted only three issues. The journal carried materials of relevance to folk schools and their teachers. It published official notices from the Ministry of Public Education and bibliographical pieces on new books and study guides (Soderzhanie, 1916a: 1-2).

5. Conclusion

Out-of-school education was covered in prerevolutionary Russia by 12 academic pedagogical journals, which were produced from 1907 to 1917. Due to their distinctive nature, these journals were edited and published by private societies or private publishers. It was rare for most of them to be produced for a long time (e.g., *Samoobrazovaniye* and *Izvestiya Samarskogo Obshchestva Narodnykh Universitetov* were published from 1909 to 1917 and from 1910 to 1916, respectively). Half of the journals, 6 of the 12, lasted between 1 and 3 issues, which mainly was due to the outbreak of World War I and the use of tougher censorship measures.

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