

## ABSTRACTS

- Novik V. K. Franz Aepinus: A Chronicle of Life.** This article presents the first account of Aepinus's entire life (1724–1802), based on the rich amount of published and archival sources. It gives an overview of Aepinus's work in the Berlin and Saint-Petersburg Academies of Sciences, and deals extensively with his 33 year-long leadership of the Imperial Foreign Office's Cipher Department. The hitherto unknown information is provided about Aepinus's last years, mental disorder, and burial place.
- Matvievskaia G. P. Vladimir Dahl as Naturalist.** In Russia, Vladimir Dahl (1801–1872) is widely known as a writer, ethnographer, and the author of the famous "Interpretive Dictionary of the Live Russian Language." Little attention, however, has been paid to his medical education and subsequent zoological and botanical studies in Orenburg, which must have been notable enough to make his name known in the academic quarters. It was for these studies that Dahl was elected a corresponding member of the Natural Sciences Division of the Saint-Petersburg Academy of Sciences. Bridging this historical gap, the article provides an account of Dahl's naturalistic research, focusing on the 8-year Orenburg period of his life.
- Soloviev Iu. I. A. N. Nesmeianov as the President of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1951–61.** The article discusses Nesmeianov's role in the rapid development of the Academy of Sciences in the post-war period. As its president, Nesmeianov was particularly concerned with strengthening fundamental research, convinced that the Academy should be the country's "theoretical leader in science," "the ferment and the cement" of new research trends.
- Raniuk Iu. N. L. D. Landau and L. M. Piatigorskii.** The article presents new materials pertaining to Landau's work in Kharkov prior to his arrest in 1938. A detailed account is given of Landau's conflict with his first graduate student, L. M. Piatigorskii, and its far-reaching political consequences.
- Vorobiev V. V. Lev Landau and "Physicists' Anti-Soviet Strike."** The article sheds new light upon the chain of events which led to the persecution of Kharkov physics in the late 1930s. Particular attention is paid to a famous, but hitherto unstudied, "anti-Soviet strike" attempted in December 1936 — January 1937 by a group of physicists at Kharkov University in support of Landau, threatened with losing his job at the University for "promoting bourgeois ideas in his lectures."
- Ilizarov S. S. Insignia for Soviet Scientists.** In the 1940s, the Soviet authorities planned establishing special honorary badges to be awarded by the state for outstanding achievements in science and education — the M. V. Lomonosov, D. I. Mendeleev, N. I. Pirogov, and I. P. Pavlov orders. Although the project never made it beyond the papers, it deserves attention as a phenomenon of Stalinist science, and the article presents all the paperwork of the Propaganda and Agitation Section of the Central Committee of the USSR Communist Party, relevant to its development.