



2023 · No. 5 (31)

The Theme of the Issue:

TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN RUSSIA
IN THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

FROM THE EDITOR

The study of the history of industry and trade in the Russian Empire has entered a new stage of development in the last thirty years.

Contemporary researchers of industrial history of Russia are guided by the inspiring works of their predecessors who began their investigations in the 19th century such as M.I. Tugan-Baranovsky's "The Russian Factory in the Past and Present", E.M. Dementiev's "The Factory: What it Gives the Population and What it Takes From it", Y.E. Yanson's "Comparative Statistics of Russia and Western European States", as well as V.P. Bezobrazov, I.M. Kulisher and a number of other outstanding academicians.

Soviet historians and economists including P.G. Lyubomirov, V.K. Yatsunsky, K.A. Pazhitnov, R.S. Livshits, M.K. Rozhkova, I.V. Meshalin, A.S. Nifontov, B.V. Anan'ich, N.S. Kinyapina, Yu.Ya. Rybakov, Yu.I. Kiryanov, as well as our contemporaries L.I. Borodkin, I.M. Pushkareva, D.V. Gavrilov, K.M. Yurchuk, A.M. Solovyova, V.I. Bovykin, Yu.A. Petrov, V.N. Zakharov, N.V. Kozlova and others studied and are studying different aspects of the economic development of Russia in the period before 1917.

Nowadays, we can state a significant extension of research area both in Russian and in world historiography. In the history of industry, we study not only the labor history or history of factory workers, but also focus on the history of technical equipment, raw materials and manufactured goods. The study of the evolution of trade leads to the analysis of the evolution of the technology of production of textiles and metal, leather and soap, porcelain and chemical products.

Such a turn in the exploration is associated with a significant interest of our contemporaries in the social and cultural history of the materials and materiality of the past, which linked with the economic landscape of the 19th century era. The century under consideration was the time of the world industrial revolution and the maturation of new consumption standards caused by the unprecedented mass production and development of communication routes, primarily railways and water transportation.

Therefore, the great desire of the authors of our issue is to introduce the reader to new topics and present the results of our archival findings.

Among twenty authors of this issue are historians from all Russian regions, such as colleagues from Siberia (Irkutsk, Omsk, Tomsk), the Volga region (Kazan, Yaroslavl', Nizhnii Novgorod), from the Kama Region and the Urals (Yekaterinburg, Yelabuga, Ufa), from Moscow, St. Petersburg and Tambov.

A number of studies are presented in the section "Industrial History: Trends of All-Russian and Regional Development". Here you can find a summary article by G.N. Ulyanova on industrial statistics in the Russian Empire in the period of 1800 to 1860 (analysis of statistical data allows us to determine the structure of production by industry and region), and the innovative work of E.G. Neklyudov on the importance of merchants in the corpus of Ural plant-owners in the first half of the XIX century, the peculiarities of merchant ownership and management strategies. In the article by E.V. Pchelov the usage of heraldic material as a promising source for studying the history of metallurgy and blacksmith is in a great interest.



A fairly new field in modern world historiography is the study of important industries in the 19th century as leather and fat processing. They are combined in the second section titled “Leather and Fat-Rendering Industries: Production and Trade” and based on the classification of the 19th century as “processing of animal products”. Russia in the 19th century was one of the world’s leading leather producers, along with England, Germany and France, and was also a major exporter of fat to Europe. In the articles by S.M. Ledrov and M.K. Akol’zina, based on archival documents, it shows the leather industry development in the Nizhnii Novgorod and Tambov provinces; and V.P. Mikityuk showed that the Ural merchants played a major role in the interregional trade in tallow (which from Siberia and steppe regions could reach St. Petersburg and export to Europe).

Microhistoric studies of enterprises are of great importance. The section titled “The History of Enterprises and the Entrepreneurial Strategy of Their Owners” presents a block of four articles revealing the history, mainly, of family firms that owned leading Russian enterprises. M.N. Baryshnikov devoted his research to the porcelain production of St. Petersburg industrialists Kornilov; V.M. Marasanova – the formation of petrochemical production in the Yaroslavl province (with the participation of V. Ragozin, D. Mendeleev and the Nobel brothers); T.V. Yudenkova – the initial 30-years-stage of the activity of the flax-weaving mill, owned by the Moscow merchants Tretyakov in Kostroma; B.N. Latypov – the production of iron and cast iron at the Zlatoust plant in the Ufa province.

The next two sections are determined according to the regional principle.

The block titled “The Metropolitan Dimension of Business: St. Petersburg and Moscow” presents two innovative articles, considering business areas that have not been previously studied on Russian material. A.V. Keller examined self-organization and professional standards among St. Petersburg and Moscow bakers (merchants and artisans), whose activities were strictly regulated. E.V. Kardash presented a work of an interdisciplinary nature, at the intersection of history and philology, comparing fiction (literary) works and historical realities concerning the funeral business in St. Petersburg.

Three articles in the section “Along the Volga Waterway: Industry and Trade” cover new interesting subjects as textile production and trade of Yaroslavl merchants (article by N.V. Obnorskaya); the organization of merchant shipping in the Kama-Volga water basin (article by N.A. Koreeva); the activities of female entrepreneurs in the industry of the Nizhny Novgorod province (article by E.A. Zapevalova).

At the turn of the 19th–20th centuries new phenomena were emerging in the history of entrepreneurship. Two articles consider this issues in the section “Entrepreneurs in the Period of Modernization of the Turn of the 19th–20th Centuries”. The development of profitable enterprises in the country estates of the Stakheevs is examined in the article by I.V. Maslova. In the work of S.V. Abros’kin, commercial advertising in the press of the Tomsk province is analyzed.

Two articles in the section “The Entrepreneurs Destinies” reveal the biographies of two prominent persons of their time: the Irkutsk merchant Ivan Bechevin (article by V.P. Shakherov) and the Yelabuga entrepreneur P.P. Batolin (article by E.A. Kashapova).

At the final part of the issue, the “World of the Book” section, there is a review by V.V. Germizeeva on D.I. Petin’s monograph “The History of Batyushkin Family in Omsk”, a book containing the 150-year-old saga of a local merchant family during the 19th–20th centuries.

*Executive editor:
Doctor of Historical Sciences
Galina Nikolaevna Ulianova*