УДК 94(47)

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-3-719-735

Simon S. Ilizarov

S. I. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation

Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the Days of Great Trials: 1941-1942

Abstract

This paper reviews the work of the Archive of the Soviet Academy of Sciences during the blockade of Leningrad in 1941–42. It is based on the archive series that contains a report detailing the work of the 22 Academy's institutions in Leningrad (11 scientific research institutes, 3 museums, the Archive, the Library, the Geographical Society, etc.) over 7 months of 1942 and prepared for the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences. It lists Archive's staff members who died or were evacuated during this period. It shows that, even in the hardest days under the blockade, the work in the Archive never stopped. An important part of this work was

associated with the activities of the Commission for the History of the USSR Academy of Sciences (KIAN). The paper reviews the history of the KIAN creation under the auspices of the Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Leningrad in 1938, soon after forcible liquidation of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology and tragic death of its first director, Academician N.I. Bukharin. A number of outstanding historians-archivists and historians of science – A.I. Andreyev, I.I. Lyubimenko, L.B. Modzalevskii, and others – participated in the work of the KIAN headed by Academician S. I. Vavilov and his deputy, Director of the Archive, G.A. Knyazev. The research and archaeographic work of the Archive's staff was associated with preparation of publications for the "Scientific Heritage" series (it was established in 1940 upon initiative of the President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences V. L. Komarov with active participation of the eminent historian of science T. I. Rainov). During that period, the editorial work on the second volume of the "Reviews of Archive Materials" (*Obozreniya arkhivnykh materialov*) was completed and V.F. Gnucheva completed her unique history-of-science book "The Geographical Department of the 18th century Academy of Sciences." Both books were published after the war, in 1946. The main result of the work of the few Archive's staff members was safeguarding the precious historical materials and searching for, concentrating, and preserving documentation of evacuated institutions and individual scientists, some of whom were killed by the cold, famine, and diseases. The paper contains data from official reports: quantitative data concerning documents taken into the Archive's custody in 1941 and in 1942 and processed and described series; it names institutions and scholars, whose documents ended up in the Archive of the Academy of Sciences. By July 31, 1942, the number of fonds in the Archive reached 740. Reports of such Academy institutions as the Institute of Oriental Studies, the N.Ya. Marr Institute for the History of Material Culture, the Institute of Literature, the All-Union Geographical Society, and others allow the scholars to analyze their work associated with the preservation of books and archival fonds and collections. The paper is based on documentary sources that are being introduced into scientific use for the first time.

Keywords

Archive, sources, history, science, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Commission for the History (KIAN), blockade in Leningrad, G. A. Knyazev, S. I. Vavilov.

Download the article: [ilizarov doi](#)

References

ILIZAROV, S. S., GRININA, I. R. «Nauchnoe nasledstvo» – stareishee seriinoe izdanie po istorii nauki [“Scientific Heritage”, the oldest serial publication on the history of science. In Russ.]. IN: Otechestvennye arkhivy, 2016, no. 1, pp. 31–39.

ILIZAROV, S. S. Otechestvennaya istoriografiya istorii nauki i tekhniki: Khronika: 1901–2011 gg. [National historiography of the history of science and technology: Chronicles: 1901–2011. In Russ.]. Moscow, Yanus-K publ., 2012, 488 p.

ILIZAROV, S. S. Rainov Timofei Ivanovich: Materialy k biobibliografii [Rainov, Timofei Ivanovich: Materials for Biobibliography. In Russ.]. Moscow, Yanus-K publ., 2017, 192 p. (“Russian historians of science and technology” Series. Issue IX).

KNYAZEV, G. A. Dni velikikh ispytaniy. Dnevniky 1941–1945 [The days of great trials: Diaries (1941–1945). In Russ.]. St. Petersburg, Nauka publ., 2009, pp. 204–825.

LEVSHIN, B. V. Sovetskaya nauka v gody Velikoi otechestvennoi voyny [Soviet science in the days of the Great Patriotic War. In Russ.]. Moscow, Nauka publ., 1983, 382 p.

OSIPOVA, N. M. “Pokuda Arkhiv Akademii nauk budet tsel, i vashi rukopisi budut v polnoi sokhrannosti”. Arkhiv AN SSSR v pervye gody Velikoi Otechestvennoi voyny [“While the Archive of the Academy of Sciences remains intact, your manuscripts will be safe too”: The Archive of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in the first years of the Great Patriotic War. In Russ.]. IN: Dokumental'noe nasledie Rossii: problemy teorii i praktiki. K 100-letiyu gosudarstvennoi arkhivnoi sluzhby Rossii: Materialy Vserossiiskoi nauchno-prakticheskoi konferentsii [Russia’s

Documentary Legacy: Issues of Theory and Practice: Towards the Centenary of Russia's State Archival Service: Materials of the All-Russian Research-to-Practice Conference, Moscow, Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 8 June 2018]. Moscow, RAN publ., 2018, pp. 136–144.

CHUMAKOVA, T. V. Komissiya po istorii Akademii nauk (1938-1953 gg.) [Commission on the History of the Academy of Sciences (1938-1953). In Russ.]. IN: Komissii Akademii nauk v XVIII–XX vekakh. Istoricheskie ocherki [The Academy of Sciences' Commissions in the 18th-20th Century. Historical essays]. St. Petersburg, Nestor-Istoriya publ., 2013, pp. 512–529.

About the authors

Ilizarov Simon Semyonovich, PhD in History, professor, S. I. Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, department of historiography and source studies for the history of science and technology, head of the department, +7(916)553-87-43, sinsja@mail.ru

Grant information

This article has been prepared with financial support from the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (project no. 19-011-00366).

Submitted 21.12.2019, published (for citation):

ILIZAROV, S. S. Arkhiv Akademii nauk SSSR v gody velikikh ispytanii. 1941-1942 gg. [Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the Days of Great Trials: 1941-42. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2020, no. 3, pp. 719-735. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2020-3-719-735

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .