

ON ADDITION TO THE BIOBIBLIOGRAPHY OF ALEXANDER E. FERSMAN

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The article supplies arguments for the necessity of publication of addition to biobibliography of academician Alexander E. Fersman, describes specifics of the material preparation to such publications. Frequency of publications dedicated to A.E. Fersman was analyzed and long-felt need of republishing of his science popularization works was emphasized.

2 figures, 17 references.

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There were only two biobibliographies of Alexander E. Fersman (1883–1945) published. The first biobibliography was published during his lifetime in the series “*Materials to biobibliography of scientists of the USSR*” published by the Central Institute of Bibliography (Alexander Evgen'evich Fersman, 1940). The second one was published in scientific series with the same title after his 80's anniversary (Alexander Evgen'evich Fersman, 1964). The issue was not timed to coincide with the anniversary, probably to include the anniversary publications in it. 50 years passed since the day of last Fersman biobibliography publication in 2014.

The purpose of publishing bibliographies and biobibliographies of particular people is to list the work of the person and publications about him not only for the sake of cataloguing the literature on the particular person. They represent very important instrument for researcher who takes an attempt to study a subject in full depth of published material. It is clear that such a long time already is a good reason to compile bibliographical addition as A.E. Fersman works are still significant. Celebration of the scientist's 125th anniversary showed that perception of Fersman's scientific activities exposed new aspects, in the same time some of his works and achievements were forgotten. Rationalizing these facts the author started to catalog publications connected to A.E. Fersman's activities and their evaluation printed after 1964. He searched every volume of abstract journal of Geology and Geography from its establishment till present as well as catalogues of the largest Russian libraries: Russian State library (RGB), Library of the Natural Sciences (BEN RAS), Libraries of the Moscow State University (MSU) and institutions like FGUP VIMS (Fedorovskiy All-Russian Institute of Mineral Resources) and IGEM RAS (Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy, and Geochemistry

of the RAS). The first results of this work were reported on the Fersman scientific session in Apatity in 2010. The list of publications accounted 228 titles devoted to A.E. Fersman and more than 30 of his own works was published in the Proceedings of the session (Ramenskaya, 2010).

Abolishing of the censorship in 1991 made sending all the published materials to the Central Institute of Bibliography not mandatory and consequently, local publications became not accessible by all of the scientific society. The author mentioned this fact in correspondence to some participants of the Fersman Anniversary lectures in 2008 with a list of found publications with request to share data they found missing in the list. However, there was no a reply to the request. Author continued the search in small libraries starting from 2010. She visited Fersman Mineralogical museum of the RAS and found there archived card catalogue of publications and public speeches of Alexander Evgen'evich himself and about him. Ekaterina Matveyevna Fersman (1902–1980), the widow of Alexander Evgen'evich, maintained the card catalogue. We were extremely grateful to T.M. Pavlova and G.A. Osolodkina, the museum employees, for the information about this catalogue. We familiarized ourselves with the four catalogue boxes by permission from directors of the museum M.I. Novgorodova and later V.K. Garanin. From the material of the boxes we found that by the 2010 we had accounted less than half of the publications. Besides the works published after 1964 there were even earlier publications. By this time the full list of articles included more than 50 works by A.E. Fersman and over 400 about him, not taking into account 170 newspaper articles, which were not included in the biobibliography of 1964. We still need to accomplish the search for publications in the period of 2011–2013 and the most labor-intensive part – to check

the titles in the list with the actual papers in libraries. Some 250 titles were possible to verify in the library of the MSU and more than 140 need to be found in other libraries. Most of them were comments on Fersman's publications and announcements of his books that did not make it to the old bibliographies. The messages about the books may not be of big interest and can be omitted, but the comments from his contemporaries after almost 70 years of the scientist's death should be documented. Not all of those references were published in special articles. Monographs, document assemblies, scientists' diaries and other fundamental publications could contain Fersman's name or assessment of his works. Correspondence of V.I. Vernadsky and B.L. Lichkov, showed an example of such reference, when Lichkov made derogatory remarks about the first and the second volumes of Fersman's *Geochemistry* and highly appreciated the third volume dedicated to the theory of geo-energy. This correspondence could not be included to Fersman's biobibliography list, as it does not fit any parameter of the genre but could be added in the appendix that lists parallel sources that a scientist can refer to by the scientist's name search only.

A bibliographer does not have to read all the material he added to the bibliography, but familiarizes with the material unwillingly. Some of the articles were impossible to leave unread. We want to inform the reader about some of the most striking materials that we collected during the work on the bibliography.

The magazine *"Chemistry and Life"* described activities of A.E. Fersman most completely and briefly: *"Mineralogist and geochemists, the organizer of the development of natural resources of Kola Peninsula, Kara Kum Desert, Urals, Transbaikaliya, the initiator of introduction of aerial photography in the scientific research, the author of fundamental works on geology, geochemistry and the writer, whose books were voraciously read by the youth..."* (Academician..., 1967). This statement was supported with quotes from Fersman's works, in which he reveals himself as an economist and coordinator of integration in mining and extraction of mineral resources, expressing care about protection of the mineral resources from high-grading.

We all know these facts about A.E. Fersman. He was the initiator of introduction of geography as one of the main school courses and became the first dean of the first Geography department in the USSR at Leningrad State University.

Few people, other than employees of Fersman Mineralogical Museum, know that Committee on Meteorites at the Presidium of Academy of Sciences had developed from the Commission on Meteorites, created by A.E. Fersman at the museum (Krinov, 1948). It is even less known, that speleological explorations in our country started under A.E. Fersman's leadership. He initiated and was on the organization committee of the First Speleological Meeting. The Meeting occurred only two years after Fersman's death (Dublyanskiy, Dublyanskaya, 1999).

The most surprising was the article published in 2006 in *Ethnographical Reports of Kola Scientific Centre of the RAS (KSC RAS)* about A.E. Fersman as an analogy of Prometheus for Saami people (Patsia, Rasumova, 2006). Fersman became a legend not only for Saami, but also for us — the readers and his admirers. He promoted this legend with his own dedication and numerous stories about life of Kola tundra and his work.

We need to give some information on the frequency of publications at the end.

Fersman's works and articles about him kept being published annually after he passed away. The curve on figure 1 illustrates the number of works published in five-year periods. It shows three peaks, two of which reflect issues of collected papers dedicated to Fersman (Alexander Evgen'evich..., 1965; Issues..., 1975; Issues..., 1976) and the third one was on his centennial anniversary, when volume of collected papers (*Development...*, 1983) was published along with journals' publications.

The collection of works issued in 1965 (Alexander Evgen'evich..., 1965) requires particular attention. It was organized in certain order as the series *"Scientists of Russia. Notes, Memoirs, Materials"* was organized and published. The first edition of the series dedicated to S.I. Vavilov was deemed to be organized by the Nobel prize laureate I.M. Frank and published in 1979 (Sergey Ivanovich..., 1979). The mentioned above paper assembly dedicated to Fersman was published in 1965 and was produced in the same way as the later first in the series on S.I. Vavilov and other in the row. D.I. Shcherbakov wrote the feature article in the book on the life and activity of the scientist. The book also contained archive letters and manuscripts of unpublished articles and more than 70 memoirs from his followers and colleagues. Thus, we could label this issue the first predecessor of the series *"Scientists of Russia..."*.

The second curve (Fig. 2) shows period from 1976 to 1988 in more details showing pub-

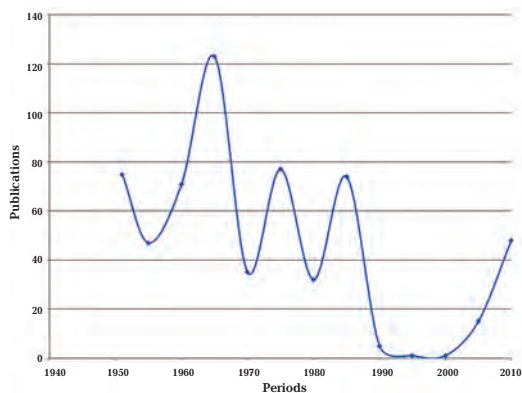


Fig. 1. Frequency of publications about A.E. Fersman during 1940–2000 in five year periods.

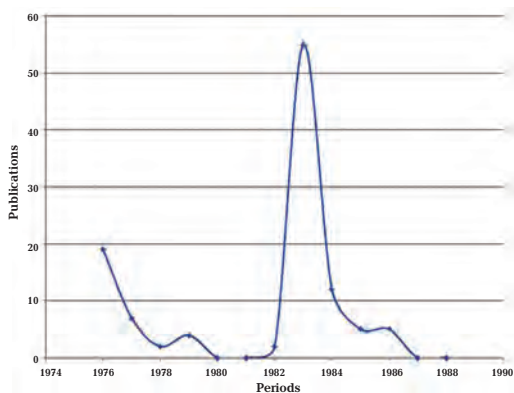


Fig. 2. Annual frequency of publications in the period of 1976–1988.

lications peaking in the centenary 1983 and declining to none later in the decade. There was no publications in 1980, nor later after the anniversary, either and in the years of Perestroika, same in the following post-Soviet times. The rise in papers in 2003 and later (Fig. 1) was due to the issuing of *"Unknown Fersman"*, published by the Mineralogical Museum (*Unknown Fersman*, 2003), Fersman sessions in Apatity and establishing of *Tietta* magazine, which had at least one article on Fersman in each issue and regularly two or three. This magazine published forgotten and unpublished works of Fersman. There was only a small collection of papers published to Fersman's 125th anniversary in Moscow (Fersmans Lectures, 2008) and articles in central newspapers apart from the journal.

The publishing pattern of Fersman's science popularization works looks less optimistic. Potential of modern publishing industry supply great options to reprint his *"Remembrance of the Stone"* and *"Popular Mineralogy"*. Almost 20 years passed since publication of the last issue of *"Remembrance of Stone"* (Fersman, 1996) and the last issue of *"Popular Mineralogy"* in Chelyabinsk (Fersman, 2000). The last issue of Fersman's *"Popular Geochemistry"* in Russian was published only in 1959! It was published later only abroad in Bulgarian and Spanish. The Spanish issue in 1972 was the last one.

We do not share the opinion that the book *"Popular Geochemistry"* was outdated. This science searched for new regularities in mineral deposit formation and gathered material on the issues that were already questioned in Fersman's time and were reflected in the book. The new geochemical data collected after Fersman's time could be placed in the appendix to the book. Only notes on the new notion

of geochemical barrier would need a special chapter.

The stories about gemstones and traveler's stories will never become outdated.

An authority leadership is needed to help our children to have their wonderful Fersman's books and articles, which helped many of us in our time to choose career path in geology.

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