

Evgeny Nikanorovich Pavlovsky (1884–1965) and the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

The achievements of Evgeny Pavlovsky in the field of medical parasitology are so essential that his figure continues to attract the attention of both historians of medicine and zoology. The Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences (ZIN AS) of the USSR was an integral part of his life; he has been associated with it for about 4 decades. Our task is to reveal the role played by the Zoological Museum (ZM) and ZIN AS of the USSR in the life of the scientist and to understand what influence he had on the development of the Institute. Several main periods may be distinguished.

The first period (1924—1930) is the work of E.N. Pavlovsky in the „Permanent Commission for the Study of Malarial Mosquitoes.“ It was founded in 1924 at the ZM but remained independent as other Commissions of the Academy. Since 1895 ZM was „the central institution in the Empire for the studying of the animal kingdom, mainly of Russia.“ The commission included some employees from the Museum: A.A. Shtackelberg, N.V. Nasonov, A.P. Semenov-Tian-Shansky, but also people who did not work there, including non-residents. The work was based on the Museum’s experience in collaboration with scientists in the provinces. A practical direction of the work of the Commission was essential for the new authorities. In the Conclusion of Figatner’s Commission in 1929 it was stated that nobody tried to „modify the activities of the Museum in the direction of approaching the tasks of socialist construction“. Work of the Malarial Commission partly covered this flaw: “It should be noted, however, that it is stimulated mainly by the energy of a person who does not belong to the Museum’s employees: prof. E.N. Pavlovsky“.

The second period (1930—1942) — E.N. Pavlovsky is a senior zoologist of the Institute, the head of the Department of Parasitology. The Commission joined the ZM, which was renamed in 1931 into the Zoological Institute during the reform of the Academy of Sciences in 1929—1934. The draft of the Regulations of the ZM in 1930 states that „there are two permanent commissions associated with the ZM: malarial and helminthological“. Soon it was converted to the Department of Parasitology. In the 1930s the most important concepts of ecological parasitology were developed within the walls of the ZIN. Pavlovsky actively used the expeditionary capabilities of the academic institute: from 1928 to 1936 he took charge of more than 40 parasitological expeditions, 2/3 of them were connected with the Academy of Sciences.

The third period (1942—1962): E.N. Pavlovsky — Director of the ZIN AS USSR. The circumstances under which E.N. Pavlovsky became the director of the ZIN became known during our recent work on the history of the Institute in wartime. Before the war, S.A. Zernov, director since 1930, asked to be relieved of his duties as a director (he died in 1945). He was not immediately released due to the wartime. He wrote Pavlovsky a letter with a request to replace him. The approval took a long time, as the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences was evacuated to Kazan. In autumn 1942, Pavlovsky was appointed acting director and only on September 29, 1943 he was confirmed in this position. Thanks to Pavlovsky Tajikistan was elected as the place of the evacuation of the whole ZIN. In the 1940s—1950s the parasitology school of E.N. Pavlovsky has developed at the Zoological Institute.

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