

Gregor K. RASUMOFSY – Wissenschaftler und Forscher

Das Vermächtnis von Graf G. K. RAZUMOVSKY (1759- 1837) ist sowohl in Europa als auch in Russland anzutreffen. Er ist der Sohn des Ukrainers Cyril RASUMOVSKY und hat sich sehr für die Naturwissenschaften, insbesondere die Geologie, eingesetzt. Geologie studierte er beim Naturalisten und Wissenschaftler ALLAMAN an der Universität von Leiden. Die Bekanntschaft mit Prof. DE SAUSSURE in Genf bestimmte den wissenschaftlichen Lebensweg von Gregor RAZUMOVSKY. Er verzichtete auf die Militärlaufbahn und übersiedelte nach Lausanne in der Schweiz. Er veröffentlichte erste wichtige Bücher in den Jahren 1783 und 1789 in französischer Sprache, erst spät wurden diese Werke auch ins Deutsche übersetzt. Er schrieb Werke über Regionale Geologie, Geomorphologie, Paläontologie, Mineralogie und Analytische Chemie. Außerdem war er ein leidenschaftlicher Sammler, das Wohnhaus in Lausanne wurde regelrecht zu einer Lagerhalle von Gesteinsproben. 1790 ernannte die Russische Akademie RASUMOVSKY zum Ehrenmitglied; zuvor war er schon Mitglied verschiedener Akademien und wissenschaftlicher Gesellschaften. Es war ein kleiner Skandal, als RASUMOVSKY sich weigerte, 600 Rubel für die Übersetzung des Dekretes zu bezahlen, worauf die damalige Präsidentin, Catherine DASHKOVA, ihn zwang ihn das Diplom zurückzugeben.

In die Schweiz zurückgekehrt, heiratete er gegen den Willen seines Vaters Henriette MALSEN, die er aber bald wieder verließ und reiste darauf nach Russland. Er gab seine Mineraliensammlung auf, die von seinem Freund H. STRUVE in die USA an General G. GIBBS übergeben wurde. Jetzt ist die Sammlung im Besitz der Universität Yale, USA (Dr. M. WEIDEMANN). Den Großteil der Bibliothek schenkte er der Universität von Lausanne.

Nach Aufenthalten in Moskau und St. Petersburg ließ er sich 1904 in Baden bei Wien nieder, kaufte ein Haus und heiratete die Baronin Therese-Elisabeth SHENK DE CASTEL. Bei weiteren Reisen nach Deutschland und nach Schlesien hat er eine neue Art von Allophan aufgefunden, die Prof. J.F. JOHN analysierte und der er den Namen "Rasumofskit" gab.

Von 1814 bis 1820 lebte die Familie RASUMOVSKY wieder in St. Petersburg und betrieb die Scheidung von der ersten Ehefrau Gregors. Die Heilige Synode ließ die zweite Ehe ungültig erklären, bald darauf starb die junge Frau im Jahr 1818 an Kummer und Gram.

Nichtsdestoweniger setzte RASUMOVSKY seine Arbeiten fort; er wurde Ehrenmitglied der Naturwissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft und erhielt weitere Ehrungen. Er nahm in diesem Lebensabschnitt intensiv an wissenschaftlichen Veranstaltungen teil, leitete Exkursionen, publizierte viel.

1822 publizierte er seine Beobachtungen und Ergebnisse über Untersuchungen im Wiener Raum (siehe G. WITHALM, Univ. Wien). Auch die Wohnung in Österreich wurde mit Sammlungsmaterial so weit angefüllt, dass sogar seine Frau Maria Grigorievna RASUMOFSKY sich darüber beschwerte. Das Material aus Schlesien ging im Zweiten Weltkrieg verloren, die paläontologischen Sammlungsbestände werden noch heute im ROLLET-Museum in Baden bei Wien aufbewahrt. Gregor RASUMOVSKY starb am 3. Juni 1837 in seinem Landbesitz Rudoletz und hinterließ unzählige unpublizierte Arbeiten.

Die Mineraliensammlung verblieb im staatlichen Vernadsky Museum in Moskau, das Sammlungsbestände vor allem aus dem 18. und beginnenden 19. Jahrhundert verwahrt.

Gregor Kirillovich RASUMOFSKY war Mitglied der Akademien der Wissenschaften in Stockholm, Turin, München sowie weiterer Vereinigungen in Turin, Basel, Zürich, Moskau, St. Petersburg, Jena und Lausanne. Er war ein Wissenschaftler mit weltumspannenden Interessen und ein einzigartiger Fachmann.

¹⁹

Adresse der Verfasserin/adress of the author: Dr. Minina Elena MININA,
Vernadsky State Geological Museum , Mokhovaya st. 11 bld 2, 125009 Moscow, Rußland
email mel@sgm.ru

Grigory RAZUMOVSKY scientist and collector

The scientific legacy of G. RAZUMOVSKY belongs to western Europe as to Russia. The scientist naturalist Count G. K. RAZUMOVSKY (1759- 1837), son of Ukrainian "hetman" Cyril RAZUMOVSKY, from his youth was engaged in natural sciences, especially in geology, which he studied under the guidance of professor rof. ALLAMAN in University of Leiden. The acquaintance with prof. DE SAUSSURE in Geneva determined the direction of scientific interests of G. RAZUMOVSKY. He renounced the military career intended him by his father and settled in Vernand-Boi-Genoud near Lausanna, here he founded the society of the amateurs of physical sciences and studied geology. His first scientific work "*Voyage mineralogique et physique de Bruxelle a Lausanne par un partie du pays de Luxemburg, de la Lorraine de la Champagne et de la Franche-Comte*" appeared in 1783. In 1789 G. RAZUMOVSKY published the fundamental work "*Histoire Histoire naturelle de Jorat et de ses environs et celle des trois lacs de Neufchatel, Morat et Brenne, precede d'un essai sur le climat, les productions, le commerce, les anomeaux de la partie du pays de Vaud ou de la Suisse Romanne, qui entre dans le plan de cet ouvrage, par le comte de RAZUMOVSKY*", translated lately in German. The numerous studies of G. RAZUMOVSKY were published in the transactions of physical scientific society founded by him. The range of his scientific interests was very large: he wrote the articles on regional geology, geomorphology, paleontology, mineralogy and analytical chemistry. Besides G. RAZUMOVSKY was a passionate collector, his house in Lausanna became a store-house of stones. 1790 G. RAZUMOVSKY being the member of numerous academies and scientific societies was elected the honorary member of Russian academy. The elections were scandalous as G. RAZUMOVSKY refused to buy the translations of russian academy, costed 600 roubles and forced him by Catherine DASHKOVA, president of academy and returned the diploma.

After returning in Switzerland Grigory against the father's will married to Henriette MALSEN but shortly he left her and departed to Russia. In Lausanna he abandoned his collection of minerals and capital library which at present kept in University of Lausanna. The collection of minerals was sold by his friend H. STRUVE to american colonel G. GIBBS and presently it's in Yale University USA (Dr. M. WEIDEMANN). From 1794 to 1799 Grigory RAZUMOVSKY stayed in Russia in his father estate Petrovskoye under Moscow and in Petersburg. In 1804 he settled in Baden near Vienna where he bought a house and married baroness Therese-Elisabeth SHENK DE CASTEL. He worked in and traveled through Germany and Silesia where he struck a new variety of allophane analysed by prof. J.F. JOHN and named "*razumovskin*".

From 1814 to 1820 the family of RAZUMOVSKY lived in Petersburg carrying on divorcing process with the first wife of Grigory KIRILOVICH. The Holy Synod admitted the second marriage invalid and the young wife died from grief in 1818. In spite of the misfortune Gregory continued working; may 10th 1816 RAZUMOVSKY elected the honorary member of society of naturalists of Moscow and in 1817 he became one of members-founders of mineralogical society of St. Petersburg. This period of his life he took active part in the work of his re-created society, participated in the meetings, made the lecture and reports on divers subjects did geological excursions in the environs of Petersburg and in Karelia, supplemented the collection of mineralogical society, accomplished chemical analysis of water sources, examined the ice of Neva river. The range of his scientific researches was very large: he wrote the articles on the stone in architecture, antique monuments of Russia, tumuli and numismatics. According to commission of mineralogical society RAZUMOVSKY participated in the work of commission of national education inspecting mineralogical studies of institutions. In Petersburg Grigory gathered a new mineralogical collection, among his manuscripts there is the work "*Ma collection de mineraux a St-Petersbourg rangee selon une nouvelle methode, celle de l'ordre geognostique*" (manuscript)

In 1816 he edited a new work: "*Coup d'oeil geognostique sur le Nord de l'Europe en general et en Russie en particulier*", considering the stones formation and wrote the survey of mineral deposit of north-eastern Russia. After the death of his wife in 1820 Grigory RAZUMOVSKY with his sons lived in Vienna, in Baden and in his estate Rudolz continuing geological and mineralogical studies. In 1822 he published the work "*Observation mineralogiques sur les environs de Vienne*", examining the rocks of divers ages and fossils



of Vienna's environs, discussing breccia formation and containing comparative analysis with the other regions. A number of publications of G. WITHALM (Vienna university) were devoted to this work.

In Austria RAZUMOVSKY continued to gather mineralogical and paleontological collection. As testified Maria Grigorievna RAZUMOVSKY, the home was so filled by stones as when the son arrived they could not let him a separate room. "How the house dont come down?" she distressed. Mineralogical collection of the Count RAZUMOVSKY transported by his grandson in Silesia was lost during the World War II. However the paleontological specimens of RAZUMOVSKY are kept in ROLLET-museum in Baden. (G. WITHALM). Grigory KIRILLOVICH dead 3 june 1837 in his estate Rudolz leaving numerous unpublished works. 1902 his grandson Camille edited the work "*œuvres scientifiques posthumes*" 1902, Halle, the survey contains the works on mineralogy of the environments of Petersburg, Altai, Baikal, the notes on Moravia and lower Austria, notes on Hungary, on Karlsbad, geological record of the environments of Vienna.

The mineralogical collection of RAZUMOVSKY maintained in Vernadsky State geological museum in Moscow dates from XVIII begining XIX centuries. The collection belonged to Alexei RAZUMOVSKY (1748- 1822), the oldest brother of Grigory. Alexei KIRILLOVICH was naturalist botanist, guardian of Moscow University. In his estate Gorenky near Moscow he arranged a remarkable botany garden numbering about 2000 exotic plants from the four cardinal points. RAZUMOVSKY was the owner library containing the works on natural sciences and mineralogical collection which occupied a separate pavilion. After the death of Alexei RAZUMOVSKY his collection was redeemed by a merchant Pavel MOLOSHNIKOV and given him to Moscow University 1856-57. The list of collection entered in the first printed catalogue of collections of Moscow Imperial University edited by prof. SHCHUROVSKY in 1858. On all probability the most part of collection of Alexei RAZUMOVSKY was gathered by his brother Grigory for in collection there are predominated minerals of Silesia, Bohemia, Bavaria and Hungary.

Grigory KIRILLOVICH RAZUMOVSKY was a member of academies of sciences of Stockholm, Turin, Munich, also member of Royal society of agriculture of Turin, of physico-medical society of Basel, of society of naturalists of Zurich, of Moscow; he was the member-founder of mineralogical society of St. Petersburg, member of mineralogical society of Jena, founder of society of physical sciences of Lausanna. He was a scientist of such worldwide interests as rare specialist of his time.

References

- Russian biographic dictionary, St. Petersburg, 1910, pp. 444-448
VASSILTCHIKOV, A.A.: Rasumovsky's family, St. Petersburg, 1880, v. 2
RAZUMOVSKY Maria: Razumovsky's family at the tsar's court., Moscow, 2004
WITHALM, G.: Gregor Graf Rasumofsky und seine erdwissenschaftlichen Forschungen in Baden bei Wien, 1999
JOHN, J.F.: Chemische Untersuchungen mineralischer vegetarischer und animalischer Substanzen, 1810, Bd. I, p. 172-176
Comte Gregoire RAZUMOVSKY, *Œuvres scientifiques posthumes*, 1902, Halle
PEROSIO, P.N.: The list of members St. Petersburg Imperial mineralogical society, St. Petersburg, 1890
Minutes of the society of naturalists of Moscow, 231/121 from 1808
The letter of G. RAZUMOVSKY from 2. 8. 1816, Archives of Naturalist's society, inventory 17, 1816, Moscow