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Physicists and chemists at the University of Lviv / Lwów / Lemberg in the second half of the 19th century – the beginning of the 20th century

(1) Introduction

On the history of Lviv: Lviv (1256–1349) – Lwów (1349–1772) – Lemberg (1772–1918).

On the history of Lviv University: 1661 — the status of Academy is given to the Jesuit collegium, which existed up to 1763; 1784 — the University is founded by Keiser Josef II; 1805–1817 — lower status (liceum); 1817–1918 — named after Franz I; 1919–1939 — named after the King Jan Kazimierz; 29.11 1912 Austrian government announced the project of founding Ukrainian University in Lviv. Opening was planned for 1916. Now — Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

(2) Physicists at Lviv University until 1918

Tomasz STANIECKI (1826, Wadowice, Poland–1891, Lviv): 1872–1891 — the first Head of the chair for experimental physics of Lviv University (1889–1890 — Dean, 1890–1891 — Rector); 1850 — graduated from Lviv University; 1858 — PhD degree of Lviv University; 1873 — Professor. Author of books and textbooks.

Ignacy ZAKRZEWSKI (1860, Ternopil’–1932, Lviv): 1892–1920 — Head of the chair for experimental physics of Lviv University (1900–1901 — Dean). First director of the Institute for physics at the University (1897). 1882 — graduated from Lviv University; 1882–1886 — at Lviv University; 1887–1891 — at Kraków University; 1892 — study at Berlin University; 1893 — Professor. Scientific interests: physics of ice, temperature behaviour of the heat capacity of solids.

Oskar FABIAN (1846–1899): 1872–1899 — Professor of Lviv University. First Head of the chair for theoretical physics (1872–1899). Works in physics, mathematics, mechanics, meteorology as well as astronomy and ecology. His most weighty works concern light wave refraction, gravitation and matter radiation state. He became a member of German Leopoldina Academy in Halle. Oskar Fabian was the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty of Lviv University.

Marian SMOLUCHOWSKI (1872, Vienna–1917, Kraków): 1900–1913 — Professor of Lviv University (1911–1912 — Rector). 1894 — graduated from Vienna University. 1913–1917 — Professor of Krakow University. Works on the kinetics theory, fluctuations, similarity technique in aerodynamics as well as theoretical and experimental works on orogeny processes. He was awarded the following degrees: PhD degree of Vienna University, Professor of experimental physics of Krakow University, Professor of theoretical physics of Lviv University, Doctor of Law of Glasgow University. He was giving lectures on physics and mathematics in Lviv University. He obtained the Haitinger's prize for theoretical investigation of brownian motion.

Konstancy ZAKRZEWSKI (1876, Warsaw–1948, Kraków): 1911–1913 and from 1917 — at Krakow University. 1913–1917 — Professor of Lviv University. Famous works on the electronic theory of metals and on the thermal capacity of fluids. He was giving lectures on theoretical physics, thermodynamics, electronic theory, electricity and magnetism as well as held seminars.

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(3) Chemists at Lviv University until 1918

Franz PLESS (? –1905, Graz): 1851–1855 — Professor, 1st Head of the chair for chemistry of Lviv University. Studied properties of ozone and some organic substances. Discovered pelargon acid, has lost his sight during an accident which happened at its study.

Leopold von PEBAL (1826–1887): 1857–1865 — Professor, Head of the chair for chemistry of Lviv University. Before 1857 worked in Heidelberg and Strasbourg. 1865–1872 at the University of Graz. 1872 — Head of the chair for chemistry at the Lviv Technical Academy. In Lviv, studied properties of Boryslav oil and for the first time discovered in it aroma carbohydrogens. Together with A. Freund discovered general reaction of ketone synthesis at an interaction of carboxyl acids chlorides with organic zinc compounds. This was the first essential contribution of Lviv chemists into the organic chemistry. Author of 7 publications.

Edward LINNEMAN (1841–1886): 1866–1871 — Professor, Head of the Chair for Chemistry of Lviv University. Starting from 1871 lectured chemistry at the Higher Technical School in Brno, then in the University of Prague. 1876 — real Member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences. Disciple of A. Kekulé and L. Pebal. Studied spirits of aliphatic range, transformations of bromides into fatty acids.

Bronislaw RADZISZEWSKI (1838, Warsaw–1914, Lviv): 1872–1914 — Professor of Lviv University (1882 — Rector, 1895–1911 — 1st Head of the chair for organic chemistry). 1861 — graduated from the Moscow University. From 1865 studied in the University of Ghent (Belgium). 1870–1872 — Professor of chemistry at the Technical Institute in Krakow. Disciple of a well-known chemist August Kekulé. Founder of the Lviv school of the organic chemistry. Author of 340 publications. Discovered a method to synthesize carbonic acids amides by an interaction of nitriles with hydrogen peroxide in the alkali environment (Radziszewski reaction). Real member of the Krakow Academy of Arts and Sciences (1878).

Julian GRABOWSKI (1848, Warsaw–1882, Krakow): 1875–1877 — Docent of the chair for chemistry at the University of Lviv. 1870 — graduated from the University of Warsaw. 1872–1875 — assistant at the chair for organic chemistry of the University of Strasbourg. 1877–1882 — Professor of the Technical-industrial Institute in Krakow. Scientific interests: oil chemistry and processing technology, organic pigments. Authors of 40 publications. Corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences (1877).

Bronislaw LACHOWICZ (1856–1903, Lviv): 1896–1903 — Professor, 1st Head of the chair for inorganic chemistry of the University of Lviv. 1880 — graduated from the University of Lviv. Disciple of Prof. B. Radziszewski. Probationer in Bern, Leipzig, Vienna. 40 publications. Scientific interests: oil chemistry and processing technology, organic and physical chemistry, chemistry of complex compounds.

Stanislaw TOLŁOCZKO (1868–1935): 1905–1935 — Professor, Head of the chair for inorganic chemistry of the University of Lviv. 1892 — graduated from the University of Warsaw. 1896–1905 — in the University of Krakow. Worked in Göttingen in the laboratory of Prof. Nernst. 30 publications. Scientific interests: solvability of crystal substances, chemistry of non-aqueous solutions, electro- and photochemistry, analytic chemistry.

Zygmund WEYBERG (1872–1944): 1912–1935 — Professor of the chair for chemistry in University of Lviv. 1897 — graduated from the University of Warsaw. 1910 — Master degree of Moscow University. From 1935 — Professor of the chair for mineralogy of Warsaw University. Crystallographer and mineralogist. Disciple of Prof. V.I. Vernads'kyj. Died during the Warsaw uprising.

Stanislaw OPOLSKI (1876–1918, Lviv): 1911–1918 — Professor, Head of the chair for organic chemistry of the University of Lviv. 1898 — graduated from the University of Lviv. Disciple of Prof. B. Radziszewski. Scientific interests: chemistry of aromatic compounds.

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