



Copyright © 2024 by Cherkas Global University  
All rights reserved.  
Published in the USA

European Journal of Contemporary Education

E-ISSN 2305-6746

2024. 13(1): 347-351

DOI: 10.13187/ejced.2024.1.347

<https://ejce.cherkasgu.press>

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** Any copying, reproduction, distribution, republication (in whole or in part), or otherwise commercial use of this work in violation of the author's rights will be prosecuted in accordance with international law. The use of hyperlinks to the work will not be considered copyright infringement.



**European Journal of  
Contemporary Education**



ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

## Revisiting the Pedagogical Periodical Press in the Vilna Educational District (1862–1915)

Irina Yu. Cherkasova <sup>a, b, \*</sup>, Larisa A. Koroleva <sup>c</sup>, Valentina S. Nikitina <sup>d</sup>, Natalia V. Svechnikova <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Cherkas Global University, Washington, DC, USA

<sup>b</sup> Volgograd State University, Volgograd, Russian Federation

<sup>c</sup> Penza State University of Architecture and Construction, Penza, Russian Federation

<sup>d</sup> Peoples Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), Moscow, Russian Federation

<sup>e</sup> Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Moscow, Russian Federation

### Abstract

This work examined the pedagogical periodical press in the Vilna Educational District in the period 1862–1915.

The study's source base incorporated narrowly specialized reference and encyclopedic works on the history of the Russian periodical press. In terms of methodology, use was made of content analysis to isolate a selection of periodicals published in 1862–1915 in the Vilna Educational District.

The study's findings revealed that there were five academic pedagogical periodicals published in the Vilna Educational District between 1862 and 1915. These journals were geographically distributed as follows: three published in Vilno, one – in Mogilev on the Dnieper, and one – in Grodno. Among them, the periodicals that were in operation for a relatively long time were *Tsirkulyar po Vilenskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu* and *Narodnoye Obrazovaniye v Vilenskom Uchebnom Okruge*, with both sustained through government funding and being in operation in Vilno up until the city was evacuated during World War I. Among the rest of the journals, of particular note is the periodical *Pedagogicheskiye Zapiski*, which was a supplement to the children's magazine *Zor'ka* – 18 issues of this journal were produced between 1905 and 1908. The remaining two publications, *Belorussky Uchitel'sky Vestnik* (published in Mogilev on the Dnieper) and *Pedagogicheskoye Delo* (Grodno), existed for relatively short periods of time, with fewer than 10 issues of each produced.

**Keywords:** pedagogical periodical press, Vilna Educational District, Russian Empire, period 1862–1915.

---

\* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: [Cherkasovairina42@gmail.com](mailto:Cherkasovairina42@gmail.com) (I.Yu. Cherkasova)

### **1. Introduction**

The Vilna Educational District, one of the oldest educational districts in the Russian Empire, was established in 1803, with Vilno as its administrative center. The district incorporated Vilna, Vitebsk, Grodno, Kovno, Minsk, Mogilev, and Kholm Governorates. In 1897, these areas had a combined population of approximately 11 million people (equally divided between the sexes), with 1.9 of these being urbanites ([Naselenie..., 1898: 5-29](#)). According to the study by A.A. Cherkasov, that same year, 1803, the district became home to a university of its own – Imperial Vilna University. The educational institution was, however, closed down in 1832 as a consequence of its students and instructors taking an active part in the November Uprising ([Cherkasov, 2023: 1688](#)).

### **2. Materials and methods**

The study's source base incorporated narrowly specialized reference and encyclopedic works on the history of the Russian periodical press. Of particular note are the work by A.A. Cherkasov, which examines the academic and demographic potential of educational districts across the Russian Empire ([Cherkasov, 2023](#)), the reference book by A.G. Dement'yev ([Russkaya periodicheskaya..., 1959](#)), the work by N.N. Ablov, devoted to academic periodical publications ([Ablov, 1937](#)), and 'The Russian Pedagogical Encyclopedia', produced under the editorship of V.G. Panov ([Rossiiskaya pedagogicheskaya..., 1993](#)).

In terms of methodology, use was made of content analysis to isolate a selection of periodicals published in 1862–1915 in the Vilna Educational District. Another important method employed in the study was the retrospective method, the use of which helped construct the work based on a chronological sequence of events.

### **3. Literature review**

The relevant historiography for this study may be divided into two groups: 1) historiography dealing with periodicals and editors in the Vilna Educational District; 2) historiography dealing with periodicals in other educational districts across the Russian Empire.

The first group is distinguished by fragmentariness. Nevertheless, the periodical press in the Vilna Educational District is mentioned in the work by S.V. Snapkovskaya, focused on the development of pedagogical journalism in Belarus in the early 20th century ([Snapkovskaya, 2010](#)); certain initiatives undertaken by the administration of the Vilna Educational District in the early 20th century are discussed in the work by S.I. Bus'ko ([Bus'ko, 2021](#)); the work by S.V. Snapkovskaya examines the conditions and factors governing the development of the social-pedagogical movement in Belarus in the early 20th century ([Snapkovskaya, 2019](#)).

As regards the historiography devoted to the periodical press in other educational districts across the Russian Empire, worthy of note are the following works: the one by V.D. Muzykant and colleagues, focused on pedagogical publications produced in the Kazan Educational District ([Muzykant et al., 2022](#)), the one by I.Yu. Cherkasova and colleagues, focused on pedagogical publications produced in the Orenburg Educational District ([Cherkasova et al., 2023](#)), and the ones by A.M. Mamadaliev and colleagues, focused on the periodical press in the Kiev ([Mamadaliev et al., 2023](#)), Kharkov ([Mamadaliev et al., 2023a](#)), Riga ([Mamadaliev et al., 2023b](#)), and Caucasus Educational Districts ([Mamadaliev et al., 2022](#)).

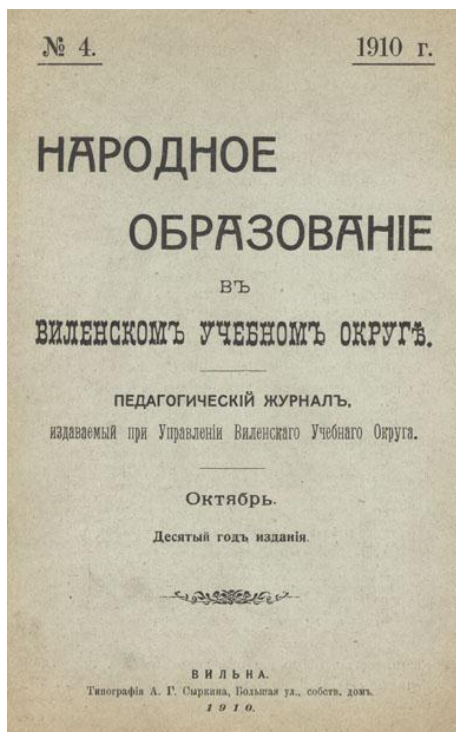
### **4. Results**

According to the study by A.A. Cherkasov, there were five pedagogical periodicals produced in the Vilna Educational District, with three of these published in its administrative center, Vilno, one – in Mogilev on the Dnieper, and one – in Grodno.

The oldest of them was the departmental *Tsirkulyar po Vilenskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu* (Russian: "Vilna Educational District Bulletin"), produced in Vilno from 1862 to 1915 ([Cherkasov, 2023: 1688](#)). The journal was published by the office of the Trustee of the Vilno Educational District. Up to 1869, its name was *Tsirkulyar po Upravleniyu Vilenskim Uchebnym Okrugom* ("Vilna Educational District Administration Bulletin"). Published monthly, the journal was primarily focused on official materials in the area of public education and published ordinances from the Ministry of Public Education and decrees from the Trustee of the Vilno Educational District ([Russkaya periodicheskaya..., 1959: 452](#)).

In 1901, they added a supplement to the journal – *Narodnoye Obrazovaniye v Vilenskom Uchebnom Okruge* ("Public Education in the Vilna Educational District"). The supplement was

produced from 1901 to 1915 (Figure 1) (Cherkasov, 2023: 1688). Initially, the periodical came out six times a year. Starting in 1907, it was produced monthly. It had two major sections – official and unofficial. The unofficial section carried works on primary education, model lesson materials, articles on out-of-school education, practical advice on improving the infrastructure of lower and primary schools, information about school life in the district, local pedagogical news, and biographies of prominent pedagogues.



**Fig. 1.** Cover of the journal *Narodnoye Obrazovaniye v Vilenskoy Uchebnoy Okrugy*. 1910. Issue 4.

The journal was edited by the district's officials and Trustee's aides. One of its editors was Vsevolod Aleksandrovich Flerov (1860–1919), a prominent Russian pedagogue and man of letters (Figure 2).



**Fig. 2.** Vsevolod Aleksandrovich Flerov (1860–1919)

V.A. Flerov was born on November 10, 1860, in Tver. Just like many Russian pedagogues at the time, he received his education through an ecclesiastical seminary. After graduating from Moscow Ecclesiastical Seminary, he worked at Tula Ecclesiastical School. Afterwards, from 1887 to 1895, he taught at Novotorzhskaya Teacher's Seminary. From 1895 to 1901, he worked as a public

schools inspector in Tver Governorate. In 1906, he was transferred to Vilno and appointed to the post of aide to the Trustee of the Vilna Educational District. That is where he engaged in editing the journal. In 1914, V.A. Flerov moved to Moscow, where he would lecture at Moscow Urban Folk School ([Rossiiskaya pedagogicheskaya..., 1993](#)).

From 1905 to 1908, they also published *Pedagogicheskiye Zapiski* (“Pedagogical Transactions”) in Vilno ([Cherkasov, 2023: 1688](#)). This periodical was a supplement to *Zor’ka* (“Dawn”), a journal for children of primary- and secondary-school age. Its editor-publisher was S.A. Kovelyuk. Published monthly, it was concerned with issues of nurture and education and carried a variety of materials discussing novel ideas in the pedagogical process. The journal was welcome in secular and parochial educational institutions alike. In all, 18 issues of this periodical were produced ([Snapkovskaya, 2010: 66](#)).

The journal *Belorussky Uchitel’sky Vestnik* (“Belarusian Teacher’s Herald”) was produced from 1910 to 1911 in Mogilev on the Dnieper ([Cherkasov, 2023: 1688](#)). This monthly was geared toward teachers and specialists in the area of public education. Its editor-publisher was N.Ye. Kozlov. The journal maintained close ties with the Active and Former Teachers’ Mutual Assistance Society in Mogilev Governorate. The journal’s content was aligned to the wishes of public teachers in Mogilev Governorate expressed via a special survey conducted by the Society for Facilitating Unity Among Public Teachers and Assisting Them With Pedagogical Advice. The journal’s staff comprised of local teachers. A significant portion of materials it carried were devoted to local school life. The periodical was launched in May 1910. Five issues of the journal were published since then before just one (Issue 6) was produced in 1911 – the year it ceased operation ([Ablov, 1937: 80-81](#)).

Lastly, there was *Pedagogicheskoye Delo* (“Pedagogical Business”), produced from 1911 to 1914 in Grodno ([Cherkasov, 2023: 1688](#)). The journal was published by the Grodno Pedagogical Society. At different times its editors-in-chief were V.O. Liders (Issues 1 through 4 in 1912), N.G. Ostroumov (starting from Issue 5 for 1912), and D.I. Kropotov (1913–1914). The journal’s first issue came out in December 1911. It was stated in that issue that the journal was devoted to issues of education and teaching and was the only journal in Russia focused on accumulating best teaching practices and facilitating mutual assistance among teachers. The operation of the journal mainly depended on input from secondary school teachers. The periodical had two major sections – the pedagogical section (academic articles, coverage of general issues, bibliography, coverage of current events in local school life, and reports covering the work of the pedagogic society) and the section for students (literary and academic writings by students, including exemplary essays and short stories). However, a number of articles by students being found reactionary vis-à-vis government policy eventually led to a confrontation with the administration of the Vilna Educational District. As a consequence, the journal was urged to shut down its students’ section. The periodical was on its fourth issue when V.O. Liders closed down the students’ section and gave up editing the journal ([Ablov, 1937: 86](#)). The journal ceased publication shortly afterwards.

In September 1915, the Russian troops had to leave the administrative center of the Vilna Educational District, the city of Vilno, during the Great Retreat, as a result of which the periodicals *Tsirkulyar po Vilenskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu* and *Narodnoye Obrazovaniye v Vilenskom Uchebnom Okrugue* ceased publication.

## 5. Conclusion

There were five academic pedagogical periodicals published in the Vilna Educational District between 1862 and 1915. These journals were geographically distributed as follows: three published in Vilno, one – in Mogilev on the Dnieper, and one – in Grodno. Among them, the periodicals that were in operation for a relatively long time were *Tsirkulyar po Vilenskomu Uchebnomu Okrugu* and *Narodnoye Obrazovaniye v Vilenskom Uchebnom Okrugue*, with both sustained through government funding and being in operation in Vilno up until the city was evacuated during World War I. Among the rest of the journals, of particular note is the periodical *Pedagogicheskiye Zapiski*, which was a supplement to the children’s magazine *Zor’ka* – 18 issues of this journal were produced between 1905 and 1908. The remaining two publications, *Belorussky Uchitel’sky Vestnik* (published in Mogilev on the Dnieper) and *Pedagogicheskoye Delo* (Grodno), existed for relatively short periods of time, with fewer than 10 issues of each produced.



## References

- [Ablov, 1937](#) – *Ablov, N.N.* (1937). *Pedagogicheskaya periodicheskaya pechat'* (1803–1916) [Pedagogical periodicals (1803–1916)]. Pod red. E.N. Medynskogo. M. [in Russian]
- [Bus'ko, 2021](#) – *Bus'ko, S.I.* (2021). *Obshchestvo sodeistviya fizicheskomu razvitiyu uchashchikhsya: proekt Vilenskogo uchebnogo okruga (1908-1909 gg.)* [Society for Promoting the Physical Development of Students: Project of the Vilna Educational District (1908-1909)]. *Nauchnye trudy Respublikanskogo instituta vysshei shkoly. Istoricheskie i psikhologo-pedagogicheskie nauki.* 21-1: 50-56. [in Russian]
- [Cherkasov, 2023](#) – *Cherkasov, A.A.* (2023). Educational Districts of the Russian Empire, Their Demographic and Scientific Potential (late XIX – early XX centuries). *Bylye Gody.* 18(4): 1683-1694.
- [Cherkasova et al., 2023](#) – *Cherkasova, I.Yu., Mamadaliev, A.M., Nikitina, V.S., Svechnikova, N.V.* (2023). To the Issue of Pedagogical Periodicals of the Orenburg Educational District (1875–1917). *Bylye Gody.* 18(4): 1881-1888.
- [Mamadaliev et al., 2022](#) – *Mamadaliev, A.M., Nikitina, V.S., Svechnikova, N.V., Cherkasova, I.Yu.* (2022). To the Issue of the Pedagogical Periodicals on the Territory of the Caucasian Educational District in 1867–1916. *Bylye Gody.* 17(3): 1207-1213.
- [Mamadaliev et al., 2023](#) – *Mamadaliev, A.M., Nikitina, V.S., Svechnikova, N.V., Cherkasova, I.Yu.* (2023). To the Issue of the Periodical Press of the Kiev School District in 1857–1917. *Bylye Gody.* 18(1): 251-257.
- [Mamadaliev et al., 2023a](#) – *Mamadaliev, A.M., Nikitina, V.S., Svechnikova, N.V., Cherkasova, I.Yu.* (2023). To the Issue of the Periodical Press of the Kharkiv Educational District in 1860–1917. *Bylye Gody.* 2023. 18(2): 781-788.
- [Mamadaliev et al., 2023b](#) – *Mamadaliev, A.M., Nikitina, V.S., Svechnikova, N.V., Cherkasova, I.Yu.* (2023). The Pedagogical Periodical Press in the Riga Educational District (1832–1915). *European Journal of Contemporary Education.* 2023. 12(2): 699-704.
- [Muzykant et al., 2022](#) – *Muzykant, V.L., Burdovskaya, E.Yu., Yurova, Yu.V., Zyukina, Z.S.* (2022). The Pedagogical Periodical Press in the Kazan Educational District, the Russian Empire (1865–1917). *European Journal of Contemporary Education.* 11(4): 1339-1344.
- [Naselenie..., 1898](#) – *Naselenie imperii po perepisi 28-go yanvarya 1897 g. Po uezdnam* [Population of the empire according to the census of January 28, 1897. By county]. Sankt-Peterburg, 1898. [in Russian]
- [Rossiiskaya pedagogicheskaya..., 1993](#) – *Rossiiskaya pedagogicheskaya entsiklopediya* [Russian Pedagogical Encyclopedia]. Pod red. V.G. Panova. V 2 t. T. 1. Moskva, 1993. [in Russian]
- [Russkaya periodicheskaya..., 1959](#) – *Russkaya periodicheskaya pechat' (1702–1894): Spravochnik* [Russian periodical press (1702–1894): Directory]. Pod red. A.G. Dement'eva. Moskva, 1959. [in Russian]
- [Snapkovskaya, 2010](#) – *Snapkovskaya, S.V.* (2010). *Razvitie pedagogicheskoi zhurnalistiki v Belarusi v nachale XX veka* [Development of pedagogical journalism in Belarus at the beginning of the 20th century]. *Izvestiya Yuzhnogo federal'nogo universiteta. Pedagogicheskie nauki.* 10: 65-74. [in Russian]
- [Snapkovskaya, 2019](#) – *Snapkovskaya, S.V.* (2019). *Usloviya i faktory razvitiya obshchestvenno-pedagogicheskogo dvizheniya na territorii Belarusi v nachale XX v.* [Conditions and factors for the development of the socio-pedagogical movement on the territory of Belarus at the beginning of the 20th century]. *Istoriko-pedagogicheskii zhurnal.* 2: 146-161. [in Russian]