

"He returned...". Z.G. Frenkel's (1869-1970) years of study at Dorpat University

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Z.G. Frenkel is an eminent social-hygienist, one of creators of social gerontology and its leader in the former Soviet Union. He spent a long (more than 100 years) and interesting life closely interlaced with the history of society in tsarist Russia and the Soviet state. He struggled against authorities in both the Russian and Soviet Empires and was prosecuted by them. In 1890 he was convicted of active participation in student disturbances, imprisoned in Butyrskaya prison, and expelled from Moscow University. In 1938 he was arrested and imprisoned for nine months. All these events are described in his diaries and memoirs that were suppressed from publication and were kept in the manuscript department and in the special custody of the State Public Saltykov-Schedrin Library in Leningrad - St. Petersburg. In 2009, 140 years after Z.G. Frenkel's birth, "Notes and Memoirs about Course of Life" were at last published in Saint-Petersburg (thanks to the active support of R.B. Samofal and R.S. Bahtyarov). At the same time A.P. Scherbo's monograph about Frenkel was published. Thereby, Frenkel's "Memoirs" were made available to the modern reader.

Zahariy Grigorievich Frenkel was born in Ukraine and lived there before his entrance to Moscow University; from 1890 till 1895 he studied in Derpt University at the medical faculty. In his memoirs Frenkel remembers Derpt professors and students. He writes that he met many people who "were wrecked in different universities and arrived to Derpt as the last refuge", as he had done. One of them was M.P. Kosach, a brother of L.P. Ukrainka who became a classic of Ukrainian literature. Frenkel became acquainted with V.V. Smidovich (in future named Veresaev) who was refused entrance to the Army Medical Academy. Frenkel writes especially warmly about professors of Derpt University, the brothers Karl and Alexander Schmidt, anatomist A. Rauber who gave him a course of anatomy and histology of the brain, surgeon W. Zoege von Manteuffel, physician H. Unverricht, ophthalmologist Relman, gynecologist O. Kustner, professor of policlinic semester K.K. Degio, mineralogist F. Levinson-Lessing, philosopher A. von Oettingen who gave him a course of

ethics, and writer E. Vilde, a young man at that time. Especially affecting are his memories about the many hours spent in library. He writes: "I wish to see old Derpt's park "Domberg", where ... buildings of the anatomic institute, ophthalmic clinic, clinic of internal diseases, university library, pathological institute...It would be wonderful to see how new Tartu looks. These impressions were not erased from Frenkel's memory even after 70 years; they were part of the formation of the young scientist.

Population Research in Latvian Anthropology in the 1930s

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In the early 20th century, nations in Europe were studied on an anthropological basis to determine the specific anthropological elements of each one. This work was done largely on the basis of methodologies identified by the German anthropologist Rudolf Martin during the first decade of the 20th century. By the end of the 1920s, certain countries (Finland, Poland) switched to more extensive research with greater or lesser government support. Now they either sought to cover the entire population, from infants to the elderly, or they focused on specific groups of residents.

In 1928, Jēkabs Prīmanis became the new director of the University of Latvia's Institute of Anatomy. He decided to change the process of anthropological research, and in the mid-1930s, that is exactly what he did. The institute, with support from the Latvian Cultural Fund, stopped studying individual groups of Latvians in certain locations, choosing instead to conduct all-encompassing research of the Latvian population, starting with newborns and ending with the elderly. Essentially, this would have led to the creation of an anthropological and genetic set of data about the people of Latvia (mostly ethnic Latvians). The new anthropological research programme included a series of questions based on the place where respondents were born and where they were living at the time of the study, thus obtaining information about social mobility and demographic issues such as when people got married, how many children they had, childbirth and mortality indicators, causes of death, etc. The work was done by a subsidiary of the Anatomy Institute and the Health Promotion