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On the official approval of textbooks in mathematics in Russia during the 1820s-1830s.

Abstract :

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In May 1826, Russian Emperor Nicholas I wrote: "Reviewing with especial attention the organization of the educational institutions in which Russian youth is educated to serve the state, I regret to observe that they lack that necessary and indispensable uniformity which must be the foundation of both child rearing and instruction". (Perepiska, 1826-1828, p.1) The Committee on the Organization of Educational Institutions was formed for the purpose of establishing the uniformity desired by the monarch. Part of its mission, as envisioned by him, was "to define in detail all courses of study for the future, indicating as well the compositions that must henceforward be used in the teaching of them," with a view to "proscribing all arbitrary teaching based on arbitrary books and notes" going forward. The Committee's duties included more general matters as well, such as apportioning instructional hours, undoubtedly an important factor in determining the role of mathematics among the other subjects. Transcripts of the Committee's meetings have survived, including materials dealing with the examination of numerous handbooks, written both in Russia and abroad (Zhurnaly, 1828-1835). These provide an opportunity to study the process of the adoption and translation of foreign handbooks, as well as the writing domestic ones. The procedure for reviewing textbooks was less formalized than it would subsequently become: very often, a new book would be examined by a single individual, Committee member Dmitry Chizhov, who played a significant role in the formation of Russian mathematics education (Karp, 2014). It might be said that, as a result of his work, which will be discussed in the report, there emerged for the first time

an official set of textbooks for the teaching of mathematics in schools. In our presentation, we propose to examine Chizhov's work in the Committee. As far as is known to the author of this proposal, this work (as well as the documents pertaining to it) has never before been analyzed. References Karp, Alexander. (2014). Russian Mathematics Teachers: Beginnings. *International Journal for the History of Mathematics Education*, 9 (2), 15-24. *Perepiska ob uchrezhdenii Komiteta po ustroistvu uchebnykh zavedenii [Correspondence on the Establishment of the Committee on the Organization of Educational Institutions] (1826-1828)*. Russian State Historical Archive, f. 738, op. 1, d. 1. *Zhurnaly zasedanii Komiteta po ustroistvu uchebnykh zavedenii [Journals of Meetings of the Committee on the Organization of Educational Institutions].(1828-1835)*. Russian State Historical Archive, f. 738, op. 1, d. 2.