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SOURCE Vechernyaya Moskva.

NEW BUILDINGS OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY

New buildings are at present being constructed in the Leninskiye Gori section of Moscow to house the Moscow Order of Lenin State University imeni M. V. Lomonosov, founded in 1755 by Tsaritsa Elizabeth and the poet-scientist Lomonosov. It is the largest university in the USSR, with an enrollment of about 10,000 students in its 11 faculties and 168 chairs.

The Moscow daily Vechernyaya Moskva recently devoted more than one of its four pages to a group of articles on the new buildings written by several university officials. A statement by A. N. Nesmeyanov, rector of the university and new President of the Academy of Sciences USSR, to the effect that the Chemistry Faculty is planning to increase its "research in the field of rare elements and ... the transformation of elements" may be interpreted to mean that the university is expanding its atomic research program. This and other articles are summarized below.

AGROBOTANICAL GARDEN

Professor N. Bazilevskaya

A 32-hectare agrobotanical garden for scientific research is to be planted near the new building which will house the Biology and Soil Faculty. The garden is to have an arboretum, a fruit and berry orchard, an alpinery with artificial mountains covered with alpine plants, a pond with a cascading water fountain, flower and vegetable gardens with 1,500 different types of medicinal and edible plants, experimental hothouses equipped with laboratories, vegetable houses with rooms for growing plants under artificial temperatures varying from plus 60 degrees to minus 70 degrees centigrade, a vivarium, and about 30 ponds and tanks for fishes. Planning work on the garden is lagging, however, which may delay spring planting and other work until autumn.

Professor Isayev is dean of the Biology and Soil Faculty.

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NEW FACILITIES AND FURNITURE

Architect A. Besprozvanny

New university buildings will include 23 large auditoriums seating from 150 to 600 persons, 125 smaller auditoriums, about 900 laboratories, a 1.2-million-volume library, an assembly hall seating 1,500 persons, a geography museum, etc.

Each of the 6,000 student dormitory rooms will have a built-in clothes closet, a metal bed (which may be converted into a divan), and a bookcase, desk, and small dining table. In all, some 150,000 pieces of 200 different types of furniture will be used.

Most of the laboratories will have standard cabinets one meter wide which may be varied by adding shelves and drawers of various sizes to meet any need; laboratory tables will have replaceable standard size bases.

GIANT CLOCK

The clock to be installed in the tower of the central building will be the largest in the country. The 4-ton clock will be 9 meters in diameter, with an hour hand 4 meters long and a minute hand over 5 meters long. Its mechanism is being produced by the training and production workshop of the Moscow Institute of Mechanics. A system is being devised to illuminate the clock so that it will be visible at any hour.

NEW BUILDING, LABORATORIES FOR VARIOUS FACULTIES

Academician A. Nesmeyanov, Rector

Six [of the university's 11] faculties -- Biology and Soil, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Mechanics and Mathematics -- are preparing to move into the new buildings. All laboratories are to be equipped with the best optical equipment, including electronic and ultraviolet microscopes. Since not all of the new equipment can possibly be made by Soviet industry, certain special equipment must be made by the university itself. For this reason it is necessary to set up both a design bureau and an instrument-building workshop as soon as possible. Engineers and technical workers such as mechanics, glass blowers, etc., must be trained to maintain the university's laboratories and workshops. Another important task is the training of highly qualified research workers, capable of operating all types of scientific equipment.

Biology and Soil Faculty

The Biology and Soil Faculty is to have its own building. Laboratories of the Chairs of Plant Physiology and Animal Physiology will be equipped with the most modern precision instruments for studying metabolism and cell structure and protoplasm. Unique, high-speed centrifuges have been assigned for use in albumin-chemistry research. The laboratory of the Chair of Animal Physiology is to be equipped with an expensive apparatus for experimentation in Pavlov physiology.

A large section of the building is to be set aside as a herbarium, and will contain various thermal apparatus, artificial climate rooms (some of which will be located in the agrobotanical garden), vivariums, etc., for experiments dealing with the transformation of nature and the creation of new forms of plant and animal life on the basis of Michurin science.

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Geography Faculty

The Museum of Geography will occupy the top six stories in the tower of the central building, with the seven stories below housing the Geography Faculty. This faculty will have 18 new laboratories, plus a meteorological station which is to be set up on the grounds of the agrobotanical garden.

University Observatory

The observatory is to have a new building of its own, with a special apparatus on the roof for catching the rays of the sun and for transmitting them to a basement laboratory where workers will study the sun and the solar spectrum. Among the complex apparatus to be installed in the observatory is the Maksutov refracting telescope, the largest in the USSR; the telescope will be used both for observing and for photographing the heavens.

Physics Faculty

The Physics Faculty is to occupy one of the two large wings of the central building. First-year physics students will learn methods of physical measurement in a new, well-equipped laboratory.

There will be individual laboratory buildings for the new Chair of Low Temperatures, for research on electrical phenomena of high potentials and high frequencies, and for the mechanics laboratories, which are equipped with aerodynamic and hydraulic engineering apparatus and apparatus for research in the field of the strength of metals.

Chemistry Faculty

The Chemistry Faculty is to occupy the other of the large wings attached to the central building. In the new quarters, each chemistry student is to have a work bench of his own. Research is planned on the kinetics of chemical reactions in the field of electrical discharges with the aim of increasing chemical production and creating new chemical products. Ways of transforming simple hydrocarbon raw materials into motor fuels with special properties and into synthetic fibers and plastics will also be studied. The chemistry of proteins will be studied, broad research in the field of rare elements is planned, and greater attention will be devoted to the transformation of elements. Students are to participate in all of this work.

Special laboratories, to be shared by scientific workers of the various faculties, are also being set up. Special laboratory equipment, no matter where located, will be freely available to other faculties.

A NEW TYPE OF LIBRARY

A. Kudryavtseva, Director
Scientific Library imeni A.M. Gor'kiy

The university's new library is to have 1,200,000 volumes, 600,000 of which will be shelved in stacks running through the middle of the tall central building. The 16 stories of stacks will be so arranged that those adjacent to particular faculties (Geology, Mechanics and Mathematics, and Geography) will contain books on those fields of science.

The rest of the books are to be kept in the various reading rooms, in buildings housing the Chemistry, Physics, and Biology and Soil faculties, and in the observatory. In addition, the student dormitory is to have a 150,000-volume library. There are to be separate reading rooms for the use of students, graduate students, and professors; each reading room is to be equipped with a collection of basic reference books and will be under the direction of a trained librarian.

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Requests for books will be sent by pneumatic tube. In addition to the regular book elevator, there will be a continuous and automatic vertical conveyor for dropping books off at any stack level. Books will be delivered between buildings by automobile.

Responsibility for setting up the new library has been placed upon the Scientific Library imeni Gor'kiy, Moscow's oldest library. Currently the library is devoting particular attention to acquiring the private collections of outstanding Soviet scientists; among the collections which have already been procured are those of Academician Savarenskiy on geology, Professor Kuz'min, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, on mathematics, Professor Smorodintsev on chemistry, and Professor Shmidt on ichthyology.

GEOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Yu. Yefremov
Acting Director, Geography Museum

The museum will occupy the top six stories in the tower of the central building. The top floor, immediately under the great spire with its red star, will be a spacious hall 10 meters high containing sculptures of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. In the center of the hall there will be a model of the university and a statue of Lomonosov. Each corner of the floor below will contain a giant (one meter, 27 centimeters in diameter) globe of the geology, geography, and hydrology of the earth. The lower floors will be devoted to displays of the plant and animal life of the USSR, materials on the history of the earth and life on our planet, on mineral and other resources, etc. Maps, diagrams, photographs, slides, films, models, dioramas, moulages, and exhibits are to be used widely.

Collection of materials for the museum was begun in 1950 by ten special expeditions. Another 27 expeditions are to be sent out in 1951.

The complex architectural problem of the museum is being handled by the Construction Administration of the Palace of Soviets, and the art work by the Academy of Fine Arts USSR. Several hundred artists and cartographers are to participate in the work of setting up the museum.

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