

Construction of the main building for the Tsisars-Royal Technical Academy in Lviv in 1873-1877 on the pages of «Gazeta Lwowska» newspaper

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Abstract – Described the main milestones in the construction of the main building for the Tsisar-Royal Technical Academy in Lviv in 1873-1877 according to the materials of Polish periodical of that time "Gazeta Lwowska". Emphasized the importance of this process, not only for the educational system of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but in general for social and cultural life of the region.

Keywords – Technical Academy, constructing, main building, architectural project, newspaper, education, mention.

I. Introduction

Lviv Polytechnic National University is one of the oldest technical higher educational institutions in Europe and the first one in Ukraine. The history of this educational center is very rich in interesting, remarkable dates, inventions of the best European models, involving in its activities a whole galaxy of technical leaders.

Its popularity, success and effectiveness, the Technical Academy was due to the active promotion of the central government of Vienna in the educational sphere, the keen attention of the new monarch to the issues of science. In addition, in the first decades of its existence, there was an urgent need to revise and complete the reorganization of the educational sphere of the empire, shifting priorities from the classical humanitarian to the technical vector. After the beginning of the industrial era (second half of the eighteenth century), the labor market began to formulate a request for specialists of new profiles – engineering type, specialists who could continue to develop experimental science, to implement and apply the nature of new theoretical developments, to modernize technical processes.

Efficiency and progressiveness of the educational process significantly depended on the material and technical base of the educational institution. In 1871 the status of the Technical Academy was raised – the right of a higher educational establishment was granted. In the 1960s, the leadership of the academy in connection with the increase in the number of students, the expansion of research work understood the need for the construction of an additional building that would meet the educational and scientific requirements of technical education. Thus, an educational institution in 1872, by the decree of the Emperor Franz Josef, was allowed to build his own home for the needs of the academic community. Significant funds were earmarked – 1 million 300 thousand of Roman

golden Austrian government and ordered the creation of a project for a professor of architecture Julian-Octavian Zakhariievich. [1, p.11]

In early 1873, the project was completed and approved. The architect planned to create a non-Renaissance style building. Construction began at the beginning of April 1874 on a plot of land, in the western part of the city at New World Street (later – L. Sapiiega street, now S. Bandera street). [2] This is a prestigious suburb of the then Lviv, as it was the main highway connecting the Lviv railway station with the central part of the city. The work was fast.

The construction of a new building for the Technical Academy has become a major event in the public life of the time in Lviv – the press, especially the Polish, actively informed the public about the chronicle of the structure. We have a lot of testimonies in "Gazeta Lwowska" (the official printed matter of the Austrian authorities), which enable us to better recreate the events of those days and to feel the atmosphere better than when studying official documents. In one of May 2, 1874, we find out that "the construction of the Technical Academy is facilitated by the Lviv Construction Bank". [3] The authors of the text genuinely admire the grandiose scale of construction, pointing out: "full of life and movement on the severalmarging segments between the streets: Lipova, Mariii Magdaleny, Novyi Svit, Karpinskogo and St. George's Square, where for a few years will be the premiere building of the academy, near her building for conducting laboratory works, and, finally, a residential building". [3] The construction works of 1873-1877 under the direction of Zakhariievich were also realized with the help of the architects Sigmund Kendzersky, Alfred Kamenobrodsky and A. Gauff. Interestingly, the land allocated for the construction of the Technical Academy was considered one of the best in Lviv in terms of its agronomic characteristics. The most important building material was considered a stone designed for the foundation.

One and a half years later, as of September 28, 1875, "the main building of the Technical Academy in Lviv was almost under the roof." [4] An easy delay in the construction process could be explained by the lack of masons who could handle huge stones, designed for columns and pillars under the foundation of the tower. Hoping also, if the weather allowed, to cover the building by the roof of that year, which was done before November 15, 1875 (except for the main facade of The New World street). Also, by the middle of November, the house, intended for the laboratory, was already completely completed. [5]

In 1876 the work continued. In the summer of 1877, construction was already nearing completion – a large proportion of the rooms were already provided for use by professors and academics. "Lviv become decorated with such a building that in its size exceeds all the structures of our city, followed by the house of invalids. In spite of the spatial savings, the interior of the building has many attractions: full of harmony and lightness, with the body looks respectable, suitable for its purpose". The author also draws attention to the beauty of the ionic columns,

the richness of the lobby and the perfectly executed magnificent allegorical figures, symbolizing Engineering, Architecture and Mechanics – three faculties that were located in the building. And some lecture rooms are equipped with the latest technical samples. Emphasized the absolute practicality of the Technical Academy main building. [6]



Fig.1. The main building of the Tsars-Royal Technical Academy in Lviv

Construction works completed by October 1. [7, p.118] The inauguration and dedication of the newly built corps took place on November 15, 1877. In the morning, at 9.00 a ceremonial divine service at the Church of St. Mariia Magdalena (modern House of Organ and Chamber Music in Lviv) with the participation of Archbishop Verkhleisky, Metropolitan Sembratovich and Archbishop of the Armenian ceremony Romashchenko. Among the guests were the Minister of Education Dr. Stremayr, the governor of Galicia A.Pototsky, Commander-in-Chief of the Austro-Hungarian Army General Cavalry E. Neiperg. Other small state officials, professors, representatives of various educational institutions also attended. After the celebrations in the church, the community went to the main building of the academy, where a religious act of consecration was carried out by Archbishop Verkhleisky with the help of the numerous clergy. Subsequently, a number of high-ranking guests came to the audience who emphasized that "the former Academy has become the highest scientific institution that has embraced all technical branches and, finally, can admire its incredibly magnificent main building, its temple of science. [8] The special significance of the opening of this building for the development and well-being of the population of Galicia was noted. At 17 o'clock the same day a banquet was held at the George Hotel on the occasion of such a celebration. [9]

Thus, for four years, Lviv was enriched with another architectural pearl. The availability of new spacious rooms and new special laboratory facilities created additional opportunities for research work in the walls of the Technical Academy. The construction of a new building started the formation of the Lviv architectural school, the training of technical personnel. The project of the building also became the first software product of Y. Zaharievich, which he performed brilliantly. [10, p.81]

It should be noted that three years later, the Technical Assistant of Austria-Hungary, Franz Josef I, who was so impressed with the grandeur of this architectural pearl, visited the Technical Academy that he decided to give a series of paintings to the residents of Lviv which would allegorically reflect the technical progress of mankind. [11] The author of the future collection was the famous Polish artist Y.Mateyko and his students.

Conclusion

So, the construction of the main building for the Tsars-Royal Technical Academy in Lviv was widely reflected at the time of the periodic part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, especially in the Polish. «Gazeta Lwowska» newspaper was the main official printing authority of the Austrian authorities, the main information resource of the Polish community (owner – Polish Culture Society of Lviv Land). In fact, the mention of construction in the "Chronicle" section is present on average every two weeks. Sometimes the comments were concise, sometimes quite long texts, emotionally painted by the authors can be found.

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