

# BACK TO THE PAST: THE ORIGIN OF PSU

DIVE IN AND  
FEEL THE  
PAST





# PERM UNIVERSITY HISTORY MUSEUM

THE PERM UNIVERSITY HISTORY MUSEUM IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF FOUR TABLES, WHERE UNIVERSITY RECTORS, PROFESSORS, SCIENTISTS, TRADE UNION WORKERS AND STUDENTS WORKED.

## LET'S START!

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The Perm University History Museum was established in 1973. Since the 1970s, the museum has been forming a foundation for the history of the university. The museum's exhibits have been repeatedly presented at exhibitions at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, the Tretyakov Gallery, the Perm Art Gallery, the PERMM Museum of Modern Art, etc.



### HOW DID THE "FIRST IN THE URALS" APPEAR?

The history of our University dates back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. During the First World War, there was a necessity to evacuate the Yuryev University (now the University of Tartu, in Estonia) deep into the country. Ufa, Yekaterinburg and Perm were chosen as candidates for its temporary placement. Professor Konstantin Pokrovsky, Soviet astronomer, was sent to «inspect the area» in these cities. He declared that in Perm he saw not only the material base and money, but also the desire of residents to place a university. Soon, due to changes on the front, the necessity for evacuation disappeared. However the idea of creating a university was not abandoned.

On the 14th of October, 1916, the University was opened as a branch of the Petrograd University.

The main problem of implementing this project was the lack of suitable premises, as well as the lack of funds for the construction of new buildings. Then, in that difficult situation, the «financial king of the Urals» came to the rescue. It was an honorary citizen of Perm Nikolai Meshkov, who transferred a complex of the buildings to the University and provided material assistance in the amount of 500,000 rubles. On July 1, 1917, the Provisional Government decided to create an independent Perm University.



### WHY DID THE UNIVERSITY HAVE TO BE LIQUIDATED?

In 1930 there was a decision to liquidate Perm University and create five institutes on its basis - Chemical Technology Institute (in Berezniki), Veterinary Institute (in Troitsk), Agricultural Institute, Medical Institute, Pedagogical Institute (in Perm), so the University was the one that started the higher educational system in Perm and was its so-called «precursor». However, these institutions could not perform the functions that the University has been performing since its opening — providing students with profound knowledge in fundamental social and natural sciences, therefore, the decision to liquidate the University was cancelled.

At the moment, the University has 12 faculties and the Institute of Computer Technologies.

### UNIVERSITY DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Our University was directly involved in the Great Patriotic War (also known as the Eastern front of World War II) - rector Alexander Bukirew went to the front immediately after the war started. He created the methods to fight with the German «Royal Tiger» tank. Chemists of our University also played an important role during the war: for example Dmitry Marko, head of the Department of Organic Chemistry, was able to establish the production of diethyl ether, which was used as an anaesthetic, in a very short period of time. Most amazingly, the laboratory equipment was used to produce the ether on an industrial scale.

The University became the supplier of ether for hospitals in Molotov and the Molotov region (Perm was named Molotov in 1940-1957).

The Department of Analytical Chemistry, headed by Georgy Kobyak, was involved in the production of camouflage paint. The head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Mikhail Polukarow, did not stand aside either, as he found out how to protect weapons, machines and mechanisms from rust in war conditions.



## AFTER CLASSES

Extracurricular activities of the University were constantly evolving. For example, in the mid-1920s a so-called «live theatrical newspaper» appeared after some students read articles from the newspaper «The Star» out loud. It started because those students who were illiterate also wanted to read it.

Over the years, the newspaper «Perm University» has become a real chronicler and a source of up-to-date information about the life of the University. The newspaper has always provided a platform of expressing different points of view and candid discussion.

The newspaper supplement «Pepper» was created in the late 40s as the collection of caricatures which were painted on Whatman papers. These paintings were hung twice a week along the walls in the study halls. Once the caricature of the rector appeared on the pages of the newspaper supplement.



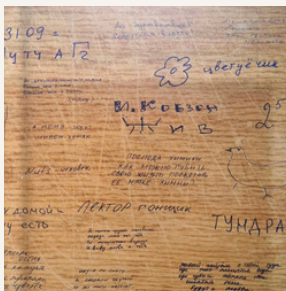
In the 1960s, construction brigades appeared. On the one hand, it was community service, however, on the other, it allowed students to earn money during the summer vacations.



## I WANT TO GO HOME. I WANT TO EAT

On the student's desk in the museum, it is possible to see handwritten term papers, cheat sheets, and there are playing cards on the bench that were taken away from students by the dean of the Faculty of History.

A jacket, full of pins and patches, hangs nearby. Such jackets, so-called «bovtsovka», were usually worn by members of the Student construction brigade. Moreover, students often painted graffiti, examples of their work can be seen in the photo below.



## «MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES»

The «Museum of Antiquities» is an integral part of the museum. Since the University appeared in 1916, it obeyed the requirements of the Charter of the Imperial Universities. One of these requirements was to have a museum of antiquities and fine arts.

The collection of the museum consists of more than 3000 Greek and Egyptian artefacts made of bronze, glass, bone. Terracotta figurines, vessels also can be seen in the collection.

Let's have a look at some of them: krater – a vase that was used for the mixing of wine with water in proportions  $\frac{1}{3}$ ; lekythos – a vessel that was used for storing oil, belong to the culture of Ancient Greece. The Eye of Horus (also known as udjat eye) – a symbol of well-being, healing and protection; or the ushabti – a funerary figurine that was placed in the grave so that it could perform the necessary duties for the deceased, for example, they played the role of servants and worked at the afterlife fields of Osiris - these artifacts represent the culture of Ancient Egypt.



The artefacts of the museum's collection are not only the exhibits, but also, first of all, they were used for educational purposes.

## THE SYMBOL OF THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

In the centre there is a futuristic table-transformer, which is used by groups of visitors. If four exhibit tables tell about the past of the University, then the fifth one is the symbol of the future and the present, and we are a part of it!





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