

OBITUARY NOTICE ON JULES MIKHAILOVITCH SCHOKALSKY

by

Mr. GEORGES PERRIER.

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Jules Mikhaïlovitch SCHOKALSKY, who died on 26th March 1940, was born on the 5-17th October 1856 at St. Petersburg.

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Having entered the Naval Academy at St. Petersburg in 1874, he graduated with the rank of Ensign on 14th May 1877. After having taken the courses in the Naval Academy (Hydrographic Section) from September 1878 to October 1880, he worked for two years in the Central Physical Observatory of St Petersburg (directed by H. Wild) as Chief of the Section for Maritime Meteorology. After two years in the Observatory, he was made Professor of Mathematics, Navigation, Hydrography, Oceanography and Meteorology at the Naval School, which post he occupied for 25 years.

He fulfilled the duties of Director of the Central Library of the Admiralty from 1891 to 1907, which service helped him considerably in his professional career because he had at his disposal a very rich collection of scientific works.

In 1910, he was nominated Professor of Physical Geography, Oceanography and Meteorology at the Naval Academy. He completed his active service as a general officer.

J. Schokalsky played a particularly important role in the Russian Society of Geography, where he was successively since 1882 Secretary and President of the Section of Physical Geography, Vice-President, President and finally member and honorary President of the Society.

He was particularly drawn to the study of polar regions. His works published both in Russian and foreign languages comprised, even ten years ago, more than 390 articles and notices which increased continually from that time until his last days, as J. Schokalsky continued busily to work assisted by his devoted and trusted collaborator, his own daughter, to whom one is equally indebted for interesting scientific contributions.

Let us cite some of the most important works of J. Schokalsky : his monographs for the Great Russian Encyclopedia, such as *Oceanography and the Oceans* (1890); *Russia, its extent, areas and frontiers* (1898); *A note on*

the study of the lakes from the point of view of physical geography (1905). *A study of Russian Asia*, which work was commenced in collaboration with General de Tillo, was awarded a prize in 1906 by the Academy of Science of St Petersburg and honoured in 1911 by the Tchihatchef prize, by the Academy of Science in Paris; the *Great Atlas* in Russian, arranged by A. Marcs, containing 62 charts in folio and 160 supplementary charts, all drawn up by J. Schokalsky; *Oceanography*, special work of 683 pages, appeared in August 1917, and was honoured by the first prize of the Academy of Science of Petrograd in 1919, and by the Gay prize of the Academy of Science of Paris, in 1923.

J. Schokalsky was charged with important missions in European Russia and in Siberia; he attended a great number of international scientific conferences. Visiting the principal cartographic institutions in Europe and in the United States, both official and private, he became fully acquainted with the technical methods of printing and publication.

In 1908, J. Schokalsky presented to the International Congress of Navigation, in session at St Petersburg, a report on the conditions of Safety of Life at Sea and on the wording of *Notices to Mariners* and of *Sailing Directions*, published by the various Hydrographic Services, as well as on the preparation of maritime charts. This report led the Congress to express the desire that the Russian Government should convoke the first international conference on the safety of maritime navigation. It was convened in March 1912, at St Petersburg, under the presidency of J. Schokalsky, and terminated in the creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau of Monaco, in 1919, and thus, in fact, J. Schokalsky became its promoter.

The very varied activities of J. Schokalsky have extended over the considerable domain of Geography, Navigation, Oceanography, Hydrography and Meteorology. He was also engaged in other scientific studies, such as, for instance, Geodesy.

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