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LIFETIME EDITIONS OF IMMANUEL KANT'S WORKS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND THEIR READERS

The article presents information about copies of lifetime editions of Immanuel Kant's works stored in the Scientific Library of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University, which are listed in the *Appendix*. The main attention is paid to the provenance of the copies available in the University collections. Studying owners' records, bookplates and stamps made it possible to trace the ways of books acquisition to the University library and outline the circle of their former owners and readers.

Key words: I. Kant's works, lifetime editions, provenance, owners' inscriptions, bookplates, stamps, Richelieu lyceum, University library.

The 300th anniversary of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), which was marked in spring 2024, can be regarded as an appropriate occasion to pay attention to lifetime publications of the great German philosopher stored in the Scientific Library of Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University. One and a half dozen editions of the works published in the last two decades of the 18th century in Berlin, Halle, Riga, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Königsberg include fundamental philosophical tracts that earned the scholar the reputation of one of the most influential Enlightenment philosophers – the *Critique of Pure Reason*, the *Critique of Practical Reason*, and the *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (*Appendix*, №№ 4-11) . The collection also presents nine other works by the philosopher (see *Appendix*) as well as various collections of Immanuel Kant's oeuvres (*Appendix*, №№ 14, 15, 18).

The article focuses on the provenance of Kant's oeuvres published during his lifetime, which replenished the University library stocks in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Some works are available in several copies the total number making twenty-five copies. The editions of Kant's works are mentioned in the article in the chronological order of their acquisition by the Library.

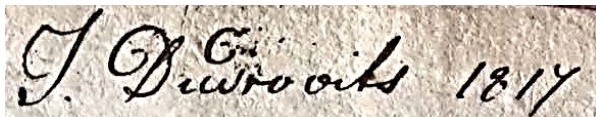
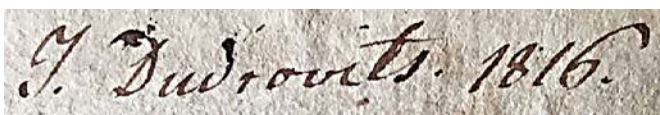


Most of I. Kant's works published in his lifetime conserved in the University collections (9 titles (11 copies) in 13 vol.) are marked with a stamp of the Odessa Richelieu Lyceum («ПЕЧ: ОДЕСС: РИШЕЛЬЕВСКАГО ЛИЦЕЯ») (*Appendix*, №№ 2-3; 5; 8; 9; 13; 15; 16; 22-23; 25). However, the provenance of some of them date back to earlier period being connected with the first educational institutions in

Odessa. The Commercial Gymnasium and the Noble Institute were established in the early 19th century in the frames of cultural and educational projects in Odessa initiated by Armand-Emmanuel de Vignerot du Plessis, duc de Richelieu (1766–1822) who was governing the city in 1803–1814. Richelieu also encouraged the establishment of the Lyceum bearing his name on the base of the above-mentioned institutions, and promoted its progress after he had left for France.

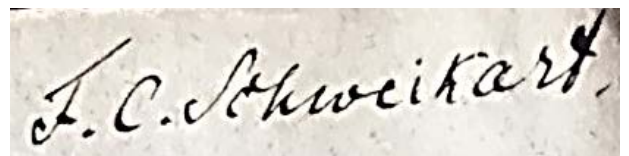
The curriculum of the Commercial Gymnasium included teaching of the "foundations of intellectual and practical philosophy" and logic while the Noble Institute offered courses in logic, morality and metaphysics [8, p. 36, 187; 1, p. 71-72]. Since 1837, philosophy and the history of philosophy were taught in all departments of the Richelieu Lyceum [10, p. 49, 52]. Thereafter, to meet students' learning needs the Lyceum library acquired relevant works on philosophy.

Some copies of Kant's works came to the library from the teaching staff. Ivan Ivanovich Dudrovich (1782-1843), of Carpatho-Russian origin, graduated from Kharkov University with a candidate of philosophy degree. In 1815, he was appointed a teacher of literature at the Odessa Commercial Gymnasium (1815), where he also taught history and geography. In 1817, he was appointed an adjunct of the Richelieu lyceum and soon promoted to the position of professor of Russian and Latin literature. Later he was approved as a professor of philosophy teaching logic, psychology and moral philosophy [10, p. 72-73; 8, p. 352]¹. Three copies of Kant's works bear I. I. Dudrovich's inscriptions left on fly-leaves or on the reverse of the uppercover/flyleaf of the books: **J. Dudrovits 1816** (*Appendix, №№ 5; 8*), **J. Dudrovits 1817** (*Appendix, № 9*).

It is noteworthy that a copy of the 3rd edition of *Critique of Pure Reason* had previously belonged to a German jurist and amateur mathematician F. K. Schweikart who signed his name on the reverse of the

uppercover of the book (*Appendix, № 8*). The same ownership record (**F. C. Schweikart**) can be found on flyleaves of two other Kant's works (*Appendix, №№ 13; 15*).



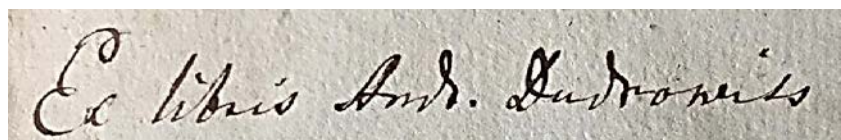
Ferdinand Karl Schweikart (1780-1857) is known to be working on an astral geometry before the discovery of non-Euclidean geometry. He studied law in the University of Marburg and was awarded a doctorate in law at the University of Jena in 1798. After teaching in Germany, he moved to the Russian empire and became a professor at Kharkov University (1811-1816) where he was appointed the head of the department of moral and political sciences. Back to Germany, he worked as a professor at Marburg and Königsberg universities.

One of F. C. Schweikart's colleagues in the Kharkov University was Ivan Dudrovich's elder brother Andrey Ivanovich Dudrovich (1783-1830). Born in Austrian-Hungarian empire, he graduated from the Budapest University. Having moved to the Russian empire, he started teaching at the Kharkov gymnasium. In 1813, he was invited to Kharkov University, first as a lecturer in the department of logic, ethics or moral philosophy and natural law. In 1819, Andrey Dudrovich was appointed *professor extraordinaria*. He lectured on logic, psychology, metaphysics, natural law, and the history of philosophy and shortly before his death was appointed rector [5, p. 30, 62].

A. Dudrovich was influenced by Immanuel Kant's moral teachings. In 1814, he published his doctoral dissertation *De philosophiae genuino Conceptu nec ejus absoluta* (*On the innate concept of philosophy and its absolute necessity*) in the class of Johann Baptist Schad (1758-1834), one of Kant's disciples in Imperial Russia [see 6; 7]. Dudrovich analyzed doctrines of Kant and Fichte, Hegel and Schelling, discerning the highest point in the development of dialectics precisely in Schelling. Nevertheless, he remained a partisan of Kant's ideas for a long time [6, p. 115; 7, p. 6].

The copy of a "new and improved" edition of I. Kant's treatise *To Eternal Peace* (*Appendix, № 25*) which is an important sample of a number of "small treatises" on issues of philosophy of history and politics is marked with A. I. Dudrovich's ownership inscription **Ex libris Andr. Dudrovits**.

Thus, the fact of close professional contacts and personal relationships



between professors of Kharkov University and the Richelieu Lyceum in Odessa sheds light on the provenance of most copies of Kant's works in the Lyceum library.

In 1865, the Lyceum in Odessa was transformed into the Imperial Novorossiyskiy University. The University library was systematically replenished by books on philosophy which was taught at the Faculty of History and Philology. Since the establishment of the University the history of philosophy had been taught by *professor extraordinaria* Robert Vassilievich Orbinski (1828-1892)². He was the first to teach philosophy in Odessa educational institutions without being ordained [11, p. 147; 13, p. 493]. According to the memoirs of his contemporaries, R. V. Orbinski devoted a whole year to presenting I. Kant's views trying to make his philosophy intelligible to students and arousing in them faith in the power of human mind [9, p. 305-307].

The growing needs to provide students with philosophical texts motivated the University authorities to replenish the library with additional copies of some of Kant's works. Most of them came as a part of two major acquisitions made by Novorossiysk University in the first years of its history.

In 1865, the University bought the library of a Polish Slavist, bibliographer, ethnographer and traveler Andrzej Kucharski (1795-1862) which also contained books from the collection of a Polish philologist, publisher, archivist and bibliophile Antoni Muczkowski (Muciek) (1807-1852) who collected the best library in Warsaw at that time including about 12,000 titles of books and pamphlets [2]. *Metaphysical Principles of the Doctrine of Virtue* were published in 1797 as the second part of *The Metaphysics of Morality* (*Die Metaphysik der Sitten*), Kant's final major work in moral philosophy (*Appendix, № 21*). A copy of the first edition of the work bears

Ant. Muczkowski
d. 16 Marca 1851 u Zwayera.

the ownership note of Antoni Muczkowski as well as the date of the acquisition of the book: **Ant. Muczkowski d. 16 Marca 1851 u [Zwayera?]**.

Three Kant's works came to the library stocks as a part of the valuable collection of a Polish jurist and a brilliant expert of sources of law Romuald Jan Ferdynand Hube (1803-1890) acquired by the University in 1868 [see 12]. «*Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science*» (*Appendix, № 19*) and «Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals» (*Appendix, № 12*) are bound in one volume which must have been acquired by Hube while he was studying law in Berlin in 1823-1825 and then brought to Poland (the title page bears the stamps of the customs posts of the Congress Kingdom of Poland). The upper cover of the book bears two owners' inscription:

Dr. J. Turoni
Berlin 1823

Romuald Hube

«**Dr. J. Turoni (Taroni?)** | **Berlin 1823**» and «**Romuald Hube**». To our regret, any information on

the person who owned the book before R. Hube was not found.

The copy of *Conflict of Faculties* (*Appendix, № 24*) advocating special academic freedom for the humanities and natural sciences at the Faculty of Philosophy bears no special owner's features. According to the records in the Library Inventory of the Novorossiyskiy University, the book also came to the library stocks from the Hube collection.

One of copies of the 2nd edition Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (*Critique of Judgment*) (*Appendix, № 10*) before coming to University library belonged to two German pastors. An inscription left on flyleaf of the book **Ex libris J. Ch. Spiess | 1796** prompts the name of its first owner. Johannes Christian Spies (1769-1848) was an early advocate of a union of all Protestant denominations. J. Ch. Spiess served as a pastor of the German Reformed Church first in Duisburg (1799) and since June 1813 in Frankfurt-on -the Main where he worked until his death.

Ex libris J. Ch. Spiess
1796



On the verso of the upper cover of the binding there is a bookplate label depicting a monument against a background of trees with a bust and an inscription «Alles ist euer | 1 Cor. 3, 23» (engraver's monogram «SM»)³. Below is the inscription **EX LIBRIS R. EHLERS**.

We do not know exactly how the copy of Kant's work passed from J. Ch. Spiess to R. W. Ehlers, but the biographies of the two owners of the book have many common features.

Rudolph Wilhelm Ehlers (1834-1908) was a German Protestant theologian and pastor. He studied theology and philosophy in Heidelberg, Berlin and Göttingen. In 1864, the German Reformed congregation in Frankfurt am Main elected him as pastor. He remained in this position until the end of his life. In 1884, he was one of the founders of the General Evangelical Protestant Mission Society (now called the East Asia Mission) working in Japan. From 1879 to 1900, he was one of publishers of the *Zeitschrift Fur Praktische Theologie* (*Journal for Practical Theology*). Ehlers also worked in fruitful collaboration with the local charity welfare organizations [15].

In the 20th century, lifetime editions of Kant's works entered the library mainly from book collections dispersed due to political and social disturbances in the Russian Empire in 1917-early 1920s. A number of Odessa libraries were replenished with books marked with an oval blue stamp and an inscription **СТУРДЗОВСКАЯ | БИБЛИОТЕКА** (Sturdza library). Two Kant's tracts published in his lifetime from the University collection bear this stamp (*Appendix, №№ 6; 20*). A diplomat, amateur historian, theologian, author of works on religious and political issues prince Alexandre Skarlatovich Studza (*Alexandru Scarlat Sturdza*, 1791-1854) was renowned for his philanthropy. He was one the founders of Odessa Community of Sisters of Mercy which soon got his name and has been known as Sturdza Community of Sisters of Mercy. It is probable that the stamp could be either a mark of ownership of Alexandre Sturdza's private library or the library of the above-mentioned institution.

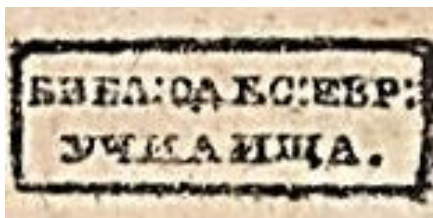
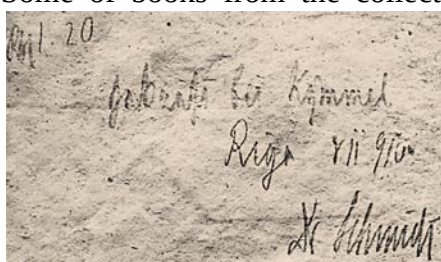


In the 1940s, the University library received a fragment of the book collection of the Odessa otolaryngologist and bibliophile Karl Maximilianovich Schmidt (*Karl Maria Joseph Schmidt*, 1857-1915). The doctor's interests were quite varied: in addition to medical literature, his library included books on history of literature and art, geography and history, law and natural

sciences as well as religious studies [3, p. 108-111; 4]. The collection being dispersed, the books bearing K. M. Schmidt's ownership marks can be found in different Odessa libraries. The University holdings include four titles (in eight volumes) of lifetime editions of Kant's oeuvres coming from this private collection: volumes 1, 2 and 4 of four-volume corpus of Kant's works *Opera Ad Philosophiam Criticam*, translated into Latin by Kant's admirer, Leipzig professor of philosophy Friedrich Gottlob Born (1743-1807) (*Appendix, № 18*), three volumes of the collection of "small writings" (*Appendix, № 14*), and two tracts (*Appendix, №№ 1; 4*). All of them are marked with an owner's bookplate depicting two snakes entwining a cup with an inscription **EXLIBRIS DR. C. J. M. SCHMIDT**. The bookplate is out of ordinary placed on the verso of the bottom cover.



Some of books from the collection contain notes in pencil: number and date and place of acquisition and bookseller's name as well as owner's inscription.



The provenance of some copies of Kant's lifetime publications has not yet been established due to the lack or insufficiency of information book features can provide. One of copies of «Immanuel Kants Logik» is marked with a stamp **БИБЛ: ОДЕС: ЕВР: | УЧИЛИЩА** (Library of Odessa Jewish School) (*Appendix, № 16*). However, since there were several Jewish schools in the city in the second half of the 19th

and early 20th centuries [14], this information is not enough to find out in which of them the students used to read the given copy of Kant's work.

Thus, as a result of a copy-by-copy study of lifetime editions of I. Kant's works stored in the Scientific Library of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University, it was possible to prove the provenance of most of copies and identify the names of their owners and readers before the books became available to students of the Richelieu Lyceum, and later - the University. Among the books from the collection of the University library are copies in modest bindings that belonged to the professor of philosophy of the Richelieu Lyceum I. I. Dudrovich, Kharkov University professors F. K. Schweikart and A. I. Dudrovich, a reputed Polish legal scholar Romuald Hube and his compatriots intellectuals and collectors A. Kucharski and A. Muckowski, German pastors, doctors of theology J. Spiess and R. Ehlers, a theologian, writer and philanthropist prince

A. Sturdza and a doctor from Odessa of German origin C. J. M. Schmidt. It is quite expected that these were highly educated intelligent persons with academic background, mostly professionally engaged in philosophy and humanities in general. It is also worth mentioning that they all belonged to European cultural and mental tradition. The provenance of a set of Immanuel Kant's oeuvres in the University library can be considered as an evidence of valuable intellectual continuity.

Notes

¹ Ivan Dudrovich was repeatedly nominated Lyceum director, was a member of its board and performed the duties of an academic secretary (1826-1827), a separate censor (1829-1832) and a senior member of the Odessa censorship committee.

² In 1879, R. V. Orbinski left Odessa and his further career was not connected with educational institutions of the city.

³ This is a reference to lines from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians *all are yours* (*Alles ist euer*); *And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's* (1 Corinthians 3:23).

Appendix

*Alphabetical list of lifetime editions of I. Kant's works in the Odessa National University library collections**

1. Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht / abgefaßt von Immanuel Kant. – Königsberg : bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1798.

2-3. Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht / abgefaßt von Immanuel Kant. – Zweyte verbesserte Auflage. – Königsberg : bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1800.

4. Kritik der practischen Vernunft / von Immanuel Kant. – Neue Auflage. – Frankfurt und Leipzig, 1791.

5. Kritik der practischen Vernunft / von Immanuel Kant. – Zweyte Auflage. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1792.

6. Kritik der practischen Vernunft / von Immanuel Kant. – Neueste Auflage. – Frankfurt und Leipzig, 1795.

7. Kritik der reinen Vernunft / von Immanuel Kant... – Zweyte hin und wieder verbesserte Auflage. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1787.

8. Kritik der reinen Vernunft / von Immanuel Kant... – Dritte verbesserte Auflage. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1790.

9. Kritik der Urtheilskraft / von Immanuel Kant. – Berlin und Libau : bey Lagarde und Friederich, 1790.

10-11. Kritik der Urtheilskraft / von Immanuel Kant. – Zweyte Auflage. – Berlin : bey F. T. Lagarde, 1793.

12. Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten / von Immanuel Kant. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1785 (*bound with № 19*).

13. Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten / von Immanuel Kant. – Vierte Auflage. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1797.

14. I. Kants sämtliche kleine Schriften / Nach der Zeitfolge geordnet. – Königsberg und Leipzig, 1797. – Bd. 1-3.

15. Immanuel Kant's Vermischte Schriften. – Aechte und vollständige Ausgabe. – Halle : in der Rengerschen Buchhandlung, 1799. – Bd.1-3.

16-17. Immanuel Kants Logik : ein Handbuch zu Vorlesungen. – Königsberg : bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1800.

18. Immanuelis Kantii Opera ad philosophiam criticam / latine vertit Fredericus Gottlob Born : in 4 vol. – Lipsiae : impensis Engelhard Benjamin Schwickerti, 1796-1798. – Vol. 1-2, 4.
 19. Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Naturwissenschaft / von Immanuel Kant. – Riga : bey Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, 1786 (*bound with № 12*).
 20. Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Naturwissenschaft / von Immanuel Kant. – Neueste Auglage. – Frankfurt und Leipzig, 1794.
 21. Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Tugendlehre / von Immanuel Kant. – Königsberg: bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1797.
 - 22-23. Die Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der bloßen Vernunft / Vorgestellt von Immanuel Kant. – Zweyte vermehrte Auflage. – Königsberg : bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1794.
 24. Der Streit der Facultäten : in drey Abschnitten / von Immanuel Kant. – Königsberg : bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1798.
 25. Zum ewigen Frieden. / Ein philosophischer Entwurf von Immanuel Kant. – Neue vermehrte Auflage. – Königsberg: bey Friedrich Nicolovius, 1796.
- * Various editions of the same work are arranged in chronological order of publication.

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ПРИЖИТТЄВІ ВИДАННЯ ТВОРІВ ІММАНУЇЛА КАНТА В БІБЛІОТЕЦІ УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ ТА ЇХ ЧИТАЧІ

У статті подано відомості про примірники прижиттєвих творів великого німецького філософа Іммануїла Канта, що зберігаються в Науковій бібліотеці Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова (їх повний перелік міститься в додатку). Основна увага приділяється *провенієнціям* примірників. Вивчення власницьких записів, екслібрисів і штампів дало змогу простежити шляхи надходження книг до бібліотеки університету та окреслити коло їхніх колишніх власників і читачів.

Ключові слова: твори І. Канта, прижиттєві видання, *провенієнції*, власницькі написи, екслібриси, штампи, Рішельєвський ліцей, університетська бібліотека.