# BOOK REVIEWS

## MIKHAIL ANDREEVICH SHATELEN

Bibliographic index. Compiled by A. I. Isachenko and K. I. Shafranskii. Edited by V. S. Ravdonik, Academy of Sciences (U.S.S.R.) Press, 1958, 198 pages (Library of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R. and of the M. I. Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnic Institute). Price, 3.20 rub. Printing, 1700 copies.

The life and activity of Mikhail Andreevich Shatelen (1866-1957) was linked most intimately with the development of electrical engineering in our country. He began his scientific and engineering activity in the late 1880's, when only the first timid steps were made in Russia towards the commercial use of electricity. Throughout his lifetime, Shatelen was a great social worker — the chairman of the Electrotechnical Division of the Russian Technical Society, an active participant in numerous electrotechnical congresses, conferences, and conventions in our country and abroad, and chairman of the board of the All-Union Scientific Engineering Technical Society for Power and Electric Communication (VNITOE). His part in the development of the plan for the electrification of the Soviet Union (GOELRO), drafted at the initiative of V. I. Lenin, is well known.

A brief bibliography of the published works of M. A. Shatelen, listing 123 titles, appeared in N. A. Shost'in's "Mikhail Andreevich Shatelen on his 80th Birthday," Moscow-Leningrad, 1946. A much more complete "Bibliography of the Works of M. A. Shatelen and of the Literature Concerning Him," compiled by the basic library of the M. I. Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnic Institute and containing 370 titles, was published in Leningrad in 1956. The library of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences and the M. I. Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnic Institute has now published an incomparably more detailed and more extensive annotated bibliography, in the form of a separate book (compiled by A. I. Isachenko and K. I. Shafranskii).

The book begins with a review of Shatelen's life and activity written by V. S. Ravdonic, chairman of the Department of General Electrical Engineering of the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute. It is accompanied by a 22-page detailed list of the principal dates in his life and activity.

The main portion of this book contains an index to Shatelen's books and articles and detailed annotations. The index is arranged in chronological order and contains 400 titles (including translations by Shatelen and works published under his editorship). Shatelen was a direct active participant in the development of electrical engineering in prerevolutionary Russia and in the U.S.S.R., and came in contact with most prominent Russian inventors and electricians, constantly contributing to the promotion and practical realization of their discoveries and intentions. All of Shatelen's notes on the history of electrical engineering are exceedingly valuable. An undoubted advantage of the annotations is therefore the fact that their compilers note particularly all reference to the history of electrical engineering contained in Shatelen's writings.

Shatelen was a pioneer in the teaching of electrical engineering in our higher institutions of learning. His many lithographed lecture notes were written with great mastery and originality. Unfortunately, these lithographed editions were not preserved in their entirety even by our largest libraries. It is therefore important that the titles of Shatelen's lecture notes (which were repeatedly reprinted) are exhaustively listed in the new index of his works, as are the articles written for the student newspapers of the Polytechnic Institute, such as "Tovarishch", "Industrial'nyi," "Politekhnik" (items 380 to 420 in the bibliography).

The bibliographic index concludes with a detailed list of the literature on Shatelen. In this list of 118 titles there are mostly articles and notes by his contemporaries and students published in journals and partially in newspapers.

Many years have elapsed since the start of Shatelen's activity. It is therefore necessary to approach with increasing caution the recording of facts that have occurred 70 years ago. Unfortunately, this caution has not always been observed in the list of dates in Shatelen's life and activity. Thus, on p. 37 it is stated that in 1888 Shatelen was "awarded the degree of Candidate of Physico-Mathematical Sciences," whereas at that time the Candidate degree was granted by the university without reference to any specialty. In the same page it is stated that Shatelen "translated into Russian many works on electromechanics," although his translations dealt more with electrical engineering as a whole (see items 352 and 354 in the bibliography). On the next page, 38, it is mentioned that in 1891 Shatelen became the "laborant" of Professor O. D. Khvol' son, without explaining that the duties of "laborant" corresponded at that time to the present duties of an assistant. Since 1892 Shatelen contributed to the journal "Elektrichestvo" and "later on became the secretary of the editorial board and a member of the editor-

ial committee" (p. 38); it should also be added here that he was once editor of the journal. In 1893 Shatelen was "invited to join Electrotechnical Institute" (page 35); the word "invited" should be more accurately replaced by the words "passed the competitive examination."

It is stated on page 39 that, in 1900 the International Congress of Electricians in Paris elected Shatelen "vice president of the section on electric measurements." Actually he was the vice president of the entire congress. It is noted on page 56 that in "1946 to 1954 Shatelen participated in the work of the Commission on the History of Physico-Mathematical sciences of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R." Yet he was invited to join this commission by Academician A. S. Krylov earlier, in 1945.

Item 30 of p. 65 lists an obituary of N. G. Slavyanov written by Shatelen. It should have been noted that this obituary was based on the personal recollections of Shatelen. On page 164 the initials of I. G. Klyapkin are erroneously given.

Another remark concerns the styling of the publication. The book would undoubtedly gain in appearance had the titles of the cited references been printed in bold-face type.

Apart from the above remarks, which refer merely to details, the new bibliography of Shatelen's work makes a very favorable impression. The list is very complete and will be used for reference not only by biographers of Shatelen but also by all those engaged in the history of electrical engineering in our country.

— M. Radovskii

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