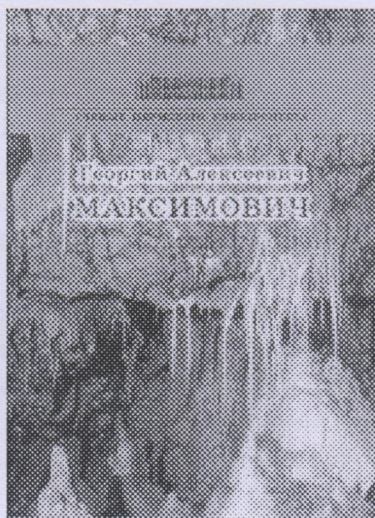


<http://www.zrc-sazu.si/izrk/carsologica/Acta332/kranjc3.htm>

Maximovich, E.G. & N.G. Maximovich & V.N. Katajev:

Georgij Aleksejevich MAXIMOVICH (1904-1979)

Uchenje Permskoga Universiteta, Izdajateljstvo "Kursiv". Pp. 511, 32 pp. of photos, (hardback), Perm 2004



Two years ago, the same authors (except V. N. Katajev) published the book about K. A. Gorbunova (see Acta carsologica 32/2, 325-326), geologist and one of the leading Russian karstologist. This year they achieved to publish the book dedicated to G. A. Maximovich, the founder of Russian karstology and speleology, the husband of K. A. Gorbunova and father of Elena G. and Nikolaj G. Maximovich, so to say, the founder of the karstological "dynasty" of Maximovichs. G. A. Maximovich was an outstanding Russian geologist and karstologist, Doctor of geological-mineralogical sciences, university professor, and honorary member of the Geographical Society of the USSR. He was holder of two gold medals (of F. P. Litka and of the 6th International Speleological Congress). In 1947 G. A. Maximovich founded the first USSR periodical journal related to karst and speleology, Speleological Bulletin, which changed the name to The Caves in 1961. For 30 years this was the only regular periodical on karst topics in the USSR. He was its editor-in-chief for 17 years, and for 15 years he was also the editor-in-chief of another periodical founded by him, Hydrogeology and Karstology. In 1964 he founded the first USSR association of karst researchers and speleologists, the Institute of Karstology and Speleology (Institut Karstovedenija i Speleologii) in Perm, which coordinated research on karst in the USSR and united experts of 12 Soviet republics.

G. A. Maximovich was born in 1904 in Warsaw, graduated in 1926 from Dnepropetrovsk Mining College, and worked as a geologist in Chechnya in 1926-1934. In 1934 he founded the Chair of Dynamic Geology and Hydrogeology at the Perm State University and for 45 years was its Head. He defended his doctor's thesis in 1944, receiving the highest praise from the academicians V. I. Vernadsky and F. P. Savarensky.

The content of the book consists of six main chapters. The first are Biographical Data and Biographical Outline giving a concise and concentrated story of his life. There are seven pages of dates going from the year 1914 (evacuation to Jekaterinoslav) to 2004 (a cave in West Virginia was named after Maximovich). Next 80 pages are giving the comprehensive description of Maximovich's life, from his early childhood to his death, and the activities connected with his name after his death (forming a Maximovich's Geological-Karstological School; Maximovich's scholarship was set up at the Perm's University; Badge of Honour of Perm province named after G. A. Maximovich).

Scientific, pedagogical and social work of G. A. Maximovich is presented on the following 100 pages. G. A. Maximovich's creative heritage is surprisingly varied. These are works on oil geology and hydrogeology, hydro geochemistry and geomorphology, karst and speleology, seismology and the history of science. During 53 years of scientific activity he published 544 scientific, popular science and other works, including several monographs. His works are published in Romania, France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, England, and Hungary. I am sorry to say that in the Postojna Institute library there are only 10 major works of G. A. Maximovich. His popular science books were published in a large number of copies. The majority of his works is devoted to the questions of karstology and scientific speleology. He is the founder of the Soviet scientific school of geological karstology. In his two-volume monograph, *Basics of Karstology*, which became the encyclopaedia for karst researchers, a huge amount of generalizations and new concepts is concentrated. The book was awarded a gold medal of the VI International Speleological Congress. Many classifications, concepts and terms developed by G.A. Maximovich in the field of karstology have become classical and are found in encyclopaedias and dictionaries. The second scientific direction developed by him was hydro geochemistry and chemical geography of waters. His concept of hydro chemical facies is used by experts worldwide. His monograph *Chemical Geography of Land Waters* was awarded a gold medal of the Geographical Society of the USSR. This section of the book finishes by enumeration and short description of the caves (8) named after G. A. Maximovich.

In the chapter *Remembrance* (120 pp.) the memories upon different aspects of G. A. Maximovich and his work are gathered. It includes contributions of 14 authors, well known karstologists (V. N. Dubljanskij), professors of different branches (A. N. Oliferov, G. K. Mihajlov) and members of Maximovich's family (K. A. Gorbunova - *At the dawn of karstology*, E. G. Maximovich) included. The chapter on correspondence shows and partly reproduces in facsimile 77 Maximovich's letters on 60 pages, addressed to 18 outstanding Russian geologists and geographers of the twentieth century, academicians V. A. Obruchev, V. I. Vernadsky, A. E. Fersman and others.

About 150 pages of annexes follow. They include Maximovich's bibliography in a chronological order, 544 professional publications and 51 articles in newspapers (from 1927 to 2001). There is bibliography in alphabetic order; list of co-authors; list of his awards, recognitions and prizes; his proposal of natural phenomena from Perm Oblast to be protected; references of his activities; index of personal names, mentioned in the book. At the end there is a short summary or abstract (2 pages) in English and presentation of the authors.

In the book there are 81 white and black illustrations, what is understandable regarding the topic and the period, which it covers. They include graphs, drawings, facsimiles, and photos. From them reader can get a full visual impression of G. A. Maximovich's life and professional work, his achievements, his social life and the image of the Russian province in his time. There are his portraits from early childhood to the years before his death, the portraits of his family, pictures connected with his work (in the office, among students, during the professional meetings, on the

field in Russia and abroad), there are pictures of his diplomas and awards, facsimile of his letters, portraits of other scholars, places and buildings where he lived and worked, surveys of "his" caves and animals, named after him, and the photo of his grave at the Perm's graveyard.

The book is not only the full and comprehensive biography of G. A. Maximovich, it is also a great part of history of Russian karstology and speleology, their beginnings specially. And not only this. It is in fact also a history of Russian science and Russian scientists in a certain period and also a picture of the life in Russia during the "Maximovich's" period. This book as well as Maximovich's scientific work in general are not widely known out of the countries speaking and understanding Russian. But already the fact that Russians have two such books dedicated to their leading karstologists, to G. A. Maximovich and to K. A. Gorbunova, shows how important they were and how important the karst science is in Russia.

The book can be ordered to meg@permonline.ru

Andrej Kranjc