

The J. Stübben's Book "*Der Städtebau*" ("Town Planning") and Its Influence on the Works of Russian Specialists in Cities Improvement of the Early 20th Century*

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Abstract—The article is devoted to the book J. Stübben "*Der Städtebau*" ("Town planning") and its influence on the works of Russian Specialists in Cities improvement of the early 20th century. This article describes the value of the book for the development of European town planning of the late 19th – early 20th centuries. It also contains a comparison of the two editions of Stübben's book (1890 and 1907), and analysis of the differences between two editions and the reasons for their differences. The article also describes the formation of the science city improvement in Russia in the early 20th century, and provides an overview the works of the first Russian specialists involved in this science. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the influence of Stübben's book on the work of Russian specialists in Cities improvement, who wrote about this work of their German colleague with the permanent respect.

Keywords—town planning; city improvement; town planning theory; Josef Stübben; Vladimir Semenov

I. INTRODUCTION

Joseph Stübben's book, published in 1890, is mentioned in almost all modern studies, which focus on the development and transformation of European cities in the late 19th to early 20th centuries. It is considered the first major work on town planning theory, "an invaluable handbook for several generations of urban planners". Because it contains many practical examples, "it has also been called a cookery book with town planning recipes." [1] After the first edition in 1890, the book was reprinted twice in 1907 and 1924 in an updated version. Throughout this time, it had a significant impact on the world town planning practice, and so today the knowledge of the book of Stübben

is extremely important for study of the history of town planning. However, the book and its author are currently hardly mentioned in the works of Russian researchers. The exceptions are the publication of A. Vyazemceva [2]. In addition to them, almost the only source of information about them in Russian is an abbreviated translation of the book by Czech J. Gruza "*Teoria goroda*" ("Theory of City") (1972) [3].

Meanwhile, in the early 20th century, Stübben's book was known in Russia and exerted significant influence on the work of M. Dikanskiy, G. Dubelier, K. Ensh and V. Semenov, which are now called the first Russian Specialists in Cities improvement.

II. J. STÜBBEN (1845-1936) AND HIS WORKS

Stübben was one of the most prominent figures of European town planning in the late 19th — first third of the 20th century. His work is usually considered on a par with the works of his contemporaries — Reinhard Baumeister and Camillo Sitte [4], [5]. Baumeister's book "*Stadterweiterungen in technischer, baupolizeilicher und wirtschaftlicher Beziehung*" ("Town developments in technical, construction police and economic relations") is considered the first great work on the theory of town planning.

It was published in 1876 and was the starting point for Sitte's book "*Der Städtebau nach seinen künstlerischen Grundsätzen*" ("City Planning According to Artistic Principles"), published in 1889, and Stübben's book a year after Sitte's book [6]. According to modern research, Stübben and Sitte had different approaches to the definition of the town planning key tasks. Stübben focused on the tasks the arrangement of street grid. Sitte wrote about the aesthetic problems of town planning, considered it primarily as town planning art. In exaggerated form, the opposition of these two approaches is traditionally described as the opposition of straight and crooked streets [7]. However, these disputes were not only theoretical. As noted by D. Frisbee, they were

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of great practical importance in the light of the development of projects for the reconstruction of European cities, for example, Vienna.

In this regard, it should be noted that at the time of writing, Stübben already had experience in the development of large town planning projects. After completing his studies at the Berlin Academy of construction, he managed to work as a chief planner in Aachen. In 1880, together with Karl Henrici, he participated in a competition for the Cologne expansion project, and one of the projects they presented was the basis for the city development plan. After that, Stübben almost 20 years (1881-1898) became the chief planner of the city of Cologne [8].

In 1893, he took part in a competition for a town regulation project in Vienna. His project shared the first place with the project of Otto Wagner, but the Vienna authorities decided to develop a final plan on their own [9]. Also Stübben design projects for Düren (1890), Wesel (1890), Darmstat (1894-1895), Poznan (1903), Rome (1911-1914), and Wiesbaden (1915), etc. He made a report at the London Town Planning Conference in 1910. For many years, Stübben was invited as a member of the jury to participate in various competitions, including the Greater Berlin competition (1910) and the Greater Tallinn competition (1913). "He was still participating actively at the age of eighty-six (at the Berlin Congress of 1931), but when he finally expired at ninety-two his British colleagues (he was a corresponding member of the R.I.B.A.) noted that his writings were dated and belonged to the pre-World War I phase of planning" [10].

III. THE FIRST (1890) AND SECOND (1907) EDITIONS OF STÜBBEN'S BOOK

Unlike the third edition of Stübben's book (1924), which lagged far behind the rapidly changing ideas of town planning, the first two editions were a reflection of the advanced ideas of town planning of the late 19th – early 20th centuries. The researchers note the remarkable evolution that has undergone the second edition of the book relative to the first. It reflects many of the new approaches, solutions and ideas that emerged between 1890 and the mid-1900s. This is most clearly evidenced by the list of literature "on town planning in general", placed at the end of the Introduction. In the first edition it included 10 items, in the second — more than 150.

Both editions were published as part of the multi-volume edition of "Das Handbuch der Architektur" ("Guide to Architecture"), as the 9th half-volume of 4th part "Entwerfen, Anlage und Einrichtung der Gebäude" ("Design, Construction and Equipment of the Building") [11, 12]. Thus, both editions were great reference books, the significance of which was not only in the material collected in them, but also in the structure of its systematization proposed by Stübben.

In both editions, the first section "Town planning basics" included three chapters — "City housing", "City transport" and "Public buildings in their relationship with the city plan". The first chapter considers the types and methods of construction and types of residential buildings. The second

chapter proposed the classification of streets by type and different types of traffic. Thus, the first two chapters dealt with two key problems of the cities of that time. The third chapter described the placement principles of large public buildings in the space of the city. The key difference between the two editions was the increased attention to the working township.

The second section has changed to the second edition noticeably stronger. In the first edition, it was entitled "Design of the city plan", in the second — "Components of the city plan". From the second edition have been eliminated the first two chapters about the arrangement of the city plan in general and the group of different districts. In this edition, the second section began with the chapter "Building blocks". Four chapters on various aspects of street design, and two chapters on the design of squares followed it. In the chapters on the squares proposed classification by type, and the approaches to the design of different types of squares were considered in detail. The second edition included a new chapter about regulatory lines in old parts of cities. In it clearly shows that during the time between the two editions, the problem of reconstruction of city historical parts has received a qualitatively different meaning. Then there were two chapters devoted to water bodies in the city and various types of railways — from main lines to street trams. In the second edition, these chapters completed the second section of the book, but the first edition contained a chapter with the project examples of whole districts and cities.

However, the materials of this chapter have not disappeared from the book. Many new examples and the general development of knowledge about town planning forced Stübben to allocate this chapter in an independent section. As a result, in the 1907 edition there was a section "General plan", which included five chapters. The first chapter contained a historical overview of town planning from antiquity to the 19th century. The second chapter was devoted to the analysis of the influence of the location and history of the city and its planning system on the overall style of city. The third chapter dealt with the expansion and reconstruction of cities. The fourth and fifth chapters provided project examples of whole districts and cities, but the structure of these materials was different from that on the first edition. It was already about the district of the city of different functional purpose: separately considered blocks of country houses and factory blocks, as well as new spaces created on the site of the old city fortifications. In the chapter with modern examples of city development, special attention was paid to plans with mainly closed development and plans with construction with open development, which became popular in connection with sanitary requirements.

The next section — the third in the first edition and the fourth in the second edition — remained almost unchanged. It was devoted to the implementation of the planning project in terms of legislative regulation. It covered issues of development, land alienation and construction legislation.

Also, the last two sections of the book devoted to the technical aspects of town planning have not undergone any changes. In the fourth (in the second edition – the fifth)

section were considered the device of various city communications (water conduit, sewerage, etc.), types of road surface, installation of various pavilions and monuments, and also decoration of the city for holidays. The fifth (in the second edition – the sixth) section was devoted to city green spaces — gardening of streets and squares, as well as parks creating.

Both editions ended with an annex containing various laws and regulations governing town planning in Germany and in some German cities. In contrast to the main text of the book, which was significantly expanded, in the second edition was presented even fewer documents, but more relevant at the time.

IV. THE FORMING OF CITIES IMPROVEMENT SCIENCE IN RUSSIA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

The beginning of the 20th century in Russia was marked by increased interest to the problems of town planning. Then the new science for Russia was called “improvement of cities”. Gradually in various Russian periodicals began to appear publications covering certain aspects of cities improvement. Then they began to appear books. In 1910 the series of articles of G. Dubelier previously printed in the journal “*Gorodskoe delo*” (“City business”) [13], was published as a separate book under the title “*Planirovka gorodov*” (“Planning of Cities”). V. Semenov's book “*Blagoustrojstvo gorodov*” (“Cities improvement”) was published in 1912 [14]. K. Ensh' separate articles from the magazine “*Zodchij*” (“Architect”) in 1914 became the book “*Plan i zastrojka goroda*” (“Plan and Construction of the Cities”) [15]. Another book by M. Dikansky “*Postrojka gorodov, ih plan i krasota*” (“Construction of Cities, their Plan and Beauty”) was published in 1915 [16].

At that time, the many works written by European town planning experts in the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries, only the E. Howard's book (the author of the Garden city concept) was translated into Russian¹. Books by J. Stübben, C. Sitte, R. Unwin, E. Hénard and others in the 1910s was known in Russia only a few architects and engineers who knew foreign languages. In Soviet times, was translated only Sitte's book (1925). In due course, other books proved in fact forgotten.

However, without knowledge of these works it is impossible to fully understand the books of M. Dikanskiy, G. Dubelier, K. Ensh and V. Semenov, who knew publications of European colleagues. The lists of literature given in their books evidence this. Respectively, the role of the Stübben's book is extremely important. Dubelier called this book the most versatile, comprehensive work on the improvement of cities. Dikansky characterized Stübben as “the most outstanding authoritative person” in town planning.

¹ The translation appeared in 1911, i.e. thirteen years after the first edition of Howard's book.

V. THE IMPACT STÜBBEN'S BOOK ON THE RUSSIAN SPECIALISTS' PUBLICATIONS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Books of Russian specialists were not guides and were noticeably concede to Stübben's book in volume. However, the influence Stübben's book is perceptible in their structure and separate provisions of Russian specialists' books.

The structure of Dubelier's book and the order of material presentation were close to book by Stübben. Dubelier base on the second edition of 1907, but in spite of this, a historical overview of town planning in his work was absent.

Semenov gave an overview of the history of town planning in his book. However, this did not prevent him from calling the German specialists “smart, diligent, but still follower”, and say that need to learn the artistic aspects from Italy and France, hygienic and social aspects from England. The structure of Semenov's book was far from the book of Stübben, but some points, including the classification of planning systems, the typology of square, etc., clearly went back to the book of the German specialist. A significant difference was the chapter “Ideal City”, which appeared under the influence of some other, probably English, book.

The Ensh's book also began with a review of town planning history, on the basis of which the author considered the basic planning system and issues of zoning of the city. Special attention, as in the works of other Russian specialists, was paid to the design of streets, squares, boulevards and parks. These issues were considered already taking into account the latest discoveries in this sphere (the insolation problem, the connection of the green belt around the city with its center), which occurred after the release of the second edition of Stübben's book. Thus, Ensh after Dubelier and Semenov actively used in his book illustrations from the book of the German specialist.

Dikansky's book — the latest of all — the title and issues covered in the chapters was close to the Stübben's book, although the order of chapters differed from the prototype. Dikansky prepared his book already with an eye on works of the Russian colleagues and those practices which appeared in the sphere of city improvement by this time in Russia. As a result, the book not only highlighted the section “Ideal Cities”, but also through the entire text of the book passed the idea of correlation the foreign experience with Russian reality.

Thus, from the first attempts to popularize foreign experience in the sphere of town planning, undertaken in the late 1900s and largely based on the Stübben's book, to the mid-1910s in the works of Russian specialists in City improvement was made a significant step forward. It was already about adapting the European experience to Russian conditions. Although the books of Russian specialists gradually moved away from the original sample, the methods of structuring the extensive and diverse material related to urban planning remained, which were proposed by Stübben.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the material presented above, it can be concluded that Stübben's book by the breadth of the

encirclement the material was a unique publication for its time. Its second edition has been significantly updated, and it has become a well-known Russian town planning experts in late 1900s. Not having such a rich experience of practical activities in the field of town planning, which Stübben had at the time of preparation of his book, Russian experts used his guide as a starting point for the preparation of their books, designed to promote the ideas of modern town planning in Russia. Although Semenov wrote that his book “no more than a summary”, after the Russian revolution of 1917, foreign town planning experience was available in Soviet Russia mainly through these same review books of Russian specialists. The original work of foreign town planners remained virtually unknown in Russia.

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