

Tadas Ivanauskas (1882–1970)



Photo from Wikipedia

Lithuanian naturalist zoologist, professor (1922), doctor of Natural Sciences (1940), real member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (1941), Lithuanian honorary researcher (1945), pioneer of nature conservation, author of 37 books.

In 1903–1905 studied at St. Petersburg University (graduated in 1910), in 1905–1909 in Sorbonne. In 1910–1917 he worked in St. Petersburg at his own Zootom laboratory of natural sciences, at the Agriculture school, participated in scientific expeditions at the Barents Sea, collecting material for zoological museums. When he returned to Lithuania, in 1918 together with his wife he founded the first private Lithuanian school in Musteika (Varėna region) where he taught. In 1919–1921 in Kaunas he was an adviser at the Department of Agriculture and headed his own Natural research station with a zoological museum. In 1920 has set up and taught at higher courses. He was one of the founders of the University of Lithuania in 1922, from 1922 till 1940 he was Head of the Department of Zoology.

Tadas Ivanauskas organised scientific expeditions to the Istrian Peninsula (near the Adriatic Sea), Vilsand Island (Estonia), Brazil. With his wife, he organized the first National Day of Birds and Tree planting festivals, during which the pine forests of Petrašiūnai, Panemunė and Lampėdžiai were planted, afforestation of the slopes of the Nemunas was done.

In 1928–1939 he taught at Alytus Higher Forest School. In 1929 in Obelynė (near Kaunas) he founded the first fur farm, the Ornithological station in Ventė Cape. In 1937 on his initiative, the Žuvintas Reserve was established and in 1938 – Kaunas Zoo.

In 1940–1970 T. Ivanauskas was a professor at Vilnius University, Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture, Kaunas Medical Institute. In 1945–1950 he worked as a director of the Institute of Biology at the Academy of Sciences. For 20 years he participated in various expeditions near the Volga, the Obe, went to Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan. He studied birds, their migration, introduced a number of plants, actively promoted nature protection, rational hunting, and created Lithuanian terminology of biology. In 1921–1939 he worked as Chairman of the Lithuanian Hunting Association, was the editor of magazine “Medžiotojas”. Tadas Ivanauskas is buried in Tabariškės cemetery (Kaunas region), the tombstone was created according to the project of architects Nasvytis. In 1982 the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences established Tadas Ivanauskas Prize. One of the butterfly genus is named after him (*Ivanauskiella*).

In 2002 Tadas Ivanauskas Personal Library donated by the professor's relatives was founded in Lithuanian Agricultural University (now – Agricultural Academy of Vytautas Magnus University). It is open to anyone interested in the professor's activities or books.

This library can also be called a museum. It contains not only a collection of books and manuscripts, but also authentic furniture, bookshelves, paintings, souvenirs and pictures. Efforts have been made to restore such a library as Tadas Ivanauskas used.

Tadas Ivanauskas library is not only a museum to remember a famous scientist, but also a source of research or study. This collection of books belongs to the University Library, so book descriptions are included in the general electronic catalog of the library. The library of academician Tadas Ivanauskas is a reflection of his personal and scientific interests and favourite activities.

Tadas Ivanauskas personal library currently has 991 titles and 1,159 books. This collection of books is not full: for various reasons, some of the books did not come into the legacy of Tadas Ivanauskas books given to the university.

Tadas Ivanauskas began collecting a personal library in 1909, when, in St. Petersburg in his father's apartment he began collecting a library of Lithuanian literature, which occupied only one shelf. After choosing scientist career and becoming an expert biologist, Tadas Ivanauskas did not confined himself strictly to one field of science. He was convinced that it was necessary for a scientist, especially the naturalist, to be "interested in other areas of human consciousness; ethics, beauty, romance, poetry must also accompany him. And that is also seen in his collection.

Tadas Ivanauskas library has 24 thematic sections. About 10-20 books are attributed to general science and art sections, such as encyclopaedias and dictionaries, language sciences, public literature, history, medicine, art, literary science and other literature. The books in these sections account for about sixth part of all books. Most books are in the field of biology, botany, zoology, agriculture, forestry and other related areas such as beekeeping, hunting, horticulture, gardening, etc.

The largest collection of books, of course, is in the field of ornithology. In the book catalogue this section is called "Birds"; it accounts for a quarter of all personal library and contains 19 books by Tadas Ivanauskas and 227 books of other authors.

Tadas Ivanauskas library is very interesting not only in terms of topics but also in language. The academician spoke and wrote in several languages, so his library contains books in Lithuanian, English, French, German, Russian and Polish, and there are several books in Finnish, Czech, Belarusian, Estonian and Latvian. In this collection you can find not only books but also various magazine sets or some of their issues, conference papers, eight prints of Tadas Ivanauskas articles and manuscripts related to his activities. The manuscripts "Birds of Lithuania. Remarks", "Horticultural Program", "Pomology", "History of zoological museum" and "Obelynė" should also be mentioned.

Prepared according to

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