
Augustin de Betancourt engineering school

© V.V. Fortunatov

Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University,
Saint Petersburg, 190031, Russia

The article reveals the role of the outstanding Spanish engineer-practitioner, mechanician, scientist, Augustin Avgustinovich de Betancourt, in the Russian engineering school formation. From 1808 to 1824, Augustin de Betancourt was in the Russian service, served as rector (inspector) of the Corps of Communication Engineers Institute (1809–1824), headed the Committee for buildings and Hydraulic works (1816–1824), served as a Chief Director of Railways (1819–1822). Betancourt carried out many projects; he was in fact the chief engineer of the country, the chief architect of St. Petersburg and Russia, the chief consultant to Emperor Alexander I on a wide range of engineering, scientific and technical problems. The students of the Betancourt engineering school became his worthy heirs, ensuring the country's development in engineering terms.

Keywords: engineering school, industrial revolution, steam engines, Committee for buildings and hydraulic works, communication routes, engineering and transport, engineering education

REFERENCES

- [1] Pavlov V.E. *Russkiy Ispanets* [The Russian Spaniard]. St. Petersburg, Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University Publ., 2007, 162 p.
- [2] *Rossiyskiy gosudarstvennyy istoricheskiy arkhiv* [Russian State Historical Archive]. O naznachenii v otpusk 60 tys. rubley na prigotovlenie parovoy mashiny dlya chischeniya Kronshtadtskoy gavani [On the appointment to leave 60 thousand rubles for the preparation of a steam engine for cleaning the Kronstadt harbor]. F. 1150, op. 1, d. 21, 26 April, 1810.
- [3] *Rossiyskiy gosudarstvennyy istorichesky arkhiv* [Russian State Historical Archive]. Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]. F. 1263, op. 1, d. 190, pp. 438–446.
- [4] Salazar H.K. *Augustin de Betankur-i-Molina. Lichnye pisma* [Augustín de Betancourt y Molina. Personal letters], Madrid, Alexander Pushkin Foundation Publ., 2009, p. 66.
- [5] *Centralny gosudarstvennyy istoricheskiy arkhiv Sankt-Peterburga* [Central State Historical Archives of St. Petersburg]. Komitet dlya stroeniy i gidravlicheskikh rabot [Committee for buildings and hydraulic works]. F. 1133, op. 1, d. 1844.
- [6] *Rossiyskiy gosudarstvennyy istoricheskiy arkhiv* [Russian State Historical Archive]. Komitet ministrov. Ministerstvo politsii. Osobennaya kantselyariya [Committee of Ministers. Ministry of Police. A special office]. Ob otpuske summy na postroyku plashkoutov dlya Isaakievskogo mosta [On the release of the amount for the construction of piers for the St. Isaac's Bridge]. F. 1263, op. 1, d. 156.
- [7] *Rossiyskiy gosudarstvennyy istoricheskiy arkhiv* [Russian State Historical Archive]. F. 1287, op. 5, d. 39.
- [8] Bogolyubov A.N., Pavlov V.E., Filatov N.F. *Augustin Betankur (1758–1824). Uchenyy, inzhener, arhitektor, gradostroitel* [Augustine Betancourt (1758–1824). Scientist, engineer, architect, city planner]. Nizhniy Novgorod, Novosibirsk State University Publ., 2002, 219 p.

-
- [9] Kuznetsov D.I. *Betankur* [Betancourt]. Moscow, Veche Publ., 2013, 480 p.
 - [10] Nikolsky D.V. *Avgustin Betankur: Vzglyad skvoz' epokhi. Promyshlennyy perevorot v Ispanii i Rossii vo vtoroy polovine XVIII — pervoy chetverti XIX veka* [Augustin Betancourt: A look through the ages. Industrial Revolution in Spain and Russia in the second half of the XVIII — the first quarter of the XIX century]. St. Petersburg, Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University Publ., 2007, 190 p.
 - [11] Pavlov V.E. *Oni byli pervymi* [They were the first]. St. Petersburg, Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University Publ., 2009, 200 p.
 - [12] Fortunatov V.V. *Vestnik Leningradskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta imeni A.S. Pushkina. Nauchnyy zhurnal — Bulletin of Pushkin Leningrad State University. Scientific Journal*, 2010, no. 2, vol. 4, pp. 29–35.

Fortunatov V.V. graduated from Herzen University, Faculty of History. Dr. Sc. (History), Professor, Head of the Department of History, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology of Emperor Alexander I St. Petersburg State Transport University. Honorary railwayman of the USSR. e-mail: elena.fortunatov@mail.ru
