



Memorial Museum of the Political Repressions History «Remand Prison of NKVD (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs)»

Founded in December 1988, Tomsk «Memorial» defined historical and educational approach which stands for recollection and perpetuation of memory of sacrifices of lawlessness as the general direction of its work.

The chronicles of the 400-year history of Tomsk, that were rewritten several times, do not mention times of terror and repressions organized by Soviet totalitarian regime. Nowadays this omission is being completed by museum exhibitions based on the materials collected by «Memorial» organization and assistants of Tomsk Regional Local History Museum in the course of years.



Memorial Museum of political repressions history is a department of Tomsk Regional Local History Museum and its name «Remand prison of NKVD» is not a metaphor. This museum is really located in the building which was previously occupied by the municipal department of OGPU-NKVD

You are about to come in a real prison corridor. Here there is an investigative cell for «public enemies». Recreation of the atmosphere is continued by investigator office, where you can observe Dzerzhinsky's portrait on the wall, interrogative case on the table, table lamp, glass in a nickel-silver glass holder and an ashtray..

The permanent exposition includes materials and authentic documents that contain tragic destinies of dozens of thousands of citizens of Tomsk region that were victimized during political repressions of 1920s – 1950s.



Investigator office (Exhibit)

The martyrology of people executed by working class authorities in Tomsk region starts with the name of noted scientist and publicist Alexander Adrianov. He was executed by shooting in March of 1920 for his anti-Bolshevik articles published in «Siberian life» newspaper. His conquerors according to their poetic tribune had literally «weaponized» pen.



Among other people that were sentenced to death in Tomsk was an outstanding philosopher G. Shpet, academician G. Ilinsky, reputed Tomsk State University professors, orthodox priests, ex-politicians of old Russia and merchants of pre-revolutionary Tomsk...



*«I'm dead! Oh, God, how can it be?!
But there's no doctor, there is no deathbed,
The only thing I hear is that sometime in rosy April
My final crying will be put an end.»*



These stirring lines were written in 1937 by famous Russian poet Nikolay Klyuev not long before his death. He was spending his last years in Tomsk exile. Nikolay Alexeevich made a little mistake telling that April is a month of his death. He was executed by shooting in Tomsk in the last days of October.

Notwithstanding inhuman conditions of living in prisons and camps people tried not just to survive but to maintain and save their souls. They expressed themselves in creation. From the things and materials at hand the convicted were making utilitarian things with possible inventiveness, portraits and decorative items



Museum exhibits

Memorial museum accepts authentic items, photographs, documents, reminiscences and other materials concerning tragic times of repression or its expositions.

Museum owns an electronic data bank of more than 200 000 names of the people that passed through the cubicle of All-Russian Extraordinary Commissions of different types, dispossession (kulaks) and mass deportation of peoples.



The memorial to the sacrifices of political repressions in the square near museum

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**Tomsk Regional Local History Museum
Tomsk Regional Historical and Educational
Human Rights and Charitable Organization**

«Memorial»



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