

# Alexander A. Herzen

(1839–1906)

## Biography



Alexander A. Herzen - was born in June 25, 1839 in Vladimir. His father - Alexander Ivanovich Herzen, a writer, philosopher, revolutionary democrat, known as the ideological leader of the Russian intelligentsia of the middle of the XIX century.

Alexander Herzen grew up under the influence of his father and his friends –prominent people of their time. From an early age, he showed his interest to natural sciences. His helper was a famous naturalist Carl Vogt. Vogt was a frequent guest of Herzen's family and gave lessons to Alexander.

In 1857, Alexander attended the University of London. As a result of these studies in 1858, he published his book "A brief summary of commonly understood comparative anatomy and zoology". Wishing to continue university education, Alexander I. Herzen sent his son to Carl Vogt to Switzerland. Vogt took him in a long and dangerous scientific expeditions.

In 1861, Alexander Herzen brilliantly graduated from the University of Bern, received a medical degree.

In 1877 Alexander became a professor of physiology in **Florence**, since 1881 - professor of the University of Lausanne. He enjoyed wide popularity among scholars of that time with his work on the neurophysiology. His research of human brain made Herzen's name honorable and recognized.

Alexander Alexandrovich was going to come to Russia several times, he asked **for a** permission, but because of his father's reputation was always refused.

In August 24, 1906 Alexander Herzen died in Lausanne (Switzerland).

## Creative Works

"General physiology of the soul" .- SPb.: Type. newspaper "News", 1890. - 223.

"[Physiological conversation](#)" .- SPb.: Type. Comradeship "public benefit", 1901 .- 236 sec.

"Les Centres modérateurs de l'action reflex" (Turin, 1864)

"Analisi fisiologici del libero arbitrio umano" (Florence, 3 ed. 1879)

"Gli Animali martiri e protettori e la fisiologia" (1874);

"Lezioni Sulla digestione" (1877);

"Il Motopsychico e la coscienza" (1879);

"Récitsetnouvelles" (1883).

["Le cerveau et l'activité cérébrale : Au point de vue psycho-physiologique"](#)

### *Florentine Influence*

In March 1867 A.A. Herzen **read a public lecture in the** Florentine Museum of Natural History, which reported the results of his studies of the nervous system. He also touched on a topical issue if actions are subject of the will of a man, or they depend on the organism and the environment.

In March 1869, Herzen read in **Florence** a lecture on relationship of man and monkey.

A.A. Herzen met with Maurice Schiff (professor of physiology in Bern) during his studies in Bern; he became his chief assistant in the [Florentine laboratories](#). Just two months after the start of the work, he had to speak in defense of Schiff, whose physiological experiments sparked protests from animal defenders. He [published controversy](#) with his sarcastic comments in the form of a verbatim record of the courtroom. In 1873 at the initiative of a few Englishmen had merged the Florentine Humane Society, which consisted of mostly Italian aristocrats. In 1876, the Humane Society demanded that the animal experiments should be under their control. In protest, Schiff resigned. Together with him all the staff members (including A.A. Herzen) quit.

### *Learn more*

[Google Book \(Vivisection in historical perspective\)](#)

[http://www.sissco.it/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Risorse/biblioteca\\_digitale/pdf/betta\\_roma.pdf](http://www.sissco.it/fileadmin/user_upload/Risorse/biblioteca_digitale/pdf/betta_roma.pdf) (It)

[http://www.sardegna digital library.it/documenti/17\\_159\\_20080605170605.pdf](http://www.sardegna digital library.it/documenti/17_159_20080605170605.pdf) page 35 (It)

<http://www.marcoruggiero.org/pdf/Evoluzionismo%20e%20AIDS.pdf> (It)

<http://brunelleschi.imss.fi.it/itinerari/luogo/UniversitaStudiFirenzeDipartimentoScienzeFisiologiche.html>

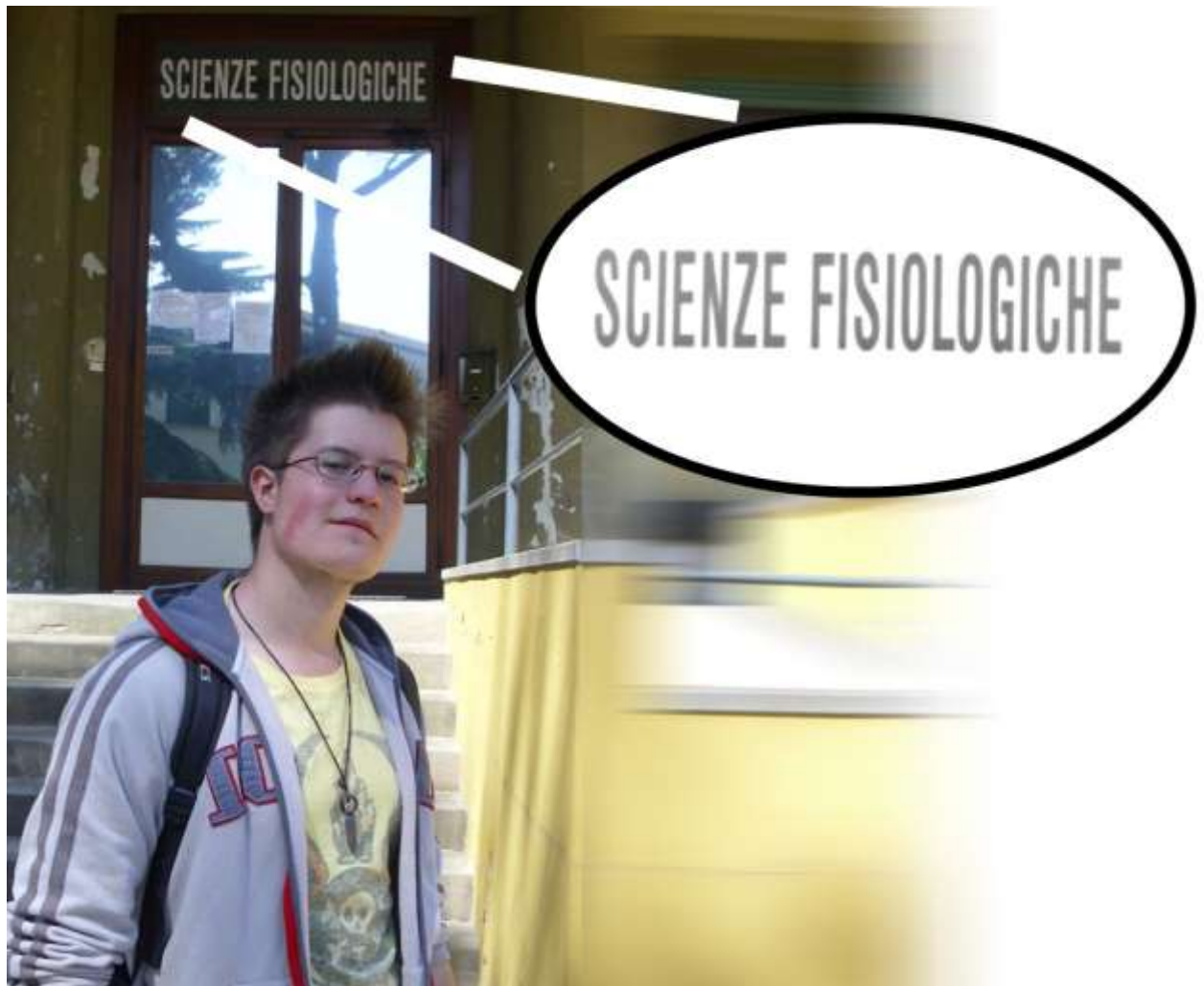
<http://pratesi.vicu.utoronto.ca/bio.php>

[http://www.library.vladimir.ru/kalendar/09/06\\_25.htm](http://www.library.vladimir.ru/kalendar/09/06_25.htm)

### *Associations*

Developing this dictionary article, I **have discovered an interesting fact** that most information about A. A. Herzen **is introduced in** Italian. There is only one book and one biographical article about him **written in Russian**, **however** a lot of Italian books and articles mention him. In Russia **he is** known only **as a** son of A. I. Herzen, but all over the world he is known as **a** scholar who defended his beliefs.

I was amazed **that the Italians** are very friendly. When I **was visiting** the Physiological department, Mr. Moreno Galli, **an Administrative** staff member, offered **his help with searching** for information. It was very pleasant to receive **such a piece of** aid.



### Sources

[http://www.library.vladimir.ru/kalendar/09/06\\_25.htm](http://www.library.vladimir.ru/kalendar/09/06_25.htm) (rus)

<http://vivovoco.rsl.ru/VV/JOURNAL/VIET/HERZ.HTM> (rus)