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**NIKOLAI V. LEVITSKY – COOPERATOR AND PUBLIC FIGURE  
WITH A POETIC SOUL**

**Summary**

Nikolai V. Levitsky – (March 25) April 6, 1859 – † December 1, 1936) – a public figure, supporter of the ideas of the liberal-populist thought in Ukraine, the organizer of the collective farm and the cooperative movement, publicist, the author of verses (more than 300), several poems and short stories, articles, and about 20 dumas. Most of all, he proved himself as the founder of cereal artels and the organizer of cooperative, industry and trade associations. The personal fund (№ 327) with more than 2000 units of storage, that is stored in the Institute of Manuscripts of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, is devoted to his activity.

Nikolai V. Levitsky was born in the village of Hmilne Kiev province in the family of an Orthodox priest. In 1885 he graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Kharkov, and decided in favor of the agricultural collective farm movement. Legal education played a crucial role in the organization of cooperatives. September 30, 1894 he founded the cereal artel in village Fedvar. It was the first in the Russian Empire. He developed the “Artel Agreement”, “Regulation on Cooperatives”, “Model Statute” for labor, industrial and handicraft cooperatives; they have opened a wide road to artel form and co-operative movement throughout the Tsarist Russia, including Ukraine.

Nikolai V. Levitsky was a member of almost all cooperative congresses in Russia and Ukraine, as well as international: France, 1896; Serbia, 1898; Italy, 1907;

Germany, 1910; Sweden, 1928. He was well-known and popular among leaders of the cooperative movement, both in Russia and in Europe, and among countrymen and his companions was named no other way than “Artel’s Father”. At the second International Congress of Cooperators in Paris in 1896 he first raised the issue of cooperative holiday – Day of Cooperatives. The appeal was heard and April 11, 1922 in Milan at the suggestion of the chairman of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) – Gedhard (Netherlands) decided about the celebration of the Day of Cooperatives annually on the first Saturday of July.

In 1917 Nikolai V. Levitsky was a member of the Ukrainian Central Rada, took part in organizing Ukrainbanka, Dnieper Union, and elected a member of the Supervisory Rada Cooperative Central Unions. He took an active part in the organization of the Cooperative Institute in 1918 and the Cooperative Museum in 1923 in Kharkov (1925 in Kiev). In 1921 and 1927 took an active part in the 1st and 2nd Council of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. During 1919–1930 he engaged in research work on the study of the history of cooperation.

So happened, that the name of Nikolai V. Levitsky was lost in the stream of “tumultuous” events of 30–60 years the last century. Currently the National Union of Ethnographers of Ukraine was formed a “team” of participants of the project “Revival” to strengthen the sense of patriotism and national pride among the youth and younger generation in Ukraine by the example Nikolai V. Levitsky. It is planned that the project will involve structural divisions of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (National Union of Ethnographers of Ukraine, the Institute of History of Ukraine, the Institute of Manuscripts of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, et al.), The Institute of National Remembrance of Ukraine, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, co-operators, agrarians, entrepreneurs and others. Taking into account that Nikolai V. Levitsky has been an active participant in the Congresses of the International Cooperative Alliance, is expected to connect to the Project and that public international organization.

**Keywords:** *N. Levitskiy, cooperation, poetry, Ukraine, creative nature, «Father of artels», beginning XX st., IM NLUV, Kiev.*