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DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL SCIENCE IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NESTOR THE CHRONICLER

The article discusses the activities of the Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler acted for some time at the University of St. Volodymyr. There were analyzed historiographical studies dedicated to various aspects of work conducted by the members of the Society. The main focus is modern historiography. The contribution of individual scientists (members of the Society) to the development of historical science at the end of the XIX century and at the beginning of the XX century is also illustrated.

Keywords: *Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler, historical science, Kyiv University, historiography.*

Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler (hereinafter – HSNC) is one of the most prominent scientific organizations of the end of the XIX – beginning of the XX century in view of left heritage of historical knowledge. The Society started its activities since 1874 at the University of St. Volodymyr and existed until 1931 having passed several stages of its development. Well-known scientists basically the scientists of the University of St. Volodymyr were among the members of HSNC. The development of historical science at the end of the XIX century contributed to the opening of such societies for dissemination of historical knowledge.

Let's try to find out the trends of historical thought that were among the scientists at the end of the XIX century and at the beginning of the XX century analyzing their work in the Society. The main objective of the article is to define the role and place of HSNC in the development of historical science and directions promoting activities of the Society.

The scientists studied the history of HSNC during the time of its existence. We may find the mentions about it in the works of such researchers as M. Dashkevych, V. Ikonnykov, O. Nestroyev, M. Yasynskiy [5]. In post-revolutionary and Soviet times the articles of V. Bazylevych [3], I. Zhytetskyi [7] S.Narizhnyi [16] and others were known. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the interest of scientists regarding science development in pre-revolutionary times increased greatly. Therefore, there appeared many works studied historical science of the end of the XIX century. Thus, modern scientists referred to HSNC heritage many times and a lot of aspects of the Society had already been investigated. Let's try to summarize and analyze these studies. An additional point is that historiographers tried to determine the role of particular university lecturer in the development of historical science. Significant place among prominent members of HSNC occupied V. Antonovych, M. Vladymyrskyi-Budanov, V. Ikonnykov, M. Dashkevych.

History of the Society in the scientific literature is conventionally divided into three periods: 1) 1872–1893; 2) 1894–1917; 3) 1917–1931 [13, p. 3–4]. Among the stages of development of the Society the most fruitful for the dissemination of historical knowledge is the second one. Indeed, for that time the Society had survived the stage of its establishment; the statute had also been approved, which gave ample opportunity for research activities of its members.

A number of works in the historiography dedicated to the analysis of the printed magazine of the Society called "Reading in a Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler" (hereinafter - RHSNC). Among them we may mark out the works of V. Kolesnyk and I. Smutok [8], L.Kruhlova [14], L. Hubytskyi [4], I. Adamska [1].

M. Kolesnyk is the first researcher of the late XX century, who thoroughly researched the history of the Society. There are a number of works dedicated to this topic. Mainly they concern the history of the Society and its printed organ RHSNC. This way the scientist paid attention to the history of the Society appearance. In particular, he studied the conditions of its creation, three stages of its existence and main areas of activity [11]. In his work the author draws attention to the fact that the second period of the Society existence (1894–1917) was the most efficient in terms of

scientific publications. The scientist provides an opportunity for a fresh view on work results of HSNC and reconstructs its history forgotten in Soviet times.

The activities of the Society in its three periods are described in the studies of L. Teptyuk [18]. Analyzing the development of the Society for the time of its existence the author concludes that the work including publishing activity of present Society played an important role in the dissemination of historical knowledge at the end of the XIX century and at the beginning of the XX century.

In his study L. Bazhenov pays attention to the fact that the works of members of the Society "broadly reflected local history topics, particularly devoted to the study of Right-Bank Ukraine" [2, p. 92]. Among ethnographers the author calls M. Hrushevskiy, O. Lazarevskiy, O. Levytskyi, V. Antonovych, V. Ikonnykov and others. Of course the abovementioned historians contributed to the development of local history ateliers as evidenced their published works in "Reading". Summarizing the studies regarding the Society, L. Bazhenov puts it on the same footing as "elite club of scientists" [2, p. 92]. We should deny and determine greater importance of historical Society, as they did important and hard work. Thus, the scientist of the history of publishing of Kiev University M.S. Tymoshyk notes that rare and extremely valuable for science materials were prepared by the efforts of the members of the Society for the publication in "Reading" [19, p. 126].

In his work S. Stelmakh describes the focus of scientists of the Society [17]. He does not deny the idea of division into two camps among members of HSNC: – those who supported the idea of united Slavic nation (F. Fortynskiy and others), and supporters of Ukrainian identity (V. Antonovych and others). The author affirms that the forms of work that were established by HSNC were adopted by other societies at the end of the XIX century.

In her dissertation O. Medaliyeva considers HSNC among other historical scientific societies [15]. The author analyzes different activities of the societies and focuses in particular on holding meetings with reports, magazine publishing, public lectures, cooperation with other societies etc. As a result, she concludes that such diverse work of societies (including HSNC) contributed to their role in the Ukrainian

national revival at the end of the XIX century and at the beginning of the XX century [15, p. 192].

In historiography the attention was drawn to one more branch of HSNC work, namely the heritage asset activities. In her study L. Fedorova emphasized that HSNC first attempted to make a register of landmarks of Kiev, Podilsk and Volyn governor-generalships [21, p. 67]. In 1898 "Program for collecting information about antiquities" was published in the magazine of the society.

HSNC left its contribution in historical geography. The researcher of this topic S. Trubchaninov identifies V. Antonovych and his school among the members of the Society who distributed the knowledge at the meetings of the society and on the pages of its magazine. So the author notes: "Almost no work in the field of historical geography passed attention of V.B. Antonovych as a scientist as evidenced by his thorough review of the pages of "Kiev antiquity", "Reading in a Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler", "Kiev word" and other periodicals. Often, along with criticisms they contain the presentation of certain V.B. Antonovych's concepts of historical and geographical order "[20, p. 85].

Thus, research activities of HSNC formed many areas of interest. Members of the Society developed ateliers of the history of Ukraine, Slavonic studies, historical geography, conducted heritage asset activities. Their studies found its expression in the print publication "Reading in a Historical Society of Nestor the Chronicler". The overview of current researches shows that at the end of the XIX century the development of historical science at the University of St. Volodymyr was largely held by scientists who were the part of the Society. Among them, the researchers identify F. Fortynskyi., V. Antonovych, M. Vladymyrskyi-Budanov, S. Golubev, I. Luchytskyi, A. Yasynskyi and others. Their works serve a source for modern scientific studies and historical ateliers. Publication of the documents carried out in RHSNC helps in the study of history, literature, archeology etc.

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