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**SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF P.I. GAVSEVICH (1883–1920)
IN THE SYSTEM OF THE SOCIETY OF VOLYN RESEARCHERS**

Summary

Appeal to historical memory leads to the study and comprehension of names that have left a striking trace in Ukrainian science. To this cohort of scientists there is a well-known domestic scientist-agrarian, theorist and practitioner of agricultural research, political and civic activist Petro Ivanovich Gavsevich (1883–1920). The scientist is known first of all as the first director of the Lubensky Research Plant of Medicinal Plants and popularizes advances in this field. Another important aspect in the biography of a scientist is cooperation with the Society of Volyn Researchers during 1910–1913. Analyzing a few scientific papers on the activity of P.I. Gavsevich, it turned out that today his epistolary legacy of the marked period is not sufficiently covered.

The purpose of the work is to highlight the achievements of P.I. Gavsevich through the prism of the Society of Volyn researchers, as well as an analysis of his creative heritage on agricultural survey.

At the end of the XIX – early XX centuries regional studies societies began to be formed in order to study the nature, agriculture, history, culture and ethnography of their native land. In the Right-Bank Ukraine one of the first such scientific and natural societies was the Volyn Researchers Association, which was founded on December 2, 1900 in Zhytomyr.

The purpose of the Society of Researchers was to widen the scope of the problems of the native land:

- 1) versatile study of Volyn, its past, living conditions, needs;
- 2) the study should be carried out in the following sections: a) natural sciences (fauna, flora, mineralogy, geology, paleontology, physical geography, meteorology, anthropology, folk medicine); b) economic sciences (life, crafts, crafts, agriculture, fishing, hunting, folk crafts, technology, trade, statistics); c) ethnographic sciences (ethnography, population statistics, folklore, dialectology); d) historical sciences (history of political and domestic, archival studies, archeology, archeography, palaeography, numismatics, heraldry).

To achieve the goal, the following measures were planned: 1) to organize public readings for scientific messages; 2) to conduct paid and free lectures; 3) provide members with the means to conduct research; 4) to print works in the form of separate and periodicals without prior censorship; 5) receive foreign publications without previewing the censorship; 6) to build their own library for the members of the society; 7) create archives; 8) collect and buy various collections for the Volyn Museum.

Volyn Researchers Association has maintained contacts with 104 scientific institutions and editorial offices of scientific publications. The creative ties connected the Volyn Researchers Association with the Moscow Agricultural Institute (MSGI), whose students tried to attract scholarship, and for which they were rewarded with awards. One of such active students was Peter Ivanovich Gavsevych (1883–1920), who in 1909–1913 studied at MSGI.

P.I. Gavsevich was born on August 22, 1883 in a large family-friendly bourgeois family, in the town of Makhnivka, Berdychiv district of the Kiev province.

In 1907 he graduated from the Department of Natural Sciences of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the University of St. Vladimir in Kyiv. In 1907–1909 he worked in secondary schools of Kremenchuk and Zhytomyr as a teacher of natural history. In 1909, he joined the students of the agricultural department of MSGI.

In the first year of study P.I. Gavsevich joined the institute founded on December 22, 1909, an agronomic circle for the study of Ukrainian provinces and became his active member. The members of the circle realized the importance of the patriotic tasks that they set themselves: the study of the economic life of Ukraine, its natural-historical conditions and understanding of the factors that determine the directions of development of the Ukrainian people. One of the main tasks of the circle was to find the students who were part of it, places of practice for the period of summer holidays in Ukrainian farms, so that in such a way to benefit the native land while still studying at the institute.

Together with other MSGI students L. Voinov, S. Rozov and K. Osmak (1890–1960), who later became the last president of the Main Liberation Council of Ukraine, has been conducting an agricultural census (survey) in the region for six months. In the autumn of 1910, the researcher at the gathering of circles made the first report, reporting to them about their practice in the peasant farms of South Volhynia. The circles recognized the report of P.I. Gavsevich interesting and meaningful, a custody for publication in the collection «Needs of the village», published by the Agronomic circle.

In the spring of 1911, P.I. Gavsevich again goes to the Volyn province, having previously developed a survey questionnaire among local zemstvo agronomists in order to find out the state of agronomic assistance, programs, tasks and results of rural agronomic work. He actively participates in the work, the whole mechanism of which in 1910, as well as plans for the future, outlines in the report «On the development of materials of district surveys» at the III Volyn province agronomic meeting, held May 12–17, 1911. The generalized results of all statistical studies in Volyn P.I. Gavsevich highlights in a special brochure «Essay of the peasant economy

of Novograd-Volynsky district» (with tables and 40 charts. In 1911 he was included in his own composition of the Volyn Researchers Association.

In 1912, Petro Ivanovich passed a pre-diploma practice in Lubny, Poltava province, where he became interested in the study of medicinal plants. At its own expense, it conducts a series of special experiments on agricultural crops. Their results, as a series of lectures on the topic «Medicinal Herbs» has repeatedly reported at the meetings of the Agronomic Circle.

After graduating from MSGI, at the end of 1913 P.I. Gavsevich receives the appointment as assistant of the Volyn provincial agronomist and again takes an active part in the activities of the Volyn Researchers Association.

On October 22, 1913, the General Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Governor M.V. Melnikov, a large number of members of the Society and invited guests. After a long break at this meeting, he resumed his work and the economic section, where P.I. Gavsevich was elected secretary.

Thus, the active functioning of the Volyn Society of Researchers is an integral part of the public all Ukrainian movement. The creative heritage of the Society has not lost its relevance today, as within 20 years of its scientific activity, great scientific achievements were gained, which led to the creation of new generations of scientists and ethnographers in the Volyn region.

Creative Heritage P.I. Gavsevich has about 50 scientific and scientific-journalistic works devoted mainly to the systematic study of the culture of medicinal plants. Among them, the scientific and statistical achievements of the scientist in the period of his cooperation with the Society of Volyn Researchers had no less value. Due to the questionnaire developed by him for surveying the rural agronomists to find out the real state of the organization of agronomic assistance, a statistical survey of the agricultural region of the Volyn region was carried out, which, of course, was a progressive step for its time. Statistical Development P.I. Gavsevich has not lost its relevance to the present.

Key words: *Society of researchers Volyn, P.I. Gavsevich, agricultural census, district survey, questionnaire.*