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**TRANSFORMATION OF THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS RITUALS OF
THE UKRAINIANS IN PERYESLAVSHCHYNA IN THE 20TH CENTURY
(based on field research materials)**

Summary

In the article, the author aims to study the characteristic features of Christmas Eve traditions and Christmas rituals of Ukrainians in Pereyaslav region, the representation of regional samples of folklore texts of the rite. In the process of achieving the set goal, a number of research tasks were solved: a description of the current state of scientific research on the calendar rituals of Ukrainians in Pereyaslav region is given; an analysis of ritual phenomena recorded during a field survey of residents in the city Pereyaslav and villages in the Pereyaslav-Khmelnyskyi district, archival and printed sources was carried out, and based on the selection of structural elements inherent in them, local variants of Christmas rituals in the studied area were recorded; on the basis of the analysis of the collected field material, the peculiarities of the transformation of Christmas and New Year customs and rites in the Pereyaslav region during the Soviet era were revealed.

An important role in the research was played by the use of field ethnography methods, which require the primary description of rituals, surveys, questionnaires, and interviews with information carriers. The material was analyzed in structural, typological and comparative-historical contexts.

It was established that during the XX century. in the specified region, not only the list of holiday dates, but also the content and structure in traditional holidays underwent significant changes, there were significant losses in the folklore base of the ritual, the manner of performing ritual chants, the magical basis of Christmas rituals disappeared. This is explained primarily by changes of a socio-political and everyday nature caused by historical events tragic for our people. Two world wars, artificial famines and other Soviet practices led to a significant loss of ancient customs and partial unification of culinary traditions of Ukrainians. These

circumstances encourage a more thorough study of winter customs and rites of the Ukrainians in Pereyaslav district with the aim of further recording the remnants of the folklore base, a detailed study of the traditions of the pre-Christmas and Christmas cycles of Ukrainians in Pereyaslav district for their preservation and further reproduction.

Keywords: *Pereyaslav region, traditions, Christmas rites, calendar holidays, ritual.*