Organization and activity of the Ukrainian literature, science and crafts society in Lviv

UDC 94 (477) (092)
DOI: 10.24919/2519-058x.8.143302

Bohdan YANYSYNH
orcid.org/0000-0003-0386-2530
Ph D (History), Senior Research Fellow of Department of History of Ukraine of the XIX – early XX cc., Institute of History of Ukraine of the NAS of Ukraine (Ukraine, Kyiv), bogdanyanyshyn@gmail.com

ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY OF THE UKRAINIAN LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND CRAFTS SOCIETY IN LVIV

The article discusses the study of organization and activity of the Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society in Lviv. The main artistic, educational and publishing achievements of the institute were studied. The conclusion is drawn about the importance of the Society in the development of Ukrainian cultural life and union of outstanding artists, writers and museologists.

Key words: Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society in Lviv, M. Hrushevskyi, art exhibition, Higher summer vacation courses, publishing activities.

Богдан ЯНИШИН,
кандидат історичних наук, старший науковий співробітник відділу історії України ХІХ – початку ХХ ст. Інституту історії України НАН України (Україна, Київ), bogdanyanyshyn@gmail.com

ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ ТА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ ТОВАРИСТВА ПРИХИЛЬНИКІВ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ЛІТЕРАТУРИ, НАУКИ І ШТУКИ У ЛЬВОВІ

Стаття присвячена дослідженю організації та діяльності Товариства прихильників української літератури, науки і штук у Львові. Вивчено головні засоби, освітні та видавничі здобутки інституції. З'ясовано, що першою культурною акцією Товариства стало влаштування виставки українського модерного мистецтва, котра була призначена популяризувати творчість українських художників з обох боків Збруча в широких краях не лише української, але й польської та російської громадянськості. Досліджено, що важливою освітньою акцією, ініційованою членами Товариства, стала організація Вищих вакаційних літніх курсів, покликаних дати українській молоді базові знання з українознавства в умовах відсутності національної вищої школи. Виявлено, що до комплексу дисциплін на Вищих літніх курсах входили історія України, історія української літератури, історія культурного руху в Галичині, історія Західної Європи (у зв'язку з Україною), мовознавство, природничі науки, антропологія, етнографія, етнологія. Ці предмети читали провідні українські вчені (М. Грушевський, І. Франко, К. Студинський, Ф. Вояк, М. Ганкевич, С. Тамашівський, І. Раковський та І. Брик). Зроблено висновок, що попри нерегулярність зібрань, скромний бюджет та незначний період функціонування, Товариство мало велике значення у справі розбудови українського освітнього і культурного життя, сформування визначних літературних, музейних, музейних і етнографічних збірок з обох боків збручанського кордону. Відзначено незалежність видавничої діяльності Товариства, численні наукові та популярні видання стали окрасою тогочасного українського книговидавництва. Вказано, що це спонукає до продовження дослідницької праці над історією українських культурно-освітніх та наукових інституцій так званого «другого» плану.

Ключові слова: Товариство прихильників української літератури, науки і штук у Львові, М. Грушевський, художня виставка, Виці вакаційні літні курси, видавничка діяльність.
Target setting. Providing Halychyna’s self-government, along with the other parts of the Habsburg monarchy, has created a powerful impetus for continuously increasing trend of creating a variety of public and professional associations and academic societies among them. In the pre-autonomous districts, any efforts to create institutions were hampered by imperial power and were not allowed to be realized. Providing the autonomy liberated powerful social energy, created legal opportunities for the cooperation of people of science. Since then, year after year new societies, first of all, of professional classes, have begun to appear. Therefore, it was autonomy that created an impetus to unification of people aiming to carry out scientific and economic activity. Thinking of this connection between social activity and liberalization of political life, Julian Dibiec, the well-known Krakow science historian, notes: «The matter of financial support to science is very important [...]. At the same time, freedom in general is an extremely significant component, especially freedom that is provided to society, and in particular to people of science and research institutions. In this case, granting freedom to adherents of knowledge and science for creation of unions, granting rights to institutions alone means care and support. Actually, this element was missing during Prussian and Russian domination [...]» (Dybiec, 1995: 34).

The righteousness of this observation is, to a great extent, proved with the Ukrainian case: we have every reason to say that only in the autonomic period first institutions with a clear task to cherish national culture and science in their native language. At the same time, the attention of historians is usually concentrated on the most productive societies of ethnographic (here the history of Scientific Society named after Shevchenko (NTSh) was studied the most detailed) and Moscowphil direction (the most popular object of the analysis is the Stauropigion Institute in Lviv). On the other hand, there is a significant number of diverse institutions in the periphery of researchers’ attention that were established during autonomic age, but did not show significant activity or were not duly appreciated by contemporaries. By drawing the attention of colleagues to this science-related problem, below we will try to reconstruct the activity of the Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society in Lviv. To the present time, the archive of this institution survived, which was deposited in the funds of the State Archives of Lviv Region. The content of this very archive will be the source of our study.

Study analysis. The historiography of the Society today is extremely modest – along with frequent references in the literature on the cultural development of Galician Ukrainians or scientific and organizational studies of M. Hrushevskyi (Telvak, 2008: 100–157), we have in fact just a single topic-specific article by O. Kupchinskyi. However, it only briefly analyzes the activities of this institution, instead, and it is important, its statutory documents and minutes of meetings are published (Kupchinskyi, 1994).

The purpose of the paper is to clarify the organizational characteristics and integral reconstruction of the Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society in Lviv.

Presentation of the main data. First, let us turn to the very idea of the Society establishment. As you know, at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries in Lviv there were several powerful Ukrainian cultural and scientific institutions. Surely, first of all, let us recall the Scientific society named after Shevchenko headed by M. Hrushevskyi, transformed by his energetic efforts into the actual Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. On the other hand, powerful activity was initiated by the Ukrainian-Russian Publishing Union that was created in 1898 in Lviv and was headed again by M. Hrushevskyi and his colleagues for publishing works of Ukrainian writers, translated works of world literature and popular science books. So what was the need to create another institution that would have tasks similar to the societies above? Answering this question, it is quite possible to agree with the opinion of O. Kupchinskyi that
creation of the Society should be associated with the overall progress of Ukrainianness at the beginning of the 20th century. Against a backdrop of intensification of the social and political movement and significant scientific achievements, Ukrainian artistic life made the impression of not sufficiently well-arranged. Therefore, the function of the moderator of the cultural and artistic movement should have been assigned to the Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society in Lviv (Kupchinskyi, 1994: 393).

However, there was another motivation hidden from contemporaries: at the beginning of the 20th century in the Scientific Society Named After Shevchenko there was a serious struggle between M. Hrushevskyi and the opposition headed by Mykhailo Pavlyk and Volodymyr Shukhevych. Consequences of this struggle were the inhibition of many initiatives of the head of the Society aimed at its further academicization. It was said that all the important matters in NTSh should be solved only by those members who had scientific achievements. This initiative significantly reduced the influence on the part of the NTSh opposition, which was arranging loud protests against such initiatives of M. Hrushevskyi. According to the diary of the latter, the constant struggle was exhausting him emotionally and negatively influenced the pace of implementation of many scientific projects. So, several times the scientist refused to head the NTSh, and then began to think about an institutional alternative where he could invite his colleagues and implement his own scientific plans without burdensome personal confrontation. Actually, such an alternative was founded by the Lviv professor in February 1904 – the Ukrainian Literature, Science and Crafts Society. The tribune and the speaker of his initiatives were supposed to be «Literary and Scientific Bulletin» edited by M. Hrushevskyi and «Artistic Bulletin», the publishing creation made by Ivan Trush, a historian, who at that time was a friend of M. Hrushevskyi.

The first members of the Society were elected at the meeting of its founders on February 15, 1904. They became famous Galician intellectuals – Mykhaylo Hrushevskyi, Ivan Franko, Ivan Trush, Volodymyr Hnatyuk, Stepan Tomashivskyi, Ivan Makukh, Maria Hrushevska (DALO.F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet. 1.). At the same meeting, the Division of the Society was elected: M. Hrushevskyi became the head, I. Franko became the deputy chairman, I. Trush became the secretary, Maria Hrushevska, the wife of the head, became the treasurer (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet. 1 on the reverse side.). Meetings of the Division were held irregularly – according to the records of minutes of the meetings, the interval between sessions lasted more than six months. And the first reporting meeting took place four years after the kick-off meeting.

The Charter of the Society, approved by the Galician governorate, envisaged broad cultural and educational goals of the new organization. The main task of the Society, as stated in the Statute, was «to inflict on the development of Ukrainian literature, science and crafts» (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet. 1). Explaining to the Ukrainian community the cultural mission of the new institution, I. Trush wrote: «With regard to [...] tasks in the field of the craft, the Society will introduce the products in Ukrainian especially of folk and artistic creativity to the civilized world by means of its publications, and the main task of «Artistic Bulletin» will be popularization within our society of what is created in Europe» (Kupchinskyi, 1994: 393). Publication of periodicals and non-periodicals, support for various cultural and educational projects, organization of popular scientific public lectures, establishment of awards and scholarships for the support of Ukrainian cultural and art people, etc., was to serve the above-mentioned goals. The founders of the Society planned to receive funds from the membership fees and Ukrainian patrons for realization of such purposes.


that are still being held in Lviv, but their content and technique of works have already been brought closer, although not to the best, but still to the most exciting performances in Europe» (Trush, 1905: 61–62).

An important educational campaign initiated by the members of the Society was arrangement of higher summer vacation courses designed to give Ukrainian young people basic knowledge of Ukrainian studies in the absence of national high school. Initiating the organization of such courses, M. Hrushevskyi selected as a pattern the model of the national university popular at that time, the idea of which was developed and tested in Scandinavian countries, and subsequently became widespread in the educational centers of the Russian Empire.

According to the documents of the Society, for the first time the idea of arrangement of higher summer vacation courses in Lviv was raised at the meeting on June 4, 1904. The initiative of the courses was made by the well-known Dnieper philanthropist Yevhen Chykalenko, who agreed to cover the financial deficit of the courses (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 2 reverse side.). At the same meeting, it was decided to invite such well-known Ukrainian scholars as M. Hrushevskyi, I. Franko, K. Studynsky, F. Vovk, M. Hankevych, S. Tomashivskyi, I. Rakovskyi and I. Bryk to teach at the courses. Payment for lecturers was also determined at the level of 10 crowns per hour. Non-traditional lecturers were supposed to compensate travel and accommodation cost (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 3). In general, it should be noted that financial assistance to the Society by E. Chykalenko was quite stable, which allowed to implement its numerous cultural and educational projects.

Higher summer courses in Ukrainian studies were held in Lviv within one month from June 23 to July 22, 1904 (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 3 reverse side). They were attended by young people from both Galicia and Ukraine under Russian control. The total number of participants reached 135 people. Opening these courses, M. Hrushevskyi outlined in his welcoming speech their purpose and objectives: «To give the opportunity to our fellow countrymen from Russia, deprived fully of the national school, to listen to systematic courses in the Ukrainian-Russian language on the most important social disciplines; to give a series of courses on some sciences, not affiliated with the programs of these schools, but very important from our national situation; to assist in the preparation of scientific courses in those areas of Ukrainian studies in which there are no such courses; and, finally, to give a place for new scientific power for preparation for academic activity» (Hrushevskyi, 2002: 248.).

The complex of subjects at the Higher summer courses consisted of the history of Ukraine, the history of Ukrainian literature, the history of the cultural movement in Halicia, the history of Western Europe (in connection with Ukraine), linguistics, natural sciences, anthropology, ethnography, ethnology. These subjects were delivered by the leading Ukrainian scholars mentioned above. The initiator of the event, M. Hrushevskyi, delivered a nine-hour lecture course entitled «Review of the History of Ukraine-Russia» at the courses, containing a brief summary of the main ideas of his multi-volume work «History of Ukraine-Russia».

Upon the completion of the courses at the July meeting of the Society, the results of their conduct were summed up. Unanimously it was decided to recognize their arrangement as useful, also it was decided to continue arranging similar educational events. It is of interest that when distributing fees, M. Hrushevskyi and K. Studynskyi refused to take their fees and transferred them to the Treasury of the Society. Also, because of extreme popularity of the course on Ukrainian literature history among the students delivered by I. Franko, it was decided to publish them in a separate brochure and circulate within the Ukrainian youth environment (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 3 reverse side – 4).
The higher summer courses received a significant resonance in the mass media, on its pages it was emphasized that for the first time in the history of Ukrainian education the Society tested an important model of a national university. We can learn about the impression of the youth as for the subjects they learned from the memoirs of Dmytro Doroshenko: «Most of all, I and all of us who came were interested in Hrushevskyi’s introductory statements, and they were very disappointing: Hrushevskyi was delivering princely days and it was terribly boring, he did not give broader generalizations, but was retelling and very monotonous just the actual history – when each prince ruled, with whom he fought or negotiated. He was reading the manuscript and somehow monotonously [...]. Tomashevskyi disappointed us even more, especially in his strange manner: he turned his back to the audience, and face to the geographical map [...]. He made his audience so much bored that the second time only a few listeners came. But we all liked Franko. He was teaching in calm, even voice, without external influences, and although he taught the old Ukrainian writing, but the statements were so interesting, so profound, that we listened with the greatest attention [...]. Studynskyi, Bryck, Rakovskyi were teaching well. Hankevych was teaching spectacularly as a good speaker, but his speeches seemed to me more of a speech for the meeting than for a scientific lecture. We liked Vovk’s statements very much». (Doroshenko, 2007: 87–88).

At the initiative of the chairman of the Society and in view of the statutory requirements, its members paid a lot of attention to the preparation and publication of educational and popular science literature. Thus, at the January meeting of 1905, it was decided to elect a commission consisting of M. Hrushevskyi, I. Franko and V. Hnatiuk to develop a draft writing, as noted in the minutes of the meeting, «a practical textbook of the Ukrainian language» (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 5). The case of this textbook was extremely seriously handled by the management of the Society, as evidenced by repeated references thereto during the meetings (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 7). In 1908, in order to commemorate the memory of the deceased Volodymyr Antonovych, the head of the Society, M. Hrushevskyi decided to publish university courses of the Kiev professor, recorded by his audience, at the cost of the Society (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 7). The Society also decided, at the cost of its financial foundations, to publish the significant influences of the poetry of Hryhorii Chuprynka and Oleksandr Oles, prose works of Marko Vovchok and Orest Levytskyi, popular works of Stepan Tomashivskyi, Viacheslav Lypynsky and Ivan Franko, translations of the world classic literature.

Similar to other institutional creations of M. Hrushevskyi, the Society was the leader of the main idea of the political platform of Lviv professor – the unity of the Ukrainian lands. Thus, largely on the initiative of its chairman, the Society took an active part in the cultural and public life of not only Halician, but also Dnieper Ukraine. So, many members of the Society were involved in a broad celebration of anniversary of the famous Ukrainian writer Ivan Nechui-Levytskyi in 1905. (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 5). In 1907, the members of the Society took part in the celebration of the anniversary of Mykola Sadovskyi (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 8). Members of the Society also marked Maria Zankovetska’s anniversary in 1908: on this occasion a welcoming address was made, and the artist was elected to the Society (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 7 reverse side). Members of the Society and the sad events of Ukrainian public life were not standing aside. So, on behalf of the Society, M. Hrushevskyi and his beloved student I. Dzhidzhora took part in the funeral of Volodymyr Antonovych, Pavel Zhytetsky and Mykola Kropivnytsky (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Collection 3. Sheet 12 reverse side).
It is also necessary to mention the Society’s care of young generations of Ukrainian artists. In its archive, application and gratitude letters from the fresh artists with requests for financial support can be found. For an example, let us look at the letter from the sponsor of the young talented artist Ivan Yurkovskyi (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Affair 5. Sheet 1 – 2 reverse side).

Like any other creative association, the Society also did not escape internal conflicts, despite the fact that its membership included only those who were sympathetic to the versatile work of M. Hrushevskyi. The reason for the misunderstanding was that from 1908 the institution’s activity shifted from artistic education to literary and publishing. The Society ceased to arrange artistic actions, increasingly refused financial support to the magazine «Artistic Bulletin» This is one of the reasons why the Society was left one of its founders I. Trush. In his statement, he wrote concisely: «This is to inform the honorable Division that I, the undersigned, and my wife are quitting the Society» (DALO. F. 298. Article 1. Affair 5. Sheet).

Conclusions As a result, despite the irregularity of the meetings, the modest budget and insignificant period of operation, the Society was of great importance in the development of Ukrainian educational and cultural life, grouping of outstanding artists, writers, museologists and ethnographers from both sides of the river Zbruch. We also note the undeniable publishing success of the institution – numerous scientific and popular editions became an adornment of the Ukrainian publishing house of that time. All this encourages us to continue the research work on the history of Ukrainian cultural, educational and scientific institutions of the so-called «second» plan.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DALO – Державний архів Львівської області.
Труш, 1905 – Труш І. Вистава українських артистів // Артистичний вістник. 1905. № 5. С. 61–62.

REFERENCES

DALO – Derzhavniy arhiv Lvivs’koj oblasti [State Archives of Lviv Region].
Telvak, 2008 – Telvak V. Tvorchna spadshchyna Mykhaila Hrushevskoho v otsinkakh suchasnykiv (kinets XIX – 30-ti roky XX stolittia) [The creative heritage of Mykhailo Hrushevsky in the evaluation of contemporaries (the end of the 19th and the 30th years of the twentieth century)]. Kyiv–Drohobych, 2008. 494 s. [in Ukrainian]


Стаття надійшла до редакції 07.08.2018 р.