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Viktor KOTSUR

Academician (real member) of the National Academy of Educational Science of Ukraine, PhD hab. (History), full professor, rector of the State Higher Educational Establishment «Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi state pedagogical Grigorii Skovoroda University», 30 Suhomlynskogo Street, Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, postal code 08400 (phdpu.edu@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4968-4813>

ResearcherID: <https://publons.com/researcher/1760067/viktor-kotsur/>

Andrii BOIKO-GAGARIN

PhD (History), leading researcher of the sector of numismatics, phaleristics, medals and bonistics of the «National Museum of History of Ukraine», 2 Volodymyrska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine, postal code 01001 (boiko.gagarin@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4610-3665>

ResearcherID: N-6985-2017 <http://www.researcherid.com/rid/N-6985-2017>

Віктор КОЦУР

академік (дійсний член) НАПН, доктор історичних наук, професор, ректор ДВНЗ «Переяслав-Хмельницький державний педагогічний університет імені Григорія Сковороди», вул. Сухомлинського, 30, м. Переяслав-Хмельницький, Україна, індекс 08400 (phdpu.edu@gmail.com)

Андрій БОЙКО-ГАГАРИН

кандидат історичних наук, провідний науковий співробітник сектору нумізматики, фалеристики, медальєрики та боністики «Національний музей історії України». вул. Володимирська, 2, м. Київ, Україна, індекс 01001 (boiko.gagarin@gmail.com)

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**NAPOLEON RUSSIAN FORGED ASSIGNATIONS
IN NADDNIPRIANSHCHYNA (OVER DNIPRO LAND)**

Summary. *The aim of article is generalization of the most completed and authentic facts about French financial diversion in 1812, specification of mistakes and inaccuracy of the previous researches, enlargement of Ukrainian archive depository and museum information; formation of generalized information about existing and forged assignations in legends as well as extension of concepts displaying about the methodology of finding those assignations in the collections and museums as well as in private ownerships. Methodological basics of the research are general scientific and special methods, method of historical periodization, historically comparative, topographic, the method of analysis variety, research of physical and chemical characteristics of paper and ink. Scientific novelty consists*

in introduction of earlier not published materials from the state archives and museums into scientific circulation which is seen in aggressive activity of original ink. **Conclusions.** The most full picture of the preparation process for the finance diversion during the war time of 1812 by French people was done and it was extended with evidences from the state archive of Ukraine. A trustworthy peculiarity while discovering French forgery of Russian assignations was established and it fundamentally completes the methodology of discovering of forgeries of this kind in museum and private collections.

Key words: Russian French War of 1812, Napoleon the First, assignation forgery, financial diversion, methodology of forgery discovery, archive materials.

НАПОЛЕОНІВСЬКІ ПІДРОБКИ РОСІЙСЬКИХ АСИГНАЦІЙ В НАДДНІПРЯНЩИНІ

Анотація. Метою статті є узагальнення найбільш повних та достовірних відомостей про французьку фінансову диверсію 1812 р., уточнивши помилки та неточності в попередніх дослідженнях, доповнивши ці відомостей матеріалами з фондів історичних архівів та музеїв України; формування узагальнених відомостей про наявні на підроблених асигнаціях помилки в написах, а також розширення уявлення про методіку виявлення таких асигнацій у колекціях музеїв та приватних осіб. **Методологічну основу** дослідження становлять загальнонаукові та спеціальні методи, використано метод історичної періодизації, історико-порівняльний, топографічний, метод аналізу різновидів, дослідження фізичних та хімічних властивостей паперу і чорнила. **Наукова новизна** полягає у введенні до наукового обігу раніше неопублікованих матеріалів державних історичних архівів, а також вагомій ознаки для виявлення подібних підробок у колекціях музеїв – що полягає у агресивній дії оригінального чорнила. **Висновки.** Створено та узагальнено найбільш повну картину процесу підготовки французів до фінансової диверсії під час війни 1812 р., що доповнено достовірними свідченнями із фондів державних історичних архівів України. Встановлено ще одну достовірну ознаку для виявлення французьких підробок російських асигнацій, що суттєво доповнює методіку виявлення таких підробок у музейних та приватних зібраннях.

Ключові слова: російсько-французька війна 1812 р., Наполеон I, підробка асигнацій, фінансова диверсія, методіка визначення підробок, архівні матеріали.

Problem statement. The history of wars is connected with the money forgery by the opponents' counties (Orlyk, Boiko-Gagarin, 2017, pp. 143–164). With the invasion of the French army to the Russian Empire, including Ukrainian and Belorussian lands in 1812, Emperor Napoleon the First resorted to finance diversion giving an order to produce secretly forged Russian assignations. Those forged assignations were added into the cash flow by occupying army and by private people either for covering French army costs or for harming the economy of the Russian Empire. The study of the forged money assignations at different time and in different historical periods we determine as an actual direction of contemporary scientific research in Ukraine (Kotsur, 2013, p. 8). Some known evidences about variants and varieties of forgeries need generalization as well as mistakes in the texts and signatures done by French. The necessity to improve and widen the methodology of exposing of those forgeries is very important for the development of researches in botany and history of money turnover that will help us to study and enter to the scientific circulation such assignations from museum collections.

The analysis of sources and recent researches. Most of the previous scientific researches in the field of the given problematic have a range of inaccuracies and a general picture of the French finance diversion in 1812 is often missing, so the scientists almost do not use archival sources. Certain historical aspects of war with Napoleon were studied by V. Orlyk (Orlyk, 2011a, pp. 96–97; Orlyk, 2011b, pp. 59–64; Orlyk, 2012, p. 34; Orlyk, 2013, pp. 129–133), by V. Adadurov (Adadurov, 2006, pp. 20–36; Adadurov, 2007, pp. 167) and by O. Mashkin (Mashkin, 2012, pp. 29–30). One of the first attempts to research Napoleon forgeries in complex is an article written by the Hermitage employee – M. Marshak (Marshak, 1968),

further she in cooperation with A. Mykolaitchuk conducted researches of technical and technological peculiarities of those forgeries (Marshak, Mykolaitchuk, 2001, pp. 172–173). Separate question about Russian assignations forgery with Napoleon the First initiative was studied by O. Alekhov (Alekhov, 2003, pp. 27–34), O. Baiura (Baiura, 2012, pp. 62–65), L. Kvytskyavytchus (Kvytskyavytchus, 2008, pp. 188–192) and O. Khytalskyi (Khytalskyi, 2002, pp. 10–11). Some suggestions about French forgeries are present in scientific and popular works of V. Riabtsevytch (Riabtsevytch, 1968), R. Tchorzhevskyi (Tchorzhevskyi, 1988; Tchorzhevskyi, 1999), O. Orlova (Orlov, 2000, pp. 35–37) and A. Kryvenka (Kryvenko, 2003, p. 40). Varieties of famous Napoleon forged Russian assignations are highlighted in the catalogues for collectors by A. Denysov (Denysov, 2002) and a catalogue like research with appendix by A. Malyshev (Malyshev, 1991).

The publication's purpose is to generalize and clarify information about French finance diversity during the war in 1812, to widen knowledge about varieties and variants in the texts and assignation signatures and improvement of methodology of exposing of those forgeries in museum or private collections.

Statement of the basic material. At the beginning of the XIX th century some trade representative office started to be created on the Ukrainian land by French merchants, who saw Russian Emperor as efficient sales market (Adadurov, 2006, pp. 20–36). Before the war in 1812 started France did not have enough understanding of economical state in Livoberezhniia (Left bank of the Dnipro land) that is why the Empire Napoleon the First ordered Statistic department of the War Ministry «to make according to the true facts «statistic descriptions of Little Russian governorate»» (Adadurov, 2007, p. 167), which became during the military companion in 1812 in combination with information from the Secret Service one of the main sources of informational imagination formation of the French officership to the Russian Empire.

On June 11th 1812 Napoleon troops made crossing across the river Neman and invade town Kovno, with rapid attack they occupied Vilno, Grodno, Polots'k and Minsk, as well as part of Tchernihiv and Volyn' Governorate (Mashkin, 2012, pp. 29–30).

As professor V. Orlyk suggested, at the beginning of the XIX th century state finances of the Russian Empire were in unsatisfactory state because of significant budget deficit and needed essential reformation (Orlyk, 2011a, pp. 96–97). However, financing part of war in 1812 wasn't highlighted enough and stayed out of scientists' attention (Orlyk, 2012, p. 34). Before the start of Russian and French war there had been some changes in financing economy of the Russian Empire. According to the signed order from June 20th 1810 the main monetary unit became silver ruble according to which rates of others currency notes have been fixed. Besides the coins some paper assignations were in circulation which rate according to the silver ruble because of constant emission was shrinking. To stabilize monetary system according to M. Speranskyi's project some amount of assignations on account of taxes and customs tariffs increasing, after that gradually to stabilize the rate of assignations.

However, due to the expenses on the preparations for the war with France and Count M. Speranskyi's resignation, pre-arranged events had not been realized completely, a new Minister of Finance D. Huriev abandoned the assignations confiscation and, in accordance with imperial manifesto of the 2nd of February 1812, all assignations were considered legal payment means (Vasiukov, 1993, pp. 8–9). During 1812–1815 Russian government made a new assignation emission to fund the war. Furthermore, Russian government was interested in the circulation area expansion for the money they produced on the territory where Russian troops were present, which was declared in the order of the 13th of January 1813 given to General Field-Marshal and Prince Hohenishchev-Kutuzov-Smolenskyi (Demmeni, 1887, pp. 319–321).

The use of financial sabotage was fairly characteristic of Napoleon's foreign policy. Thus, during the war with Austria in 1806 – 1809, on Emperor's initiative, Prussian change and

Austrian bancozettel notes were forged, as in 1810s – English bank-bills (Malyshev, 1991, p. 178). The Russian assignments forgery on Napoleon's initiative is a well-known fact (Riabtsevych, 1968, pp. 69–70). Nowadays it is difficult to imagine a popular edition on money circulation history without a reference to the events of the 1812 financial sabotage, though most of the authors just mention this episode in money circulation without analyzing the sources or trying to put new data into use (Kryvenko, Kryvenko, 2003, p. 40; Orlov, 2000, pp. 36–37) or stating that French command's actions are one of the reasons for paper money debase compared with precious metal coins in Russia.

Ukrainian bonist R. Tkhorzhovskyi gave a classification of paper money where «interventionists' and invaders' money, military money» and «forged money and money substitutes forgery» are among state-made banknotes (Tkhorzhovskyi, 1988, pp. 10–11). However, we believe that assignments forgery, initiated by Napoleon, should be classified as money imitation for the purposes of financial sabotage.

As early as the beginning of 1810 French government entrusted the army central military leaders' engraver Lal with the production of copper clichés for Russian paper assignments forgery. As a preliminary verification of engraver's mastery, he was secretly entrusted with the imitation of an English official document and the production of its falsification. When this task was successfully completed, he was required to proceed to more strategic task for the Emperor, which was Russian assignments forgery for future war needs (Malyshev, 1991, p. 178).

To prepare the financial sabotage realization, a special printing house run by Napoleon's personal secretary's brother A.-J.-F. de Fain was founded in Paris on Boulevard du Montparnasse. The prototypes for the forgery were state standard 25-, 50- and 100-rubles assignments. In the clandestine printing house for forgery production, the separate room was created, where the produced copies were artificially made old by being covered with dust (Malyshev, 1991, p. 178). The real purpose of the clandestine printing house functioning was kept a secret, to achieve this no separate work team had specific information about the final product (Marshak, 1986, p. 51). In numismatic literature there is also an unfounded by credible sources assumption about establishing forgery printing in Moscow while French troops were in the city (Khytalskyi, 2002, pp. 10–11).

We agree with M. Marshak that the genuine purpose of bringing 25-, 50- and 100-rubles forged assignments into circulation by French Emperor on the territory of the Russian Empire was an attempt to support occupation army with this money, even when the author herself states that these copies role on Russian money-market was insignificant (Marshak, 1986, p. 62). Similarly, A. Malyshev undoubtedly correctly pointed at the main reason for the forged money emergence to deceive people, which was longing for enrichment, but he did not fail to remember possible political, social and economic background of this aspect as well (Malyshev, 1991, p. 175). Indeed, 25-rubles assignments, even despite a noticeably lower rate when measured against silver coins, had considerable purchasing power, which is demonstrated by the prices published in the newspapers before the war. Thus, a popular periodical «Moskovskie Vedomosti» reports the products prices in Moscow: refined sugar 75 rubles per pood (16 kg), Nizhyn cucumbers and cherries 8 rubles per tub, bread 30 kopecks per loaf (Moskovskie Vedomosti. № 2. Saturday, January, 6. Moscow, 1812. p. 44); and the information on fish prices: pickled trout, white-fish and Petersburg smelt 8 rubles per tub (Moskovskie Vedomosti. № 12. Saturday, February, 10. Moscow, 1812. p. 326). Taking into account the fact that the prices given in the periodical can be considered rather high because of the advertisement on main and well-known Moscow markets, the purchasing power of the forged Russian assignments was rather favourable for the troops financing as well as sabotage activities and scouting financing in the places where they were distributed.

M. Marshak, relying on the existing forged assignments in the Hermitage Museum, investigated primary sources pointing at the main officials whom Napoleon involved in the forgery process,

and to define the character of forged assignations, gave some information on the main processes concerning assignations production in the Russian Empire. First of all, we refer to the production of a special kind of paper with protective watermarks, putting embossing images on it and then printing with a single cliché in typographic mode, after this the numerator filled in the note number, only then the process finished in signing the assignations manually by the young Assignment Bank officials. They were busy with signing nearly all their work hours, being named the bank managers, advisers or directors just for demonstration or nominally (Marshak, 1986, p. 52). In addition, the author carried out technical and technological research on the assignation available in the Hermitage in the department of Scientific and Technological examination. This enabled the researcher to determine that there is no silk in «Napoleon» copies and they were made of hemp by pounding the paper masses more intensively, to imitate the paper quality cotton and wool fibres were applied on its surface and secured by starch glue (Marshak, Mykolaichuk, 2001, p. 172).

Unfortunately, the researchers do not specify the name and model of the used equipment, which imposes some limitations on the use of these results in future studies. The main difference between assignations produced in Russia and France lies in the technological process of forged assignations emission. The signatures on the first ones were made manually by a pen, while invaders used facsimile cliché with an engraved signature. As a vivid example of these differences, the researcher gives a combined illustration of the signatures implementation comparison on authentic and forged money (Fig. 1.).



Fig. 1. Assignment Bank officials' signatures on authentic and forged «Napoleon» assignations (Marshak, 1968, p. 53)

There is a very popular thesis among researchers and collectors that Napoleon's forgeries are mainly made with grammatical mistakes on currency notes. According to M. Marshak, this notion does not correspond to reality, since most forged assignations are produced at a high level and the mistake is possible only within one word (Marshak, 1968, p. 54). However, today it is known that there are copies with several mistakes simultaneously; we will talk about one of them hereafter (Internet Forum «Fox Notes»).

The most common mistake is spelling of the word «ХОЛЯЧЕЮ» instead of «ХОДЯЧЕЮ» (Fig. 2). It is also known that there are other mistakes on the 25-rubles assignations, in particular: «ЛЮБОВКОТЕЧЕСТВУ, ДЕЙСТВПОЛЬЗЕОНАГО, ГДРСТВЕННАЯ КАЗНА, ДВАТЦАТЬ ПЯТЬ РУБ КЕ», as well as on the 50-rubles assignations: «ДЕЙСТВУЕТ К ПОЛЗЛОНАГО, ГДРСТВЕННАЯ КАЗНА та ПЯТЕСЯТ РУБ Н».

(The catalogue of banknotes from the Russian Empire to the Russian Federation, 2016, p. 12).

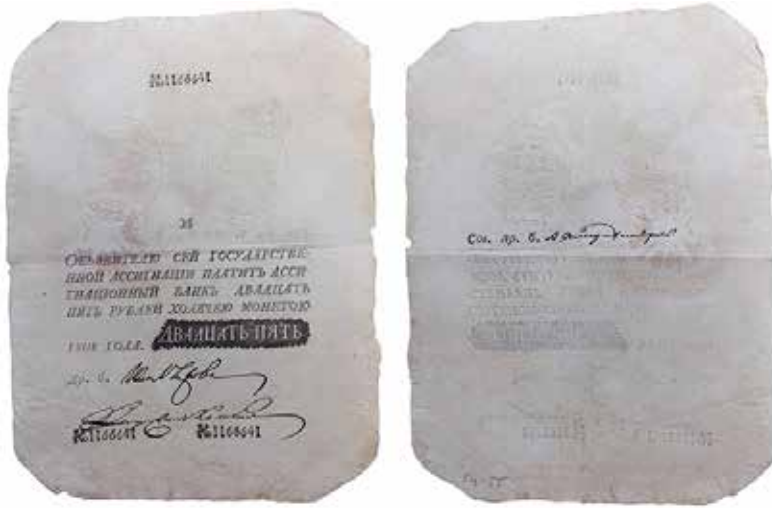


Fig. 2. 25-rubles assignation of 1808 forged in France with a mistake in the word «ХОДЯЧЕЮ». Collection of the National Museum of Ukrainian History. Inv. No. ПГ3-55



Fig. 3. Embossing impression on the forged assignation (at the top) and the state assignation (at the bottom). Collection of the National Museum of Ukrainian History. Inv. No. ПГ3-55, ПГ3-56

The researchers' attention was also attracted by the differences in the paper manufacturing, which in our time differs in a shade. On the forged assignations paper, there is a tone of blue and green shades, but authentic money is made of higher-quality paper, making them whiter, only «slightly yellowed with age» (Marshak, 1968, p. 63). The assignations made by the French also have a better and more detailed depiction of the eagle (Marshak, 1968, p. 57).

Here are the distinctive features of «Napoleon» forgeries (Marshak, 1968, p. 63):

There are printed signatures instead of handwritten ones on the front side, while on the reverse there are signatures made by using the typographic mode and the manually made signatures.

Light blue shade of the paper with a clear reflection of the oval coats of arms embossing. (Fig. 3.).

The printed text has more even lines, separate lines are deeper and thinner, cut into the bottom of the paper.

The capital letter «O» has a gap in the upper right side and merges with the line of the letter itself with a wave at the bottom left, while the true font never breaks.

Differences in certain letters «а», «т» and «д» reproduction.

Misprints and mistakes in spelling «ХОЛЯЧЕЮ» and «ГОСУЛАРСТВЕННОЙ» instead of «ХОДЯЧЕЮ» and correspondingly «ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ».

The samples of the counterfeit assignation with the mistakes in the signature of the Director of the Assignance Bank – «ПАВЕВ» instead of «ПАВЕЛ» on the 25-ruble assignation in 1809 are also known (Baiura, 2012, p. 64). Agreeing with the high estimation of the information potential of the WEB-resources in the modern numismatic researches (Orlyk, 2013, pp. 129–133), we used the Internet-forum «Fox-Notes» that is popular among the researchers of bonistics. The catalog of the indicated resource contains the 25-ruble assignation that is a sample of 1810 with an error in the inscription «ГОСУЛАРСТВЕННОЙ» and «ХОЛЯЧЕЮ». This assignation was falsified by the French and wasn't previously published in the printed editions (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Counterfeit of 25-ruble 1810 year № 1311246 with an error print «ГОСУЛАРСТВЕННОЙ» та «ХОЛЯЧЕЮ». Materials of the Internet-portal «Fox-Notes»

An important distinguishing feature of the assignations' imitations is the signature technique, or a paleographic mark, which is a part of the methodology of studying the paper money according to the classification R. Tkhorzhevskiy (Tkhorzhevskiy 1988, p. 28). The sphragistic feature (Tkhorzhevskiy, 1988, pp. 33–34) described by the scientist is not recorded by us at the current stage of the study, because it is unknown about the counterfeits of the assignations with the available stamps or perforations (Kukhareenko, 2001, p. 13) that testify about their repayment after the removal.

Having examined the samples of the French forgeries, we also drew attention to one more distinguishing feature that previous researchers had ignored. The difference in a signing technology was evident even during the time of the existence of the real assignations and their French counterfeits. However, today, one can observe the «burning» of the money sign by the inks to the core on the preserved assignations of the Russian production. Such a phenomenon does not happen with «Napoleon» counterfeits, where the signature was filed with a facsimile. This feature, in addition to those described by the previous researchers, can be effectively used in the researches in the field of bonistics showing French counterfeits.

The forged assignations done on the initiative of Napoleon are also popular among the collectors, thus they are included in a popular catalog for the collectors (Catalog of the banknotes from the Russian Empire to the Russian Federation, 2016, p. 12), where the counterfeits 25-ruble 1803, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810 та 1811 y. are defined, instead, counterfeits 50-ruble are known only by the prototype 1805 – 1808 y. The remembrance of the «Napoleon» counterfeits is also available in the world-famous and popular among the bonistics catalog of the compiler A. Pick (Pick, 1975, p. 19).

The questions of the use of the unpublished archival sources are discussed in the researches devoted to the history of money circulation, as well as in the researches on the problems of economic history in general (Orlyk, 2011b, p. 61). Thus, data about the detection of the counterfeit assignations and the prosecution of their distributors is contained in the funds of the State Archives of Chernihiv region, in particular, in the Chernihiv Civilian Governor's Fund (State Archives of Chernihiv region – SACHR, fund 128).

These documents expand our understanding of the counterfeit assignations' circulation on the territory of Naddniprianshtchyna (Over Dnipro Land), substantially completing the scientific results obtained by the predecessors of the scientific historiography. So, in particular, on April 2, 1812 a counterfeit 25-ruble assignation 1811 y. № 129468 was found in Zahorodnii Volodymyr, the resident of the village Babycheve, Hlukhiv district, and immediately sent to the Hlukhiv district court (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13835, p. 1). On 17 April 1812 p. a counterfeit 25-ruble assignation 1811 y. № 387476 was detected among the paid fees for the peasants in a console Vasyl Herasymenko, whose landowner was Petro Borzdna, village Medvedov, Starodubskiy district. At the request of the court, the clerk informed that he had received money from his landowner, on which Petro Borzdna provided the detailed explanations and assured the court of his own ignorance about the falseness of the transferred money, since he could not notice and distinguish between counterfeiting of the assignation and the number of other banknotes, including 50-ruble (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13836, p. 2). On 27 January 1819 y. Chernihiv Governor-General Ivan Vasylovych Frensdorf is informed from the Board of the State Assignment Bank about the detection of the counterfeit 25-ruble assignation with a serial number № 120468 that was found in Cossack Zahorodnii Volodymyr (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13870, pp. 1–1 v.).

In the correspondence to this case, in a letter from the Governor-General of the Mohyliv to the Governor-General of Chernihiv, the beginning of the investigation about the searching

for the guilty of the counterfeit money is reported, emphasizing that a counterfeit of «new sample» has been found (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13870, pp. 1–1 v.). Having analyzed the data of the State Archives of the Chernihiv region, we came to the conclusion that the main way of detecting the counterfeit assignation was their paying the taxes by the representatives of the tax levels – peasants, burghers and Cossacks (SACHR, f. 239, d. 2, c. 3926, p. 1). This was reported by the authorities to the tax collectors (SACHR, f. 239, d. 2, c. 3670, pp. 1–71).

Thus, in particular, counterfeit assignations were found among the money paid by the Cossack of village Slouta (SACHR, f. 128, d. 2-6, c. 9, p. 1.), as well as a burgher Sheremetiev in Hlukhiv (SACHR, f. 239, d. 2, c. 3675, pp. 1–110.). This fact is not surprising, because in the first half of the XIX-th century the direct taxes was the main method of mobilizing the finance into the state treasury of the Russian Empire and, along with the indirect taxes, formed the main form of the state income (Orlyk, 2011, p. 99).

It is noteworthy that archival documents do not list any features identified by modern researchers. This proves the possibility of simultaneous private counterfeit circulation. It confirms the possibility that the Russian Empire's monetary circulation at the time of the war with Napoleon had counterfeits made by individuals on the territory of the empire (Alekhov, 2003, p. 27–34). The fact proving the simultaneous circulation of counterfeits produced before 1812 is found in the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Kyiv (CSHAUK). In 1810 the resident of Skvirskyi region was caught with counterfeit banknotes with a nominal value of 25 rubles (SACHR, f. 533, d. 1, c. 1135, p. 50). Counterfeit 25 rubles was also found in merchant Krychevtsev in 1810 in Rylsk (SACHR, f. 239, d. 2, c. 2836, p. 3).

The life cycle of Napoleon forgeries can be described as follows: 1812 – sabotage importation of counterfeits in the frontline zone, in 1813 – the spread of the Duchy of Warsaw and Austria (the largest number was distributed in Warsaw and Brody), from 1813 to 1818 – identifying and destroying counterfeits by representatives of Russian authorities. There is an evidence that Napoleon ordered to pay soldiers their salary with counterfeit Russian banknotes twice as much as they had to get paid which resulted in the double reduction of the funds paid, because their value was a quarter of the nominal price (Marshak, 1968, p. 58). However, we were not able to find any proves to confirm these facts in Ukrainian archives, General Archive of Ancient Acts in Warsaw and the State Archives in Warsaw. We consider further research, particularly in other archives to be of great relevance.

There is some evidence that the state treasury had counterfeit banknotes in the period after the war with France. For instance, among the funds that Surazkyi Treasury raised after collecting taxes on June 19, 1815, particularly from merchant capital, capitation and rent taxes, there were counterfeit banknotes with the nominal of hundred rubles of 1806 with the number 699 276 and 50 rubles of 1807 with the number 1485110 (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13848, p. 1).

After the war with Napoleonic France, a large number of Russian counterfeit paper money made imperial government decide to do a partial monetary reform. During this period there were practically no imitations of Russian 25 ruble banknotes in circulation, but there still occurred counterfeit banknotes of other nominals in the money market. For example, counterfeit banknotes with a nominal of 5 rubles of 1794 with the number 269 161 and 10 rubles of 1810 with the number of 821686 was found on 30th of November, 1818 in Ivan Brenner who supervised Dobrodiivska economy of Count Serhii Petrovych Rumiantsev (SACHR, f. 128, d. 1, c. 13869, pp. 1–3). These counterfeit banknotes with nominals of 5 and 10 rubles extremely are of great interest because for a long time there were only

assumptions about the availability of counterfeit money produced by the order of Napoleon. This assumption was based on the known total amounts of counterfeits of 363640 rubles, 141995 rubles and 474270 rubles found in different locations, which is impossible without counterfeit with nominals of 10 or 5 rubles (Marshak, 1968, p. 57). We also can not exclude the possibility that some these counterfeits with nominals of 5 and 10 rubles were made by individuals in the Russian Empire. Private counterfeits could be classified as «Napoleonian» by mistake as well as all illegally made money could be taken into account. We believe that now it is impossible to examine what counterfeits were found because the processed archival files do not contain any samples of counterfeits as evidence.

On 1st of May and 20th of October, 1819 the Russian Empire's government put into circulation banknotes of a new model with nominals of 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 200 rubles of 1819 and 25 and 50 rubles of 1818 with some alterations in the design and signature technique use which combined a facsimile and handwritten signatures.

In modern science, there is a belief that very few counterfeit banknotes made by the order of Napoleon were spread in the Russian empire due to governmental importation ban and it was the Duchy of Warsaw that was the main area of their circulation (Denisov, 2002, p. 93). However, the existence of these counterfeits in other regions of the Romanov Empire, particularly in the Vilenska province is proved by archival data (Kvyzykiavychus, 2008, pp. 188–192). The archival materials from funds State Archives of Chernihiv region we have investigated allow researchers to expand the idea of counterfeit circulation area. Moreover, the way counterfeit banknotes were spread through sending mail in envelopes, described by L. Kvyzykiavychus, we found in Chernihiv archives, particularly a counterfeit banknote of 1814 in the letter of insurance (SACHR, f. 239, d. 2, c. 1195, p. 4).

Forged by order of Napoleon Russian banknotes have survived in the collections of museums in Ukraine. For instance, the National Museum of History of Ukraine have 2 banknotes. One counterfeit assignation of 25 rubles of 1811 with an obvious error in the inscriptions is stored (currently on display) in Dnipropetrovsk D.I. Yavornytskyi National Historical Museum (Dnipropetrovsk D.I. Yavornytskyi National Historical Museum, 1965, p. 117). Kharkiv Historical Museum stores a banknote of 25 rubles of 1811 without reference to is as counterfeit (Zverzhkova, 2006, p. 96).

Conclusions. Thus, as a result of the study, we found out a number of methodological approaches to the problem of Russian counterfeit banknotes by Napoleonian France, which allows us to consider an issue of putting counterfeit banknotes into circulation by French troops. Through the method of comparative analysis we have found out an important sign of French forgery of Russian banknotes, including «paper burning» caused by the use of special aggressive inks on the original Russian banknotes as a result of continuous ink impact, which is not found in «Napoleonian» counterfeits. Also we have supplemented currently known types of counterfeits containing errors in the inscriptions by providing their most complete list. This significantly develops the method of counterfeit detection in museums and private collections. We have defined and outlined further research topics of French counterfeits of Russian banknotes circulation in Ukraine.

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