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Iryna PIATNYTSKOVA

PhD (History), Sciences lecturer at the Department of History of Ukraine Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University, 2 Hrushevsky Street, Vinnytsia, Ukraine, postal code 21050 (ipiatnickova@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5809-5212>

ResearcherID: C-4222-2019 (<http://www.researcherid.com/rid/C-4222-2019>)

Ірина ПЯТНИЦЬКОВА

кандидат історичних наук, старший викладач кафедри історії України Донецького національного університету імені Василя Стуса, вул. Грушевського, 2, м. Вінниця, Україна, індекс 21050 (ipiatnickova@gmail.com)

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**CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE SOUTH UKRAINIAN
COOPERATIVES AT THE BEGINNING OF XX CENTURY**

Summary. *The aim of the research is to analyze the cultural-educational activity of the cooperative societies of the South of Ukraine in the beginning of the 20th century. Its significance in the life of the region is determined. The research methodology is based on a complex of general scientific methods of logical analysis, synthesis, comparison, classification and problem-chronological, historical-typological, statistical-analytical methods of knowledge of historical sciences. In the study, the principles of historicism, scientific objectivity and systemicity were respected. The scientific novelty includes actualization of this problem at the regional level; comprehensive study of cultural-educational activities of the southern Ukrainian cooperatives at the beginning of the 20th century; isolating and systematizing the directions of cultural and educational activities of societies. Conclusions.* Under the normative and legal documents regulating the activities of cooperatives in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, societies, at the level of financial operations, could conduct cultural and educational activities. Activation of this activity of the Southern Ukrainian cooperatives was observed at the beginning of the twentieth century. Among all types of cooperatives, agricultural and consumer companies were the most active in cultural and educational work. The cultural and educational activities of cooperatives included such steps as opening the libraries, reading rooms, lectures, exhibitions, excursions and exhibitory fields. Societies of the region also organized drama groups, amateur theaters, brass bands, cinematographers. Cultural, educational and artistic activities of cooperatives contributed to the cultural enrichment of the population, the dissemination of new leisure activities among the wide circles of the population in the South of Ukraine at the beginning of the 20th century.

Key words: cooperative societies, cultural and educational activities, libraries, courses, lectures, musical-drama circles.

**КУЛЬТУРНО-ПРОСВІТНИЦЬКА ДІЯЛЬНІСТЬ
ПІВДЕННОУКРАЇНСЬКИХ КООПЕРАТИВІВ НА ПОЧАТКУ ХХ СТ.**

Анотація. *Мета дослідження* полягає в аналізі культурно-просвітницької діяльності кооперативних товариств Півдня України на початку ХХ ст., визначенні її значення у житті населення регіону. *Методологія дослідження* ґрунтується на комплексі загальнонаукових

методів логічного аналізу, синтезу, порівняння, класифікації та проблемно-хронологічному, історико-типологічному, статистико-аналітичному методах пізнання історичних наук. При дослідженні було дотримано принципів історизму, наукової об'єктивності та системності. **Наукова новизна** дослідження полягає в актуалізації означеної проблеми на регіональному рівні; комплексному дослідженні культурно-просвітницької діяльності південноукраїнських кооперативів на початку XX ст.; виокремленні та систематизації напрямів культурно-просвітницької діяльності товариств. **Висновки.** За нормативно-правовими документами, що регламентували діяльність кооперативів наприкінці XIX – на початку XX ст., товариства, на рівні з фінансовими операціями, могли проводити культурно-просвітницькі заходи. Активізація цього напрямку діяльності південноукраїнських кооперативів спостерігалася на початку XX ст. З-поміж усіх видів кооперативів, найбільш дієвими в культурно-просвітницькій роботі були сільськогосподарські та споживчі товариства. До культурно-просвітницької діяльності кооперативів належали такі заходи, як відкриття бібліотек, читалень, проведення лекцій, організація виставок, екскурсій та показових полів. Товариства регіону також організовували театральньо-драматичні гуртки, аматорські театри, духові оркестри, кінематографи. Культурно-просвітницький напрям діяльності кооперативів сприяв культурному збагаченню населення, поширенню нових форм проведення дозвілля серед широких кіл населення Півдня України на початку XX ст. **Ключові слова:** кооперативні товариства, культурно-просвітницька діяльність, бібліотеки, курси, лекції, музично-драматичні гуртки.

Problem statement. At the present stage, Ukraine is on the way of important socio-economic changes. Using the experience of cooperative cooperation at the beginning of the 20th century can become a sufficiently effective means of attracting people into entrepreneurial activity, promote the development of the agrarian sector, small business and culture.

The cooperatives originated in the countries of Western Europe in the middle of the nineteenth century. Its principles of self-help, equality were supported by the Ukrainian intelligentsia (Milka, 1915, p. 19). Thanks to their efforts since the 1960's the first cooperative societies began to open in Ukraine. The cooperative forms of management expanded at the beginning of the 20th century. Cooperatives were not limited to economic activity; they conducted active cultural and educational work. It positively influenced the development of the cultural sphere of the South of Ukraine, and is an example of a successful interaction between the economic and spiritual spheres of life. However, this aspect of the activities of cooperative societies remains the least scrutinized at the regional as well as the national levels.

The analysis of sources and recent researches. With gaining independence of Ukraine there was a keen interest in the history of the cooperative movement of the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries among scientists. In the works of I. I. Butenko (Butenko, 1994), V. I. Marochko (Marochko, 1995), M. V. Aliman (Aliman, 1996), V. M. Polovets (Polovets, 2002), H. V. Tsybulenko (Tsybulenko, 2008), both at the national and regional levels, the causes of occurrence, stages of development, activity of cooperatives were analyzed. At the same time, the authors focused on the economic activities of cooperatives. Cultural and educational activities of agricultural cooperatives were analyzed in the works of I. A. Farenii (Farenii, 2001), A. A. Panteleimonenko (Panteleimonenko, 2008). These scholars singled out the directions of the cultural and educational work of the societies. They paid attention to its importance in the process of socio-cultural development of the Ukrainian peasantry at the beginning of the 20th century. However, the above-mentioned works are devoted to the development of the cooperative movement on the territory of Ukraine in general, the research provides only some facts from the history of the South-Ukrainian cooperatives, which do not give a complete picture of the cultural and educational activities and their significance in the life of the region's population.

Taking into account the given above, historical sources, namely legislative and regulatory documents, clerical documentation, documents of local authorities and self-government and periodicals gave grounds to this scientific research. The first group of sources includes «Normal statutes» of societies of different fields of activity (Central State Historical archive of Ukraine in Kyiv, CSHAUK, f. 228, d. 1, c. 480, 39 p.; Normal Statute for Locals (Normalnyi ustav dlia mestnykh), 1910), «Regulations on institutions for small loans» («Poloshennia pro zaklady milkoho kredytu») of June 7, 1904 (Regulations on institutions (Polozhenie ob uchrezhdeniiah), 1904), which make it possible to find out the degree of freedom of cooperative societies in cultural and educational activities. The business documentation is presented by the annual reports of the companies, in particular, Mykolayiv cooperative «Trudova Kopiika» (Otchet kooperativnogo obshchestva, 1912). They described the cultural and educational activities carried out by cooperatives.

Informative are documents of local authorities and self-government. These include reports from governorate, zemstvo governors, their agronomic, economic departments. In particular, in the «Report of the Economic Department of Verkhnedneprovsk Zemska Administration in 1913», descriptions of various areas of cultural and educational activities of cooperatives and their impact on improving the productivity of agricultural land of the region are presented (Kancher, 1914). Current events of cultural and educational work, analytical articles contain periodicals «Southern Cooperator», «Cooperative Life» and others. A separate group of sources involved in the study comprise archival materials from the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, the city of Kyiv, the State Archives of Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Odesa regions and the Institute of Manuscripts of V. I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine.

The purpose of the publication is to highlight the cultural-educational activities of the southern Ukrainian cooperatives at the beginning of the 20th century due to the comprehensive analysis of various sources and literature. It's necessary to solve the following tasks for achieving the current objective: to analyze the legal foundations of the indicated directions of cooperatives' activity; to characterize the types of cultural-educational activities of societies; to determine their significance and influence on the cultural aspect of life of the regional population.

Statement of the basic material. The main focus of the work is on the cultural and educational activities of agricultural, consumer and credit societies. These societies were the most involved in cultural and educational work. For agricultural cooperatives, the cultural-educational direction was a priority. One of the main tasks of these organizations was the dissemination of new agricultural knowledge among the peasantry, through theoretical and practical acquaintance with them. At the legislative level, the activities of agricultural cooperatives were regulated by «Normal statute of agricultural societies» adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property in 1898 (Normalnyi ustav dlia mestnykh, 1910, p. 8). Under this document, societies were allowed to organize public lectures, their own colleges, libraries, exhibitions, demonstrative and experimental fields, farms, gardens, to publish both individual works and periodicals of agricultural character.

For consumer societies the main activity was trade operations. Cultural and educational measures were complementary, therefore the right to conduct them in the «Normal statute», approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1897, was determined sufficiently schematically: «In the case of societies, it is possible to have, with the permission and with observance of the existing resolutions, organized institutions aimed at improving the moral conditions of life of the members» by various means (CSHAUK, F. 228, d. 1, c. 480, 39 p.).

Cultural and educational activities of consumer societies were determined by their location and social composition of members. Rural cooperatives engaged in the dissemination of leading agricultural knowledge, through the organization of courses, lectures and consultations. Unlike agricultural cooperatives, they usually did not organize exhibitions, display fields. Although they provided financial support for these activities. Instead, urban, labour consumer cooperatives paid more attention during the course of organization to the theoretical issues of the cooperative movement, tried to familiarize their members with the principles of clerical work. In addition, they were characterized by a leisure organization for their members, by engaging them in circle, theatrical activities.

Unlike agricultural and consumer cooperatives, in the legislative documents regulating the activity of credit societies in general, the issue was not about the possibility of conducting cultural and educational activities (Polozhenie ob uchrezhdeniiah, 1904). The question of creating a library at any cooperative was considered each time in the Central Committee for Small-Scale Loans. If credit societies were allowed to create libraries, they had to deal with the publications of cooperative and agricultural issues, limiting their cultural and educational opportunities.

In addition, since 1910, there was a special circular of the Ministry of Education that prohibited teachers from participating in the activities of credit cooperatives, as it allegedly damaged the performance of their immediate responsibilities (Heysin, 1915, p. 20). Thus, cooperatives lost people potentially able to develop the cultural and educational work direction.

It should be noted that agricultural and consumer cooperatives were not completely independent in carrying out cultural and educational activities. In order to open a library-reading room, hold courses, lectures, organize exhibitions, etc., they had to obtain permission from the governor or the head of local police in advance. Archival documents show that the local authorities closely followed the cultural and educational activities of cooperative societies, as feared that a revolutionary activity could be conducted under the pretext of cooperative activities. Therefore, checks of members of the societies were a typical phenomenon of that time (CSHAUK, F. 313, d. 2, c. 2486, p. 536; CSHAUK, F. 313, d. 2, c. 2189, p. 254; State Archive of Odessa Region, SAOR, F. 2, d. 7, c. 215, p. 12).

The intensification of the cultural and educational activities of cooperative societies was observed since 1905. This was facilitated by the adoption of the «Regulations on institutions for small loans» of 1904 (Polozhenie ob uchrezhdeniiah, 1904), the deployment of revolutionary events and the relative liberalization of public life. From that time there was an increase in the number of cooperatives in the region, the accumulation of significant capital, which made it possible to conduct cultural and educational activities.

In view of this, the main focus in the work is on the cultural and educational activities of the cooperative societies of the South of Ukraine in 1905 – 1917. The upper chronological limit is determined by the revolutionary events of February 1917, which formed completely different from the previous conditions of the cultural and educational activities of the societies.

To open a library was the most widespread form of cultural and educational work among the southern Ukrainian societies. At the beginning of the 20th century there was a low level of population maintenance literature, especially in rural areas (Luchka, 2018, p. 85). Therefore, the task of cooperative libraries was to expand the access of the general population to educational, popular science and fiction literature. In this respect the library of the Baikal Agricultural Society of Kherson governorate was a typical venue with only 225 books (Otchet ob okazanii, 1915, p. 11). More sources could be found in workers' cooperatives, e.g. 1387

books belonged to the library of the consumers' society of the Northern field in Katerynoslav region. That society had a separate library on cooperation, for which a number of specialized periodicals were subscribed (*Iz praktiki*, 1916, p. 13–14).

Cooperative libraries could turn into reading rooms or 'tea houses' sometimes. Private companies, in particular Krasnopolska Consumer Cooperative, opened «Prosvita» (CSHAUK, F. 111, d. 1, c. 31, p. 262–265). These institutions allowed members of the cooperatives to gather, and visitors read the latest newspapers, interesting books, shared opinions about the covered materials, discussed. Their activities contributed to the cultural enrichment of the population and its practical significance. The correspondent of «The Southern Cooperator» reported on the activities of Anatoliiv's Small Agricultural Society: «Thanks to reading, many members improved the care of domestic animals, arranged field work, which achieved better results» (*Pisnoy*, 1914, p. 411–415).

Individual cooperatives in the region were engaged in selling literature in their stores, distributing literature on co-operative subjects for free. In particular, this practice took place in the consumer societies of the Slaviansoserbskyi district of Katerynoslav governorate (CSHAUK, F. 111, d. 1, c. 32, p. 262).

Subscription to newspapers and magazines was a common practice of societies. Cooperative organizations were not limited to one edition. This way, Mykolaiv Union of Credit Societies in 1916 subscribed to 12 periodicals (State Archive of Mykolayiv Region, SAMR, F. 54, d. 1. c. 10, p. 45). They were issued not only for the complete set of libraries, but also for distribution among the population. The vast majority of periodicals were connected with the cooperative realm, for instance: «Vestnik kooperatsii» (Eng. «The Bulletin of the Cooperative»), «Kooperativnaia zhyzn» (Eng. «Cooperative Life»), «Muraveinik-Komashnia» (Eng. «Anthill-Formicary»), «Soiuz potrebitelei» (Eng. «The Union of Consumers»), «Splotchyna» (Eng. «The Welding Coalition»), «Nasha kooperaciya» (Eng. «Our Cooperation»), «Khutorianyn» (Eng. «The Farmer»).

Having been published in Odesa since 1912 and edited by S. L. Avaliani, a historian, teacher and public figure, the two-week journal «Southern Cooperator» was widely popular among regional cooperatives (Institute of Manuscript of Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine, IM VNLU, F.X.№ 4752, p. 2). The issue casts light upon the events in the cooperative life of both national and regional significance.

The creation of separate cooperative publishing house in Yelisavetgrad by M. V. Levitskyi can be considered a crucial achievement of the South-Ukrainian cooperative movement within the cultural aspect (Mikhnovskyi, 1928, p. 90). However, his activities were not long. The publishing house published 4 editions of the statute of agricultural artels and memoirs of one of the artillery chiefs of Goncharenko. In general, in other publishing houses of Southern Ukraine during the research period 19 books on co-operative subjects were printed (Mikhnovskyi, 1928, p. 90).

The South Ukrainian cooperatives arranged educational institutions, courses to prepare cooperative workers, promote cooperative ideas, increase literacy, disseminate new progressive technologies in agriculture. Educational establishments were mentioned only a few times. Thus, one of the issues of «Vestnik kooperatsii» mentioned the functioning of the cooperative gymnasium in Kamenske village of Katerynoslav governorate in 1913, that one year the gymnasium had two preparatory and three usual classes. 159 students attended it, among them 67 were children of local workers (Fromett, 1913, p. 34).

The majority of cooperative societies provided courses for adults with elementary education and lasted from two to three weeks. Most courses in the region were conducted by agri-

cultural cooperatives and devoted to the latest technologies of soil cultivation, horticulture, viticulture, the theory and history of the cooperative movement. Cooperatives with zemstvos invited specialists, holding courses: district agronomists, veterinarians, gardening instructors, cooperatives, foresters. Similar courses were conducted in Katerynoslav, Luhansk (O kooperativnykh kursakh, 1913, p. 16), Kherson (Otchet o deiatelnosti, 1914, p. 52–53), Odessa (Koopерativnaia khronika, 1913, p. 114), Izmail (Totomiants, 1912, p. 335) and other cities.

The cooperatives arranged separate lectures on various topics of agriculture and cooperative movement. Agricultural cooperatives of Verkhnedneprovsky district of Katerynoslavshchyna succeeded in some aspects: they managed to organize 98 readings, attended by 5, 959 participants during 1913 (Kancher, 1914, p. 14).

Representatives of the societies realized the need for the population not only to deepen knowledge of the cooperative movement, but also the general dissemination of knowledge, spiritual enrichment, familiarization with the history of their land. For this purpose, Yenakiiievo Consumers' Society of Katerynoslavshchyna invited the prominent Ukrainian historian, ethnographer D. Yavornytskyi to read a course of lectures for its members (Khronika, 1914, p. 25).

Some cooperatives had their own museums, namely Saksahansk Agricultural Society in Katerynoslavshchyna. Exhibits of this museum were tables, samples of different crops placed in the office of the secretary of the cooperative P. M. Korniienko (Kancher, 1914, p. 21–23).

The Southern Ukrainian cooperatives organized some excursions for their members. This trend of cultural and educational work was more characteristic of agricultural societies. Excursions were held on experimental fields of other farms, in gardens, farms, exhibitions, museums, outstanding cities. Members of six agricultural societies of Katerynoslavshchyna visited the Kyiv Agricultural Exhibition in 1913. The peasants were so impressed from the things they had seen that at home, according to their drawings, they tried to reproduce samples of equipment and agricultural implements presented on the exhibition (Kancher, 1914, p. 21). Consumer cooperatives also organized excursions. However, their trips were mostly entertaining and cognitive, rather than practical nature. For instance, an informative excursion to Odessa was conducted for 102 members of the consumers' society «Trudova kopiika» (Eng. «Labour's Kopeck») in August 1911 (Otchet kooperativnoho obshchestva, 1912, p. 42).

The organization of agricultural exhibitions, provision of consultations, arrangement of exhibitory fields, orchards, vineyards, and apiaries were also included in the special forms of cultural and educational work of agricultural cooperatives that were characteristic only of this direction of the cooperative movement.

Most often they occurred at the end of summer or in autumn after harvest, on a day of fair or holidays. The peasants exhibited their products; samples of agricultural machines and implements were presented there as well. Cooperative exhibitions were a real event of local importance, attracting a large number of visitors. For example, agricultural cooperatives of Verkhnodniprovskyi district of Katerynoslav region organized seven exhibitions, and about 15,700 people visited them in 1913, that demonstrated the interest and importance of the exhibitions for the population (Kancher, 1914, p. 18). After all, they gave peasants an opportunity to learn about the achievements of other farms, with new crops, agricultural machinery and technologies, to exchange experience.

The exhibitory or experimental fields of the company were organized in order to demonstrate in practice a positive result and profitability of introducing new technologies of soil cultivation, fertilizer use, agricultural machinery, introduction of new crops. One of the larg-

est in the region was the exhibitory field of Poltava Cooperative in Kherson region, which leased 362 tithes for this. Most of the cooperative exhibitory fields were much smaller, and did not exceed 10 acres (Otchet ob okazanii, 1915, p. 112–113). Under the influence of the activity of agricultural cooperatives, individual members in their own fields introduced experimental sites. In Katerynoslav governorate, members of 29 cooperatives had 117 plots (Panteleimonenko, 2008, p. 144).

In general, exhibitory fields and areas contributed to the introduction of new tillage technologies and the dissemination of new crops to the region. So, according to the polling agronomist, the peasants massively began to inject steam, cleanse the seeds before sowing, use agricultural machines, and expanded the area of beet sowing within the range of the Ivaniv cooperative in Kherson region (Otchet ob okazanii, 1915, p. 27).

Agricultural cooperatives were also engaged in encouraging people to grow orchards, vineyards and gardens. At agricultural cooperatives in Verkhniodniprovsky, Katerynoslavskyi, Oleksandriiyskyi counties, the specialists-agronomists gave advice on the issues of gardening, horticulture and viticulture (Panteleymonenko, 2008, p. 148).

This direction of cooperative activity has given its positive results. Sources give the evidence of the expansion of gardens, orchards, vineyards and the improvement of care for them. Thus, the activities of Ivaniv cooperative operating in Kherson region facilitated the appearance of small orchards on the local peasant farms (Otchet ob okazanii, 1915, p. 27).

Separate agricultural cooperatives in the region, as we have already mentioned, were engaged in beekeeping. This ancient activity of the Ukrainians in the second half of the 20th century was not so popular as before. Agricultural cooperatives tried to restore the peasants' interest in this branch of the economy. They organized exhibitory apiaries. In particular, in the city of Oleksandrivka, Katerynoslav governorate, Zaporizhzhia Beekeeping Society, which specialized only in this field, has worked since 1911 (State Archive of Dnipropetrovsk Region, SADR, F. 11, d. 1, c. 1363, p. 9).

South Ukrainian cooperatives tried to diversify the leisure of their members, by involving them in the activities of musical drama groups, amateur theaters and musical groups. This area of activity was characteristic of consumer associations in the region. One of such circles functioned in the cooperative of the Northern field at Mykytiv coal mines in Katerynoslav. The Society equipped a theatre for its members and the local population, where four amateur performances were put on, as well as 13 performances of the guest troupes during 1914. The cooperative organized the New Year's celebration for preschool children of their members annually, distributing sweets and showing children's films. The observer mentioned: "Watching the impression that children receive from the traditional holiday, we can say that the expenses are worth 100 rubles, but their joy is worth a million" (Iz praktiki, 1916, p. 14–15). The cooperative also had a sports club, as well as a cinema club, the latter was very popular among the population. The sum of money, gained from the demonstration of films, was used to buy the piano by the company board. It was also planned to increase the amount of cultural and educational films, rather than entertaining ones (Iz praktiki, 1916, p. 14–15).

Another striking example of the cultural and educational activities was the work of Yekakiievskyi Consumers' Society in Katerynoslav region, which had cultural-educational commission, the cinema club, evening classes for workers, and even a brass band (Baldin, 1990, p. 105).

An important vector of the cooperative society, functioning in the South of Ukraine, was the financial support of local educational institutions and their students. For example,

Mykolaiv Consumers' Association «Trudova kopiika» provided funds to the city public library, Mykolaiv School, the School of the First Artel of Loaders, the educational institution for children of unemployed parents, and to the daycare asylum for children of workers (SAMR, F. 305, d. 1, c. 1, p. 119).

Thanks to the Andriivskiy Credit Cooperative of the Tavria governorate, headed by E.A. Ivanchenko, and in the material assistance of the Zemstvo in 1909, a mixed progymnasium was constructed. In the future, the company continued to transfer funds for the activities of this institution (Totomiants, 1912, p. 335).

Cooperatives of the region also provided scholarships for students of low-income members and gifted ones. Thus, the Kostiantynivsk Credit Society of Katerynoslavshchyna transferred 4 thousand rubles for these needs (Totomiants, 1912, p. 335). In 1912 Enakiivsk Consumer Society opened 15 scholarships for the children of their members at a local commercial school (Fromett, 1911, p. 34).

Conclusions. Despite legislative and bureaucratic obstacles, cultural and educational activities became one of the priorities of the cooperative societies' work in the early 20th century. Following this direction, the cooperatives of the region have positively influenced the development of regional agriculture, contributed to the spiritual enrichment of the population, broadening of their outlook. The Southern Ukrainian societies, especially agricultural and consumer organizations, established libraries; held courses, lectures, excursions; opened museums, exhibitions; and finally provided material support to local educational institutions. Amateur theaters, musical and drama groups, orchestras also acted as part of the cultural and educational activities in the region's cooperatives. In general, cultural and educational activities of cooperatives contributed to enhancing agriculture, raising the educational and cultural levels of the regional population, as well as being an exciting and informative form of leisure.

At the same time, the potential for further development of this problem is not exhausted. The study of publishing activities of cooperatives and artistic activities can be a promising direction. Further research needs to determine the meaning of cultural and educational activities in the life of the population. The researches of the influence of the cooperative activities on the modernization of the population's outlook both of the region under study and Ukraine as a whole deserves special attention of scientists.

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