

UDC 061.22(477.83)
DOI: 10.24919/2519-058x.12.177556

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Бібліографічний опис статті: Panko, O. & Hubanova, T. (2019). Functioning of «Prosvita» branch in Horodok during 1909 – 1939. *Skhidnoevropejskyi Istorychnyi Visnyk [East European Historical Bulletin]*, 12, 74–82. doi: 10.24919/2519-058x.12.177556

**FUNCTIONING OF «PROSVITA» BRANCH IN HORODOK
DURING 1909 – 1939**

Summary. *The aim of the research is to display the «Prosvita» society history in Horodok town; to analyze the main directions of its activity during 1909 – 1939. The research methodology is based on the historicism, systematic, scientific, verification, author copyright principles; on the general scientific methods application: analysis, synthesis, generalization; the special historical methods have also been used (the historical-genetic, the historical-typological, the historical-systematic ones). The scientific novelty consists in the fact that the archival sources data have been analyzed and systemized in the article, the «Prosvita» society main functioning directions have been established in Horodok town, in particular, the «Prosvita» society influence on the district branches. The Conclusions.* *The «Prosvita» society activities took place under extremely difficult conditions of Polish-Ukrainian relations complication and the repression in the 1920-ies and 1930-ies. The local authorities obstructed the numerous events, initiated by the «Prosvita» society, took into custody the activists and even for a period of time closed the «Prosvita» society in Horodok. An additional complicating factor was the noticeable Moscovites influence, who, by their ideology, disoriented the part of the Ukrainians in the city, thereby limiting the «Prosvita» society potential resources.*

The literacy spread, the national consciousness development, the economic information dissemination were of an utmost importance concerning the «Prosvita» society activities. The «Prosvita» society

activities branch in Horodok was in charge of the district (povit) societies, facilitated the activation, interconnection, cooperation and creation of new societies; the libraries were organized at each reading room; two travelling libraries were created; there were the books swapping between the district (povit) reading rooms, and some courses for the illiterate were introduced.

The public lectures on various aspects of Ukrainian history and culture, the economic aspects, and spreading sobriety were important activities of the society. Much attention was paid to the theatrical and choral groups work, the concerts, celebrations organization, which was a means of national consciousness developing, culture, as well as a way of raising funds for the public affairs. The young people education was of great importance, and the cultural and educational section of «Prosvita» society branch worked effectively.

Key words: Horodok, Horodotskyi povit, «Prosvita» society theatrical group, choirs, reading rooms.

ФУНКЦІОНУВАННЯ ФІЛІЇ «ПРОСВІТИ» У ГОРОДКУ ВПРОДОВЖ 1909 – 1939 рр.

Анотація. Метою дослідження є висвітлити історію товариства на прикладі філії товариства «Просвіта» у м. Городок, проаналізувати основні напрямки його діяльності упродовж 1909 – 1939 рр. **Методологія дослідження** спирається на принципи історизму, системності, науковості, верифікації, авторської об'єктивності; комплексно застосовано загальнонаукові методи: аналіз, синтез, узагальнення, а також спеціально-історичні методи (історико-генетичний, історико-типологічний, історико-системний). **Наукова новизна** полягає у тому, що у статті проаналізовано та систематизовано дані архівних джерел з досліджуваної проблеми, висвітлено історичний розвиток товариства «Просвіта» у м. Городок, головні напрямки його діяльності. **Висновки.** Діяльність городоцької філії товариства «Просвіта» сприяла збереженню та розвитку української мови, культури, національної свідомості не лише у Городку, але й у Городоцькому повіті. Вона здійснювала нагляд над повітовими товариствами, сприяла активізації, взаємозв'язку, співпраці та створенню нових товариств.

Одним з найважливіших напрямів діяльності товариства було поширення писемності, розвиток національної свідомості, поширення інформації економічного спрямування. Першочергове значення «Просвіта» приділяла культурно-просвітницькій діяльності: при кожній читальні діяли бібліотеки, було створено дві мандрівні бібліотеки, організовано обмін книгами між читальнями повіту, курси для неписьменних.

Важливим видом діяльності товариства були публічні лекції, більшість яких стосувалися різноманітних аспектів української історії та культури, економіки, поширення тверезості. Значне місце відводилося роботі театральних та хорових гуртків, організації концертів, святкувань, що було засобом розвитку національної свідомості, культури, а також способом збору коштів на громадські справи. Особливою турботою просвітян було виховання молоді, ефективно працювала молодіжна культурно-освітня секція філії «Просвіти», що сприяло зростанню культурного рівня, національної свідомості українського населення.

Ключові слова: Городок, Городоцький повіт, товариство «Просвіта», театральний гурток, хор, читальня.

The problem statement. For a long period of time, the «Prosvita» society was the largest Ukrainian cultural and educational organization, during the interwar period it performed as a driving force and an integral part of the Ukrainian cultural and educational movement. The «Prosvita» society carried out the considerable cultural and educational work, developing Ukrainian culture, a national consciousness on condition of Ukrainian state absence, in the difficult conditions of political persecution and the muscophiles widespread sentiments.

The analysis of recent researches and publications. There is a lack of scientific researchers, in modern historiography, that would, on factual material, reveal the regional peculiarities of the «Prosvita» society within the specifically defined chronological frameworks. The following article has used extensively the archival sources data that thoroughly cover the

various aspects of the «Prosvita» society activities in Horodok, in particular, the relationship with the county societies. It is worth paying attention to O. Palamarchuk's research, where Horodok society activities were considered in the context of important historical events of the national liberation struggle, the other Ukrainian organizations activities, in particular, the «Ukrainian Women Union», the «Ridna Shkola» (Native School), etc. (Palamarchuk, 1998). In his historical essay on the city, the researcher R. Horak highlighted some important events in the society's activities (Horak, 1995).

The purpose of the article – is to highlight the «Prosvita» society history in Horodok, Lviv region; to elucidate main directions of its activity during 1909 – 1939, in particular, the reading rooms establishment, the public lectures, concerts, the celebrations, dedicated to the Ukrainian history and culture actual issues, the economic aspects, the theatrical and choral groups establishment, etc.

The outline of the main material. In the early XXth century Horodok was sufficiently polonized, during the interwar period it was called Horodok Jagiellonian, in honor of King Jagiel, to whom the monument was built in the town centre. There were 4 educational establishments in Horodok (1 gymnasium and 3 public schools), in which the subjects were taught in Polish, since only one school was bilingual. There was also noticeable the influence of Muscophiles, who, in particular, began to run the Ukrainian economic organizations «Pomich» and the «Dniester». Therefore, the attempts to set up the branch of the «Prosvita» society were unsuccessful for a long time, while in some villages of Horodok district the reading rooms of «Prosvita» were functioning.

The opening of the «Prosvita» branch was facilitated by the opening of the gymnasium in 1909, when the pupils and the teachers arrived in the town. This fact increased the number of nationally conscious people significantly (Horak, 1995, p. 46). The well-known Galician lawyer Longin Ozarkiewicz became the initiator of the creation of «Prosvita» in the town. The Ozarkiewicz's family house was a kind of a cultural and educational centre of the town. The house was visited by Ivan Franko, the artists Ivan Trush, Oleksa Novakivskyi, Olena Kulchytska and her sister Olha. In the law office the future well-known writer Les Martovych started his career.

The assembly was held on April 1, 1909, which gathered about 60 people. As noted at the meeting, the purpose of its creation was «to awaken the life between our poor, the agitated by Moscow agitators, on the one hand, and the polonized burgesses, on the other hand» (Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Lviv, f. 348, d. 1, p. 1937, p. 3). The delegates were greeted by the delegate of the Central Branch of the «Prosvita» society in Lviv, the deputy of the State Council Folys, who emphasized that the «Prosvita» society is «that alive who keeps us enlightened in life and that a man without enlightenment becomes a slave and the poor». He called on the assembled members, especially the peasants, to work in Horodok district in defense of their native Ukrainian language. In this district there lived about 70% of the Ukrainians at that time (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 8).

The meetings were held on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, most often in autumn and winter, which was determined by the nature of the agricultural work. As a rule, there were some entertainments organized, reading newspapers, public lectures, rehearsals of choirs, theatre circles.

An important problem was the lack of its own room for meetings, the presentation of abstracts. The plot of land was purchased for building, and about 700 kr were collected in 1909 – 1910 (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 20). Horodok branch requested Lviv

authorities for a financial assistance because it was at risk of losing the land. The Polish community wanted to buy it to build a Polish school. «Due to lack of the financial resources» they asked to preserve in the newly established branch not 15 but 25% of the membership fees for at least one year (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 3–10). The membership fees were the mainstay of the society's activities, however, according to the numerous reports, many people were hesitant to pay the fees.

It was also decided to set up a bursa (a dormitory for the rural youth, who studied) under the auspices of the «Prosvita». Three rooms for the performances, the private rooms for rent and the shop were planned. M. Yarema, Professor at the Ukrainian Gymnasium in Przemysl, donated 200 kr to buy the inventory for the bursa. The bursa contained 5 rooms and 2 kitchens, where in 1910 there lived 14 pupils, in 1911 – 18 (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 26).

The activities of Horodotsk branch of the «Prosvita» Society contributed to the preservation and development of the Ukrainian language, culture and national consciousness not only in Horodok but also in Horodok district (povit). During the first year of functioning, the branch was successful. First of all, functioning of the reading rooms and shops was checked. The delegates from Horodok participated in almost every meeting of the district reading rooms. The post of a luminarist of the «Prosvita» reading rooms and shops was created. M. Shutu was appointed a luminarist, who, being a capable organizer, «already in a short time found great work because of the awakening of life in the reading rooms in the villages and encouraged the people greatly to set up shops. On May 30, 1909, he founded a new reading room in Bratkovychi and brought to life several reading rooms that did not function effectively from the period their foundation» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 12). The new reading rooms were also created, in particular, in 1909, 5 new ones were created in Horodok district (povit): in Bratkovychi, Artyshevychiv, Bartativ, Stodilky, Zushytsi. The branches were located in private or rented premises, had their own shops, libraries (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1936, p. 16).

The work of Hrodok branch was interrupted by World War I – it resumed its activity only in 1921. At the beginning of 1925 the number of the reading room members was 173, at the end of 1926 there were 22 reading rooms in Horodok district (povit) (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 1–13).

In 1925, S. Bilyak, a well-known social and political figure, a lawyer, headed the branch in Horodok. He stated: «the authorities of Horodok district (povit) underestimated the role of education and the result of it is banditism, alcoholism, thefts and other crimes in a very large size. In part, the reason for is the economic need that is caused by the large population of the countryside... The reading room must be the initiator and the leader in every such case, it must become a parent and a teacher for its members. The reading room should become the second home for every citizen» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 15). M. Lada, the Chief Delegate noted a noticeable shortage of people, willing to be engaged in the cultural and educational work, in particular, the Ukrainian academic youth and teachers: formally, the reading room had quite a few members, but only a small percentage paid the membership fees and even fewer did regular work. The part of the clergy distanced themselves from the cultural and educational work; «there were also people of Muscophile ideology among them» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 13).

In 1928 – 1932 the Polish-Ukrainian relations got worse, intensified, in particular, in 1932 the OUN attacked the post office in Horodok, after which a series of repressive actions took place. S. Bilyak, the head of the branch, was arrested. Several times the searches were

carried out in the premises of the branch, during which many documents were destroyed. The secretary R. Palamarchuk had to hide to avoid being arrested (Palamarchuk, 1998, p. 31). The number of members of the society was not constant: in 1933, there were 120 of them (48 women and 62 men), then in 1934 it was almost twice as low: 64 people, of whom 52 were men and 12 women. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of women. In 1935 in Horodok the number of members of the society increased to 350 people, in the district (povit) there were 2718 members of «Prosvita» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1944, p. 5).

In 1934 the OUN's terrorist attack against Polish Interior Minister B. Peracki, the leader of the pacification, has sparked a new wave of the repression. The activity of the Society was under a constant threat of closure by the Polish authorities, in particular, in 1934 there was stopped the activity of reading rooms in Horodok, Zavydovychi, Zashkovychi, Kernytsya, Velykyi Lubin, Bartativ. The reason for the repression was police reports that a large number of the Ukrainians visited the graves of the fallen people in 1918, which took place solemnly (CSHAUL, f. 348. d. 1, c. 1936, p. 12). Later the reading rooms were opened, but there was a constant danger of closing. In the county, it was difficult to get permission to take action: «In order to obtain such permission, it is necessary to be well, because they refuse to do so, in such a way that such an interested person will get bored», often the police dispersed people (CSHAUL, f. 348. d. 1, c. 1936, p. 16). On June 17, 1934, R. Palamarchuk and the government official I. Kalynevyh, almost all the members of the youth cultural and educational section, as well as about a dozen conscious peasants were arrested. Subsequently, some of the arrested were released because the investigation did not prove the facts of anti-state crimes. However, all former «Prosvita» members, especially those imprisoned, were forbidden to participate in the community activity by the authorities (Palamarchuk, 1998, p. 53).

In order to reduce persecution, the Main Department called on Horodok branch for prudence and caution, in particular, it was recommended to arrange duty services to avoid provocations: the falsification of the forbidden literature, the provocative leaflets. It was also decided to exclude the people, who had conflicts with the authorities, from the management of the branches of the society (CSHAUL, f. 348. d. 1, c. 1936, p. 17).

Subsequently, the repression weakened slightly, but it did not stop. Despite the prohibitions and persecution, – S. Horbal, the resident of Horodok, recalled: every year on Whitsun there took place the visits to the cemetery and places of burial of the heroes of the «Prosvita», to which the youth joined, «the crosses and the graves of the fallen for the freedom of Ukraine were restored by members of «Falcon», the girls put sand around the graves, lined the paths, decorated the graves with flowers and wreaths. The inscriptions on the wreaths had to «pass censorship» (Palamarchuk, 1998, p. 59).

One of the most important activities of the society was the spread of literacy, the development of the national consciousness, the dissemination of information of an economic nature. The «Prosvita» provided courses for the illiterate and the low literate, which in 1925 enrolled 22 people, in particular, 7 boys and 15 girls, in 1934, enrolled more than 40 people of all ages. As stated in his report at the meeting of the «Prosvita» branch in Horodok on March 30, 1937, the representative of the Main Department V. Tatomyr: «the main aim of the «Prosvita» is the struggle against illiteracy ... The task is set up for us – to get rid of slavery, to wake up the feeling of responsibility, to engage in endurance and consistency in work, and then to unite in one thought ... and to work together with one common purpose – the independent State ... We must go to the following four directions: 1. Morality and God. 2. A good book. 3. Youth organization. 4. Women's organization» (Palamarchuk, 1998, p. 27).

The primary importance of the society was given to the cultural and educational activities, with libraries operating at each reading room, in particular, the list of the donated books to the library of the newly established Horodok branch in 1909: «History of Ukraine-Rus» (10 copies), «Plazing Vegetables» (10 copies), «The Collection of Songs» (10 copies), «Production of Cement Tiles» (5 copies), «Apiary» (2 copies) (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 7). After World War I, the library had to be re-created, since the pre-war one was destroyed, in particular, 134 books were purchased. As noted in the report, «people were happy to read the books and with a great interest,» novels and stories were the most popular. Also people paid for receiving the magazines: «The People's Prosvita», «The Ukrainian Voice», «The New Time», «The Freedom», «The Ukrainian Council». Due to the lack of books, two wandering libraries were created to cover district (povit) reading rooms, and the books were exchanged among the district reading rooms (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 194, p. 13).

In 1933 there were 216 books of fiction (novels, stories, poetry), 7 economic, 22 popular-scientific, 2 books-advisers, dictionaries, 18 children's books, 1 theater book in the library of Horodok society. About 124–130 books were read during the year, most often the books: «Sahaidachnyi» (15 times) and «Mazepa» (37), «Sotnykivna» (44). The seniors were more interested in the stories of war and recollections, the younger ones were interested in fantastic stories. In 1934, Horodok branch subscribed to seven magazines: «The New Time», «The Great History of Ukraine», «The Life and Knowledge», «The Chronicle of Red Kalyna», «The Mosquito», «The Woman's Destiny», «The Woman's Will» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1944, p. 4).

The Public lectures were an important activity of the Society, most of which were devoted to various aspects of Ukrainian history and culture. In particular, in 1910 O. Yablonskyi read the essay «On the Cossacks» in the reading room in Malkovychi (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 26). During October 19, 1924 – June 30, 1925 I. Tsegelskyi read the essays on the topics: «On the Ancient Theatre in Greece», «On the Ukrainian Turnstones and Tourists», «On the Cossack Duma», «On the beginnings of the Printing Thing in Ukraine», V. Skrypchuk: «The Significance of the Ukrainian Book», V. Babiy: «Prehistoric Times», «Geography of Ukraine», «Prince's Day in Ukraine», in the essay on «Native School» he pointed to the importance of Ukrainian schooling and the obligation to maintain existing ones and to found the new ones. He called for the founding of Committees of Native Schools in each community to raise donations for the needs of Ukrainian private schooling (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 8). In 1933, 18 public lectures were conducted, 16 of them were on historical topics, 1 – on a dairy manufacturing topic and 1 – on a medical topic. In 1935 K. Karachevskyi conducted the lecture on the topic: «Prescriptions of the Polish Code of Obligations»; a student of theology from Drozdovychi Horoshko conducted the lecture on «Bolshevism», «Educational and organizational needs of Horodok povit», R. Palamarchuk: «The value of the Soviet philosophy and Moscow Philosophy» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1944, p. 3). Such public lectures were popular, usually attended by 15–120 people (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, p. 8).

The society paid a special attention to the eradication of drunkenness, which was organized by the presentation of essays on anti-alcohol and anti-nicotine topics (M. Boberskyi conducted the lecture «On the Impact of Alcoholism on a Human Life» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1937, p. 26), I. Tsehelskyi – «The Harm of Nicotine» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 8), R. Yarosh – «On Sobriety» (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1944, p. 1). There were organized

the circles whose members completely abstained from alcohol. Each reading room had to subscribe to «The Renaissance» magazine, and various celebrations were held without drinking alcohol.

Another activity sphere of the society was the organization of the concerts and celebrations. On May 17, 1926, the «Prosvita» reading room organized the concert in honor of T. Shevchenko, on June 15 – a festive meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of I. Franko's death, and in October – Book Holiday (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 13). In 1934 2 the concerts were held in honor of T. Shevchenko. The reading room made money from organizing the similar events, for example, «Vechornytsi» on November 9, 1934 brought in profit of 75 PLN. Every year, at Christmas holidays, the Union of the Ukrainians, together with the «Prosvita» activists, prepared a nativity scene (Verterp), collecting donations for the public affairs (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1944, p. 12).

At the reading rooms of the society there were theatrical and choral circles. During 1933, there were 6 performances of the «Easter Drama», and often there was on the performance «Joseph in Egypt». During 1934, there were 2 concerts in honor of T. Shevchenko, as well as «The Bethlehem Night» performance was acted out three times. In 1936 for the revitalization of work in reading rooms the competitions of choirs and amateur theater circles started among the povit reading rooms (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 56).

Horodok«Prosvita» also created the office of a legal aid, much attention was paid to the economic development of the Ukrainians, in particular, as evidenced by the topic of the lectures, in particular, in 1926 Sterniyuk elucidated the cooperation, its essence and role in the life of people, in particular, the Ukrainians. Horodok «Prosvita» organized the cooperative courses together with other town organizations. In 1935, four cooperatives, the branch of the Ukrainian Bank, and the branch of «The Union of the Ukrainian Women», functioned well at the branch (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 9).

The youth cultural and educational section of the branch «Prosvita» worked effectively. In 1934 it numbered 21 students, also the representatives of working youth. During the year, the members of the section made 12 reports on the youth topics, they acquainted the peasants with the publications of the journal «The Student Way». Each member of the section took care of a specific youth group, children's or teenage unit of the «Sokil» Society in Horodok and the villages of the povit. In various villages there were made the reports on the economic topics, history of Ukraine, the concerts and performances were organized as well. For several months, young educators visited 22 villages, held 61 sports competitions in the povit (Palamarchuk, 1998, p. 41).

Despite the weekly public lectures, the choir performances, a large «Prosvita» library reading room in Horodok was attended only by a small number of the intellectuals and the suburban dwellers, there were no town residents, who attended the the lectures (CSHAUL, f. 348. d. 1, c. 1940/2, p. 71). In 1926 among 22 reading rooms in the povit, the minor part of them worked actively, often due to the lack of their own premises (CSHAUL, f. 348, d. 1, c. 1940, p. 13).

In the 1930-ies, there were already three Ukrainian reading rooms in Horodok – apart from the main reading room, in the town center; in 1935 they were also founded in the suburbs – Zastavskiyi (in I. Bohonka's house) and Lvivskiyi (in V. Kishko's house). The reading room in the Zastavskiyi suburb was particularly active, which was traditionally considered as a stronghold of Muscophilia. It comprised a shop, a library, a choir, a theater group. Its activities led to the fact that in Muscophilia Society named after M. Kachkovskiyi

there remained only «the part of the supporters». In 1939 it was closed (CSHAUL, f. 182, d. 1. c. 313, p. 16).

Instead, the «Prosvita» reading room in the Lvivskiy suburb in Horodok was in a worse state of affairs because it lacked the adequate facilities, lacked a choir and a theater group, so it was mostly visited only by older people. A large number of the reading room members attended the choir circle (CSHAUL, f. 348. d. 1, c. 1940/2, p. 71). This reading room also functioned among the activists at the muscophile reading room, and it had some financial problems. The conflicts arose between the Muscophiles and the pro-Ukrainian population. The Muscophiles noted that the Ukrainians tried to take their building and use it for the reading rooms, but it did not work (CSHAUL, f. 182, d. 1, c. 326, p. 44). It is noteworthy that the archival documents did not record any data on the oppression of the Muscophiles by the Polish administration. In January 1936, the reading room in the Lvivskiy suburb of Horodok was liquidated (CSHAUL, f. 182, d. 1, c. 326, p. 82). The liquidation of two Muscophile reading rooms in Horodok also testified to the successes of the «Prosvita» movement.

In the fall of 1939, the Soviet government liquidated the society as a «source of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism,» the libraries were destroyed, the massive arrests began, and the deportations of the nationally conscious Ukrainians, their families, and especially the members of the «Prosvita» began. L. Ozarkkevych, head of Horodok Branch, was the first among the first victims and many other residents of Horodok. Most of the «Prosvita»educators managed to avoid such persecution and emigrated to the West.

The conclusions and perspectives of further research. The activities of the society took place under the difficult conditions of Polish-Ukrainian relations complication and the repressions of the 1920-ies and 1930-ies. An additional complicating factor was the noticeable influence of Muscophiles, who, by their ideology, disoriented the part of the Ukrainians of the town, thereby limiting the potential resources of the «Prosvita».

One of the most important activities of the society was the spread of literacy, the development of the national consciousness, the dissemination of economic information. The «Prosvita» branch in Horodok managed the povit societies, facilitated the activation, interconnection, cooperation and the creation of the new societies. The libraries functioned at each reading room, two travelling libraries were created, the books were exchanged among the povit reading rooms, and the courses for the illiterate were organised.

The public lectures on various aspects of Ukrainian history and culture, the economic aspects, and the spread of sobriety were the important activities of the society. Much attention was paid to the work of theatre and choral groups, the organization of concerts, the celebrations, which was a means of developing the national consciousness, culture, as well as the way of raising funds for the public affairs. The education of young people was of a great importance, and the cultural and educational section of the «Prosvita» branch functioned effectively.

In further scientific research it is necessary to cover the activity of the branches of the «Prosvita» society in various settlements, their cooperation with other Ukrainian organizations, the contribution to the development of culture and the national consciousness.

Acknowledgments. We express sincere gratitude to all members of the editorial board for consultations provided during the preparation of the article for printing.

Funding. The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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*The article was received on April 7, 2019.
Article recommended for publishing 27/08/2019.*