

## РЕЦЕНЗІЇ / REVIEWS

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### **Stepan SOLANSKYI**

*PhD (Art Sciences), Associate Professor of Departments of Special Piano and General and Specialized Piano, the Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Academy of Music, 5 O. Nyzhankivsky Street, Lviv, Ukraine, postal code 79000 (szolanszky@gmail.com)*

**ORCID:** 0000-0001-9533-1344

### **Zoriana LASTOVETSKA-SOLANSKA**

*PhD (Art Sciences), Associate Professor of Department of History of Music, the Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Academy of Music, 5 O. Nyzhankivsky Street, Lviv, Ukraine, postal code 79000 (zoriana0705@gmail.com)*

**ORCID:** 0000-0002-6606-9831

### **Степан СОЛАНСЬКИЙ**

*кандидат мистецтвознавства, доцент кафедр спеціального фортепіано і загального та спеціалізованого фортепіано Львівської національної музичної академії імені Миколи Лисенка, вул. О. Нижанківського, 5, м. Львів, Україна, індекс 79000 (szolanszky@gmail.com)*

### **Зоряна ЛАСТОВЕЦЬКА-СОЛАНСЬКА**

*кандидатка мистецтвознавства, доцентка кафедри історії музики Львівської національної музичної академії імені Миколи Лисенка, вулиця О. Нижанківського, 5, м. Львів, Україна, індекс 79000 (zoriana0705@gmail.com)*

## CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PARADIGM OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY "OSTROH ACADEMY"

**Review of: Ostroh Academy: History and Modernity of the Cultural and Educational Center / ed. by I. Pasichnyk, P. Kraliuk, D. Shevchuk and the others. 3rd ed. Ostroh: Ostroh Academy National University Publishing House, 2019. 720 p.**

## КУЛЬТУРНО-ОСВІТНЯ ПАРАДИГМА НАЦІОНАЛЬНОГО УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ "ОСТРОЗЬКА АКАДЕМІЯ"

**Рецензія на: Острозька академія: історія та сучасність культурно-освітнього осередку / ред. І. Пасічника, П. Кралюка, Д. Шевчука та ін.  
Вид. 3-тє. Острог: Видавництво Національного університету "Острозька академія", 2019. 720 с.**

In 2019, a voluminous encyclopedic publication "Ostroh Academy: History and Modernity of the Cultural and Educational Center" was published within the project "Support

and Promotion of the 25th Anniversary of the Revival of the National University “Ostroh Academy” – the successor of the first higher education institution in Eastern Europe” with the support of “The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation”.

Ihor Pasichnyk, Rector of “Ostroh Academy” National University, Hero of Ukraine, Doctor of Psychology, Professor, honored scientist of public education of Ukraine, became the chairman of the editorial board consisting of ten highly respected scientists and teachers. The encyclopedic publication was reviewed for publication by M. Zhulynsky, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Director of Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and O. Fedoruk, Academician of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, Doctor of Arts.

In general, the content of the encyclopedic publication is very streamlined and logical, in a two-part form, on the principle of “history (the past) – present (the present)”. If the first part concerns the coverage of Ostroh Academy activity in the XVIth – the XVIIth and the study of the personalities involved into its activity, the second part reveals the basic principles of the institution at the present stage, the specifics of its educational, scientific and educational work.

The edition under review begins with “The Foreword” of the “duet” of authors – I. Pasichnyk and Peter Kraliuk, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Honored activist of Science and Technology, in eleven languages: in addition to the Ukrainian original. There is the translation of the “Introductory Word” into English, German, French, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Lithuanian, Crimean Tatar, Chinese, Hebrew and Arabic (pp. 4–48).

In the “Introductory Word” there is emphasized the important role of Prince Vasyl-Konstantyn Ostrozky (1526/1527 – 1608) – a cultural and political figure, a philanthropist, owing to whom Ostroh Academy was founded in 1576 – the first high school in Eastern Europe, one of the first permanent printing houses in Eastern Europe was opened, the Ostroh Bible and numerous liturgical books, theological treatises, polemical works, primers, etc., were published in the Slavic language. (pp. 4, 5). The activities of Ostroh Academy contributed to the rise of education, cultural progress, the establishment of international contacts: “Ostroh Academy gave impetus to the development of Greek studies, biblical studies, Slavic philology not only in Ukraine, but also in the Orthodox Slavs... Ostroh Academy influenced the development of education and culture not only in Ukraine but also in Eastern Europe significantly” (pp. 5, 6). The authors note that after the death of Prince V.-K. Ostrozky, the academy began to regress, until the cessation of activities in the 30’s of the XVIIth century. Its revival began during the period of independent Ukraine, after the appearance of the Decree No. 158/94 of April 12, 1994 of the President Leonid Kravchuk “On the Establishment of Ostroh Collegium”.

Rector I. Pasichnyk made a significant contribution to the development of Ostrohiana – educational, cultural and scientific. In the preface he identified strategic directions and prospects for the development of educational, scientific and innovative activities of the institution as a modern educational complex, which passed “from a specialized educational institution under the care of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy to a full-fledged university” (p. 6), which trains specialists in many specialties – history, law, economics, political science, philosophy, Ukrainian and foreign philology, international relations, public administration, national security, document science and information activities, psychology, primary education, country studies, religion, journalism, public health. According to President Leonid Kuchma’s Decree No. 1170 / 2000 of 30 October 2000, the university was granted a national status.

It is very valuable that the Academy positions itself not only as a powerful research center, but also as an important cultural and educational institution, which houses the academy

museum, art gallery, a room-museum of the women's school (1865 – 1923), a room-museum of a writer and statesman, Count Dmytro Mykolayovych Bludov (1785 – 1864), the cellars of the former Capuchin monastery are exhibited, old prints and iconography exhibitions are regularly held, and etc. The authors of the Foreword called Ostroh Academy "a pilgrimage place for people who honour Ukrainian national shrines" (p. 7), thus emphasizing its important spiritual and educational significance, as the institution aims "to educate high moral citizens for whom the Ukrainian idea – not an empty phrase, but a determinant of a national self-consciousness" (p. 7).

After the Foreword, the encyclopedic materials compiled by forty-one authors are arranged in an alphabetical order. They are devoted to the historical conditions of Ostroh Academy, the genealogy of the Ostroh family, coverage of the biography and activities of iconic figures of the Ukrainian nation – ascetics in the field of history, art, literature, philosophy, theology, etc. In encyclopedic materials great emphasis is laid on the study of sacred themes, iconography, historical monuments, descriptions of cultural and spiritual shrines and religious centers, socio-cultural artistic environment of Ostroh during the XVIth – the XVIIth centuries, etc. The multi-religious nature of cultural and religious contexts is noteworthy. It is positive that after the encyclopedic part there is a list of abbreviations of names of archives, museums, academic institutions, libraries, serial editions, etc. (p. 609).

The second part of the encyclopedic publication is devoted to the latest cultural and educational development of Ostroh Academy, and it contains 52 articles of forty-two researchers. It begins with four articles by Dmytro Shevchuk, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Vice-Rector for scientific and pedagogical work of the National University "Ostroh Academy": "Academic Council of the National University "Ostroh Academy", "Rectorate", "Honorary Doctors and Honorary Professors of the National University "Ostroh Academy" (*Doctor Honoris Causa*)" and "Honorary Academicians of the Ostroh Academic Brotherhood" (pp. 625–632).

In accordance with the structure of the educational process, organized within the framework of state standards of higher education, this book details the activities of faculties (institutes) and departments: *the Faculty of the Humanities* (M. Karpovets), which includes the Department of Journalism (Z. Hodunok, N. Kruhlyk), the Department of Cultural Studies and Philosophy (J. Yankovska) and the Department of the Ukrainian Language and Literature (Z. Shostiuk); *the Faculty of Economics* (L. Kozak), which includes the Department of Economic and Mathematical Modeling and Information Technology (N. Ivanchuk), Department of Economic Theory, Management and Marketing (N. Ivanchuk) and Department of Finance, Accounting and Auditing (N. Ivanchuk); *Educational and Scientific Institute of Law named after Ioniki Malinovsky* (S. Ishchuk), consisting of the Department of State and Legal Disciplines (S. Ishchuk), the Department of Criminal Law (S. Ishchuk), the Department of Theory and History of State and Law (S. Ishchuk) and the Department of Civil Law Disciplines (S. Ishchuk); *Faculty of International Relations* (A. Atamanenko), which includes the Department of History named after M. Kowalski (V. Trofymovych, M. Blyzniak, A. Atamanenko), the Department of Regional Studies (S. Rudko) and the Department of International Relations (T. Sydoruk); *the Faculty of Political Information Management* (V. Lebediuk), consisting of the Department of Public Health (I. Hushchuk), the Department of Documentation and Information Activity (H. Okhrimenko), the Department of Political Science and National Security (V. Lebediuk) and the Department of Psychology and Pedagogy (O. Matlasevych); *the Faculty of Romance-Germanic Languages* (I. Kovalchuk),

which includes the Department of English Philology (A. Khudoliy), the Department of the English Language and Literature (O. Kostiuk), the Department of Indo-European Languages (V. Polishchuk) and the Department of International Language Communication (H. Kraichynska). The work of the Department of Physical Education (D. Shevchuk), the educational and scientific center of distance learning (D. Shevchuk), the scientific library of Ostroh Academy (Yu. Kotsiuk) and the international cooperation of the institution (E. Balashov) are analyzed as well.

The great scientific, historical and cultural value is noted of the old prints of the XVIth – the XIXth centuries from the fund of rare editions of the book collection of the university, which is a modern automated library and information center, including: “Chasoslov z misiatseslovom” (Pochaiv, 1759), “Kyiv-Pechersk Paterik”, “Apostol” (Lviv, 1654), “*Annales Ecclesiastici*” (Cologne, 1624), etc., and the others, the collection “Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire”, beginning with the “Conciliar Law” of 1649 and ending in 1913, 50 volumes of the “Encyclopedic Dictionary” by F. Brockhaus and I. Efron and the others (pp. 685–686).

It is emphasized that the institution provides training for bachelors, masters, candidates of sciences (doctors of philosophy) and doctors of sciences in many areas in full-time, part-time and distance forms. The authors of the book emphasize that Ostroh Academy is a powerful modern scientific and educational center, because there are specialized scientific councils for the defense of PhD and doctoral dissertations, scientific and practical conferences, seminars, symposiums, congresses, round tables, scientific readings, workshops and presentations are held, professional collections, journals, monographs are published, textbooks and teaching aids, certified programs, scientific circles, clubs and societies, master classes, internships, exchange of student programs, competitions of student works, business games (modeling of negotiations, meetings), sports contest “Health”, etc. It is commendable that Ostroh Academy provides academic and student mobility in numerous international projects (Tempus, Erasmus+, DAAD, OAED, IREX, UNDP, IRF, ACTR/ACCELS and the others), cooperates with 80 (!) foreign academic and educational institutions, scientific societies, foundations, etc.

In general, various articles and materials of the encyclopedic publication are marked by thoroughness, comprehensive coverage of the socio-cultural context of history and the current stage of the National University “Ostroh Academy”. The majority of the researches concerns the restoration of historical memory, historiography, and the process of reviving Ostroh Academy as the first higher education institution in Eastern Europe. In particular, the priority research interests of the Department of History include ostrohan, historiography of the history of Ukraine, socio-economic, source and historiographical aspects of the development of historical regions, national liberation struggles and church life, the Ukrainian-Polish relations, the Ukrainians from abroad and their history, etc. (p. 656). It is noted that the university organizes numerous national and patriotic events for students and teachers.

Evidence of the historical memory preservation of different peoples and an active civic and cultural position is the successful operation of a number of centers, laboratories and departments at Ostroh Academy<sup>1</sup>. In the encyclopedic publication the functioning of

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<sup>1</sup> In particular, there is a Center for National Security Studies; Center for Social Research; Center for Certificate Programmes and Trainings; Research Center “Institute of Practical Psychology and Psychotherapy”; Scientific and Practical Laboratory “Psychosocial Support and Rehabilitation of Victims of War”; Center for Political Studies; “Human Ecology and Public Health Research Center”; Research Laboratory “Laboratory of Cognitive Psychology”; Scientific and practical laboratory “Strategic Communications Studio”; Workshop of a practical psychologist, scientific circle “School of Gender Parity. Gender and We”; Scientific circle “Documentation Studies and Information activities: the Study of Modern Communication Processes”; Literary studies, etc.

the "Museum of History of the National University" "Ostroh Academy" is described in details (A. Heleniuk) with more than 1,5 thousand exhibits, the research center "Institute for Research of the Ukrainian Diaspora" (A. Atamanenko), Research Center for the Study of Scientific, Educational, Social and Political Heritage of the Academician of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, a native of Ostroh Ioniki Malinovsky (V. Popeliushko, O. Herasymchuk), Center for the Study of the Heritage of the Princes of Ostroh (I. Teslenko), Center for Islamic Studies (M. Yakubovych), Center for Political Studies (Yu. Matsievsky), Center for Social Research (V. Lebediuk), Center for Judaism (D. Tsolin), Laboratory of Gender Studies (M. Petrushkevych), Research Laboratory of Christian Ethics, Psychology and Pedagogy (V. Zhukovsky, S. Vlasova), Lexicographic Laboratory "Ostroh Neographer" (V. Maksymchuk), Cultural and Art Center (J. Bondarchuk, H. Handzilevska), Center for European Studies, etc. It is significant that at the Department of Cultural Studies and Philosophy, which studies culture in the horizon of stable and temporal identities, among other things, the annual scientific conference "Problems of Cultural Identity in the Situation of Modern Dialogue of Cultures" is held (p. 637).

The authors of the encyclopedic publication emphasize that an important page in the spiritual and social life of the institution belongs to the students, teachers church of St. Fedir Ostrozky (V. Zhukovsky), to the Brotherhood of Students of Ostroh Academy (B. Mykhalchuk), Ostroh Club of Free Intellectual Communication of Youth, the "Catharsis" Students and Teachers Theater, Ostroh City Center of the Federation of Debates of Ukraine, Students and Teachers research laboratory "School of Political Analysis "Policy"", etc. It is also important that owing to the public information analytical agency "Ostroh. Info", Laboratory of journalistic skills *J. Lab* (the head – R. Shulyk) – "creative hub of informal media education, coworking space" (p. 635) and "OstRadio", students of the Academy can implement their own media projects, compile a professional portfolio, take an active part in "socio-, nation- and state-building processes" (p. 635) both at the regional and national levels.

It is significant that there is an active student government – student council, which includes a secretariat and six committees (scientific, information, fundraising, volunteering, sports, cultural and mass work), annual camps are held in 10 prominent historical sites "Following the Footsteps of the Princes of Ostroh", International Festival of Social Advertising, Festival of Public Speaking to draw attention to important social topics, all-Ukrainian competition of essays in English, all-Ukrainian Internet Olympiad in English, all-Ukrainian Olympiad "Young Bible Scholars"<sup>2</sup>, all-Ukrainian festival-competition "Teacher of the Year of Religious Spiritual and Moral Subjects", etc. (p. 662, 666).

The description of the infrastructure of the architectural complex of Ostroh Academy (B. Novak, A. Heleniuk), the consideration of the participation of the staff of the institution in volunteering (R. Kalamazh) are written on the final pages of the encyclopedic publication and the section on the records of the institution (O. Kostyuchenko, L. Kasiyanenko), because the University "Ostroh Academy" set 10 records registered in the Book of Records of Ukraine, one – recorded in the Guinness Book of Records<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> On April 27, 2017, during the Xth Olympiad "Young Bible Scholars", the prayer "Our Father" was read in 24 languages, 310 people took part in the event. It is registered in the Book of Records of Ukraine as "Reading the prayer "Our Father" in the largest number of languages" (p. 701).

<sup>3</sup> The records of the institution include: the largest written honoring of the history of the Ukrainian song (June 16, 2011), the most massive performance of poetic works by Taras Shevchenko in the form of a poetic marathon (October 1, 2013), a non-stop poetic marathon dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birthday

In the encyclopedic publication, which is characterized by volume and thoroughness in the coverage of the material, illustrative materials are used from the funds of the National Library of Ukraine named after V. I. Vernadsky, there are presented photographs and prints, reproductions of ancient icons and sculptures, engravings and portraits that have significant scientific significance and cognitive function.

The encyclopedic publication has important scientific, encyclopedic reference and practical value. It is written for the humanities of a broad profile – historians, art critics, culturologists, teachers, literary critics, theologians, local historians and the others.

At the current socio-cultural stage of development, Ostroh Academy, as a powerful cultural and educational center with a high academic reputation, on the one hand, continues to preserve and multiply pre-established traditions, and on the other hand, – demonstrates the successful implementation and realization of modern educational standards, improves the quality of education, applies innovative technologies and approaches in the educational and scientific process, joining the European educational community successfully.

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(March 18, 2014), the most popular reading of the Bible texts by students and pupils (May 15, 2014), the most massive honey tasting (November 1, 2016), the longest performance of Christmas carols (January 28, 2017), reading of the prayer “Our Father” in the largest number of languages (April 27, 2017), continuous reading of poetry in the Ukrainian language (June 13, 2018), the broadest representation of Christian religious denominations in Ukraine and secular creative groups in glorification of Newborn Jesus Christ (January 26, 2019), simultaneous meeting on the platform of the institution of higher education of the diplomatic corps and employees of foreign diplomatic and consular missions representatives from the maximum number of countries (23.02.2019) (p. 713, 714).