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**THE T. SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
AND ITS SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN THE RECEPTION
OF THE CZECH SCIENTIFIC PRESS IN 1896 – 1918**

Abstract. *The purpose of the study is to analyse the corpus of publications by the Czech scholars about achievements of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, its serial editions and studies of the Ukrainian scholars, published on the pages of the Czech scientific press in 1896 – 1918, i.e. before Galicia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. **The Scientific Novelty:** for the first time, the evaluation of activities of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society by the famous Czech scholars (Jiří Polívka, Jiří Horák, Josef Páta and František Vladimír Vykoukal) has been understood; its serial publications and studies of the Ukrainian scholars (Mykhailo Drahomanov, Ivan Franko, Volodymyr Hnatiuk, Zenon Kuzeli) in the context of the then European historical and ethnographic research. **The research methodology** is based on a combination of historical, biographical, comparative methods, as well as content analysis and critical analysis of the text. **The Conclusions.** Based on the twenty publications on the pages of the Czech scientific journals “Národopisný Věstník Československý”,*

“Národopisný Sborník Československý” and “Český Časopis Historický”, it has been determined that the activities of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, a number of its serial publications (“Notes of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society”, “Ethnographic Collection”, “Collection of Philological Section” and “Materials on Ukrainian-Ruthenian Ethnology”) and studies of the Ukrainian scholars were in the focus of famous Czech scholars and received justified high evaluation. The Czech reviewers analysed the works of Ukrainian scholars objectively in the context of the then European historical science and ethnography, noted their high scientific level, and often considered them the best in their fields and a worthy example for other nations to follow, but at the same time pointed out certain shortcomings.

Keywords: the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, serial publications, Czech scholars, Ukrainian scholars, review.

НАУКОВЕ ТОВАРИСТВО ІМЕНІ ШЕВЧЕНКА ТА ЙОГО СЕРІЙНІ ВИДАННЯ У РЕЦЕПЦІІ ЧЕСЬКОЇ НАУКОВОЇ ПРЕСИ 1896 – 1918 рр.

Анотація. Мета дослідження: проаналізувати корпус публікацій чеських науковців про здобутки Наукового товариства імені Шевченка, його серійні видання та окремі праці українських вчених, вміщені на сторінках чеської наукової преси впродовж 1896 – 1918 рр., тобто до перебування Галичини у складі Австро-Угорської імперії. **Наукова новизна:** вперше осмислюється оцінка відомих чеських учених (Йржі Полівки (Jiří Polívka), Йржі Горака (Jiří Horák), Йосефа Пата (Josef Páta) і Франтішека Викоукала (František Vladimír Vukoukal) діяльності Наукового товариства ім. Шевченка, його серійних видань та окремих праць українських науковців (Михайла Драгоманова, Івана Франка, Володимира Гнатюка, Зенона Кузеля) у контексті тогочасних європейських історичних та етнографічних досліджень. **Методологія дослідження** ґрунтується на сукупності історичного, біографічного, порівняльного методів, а також контент-аналізу та критичного аналізу тексту. **Висновки.** На основі виявлених двадцяти публікацій на сторінках чеських наукових часописів “Národopisný Věstník Československý”, “Národopisný Sborník Československý” та “Český Časopis Historický” з’ясовано, що діяльність Наукового товариства ім. Шевченка, низка його серійних видань (“Записки Наукового Товариства імені Шевченка”, “Етнографічний Збірник”, “Збірник фільологічної секції” та “Матеріяли до українсько-руської етнології”) й окремі праці українських вчених були в центрі уваги відомих чеських науковців та отримали їхню обґрунтовану високу оцінку. Чеські рецензенти об’єктивно аналізували праці українських вчених у контексті тогочасної європейської історичної науки й етнографії, відзначали їх високий науковий рівень, а нерідко вважали найкращими у своїх галузях та гідним взірцем для наслідування іншими народами, але водночас коректно вказували на певні їхні недоліки.

Ключові слова: Наукове товариство імені Шевченка, серійні видання, чеські науковці, українські вчені, рецензія.

The Problem Statement. In 2023, the Ukrainian public widely celebrated the 150th anniversary of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), and the Ukrainian scholars interpreted achievements and influence on the development of national science in a new way. However, the publications of prominent European scholars, in particular the Czech ones, about the NTSh and its serial publications, the understanding of which would allow a wider and more objective evaluation of the achievements of the Ukrainian scientific institution and Ukrainian scholars in the pan-European context, remain an understudied area. Therefore, it is extremely relevant to study the publications of leading Czech scholars, published in the Czech press, about the achievements of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, its serial publications and works of Ukrainian scholars.

The Review of Recent Research. At the beginning of its activity, the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society proved so powerfully with thorough works that outstanding European scholars saw in it the future Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. This fact was noted, in

particular, by Volodymyr Doroshenko in the article “Ukrainian Academy of Sciences” and it was advised to read academician Vatroslav Yahych’s review on this issue in the journal “Archiv für slavische Philologie”, XX, 1898 (Doroshenko, 1912, p. 25). For the first time, Volodymyr Hnatiuk covered the activities of the NTSh comprehensively and described its serial publications in detail in a separate publication “The T. Shevchenko Scientific Society. On Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of its Founding” (Hnatiuk, 1923), and later – in the lengthy article “The T. Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv. On Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of its Founding (1873 – 1923)” (Hnatiuk, 1925). Achievements of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, the historiosophy of national revival and the beginnings of its scientific and publishing activity, reviews on it in French criticism of the 19th–21st centuries were considered by the Ukrainian scholars during the celebration of the 100th and 150th anniversaries of the Ukrainian scientific institution, in particular by such authors as Bohdan Stebelskyi (Stebelskyi, 1977), Oresta Losyk (Losyk, 2023), Yarema Kravets (Kravets, 2023). Periodical and serial editions of the NTSh are outlined in the publications by V. Doroshenko (Doroshenko, 1912, 26–29), V. Hnatiuk (Hnatiuk, 1925, Vol. 88 (10), pp. 183–185; (11), pp. 272–273) and are reflected as fully as possible in the annotated index compiled by Tetiana Kulchytska (Kulchytska, 1991), and were analysed by Viktor Savenko (Savenko, 2012).

The Research Results. Before World War I, when Galicia was part of Austria-Hungary, the activities of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society and its publications were widely reviewed in the German- and Czech-language professional journals. Among the important serial publications of the NTSh there were “Notes of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society”, “Collection of Historical and Philosophical Section”, “Collection of Philological Section”, “Collection of Mathematical Naturalistic Medical Section”, “Ethnographic Collection”, “Sources on History of Ukraine-Rus”, “Materials on Ukrainian Bibliography”, “Materials on Ukrainian-Ruthenian Ethnology”, “Researches on the Ukrainian-Ruthenian Language and Literature”, “Researches of Classical Philology Commission”, “Studies in the Field of Social Sciences and Statistics”, “Ukrainian-Ruthenian Archive”, “Chronicle of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv”, (“Chronik der ukrainischen Ševchenko-Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften in Lemberg”), “Journal of Law and Economics” and the others. V. Hnatiuk believed that the scientific value of serial publications of the NTSh is evidenced by favourable reviews in various scientific journals, such as: “Kievskaya Staryna”, “Journal of Ministry of National Education”, “Archiv für slavische Philologie”, “Zeitschrift für österreichische Volkskunde” (Vienna), “Zeitschrift für Volkskunde” (Berlin), “Národopisný Sborník (and “Věstník”) Československý”, “Listy filologické”, “Wisła”, “Lud” and the others (Hnatiuk, 1925, vol. 88 (11), p. 277). It was in this publication that for the first time V. Hnatiuk mentioned the Czech-language publications “Národopisný Sborník (and “Věstník”) Československý” and “Listy Filologické”, in which systematically and thoroughly there were analysed the works of Ukrainian scholars.

On the pages of the Czech magazines “Národopisný Věstník Československý” (further – “NVČ”) and “Národopisný Sborník Československý” (further – “NSČ”), which were published in Prague, we managed to find 19 publications about serial publications of the NTSh, reprints from “Notes of the NTSh” and several articles by the Ukrainian scholars. In particular, in 1896 – 1918, 8 reviews were published on the pages of the magazine “NSČ”, and 11 – in “NVČ”. We found another publication about the NTSh and its serials in the columns of the scientific journal “Český Časopis Historický” (further – “ČČH”). In the chapter

“Zpárvy” [“Notice”] this edition contained extensive information without a title that began with a sentence “R. 1893 přetvořilo se maloruské vydavatelské a nakladatelské “Tovarystvo imeny Ševčěnka” ve Lvově, založené r. 1873, ve spolek vědecký “Naukove tovarystvo im. Ševčěnka” (ČCH. 1896, annual 2, 132). [In 1893, the Maloruska publishing company “The T. Shevchenko Society” in Lviv, founded in 1873, turned into “The T. Shevchenko Scientific Society”]. This post, published under the pseudonym J.P., was written by Jiří Polívka, because in the same annual issue of the magazine he published the article under his own name.

The reviewers of the Society’s serial publications, and sometimes reprints of the “Notes of the NTSh” and some publications, were well-known Czech scholars – a philologist-Slavist, one of the founders of Slavic comparative folkloristics, Professor of Slavic philology at Charles University (Universita Karlova) in Prague, Jiří Polívka (Jiří Polívka) (he was published both under his own name and under the pseudonyms jpa, J. P., J. P–a, P–a); Jiří Horák, a folklorist, ethnographer and literary critic; Josef Páta, a Slavologist, a literary historian, a translator, Professor of the Lusatian languages and literature at Charles University; František Vladimír Vykoukal, an ethnographer, a writer, a literary critic, gymnasium Professor in Prague.

In the field of view of Czech critics there were publications such as “Notes of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society” – they contained five reviews; “Ethnographic Collection” – eight reviews; “Materials on Ukrainian-Ruthenian Ethnology” – four reviews; “Collection of Philological Section” – two reviews and one publication about the Society and its serial publications. First of all, we observe a great interest of the Czech critics in the ethnographic works of the Ukrainian scholars. In particular, they analysed the fundamental editions of V. Hnatiuk: Volumes 1–5 of “Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus” (Polívka, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1910, 1912), Vol. 1–2 “Carols and Shchedrivky” (Horák, 1916) and Vol. 1–2 of “Ukrainian Folk Tales (Animal Epic)” (Polívka, 1918), Vol. 1–2 “Research by Mykhailo Drahomanov on Ukrainian Folk Literature and Writing” (Polívka, 1900, 1901a), two works by Ivan Franko “Studies on Ukrainian Folk Songs” (Horák, 1908, 1911) and V. 1 “Galician-Ruthenian Folk Tales” (Polívka, 1905), the work by Zenon Kyzeli “A Child in the Customs and Beliefs of the Ukrainian People” (Vykoukal, 1908) and Vol. 1–2 of “Materials on Ukrainian Ethnology” (Polívka, 1900, 1913).

In addition to serial editions, the Czech scholars also analysed some reprints of V. Hnatiuk’s publications from “Materials on Ukrainian-Ruthenian Ethnology” “Wedding in Krestur” (Páta, 1909) and “Notes of NTSh” “A Poetic Legend about a Knight and Death” (Páta, 1909a), as well as several articles published on the pages of “Notes of NTSh”, namely: “Legends from the Hitar Collection (the 1st half of the 18th century)” (Polívka, 1898a) and “The Slovaks or the Ruthenians? Reasons for Clarifying the Dispute about the Nationality of the Western Ruthenians” (Polívka, 1902).

In almost all reviews, the Czech critics noted a high scientific level of the Ukrainian researches, sincerely admired the achievements of the Ukrainian scholars and even considered their works as models for imitation. In particular, Jiří Polívka, reviewing “Ukrainian Folk Fables”, collected and published by V. Hnatiuk, noted that the Ukrainian scholar presented the widest and most luxurious collection of fables, which no other Slavic literature can boast of and which would hardly have anything equal among the folk creativity of other nations (Polívka, 1918, p. 105), and in the review of Vol. 1 “Research by Mykhailo Drahomanov on Ukrainian Folk Literature and Writing” Jiří Polívka called M. Drahomanov a deep connoisseur of not only Slavic but also world folk literature (Polívka, 1900, p. 205).

Another Czech scholar, Jiří Horák, highly praised I. Franko's research "Studies on Ukrainian Folk Songs", characterizing this work as a thorough study, and called the author a great connoisseur of the life of his people and its history (Horák, 1908, p. 60). According to Jiří Horák, in his study I. Franko sought to explain the nature of the Ukrainian songs in relation to the folk poetry of neighbouring peoples, and the value of the research consists in the fact that in the analysis of Ukrainian songs, he focused on their reception by West Slavic and German scholars (Horák, 1911, pp. 173, 176).

However, the Czech scholars analysed five volumes of V. Hnatiuk's fundamental edition "Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus" in a particularly thorough manner. In his review of "Legends and Novels" of V. 1 of "Ethnographic Materials from Hungarian Rus", Jiří Polívka claimed that this was a very important and rare book both for an ethnographer, especially a folklorist, and a linguist. At the same time, the Czech scholar noted the difficulties that V. Hnatiuk had to overcome in order to collect from the mouths of the people a very rich ("přebohatý") material, and he added – wonderful and rich ("znamenitý a bohatý") (Polívka, 1898, p. 107): he walked along the majority of the Marmara, Bereg and Ungvar counties, as well as part of the Ugochan and Zemply counties of Hungarian Rus. The reviewer also drew attention of scientific community to difficult conditions under which V. Hnatiuk lived and worked. In particular, in the review of "Tales, Legends, Short Stories, Historical Memories from Banat" of Vol. 4 "Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus", he noted that although part of the Hungarian intelligentsia treated V. Hnatiuk kindly, the "all-powerful" village notaries and the police almost prevented his direct contact with people (Polívka, 1910, p. 85).

Jiří Polívka also noted the auxiliary scientific apparatus to the works of V. Hnatiuk, in particular, Dictionary of Hungarian-Russian Expressions added to the publication "Tales, Fables, Stories about Historical Persons, Anecdotes" (Vol. 2 "Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus"), without which there was much that would remain unclear (Polívka, 1899, p. 130). Thus, characterizing V. Hnatiuk's "Tales from Bachky" in Vol. 5 "Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus", Jiří Polívka concluded that the Ukrainian researcher tirelessly "pours" us with a huge amount of material, with which science would have many more years of hard work (Polívka, 1912, p. 87).

Another Czech scholar, Jiří Horák, analysing V. 1 and V. 2 of V. Hnatiuk's "Carols and Shchedrivky" edition, expresses the opinion that this work occupies an honourable place among publications and owing to the amazing persistence of a wonderful ethnographer, preserved the real treasures of folk traditions to the Ukrainians (Horák, 1916, p. 346). Josef Páta, interpreting V. Hnatiuk's work "Wedding in Krestur" (printed from "Materials on Ukrainian-Ruthenian Ethnology"), emphasized that the Ukrainian researcher tried to accurately phonetically record the word heard everywhere, which means that this publication (as well as all the previous ones, in particular "Boiky Wedding in Mshanets") is of value not only to an ethnographer, but also to a linguist (Páta, 1909, 139).

The Czech scholars also spoke positively about the works of other Ukrainian scholars. Thus, František Vykoukal, analyzing Zenon Kuzeli's work "A Child in the Customs and Beliefs of the Ukrainian People", emphasized that it was an important study of Ukrainian ethnology, which can serve as a model elsewhere – for example, "in our country", i.e. in the Czech Republic (Vykoukal, 1908, p. 220).

In the Czech-language scientific publications an interesting feature of reviews was that they became a kind of continuation of the work of the reviewers. Thus, in his review of "Tales, Fables, Stories about Historical Figures, Anecdotes" in V. 2 "Ethnographic Materials

on Hungarian Rus”, Jiří Polívka included more important versions and parallel plots of tales, fables and anecdotes of other nations, which were not mentioned by V. Hnatiuk. These versions and parallels took up eight pages in his review (Polívka, 1899, pp. 131–138), and the versions and parallels to “Legends and Novels” in V. 1 “Ethnographic Materials on Hungarian Rus” – six pages (Polívka, 1898, pp. 108–113).

It should be emphasized that in the characteristics of the Ukrainian ethnos, its language, and oral folk art, the Czech scholars used different definitions, but never equated them with Russian folklore or the Russian language. For example, Jiří Polívka in his review of “Materials on Ukrainian-Russian Ethnology” noted, that the scientific Ruthenian community in Galicia (“učená společnost ruská v Haliči”) published a collection dedicated to a deeper scientific knowledge of the Malorusky Ukrainian people (“maloruského ukrainského lidu”) (Polívka, 1900, 194). In his analysis of “Studies on Ukrainian folk Songs” by I. Franko, Jiří Horák called the Ukrainian songs “maloruské písní” (Horák, 1911, pp. 173, 178). Jiří Polívka, in his review of Mykhailo Drahomanov’s Researches on Ukrainian Folk Literature and Writing, noted that M. Drahomanov wrote in the Velykoruska language (“jazykem (velko)ruským”) (Polívka, 1900a, p. 205).

Analyzing serial publications of the NTSh and works of the Ukrainian scholars, the Czech scholars also expressed critical remarks, but usually they were very friendly. Thus, František Vykoukal believed that Zenon Kuzela could have omitted a chapter in his work, for example, about anecdotes about nuns, a peasant and a thief, and instead added another – about a child at school, a child in a fairy tale, but at the same time he rated the entire work of the Ukrainian scholar very highly (Vykoukal, 1908, p. 220).

Jiří Polívka also delicately remarked certain shortcomings in the “Legends and Novels” edition of V. 1 “Ethnographic Materials from Hungarian Rus” collected by V. Hnatiuk. The Czech scholar made some parallels to individual legends and fairy tales in order to point out similar variants in other peoples, if they were not mentioned by the publisher himself, i.e. V. Hnatiuk (Polívka, 1898, p. 107). In a review on V. 1 of Mykhailo Drahomanov’s Research on Ukrainian Folk Literature and Writing, the Czech scholar expressed surprise as to why M. Drahomanov’s works, which he wrote in the Velykorusky (great) Russian language, i.e. in Russian (“jazykem (velko)ruským”), and which were published in Russian periodicals, the publishing house submitted in Malorusky translation, leaving only quotations in Velykorusky sources without any translation. “The reasons for this are not entirely clear to us, and, to be honest, we don’t like it very much”, – noted Jiří Polívka, and further expressed the opinion that it would be much better to publish the main folklore works of M. Drahomanov in a world language, so that Western European scholars could use the works of this deep connoisseur not only of Slavic, but also of world folk literature (Polívka, 1900a, p. 205). Which world language the researcher had in mind – we can only guess, probably German.

The Czech reviewers highly rated the scientific value of the works of Ukrainian scholars published in the serial editions of the NTSh, and expressed certain critical remarks testified to their attentive and benevolent attitude and efforts to support a further development of Ukrainian science.

The Conclusions. The analysis of publications on the pages of the Czech scientific journals “Národopisný Věstník Československý”, “Národopisný Sborník Československý” and “Český Časopis Historický” in 1896 – 1918 allows us to draw the following conclusions: 1) the activity of the T. Shevchenko Scientific Society, a number of its serial publications (“Notes of the NTSh”, “Ethnographic Collection”, “Collection of Philological Section”,

“Materials on Ukrainian-Rusky Ethnology”) and works of the Ukrainian scholars were the focus of famous Czech scholars and received their high praise; 2) the interest of the Czech scholars – prominent Slavic philologists and ethnographers, Professors of Prague University and Gymnasium Jiří Polivka, Jiří Horak, Josef Páta and František Vykoukal – was first of all Ukrainian ethnography and ethnology; 3) thoroughly and objectively the Czech scholars analysed the works of Ukrainian scholars (V. Hnatiuk, I. Franko, M. Drahomanov, Z. Kuzely) in the context of contemporary European research, noted their high scientific level, and often considered them the best in their fields and a worthy example to other nations to follow, but at the same time they correctly pointed out certain of their shortcomings; 4) twenty Czech-language publications were introduced into scientific circulation, which allows a more complete and objective evaluation of the activities of the NTSh, its serial and individual publications of Ukrainian scholars during the period of statelessness of the Ukrainian nation, which, together with the fraternal Czech people, was part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy during the specified period, as well as to express gratitude to outstanding Czech scholars for their analysis of the works of Ukrainian scholars in the European context.

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