

## Dear readers!

There is no need to prove the importance and necessity of regional research in the field of historical knowledge. Instead, it is appropriate and necessary to focus attention on new directions and topics of these studies, which permit to go beyond the scope of historical local studies and actualize the problematic field of local history in its socio-cultural and socio-political dimensions. We were guided by this idea when choosing the subject for the next edition of the journal "Skhid". The emotional component also played an important role in the intentions of the editors: against the background of the events of the Russia-Ukraine war, many new interpretations of historical local practices are taking place, and new narratives, understandable and relevant for the mass consciousness, are being formed on this basis. The studies of regional history that we have combined in this issue will help, in our opinion, in the renewal and development of social memory in the nationwide Ukrainian context.

**Vadym Zadunaiskyi's** article analyzes the stratagems of the Ukrainian and Russian troops in the battles for Kharkiv (February 24 – May 14, 2022). Stratagems, or military tricks, are a component of the military art. It should be noted that the stratagems considered by the scientist testify to the author's approach to the definition and analysis of military tricks, which was tested in previous studies. The article states that the successful use of the stratagems by Ukrainian troops in 2022 may be a consequence of preserving the heritage of the Ukrainian Cossacks and their descendants. In February – May 2022, when heavy fighting was going on around Kharkiv, the Defense Forces of Ukraine successfully used eight stratagems that helped defeat the Russian invaders and liberate a large area of the Kharkiv region. The stratagems used by the Russian troops to oppose the Ukrainian army and the reasons for their lack of efficiency are also determined. It is correct that the author considers it justified to compare the stratagems of the Ukrainian and Russian armies in order to understand the priorities of the both sides' military art, to find out the differences in their application's efficiency. Also, the corresponding analysis will contribute to a better understanding of the Ukrainian military traditions' continuity in modern formations of the Defense Forces of Ukraine. The author draws analogies between the successful use of stratagems by Ukrainian troops in 2022 and Cossack military tactical practices that had a high level of military art.

The subject of the modern Russia-Ukraine war is highlighted in the research of **Yurii Burakov and Liliya Pytlova**, who analyze various aspects of the stationary and mobile exhibitions' construction in museums of Ukraine in different regions of the country, with the aim of creating permanent exhibitions on the history of the war. The positive experience in organizing the preservation and popularization of the Russia-Ukraine war monuments in the capital and regional museums of Ukraine is summarized, as well as the processes of their exposition and exhibition activities' transformation at the current stage are studied. In particular, the authors emphasize the urgency of creating virtual means of presenting the historical past and present, thanks to which the exhibition material and unique funds can be presented to a larger audience both in our country and abroad.

The vision of regional history in the Soviet textbooks of the socio-humanitarian block of 1920-1930 is considered

in the article by **Bohdan Bezpalko** and **Denys Khokhlov**. The study was carried out on the example of M. Yavorskyi's work "A Brief History of Ukraine". The peculiarities of the spatial and historical vision of Ukrainian regions are shown, which consisted in the shift of the vector from the west to the eastern spaces – Russian lands. Kyiv as a regional center receded into the background, giving way to St. Petersburg and Moscow. Textbooks of that period almost did not describe Ukrainian lands, separating them into two artificial regions, "Eastern and Western" Ukraine. Instead, the regional vision spread to Central Asia, Kazakhstan and the Caucasus.

**Bohdan Levyk's** article examines the national tragedy of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in the context of the reaction to it in the population of neighboring Ukraine and more distant countries, as well as international organizations. It is emphasized that the Holodomor was a deliberate action of the communist authorities against the Ukrainian peasantry as a source of disobedience to the authorities and national resistance. It is shown that despite the efforts of the Bolshevik government to hide the glaring facts of the famine and the conformist support of the majority of foreign journalists accredited in the USSR, this information still received publicity in the world, stirred up a civil wave of aid in various countries, but did not cause official condemnation of Bolshevik policy by the League of Nations and the Catholic Church's member states. The author concludes that the first and subsequent recognitions of the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine as genocide at the level of influential countries and international organizations, as well as the criminal proceedings conducted in Ukraine for committing the crime of 1932-1933 genocide in Ukraine as a crime against humanity, permit modern Ukrainians not only to consolidate the memory of the Holodomor as a significant historical narrative for the entire society, but also to re-understand this traumatic experience, renewing the nation and its values and worldview guidelines.

Within the framework of regional history, the problem of sanitary supervision of industrial workers of the Katerynoslav province of the Russian Empire is studied in the article by **Oleksiy Arzamanov**. The working and living conditions of industrial workers and the most common sanitary problems that arose in their everyday life are revealed. It is shown that a significant number of Russian industrialists who organized their enterprises in Ukrainian lands were not interested in providing decent living conditions for the workers of their enterprises, if this could hinder their profits. The practical task of the research is to expand knowledge about the past of the ordinary inhabitants of the region, their daily life at that time, to form in readers an idea of the historical development uniqueness of their own region within the framework of general Ukrainian history.

**Svitlana Arabadzhy's** article is devoted to the relevant subject of constructing regional myths. She examines the process of constructing a mythological image of the Russian Empire as the "savior of Christians" resettled from the Crimean Peninsula to the Azov region. Based on the analysis of various documentary sources, the author highlights the main stages of this image's creation and maintenance and its articulation at different levels. Thus, starting from the moment when the Russian Empire made a decision to resettle Christians from the territory of the Crimean Khanate, the positioning of a special mission of Russia in the

matter of protecting the Christian population of the peninsula began. Arguing its initiative by the unbearable religious oppression and the plight of Greeks, Armenians, Georgians and all those who professed Christianity in a Muslim state, the Russian Empire assumed a leading role in the protection of "coreligionists". It was because of the extremely difficult situation that the Christians turned to the Russian Empire with a request to resettle them in the territory of the Orthodox state. This was the official version of the Christians' resettlement, which was used at all levels and became the basis for the construction of the myth, which was actively spread further through the work of church representatives, historical researchers, and the work of educators. At this stage, the image of the Russian Empire as the "savior of Christians" is being consolidated, and at the same time, the "logical chain" of the regional myth about the founding of Mariupol by Metropolitan Ignatius and the first commemorative practices in his honor is being built. All this laid the foundation for the final formation of the myth about the imperial city of Mariupol.

The results of the study of the Late Bronze Age logging culture burial from the barrow near the village of Komyshuvate in the Northern Azov region in the south of the Donetsk region of Ukraine is contained in an article by **Viacheslav Zabavin** and **Serhiy Nebrat**. Some features of the material and spiritual culture of the ancient population of the Azov steppes, their social organization and burial ritualism are provided by the finds of dishes with unusual ornaments, which the authors interpret as pictograms, proto-literacy, and plot drawings. Another pot with ornamentation, found at the site of an ancient burial, according to the authors, has a calendar nature. The analysis of the cyclical ornament on the pot from this burial permitted to suggest that the cyclical composition displayed on the ceramic vessel records recurring time intervals significant for the ancient population, and possibly reflects the regional features of the log culture tribes' calendar system: annual and lunar cycles with fixing the time of transition from the old to the new year.

Questions regarding the formation of Mykhailo Hrushevskiy's personality in the Tiflis period of his life (1880-1886) during his studies at the gymnasium are considered in the article by **Natalia Romantsova**. She noted that Tiflis Gymnasium was the educational and cultural center of the South Caucasus. The author draws attention to the influence of the Tiflis environment in the matter of establishing the personality markers of young Mykhailo – the beginning of his intellectual biography formation, the path of establishing his Ukrainian patriotism, interest in Ukrainian studies, history of Ukraine, literature, folklore. Analysis of the gymnasium period of M. Hrushevskiy's life permits to reveal the combination of creativity, innovation, unusual efficiency, ambition, and perseverance in his activities. The multicultural influences of Tiflis strengthened young Mykhailo's sense of national consciousness, his desire to acquire knowledge, thanks to which he would be able to help the disadvantaged Ukrainian people. The author is convinced that the Tiflis entourage contributed to the formation of M. Hrushevskiy's personality and to the possibility of realizing his intellectual potential at a new stage of life.

The research of **Kostiantyn Balabanov** and **Volodymyr Romantsov** analyzes the issues related to the

establishment of Mariupol State University as a center of humanitarian education and science in the Northern Azov region in the conditions of an independent Ukrainian state establishment and the national and cultural revival of ethnic communities living in Ukrainian lands, in particular, in the Azov region. The issue of educational and scientific components' formation in the activities of the Mariupol Humanities College and the Humanities Institute is clarified. The authors noted that during the 1990s and early 2000s, the main aspects of the new higher education institution's activities were focused on the implementation of educational, scientific and cultural interests of the ethnic communities inhabiting the Northern Azov region, in particular, the Greek community. This subject is important in the context of determining the place of the Greek community in the social life of the Azov region. During this time, the new institution of higher education in Mariupol emphasized the study of Modern Greek, active relations with Greek universities, state institutions, and the development of Hellenistic studies. The article draws attention to the fact that in the future Mariupol State University, as a center of humanitarian education and science of the Northern Azov Region, significantly expanded the scope of its educational and scientific activities at the expense of historical and philological Ukrainian studies, legal, economic, cultural sociological studies, development of international relations issues and others.

The regional context of the situation in the field of medical care in the Donetsk region in the first post-war decade is considered by **Vira Volonyts** and **Natalia Shypik**. In particular, they analyzed the specifics of the 1947 medical reform implementation at the regional level, characterized the complex epidemic situation against the background of post-war destruction, and found that a positive aspect of the medical care organization was the transition from a production principle to a territorial one. However, the process of combining polyclinics and outpatient clinics with hospitals took place mainly formally, without taking into account personnel and infrastructural capabilities. A characteristic feature was the insufficient level of medical personnel in the region and the lack of medical and diagnostic equipment. The excessive workload of the doctor in the absence of auxiliary means significantly complicated the diagnosis and affected the quality of medical care. The overall high indicators of medical care hid a decline in its quality. The practice of locating medical facilities in poorly adapted premises that did not meet the minimum sanitary and hygienic requirements was widespread. The urgency of the problem lies in the need to analyze the response of the medical system to the challenges faced by society after the end of the war. Consideration of the subject becomes extremely relevant in the conditions of a large-scale war, which the Russian Federation has unleashed against our country, and which has already led to a significant degree of medical and social infrastructure facilities' destruction. It is necessary to take into account the experience in order to avoid the mistakes made by the Soviet authorities when restoring the medical network and overcoming epidemics accompanying such social cataclysms as war.

**Issue Editors**