

The role of ethnic Poles in the educational and cultural life of the Northern Left Bank of Ukraine in the 19th – the first quarter of the 20th centuries

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ABSTRACT

The role of ethnic Poles in the educational and cultural life of the Northern Left Bank of Ukraine in the 19th – the first quarter of the 20th centuries

The article analyzes the activities of scientific, educational, and cultural figures of Polish origin in the Ukrainian lands of the Left Bank, their place in education, and determines their place in cultural life, and their contribution to the development of science and art. It was established that despite all attempts to assimilate the Polish population by the kings, representatives of the Polish intelligence in the north of Ukraine retained an interest in the national culture and language, Polish studies in general during the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th centuries. In the context of general

trends, the activities of the most prominent figures of Polish origins, such as A. Andrzejowski, B. Verzykiwski, W. Wilkon-ski, W. Novodvorski, K. Shapolinski, and others, are outlined.

KEY WORDS: ethnic Poles, The Northern Left Bank, educational and cultural life, Polish scientific studies, musical art.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: etniczni Polacy, Północny Lewy Brzeg, życie oświatowe i kulturalne, polonistyka, sztuka muzyczna

Two neighboring countries – Ukraine and Poland, two neighboring people – Ukrainians and Poles, who have lived in common territories since the days of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, have many pages of common history. A long stay within a single territorial space led to the awareness of the unity of origin, historical, cultural and ethnic closeness, which can be traced to the present day. For centuries, the process of intellectual and cultural interpenetration took place, which did not change even after the temporary loss of statehood by both peoples and the inclusion of their territories in the Russian Empire. Many Ukrainian figures played a prominent role in the life of the Polish community, just as many Poles made a significant contribution to the development of Ukrainian society in the 19th and 20th centuries. The subject of this study is the participation of ethnic Poles in the educational and cultural life of the Northern Left Bank of Ukraine and their contribution to the development of science and art in this region.

A number of studies were devoted to Problems of Poles' activity on the territory of Ukrainian lands in the 19th – the first quarter of the 20th centuries, but the main attention of Ukrainian and Polish researchers was focused on territories with a compact settlement of Poles – Western and Right Bank Ukraine and large cities such as Kyiv or Kharkiv. Among the studies, the works of O. Buravskiy, L. Zhvanko, O. Kalakura, A. Kondratskiy, I. Lysevych,

1 В. Палієнко, *Місця історичного розселення польської людності в Україні в кінці XIX–XX ст.*, Київ 1998.

2 А. Кондрацький, *Поляки на Україні в X–XIX ст.*, “Український історичний журнал”, 1 (1991), р. 83–96.

3 І. Лісевич, *Польська національна меншина в Наддніпрянській Україні (1864–1917 рр.)*, “Український історичний журнал”, 2 (1997), р. 43–54.

4 Т. Єрємєнко, О. Калакура, Б. Чирко, *Поляки в Україні*, “Віче”, 2 (1993), р. 119–130; *ідет.*, *Польська національна меншина в Україні в 20–30-ті рр. XX ст.*, Київ 1994; Б. Чирко, *Національні меншості на Україні в 20–30-ті рр.*, “Український історичний журнал”, 1 (1990), р. 51–64.

5 О. Калакура, *Поляки в етнополітичних процесах на землях України у XX ст.*, Київ 2007.

Z. Lukavski, V. Paliienka, N. Rudnytska, S. Stempen and others deserve attention.

At the same time, the topic of the Polish presence on the Left Bank has been studied much less, and only in the last decades have a number of works appeared, highlighting the activities of scientists and artists of Polish origin in this territory. Therefore, the introduction of new names into scientific circulation, the analysis of the scientific and cultural and educational work of representatives of the Polish public in the north of Ukraine really seems to the authors to be extremely relevant and important.

A deep analysis of the history of the resettlement of Poles on the territory of Ukraine was conducted at the end of the 20th century. V. Paliienko in the work “Places of settlement of the Polish population in Ukraine at the end of the 19th – 20th centuries”, in which the author determined the regional features of the settlement of the Polish population, its social stratification¹, based on significant statistical material. In the same context, but with different chronological boundaries, the scientific work of A. Kondratskyi was prepared², full of review of scientific literature and sources on the history of the Polish population living in Ukraine for a thousand years. The history of the settlement of Ukrainian lands by the Polish nobility and peasantry, mainly in Dnieper Ukraine, was also reflected in a number of works by I. Lysevych³.

In the 90s of the XX century a number of scientific works appeared, authored by T. Yeromenko, B. Chirk, O. Kalakura⁴, in which the life and activities of Poles on Ukrainian lands in the 20th century are highlighted.

The monograph of O. Kalakura⁵ is a fairly significant comprehensive study, which focused not only on the life of ethnic Poles on Ukrainian lands in the 20th century, but conducted a fairly thorough historical discourse on previous centuries, focusing, among other things, on the peculiarities of the activities of Poles on the Left Bank of Ukraine.

It is also worth noting the works of modern researchers who turned to the coverage of certain issues of the activities of the Polish population of the Northern Left Bank of Ukraine authored by M. Potapenko, O. Rostovska, H. Samoilenko, Oleksandr and Olena Samoilenko.

Special attention should be paid to the works of M. Potapenko, who revealed the participation of ethnic Poles in the political and public life of Ukraine, the formation of Polish national education, including on the Left Bank, in the first decades of the 20th century⁶, based on significant archival material, as well as being one of the first in Ukrainian historiography to raise the issue of the activities of Polish youth organizations in Transnistria during the Ukrainian Revolution⁷.

Separate issues of the work of Polish figures of culture and science in the territories of the Northern Left Bank of Ukraine in the 19th–20th centuries. highlighted in their research H. Samoilenko, Oleksandr and Olena Samoilenko, who focused their attention mainly on the development of higher and gymnasium education, as well as on participation in the artistic life of the region⁸.

In general, the predecessors outlined the main directions of further research into this problem, which will be partially deepened and expanded in this scientific investigation.

The first stage of the influence of the Poles on the cultural development of the Left Bank began in 1618, when according to the Deulin Armistice between the Moscow State and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Chernihiv-Sivershchyna and the Nizhyn settlement in particular came under the control of Poland, although the colonization of the region began somewhat earlier.

During this period, an active migration process took place from the Right Bank of Ukraine, Belarus and Poland to Chernihiv-Siver region. A separate category of migrants was the Polish nobility. The Seimas constitution of 1613 and the royal instruction of 1619 assigned a special role in the development of Chernihiv-Sivershchyna as

6 М. Потапенко, *Польська національна освіта у Наддніпрянській Україні в добу Центральної ради (березень 1917–квітень 1918 рр.)*, “Література і культура Полісся”, 20 (2009), p. 243–258; *ідет*, *Поляки Чернігівщини у I чверті XX століття: на зламі трьох епох* [in:] *Поляки в Ніжині. Збірник статей і матеріалів*, Ф.Ф. Белінська, С.Б. Пономаревський, В.М. Пугач et alii (ed.), vol. 2, Ніжин 2004, p. 33–39.

7 *Ідет*, *Діяльність польських студентських організацій на території Наддніпрянської України у березні 1917–квітні 1918 рр.*, “Наукові записки [Вінницького державного педагогічного університету імені Михайла Коцюбинського]. Серія: Історія”, 14 (2008), p. 153–159.

8 Г. Самойленко, О. Самойленко, *Поляки в Ніжині та їх роль у розвитку культури міста (XVII–XXI ст.)*, Ніжин, 2019; Г. Самойленко, *Болеслав Леонідович Вержиківський – активний діяч культурного життя в Ніжині* [in:] *Поляки в Ніжині. Культура. Освіта. Наука*, vol. 4, Ф.Ф. Белінська (ed.), Ніжин 2010, p. 60–64; *ідет*, *Вільконський Стефан Станіслав* [in:] *Поляки в Ніжині. Біографічний довідник*, Ніжин 2015, p. 46–49; О. Самойленко, *Історія и историки Польши...*, p. 42–54; *ідет*, *Розвиток гімназійної освіти на Чернігівщині (XIX–початок XX ст.)*, Чернігів 2011.

9 П. Кулаковський, *Чернігово-Сіверщина у складі Речі Посполитої (1618–1648)*, Київ 2006, р. 390–391; О. Ростовська, *Історія магдебурзького права в Ніжині* [in:] *Поляки в Ніжині. Історія та сучасність*, Ніжин 2018, р. 44–46.

10 Н. Рудницька, *Мовні та освітні маркери в процесах національної ідентифікації в ХІХ ст. (на прикладі польських та єврейських громад Правобережжя)*, “*Intermarum. Історія, Політика, Культура*”, 2 (2015), р. 43–44, 49.

a border region to the nobility, from among which the local administration was formed⁹.

However, already in the middle of the 17th century, this process is suspended, and the Polish population is gradually assimilated, up to the change of religious affiliation and the conclusion of mixed marriages. The situation in migration processes changed in the second half of the 18th century, when events took place in Central Europe that significantly affected the fate of many European nations, primarily Ukrainians and Poles. And if in XVIII–XIX centuries the Poles still managed to maintain a noticeable influence in the cultural and educational sphere, mainly in Right-Bank Ukraine, where a large Polish population lived since the time of the Union of Lublin, with the strengthening of great-power policy by the tsar, this influence gradually weakened, but in Left-Bank Ukraine already at this stage complete implementation of the Russian model in all spheres of society, including education and culture.

In 1802, the Ministry of Public Education was created in the Russian Empire, headed by the Ukrainian aristocrat P. Zavadovskiy, with Polish aristocrats Prince A. Czartoryiskiy and S. Pototskiy as advisers.

At the beginning of his reign, Emperor Alexander I took care of education, and with his consent, on October 4, 1802, the minister suggested to the advisers to organize Vilnius University according to the requirements of the Education Commission.

The lack of a sufficient number of Russian-speaking teachers, the delivery of lectures in foreign languages, and the neglect of comprehensive educational institutions by Polish noble families slowed down the process of Russification in the lands of the Right Bank. The position of the Polish community until the 30s of the 19th century, it was quite calm in these territories¹⁰. The Polish language remained the main language in communication, court proceedings and record keeping. The state-bureaucratic apparatus of the western and southwestern lands

consisted mainly of Polish nobles, Roman Catholics, the church and Polish education had a privileged position. Prince A. Czartorysky became the supervisor of the Vilna educational district, who maintained considerable influence over the young king and the support of the Minister of Public Education, so there were no particular problems with solving the Polonization of the South-Western region.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 51.

Thus, the South-West Region became a region for Polish education with the center in Kremenets. In 1819, the Kremenets Gymnasium was transformed into the Volyn Lyceum, an educational institution whose operation was connected with the development of Polish culture and the national liberation movement. It was closed in August 1831 because of the participation of its pupils in the Polish uprising.

In 1810, O. Razumovskyi was appointed as the Minister of Public Education, who was influenced by supporters of the Catholic system of education, especially Joseph de Mostre, who supported the Jesuits. The founding of the Kyiv Gymnasium in 1812 with a Russian curriculum and Russian teachers was a painful blow to the Polish Patriotic Party. Russian government officials understood that teaching subjects in Polish, appointing Poles as teachers, puts the Russian language in a secondary position. In 1814, O. Razumovskyi demanded that Polish teachers be replaced by Russians, and that Russian grammar be introduced into the curriculum. With the appointment of Prince A. Golitsyn as Minister of Education in 1816, a new era in the history of education in the Russian Empire began. In 1818, the educational institutions of the Kyiv province were transferred to the Kharkiv educational district, although in the Volyn Lyceum for a decade there were no changes in the content of the educational process, nor in the composition of teachers, nor in the Polish educational process¹¹. The Polish uprising of 1830–1831 prompted the Russian government to close Vilnius University on May 1, 1832, and to liquidate the Vilnius Educational District as a pro-Polish one.

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 52–53.

¹³ О. Калакура, *op.cit.*, p. 102.

¹⁴ В. Палієнко, *op.cit.*, p. 23–24.

On December 14, 1832, the Kyiv educational district was created as part of the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Volyn and Podil provinces. The Ministry of Public Education under the leadership of S. Uvarov was tasked with creating a new education system in the lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth annexed to Russia, the main goal of which was Russification. The solemn opening in 1834 of the Kyiv University of St. Volodymyr. The teaching staff was mainly Polish. In 1837–1838, cases of Polish revolutionary propaganda were recorded at the university during an inspection by the ministry, lectures were banned for a year, and students were released from studies with the right to transfer to other universities. On September 1, 1839, studies were resumed, but half of the teachers resigned¹².

The process took place somewhat differently on the Left Bank of Ukraine, where the number of ethnic Poles was not so significant, but within the boundaries of the Chernihiv province during the 19th and early 20th centuries. made approx. 0,15%, so these Ukrainian territories already at the end of the 18th century. developed in the framework of the Russian state paradigm.

In the entire territory of the Left Bank (Poltava, Kharkiv and Chernihiv provinces) at the end of the 19th century. there were 13,101 native speakers of the Polish language¹³, while in the three provinces of the Right Bank (Volyn, Podil, and Kyiv) there were more than 300,000.

The peculiarity of the settlement process of Poles on the Northern Left Bank was that about 40% lived in the cities of Chernihiv Oblast (1,297 Poles according to the 1897 Census or 39,28% of the entire Polish population of the region), which in relation to the urban population of the province was 0,62 %¹⁴.

On the Northern Left Bank, researchers single out three main areas, where the number of Polish people was greater than in the region as a whole. The first district included Horodnya County, where 515 Poles or 0,34% of the entire county population lived, and Chernihiv

County with 404 Poles – 0,24%¹⁵, which is explained by the geographical location of these counties, which were the crossroads of migration movements of ethnic Poles. In addition, Chernihiv and the surrounding lands were one of the most important political and trade and economic centers where the Polish nobility settled. Therefore, 374 Poles or 1,35% of the entire population of the city with the largest number of Poles in the Ukrainian north lived there.

The second region, in which 12,93% of the entire Polish population of the province was concentrated, were the Osterskyi poviat, where 234 Poles lived (0,15%), and the Kozeletskyi poviat – 196 Poles (0,14%). This is the average indicator for the Northern Left Bank¹⁶. 43 Poles (0,8%) lived in Ostra, and 77 Poles (1,5%) lived in Kozelets. The peculiarity of the Kozelecko-Oster district was that 28,1% of all ethnic Poles of these counties lived in Kozeleck and Oster, but despite this, the majority of the Polish population settled in rural areas: 119 people – in Kozeleck and 158 people – in Oster poviats¹⁷.

The third region is the south-eastern counties of the Chernihiv province bordering the Poltava province. 1,089 Poles lived here, or 32,98% of the entire Polish population of the province: in Nizhynskyi District – 362 Poles or 0,21% of the entire population of the district, in Borznenskyi District – 82 persons (0,05%), in Konotopskyi – 422 Poles (0,27%), in Krolevetskyi – 40 people (0,03%), in Glukhivskyi – 183 Poles (0,14%). The Polish population appeared in these counties in the 17th century. The small nobility, which made up the main part of the Polish immigrants, mostly settled in cities, so almost half of the ethnic Poles of this Left Bank district – 495 people or 45,45% – lived in cities and towns.

Among them, the largest were Nizhyn – a large political and administrative center (in the 17th century – the largest regimental city) and the second city in the Chernihiv province after Chernihiv in terms of the number of Polish residents – 238 people or 0,74% of the entire

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 25.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 26.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 27–28.

²⁰ М. Потапенко, *Поляки Чернігівщини...*, p. 34.

population of the city, Konotop, where 139 lived Poles or 0,74% of the city's population, and Deaf people – 75 Poles or 0,51%¹⁸.

Other counties of the province accounted for 897 people or 26,26% of all Poles of the Northern Left Bank. As for the social status of ethnic Poles, the most numerous – 1,500 people or 45,42% of the population – were nobles: of them, 1,097 people were hereditary (33,22%) and personal – 403 people (12,20%). Almost every second Pole in this region belonged to the nobility, and according to this indicator, the Northern Left Bank had one of the highest percentages in Ukraine. Moreover, almost half of the representatives of the Polish nobility settled in the cities, where they were employed as officials (6,67%), doctors, educators, scientists and artists (7,73%), and the percentage of merchants and rentiers was noticeable in the cities. The Northern Left Bank turned into a real reserve for the Polish nobility, where it managed to preserve its best spiritual, cultural and intellectual assets¹⁹.

Nizhyn can serve as a vivid example in this regard, where in the 19th century many Poles gathered²⁰, some of whom were subjected to Russification.

With the opening in 1820 of the first higher education institution in the north of Ukraine – the Prince Bezborodek High School of Higher Sciences in Nizhyn, it was staffed by teachers of Polish origin, such as professor of Latin I. Pilyankevych, professor of mathematics K. Shapalinskyi, eventually, professor of law M. Pilyankevych.

Kazimir Shapalinskyi was invited to the Gymnasium of Higher Sciences from the first days of its existence as a professor of natural and mathematical sciences and quickly won the love of the gymnasium students and the respect of his colleagues. He was born in 1776 in Vilkomyr County, Vilno Province, in a poor Polish noble family. He was educated at the district school and Vilna gymnasium, after which he entered the physics and mathematics department of the philosophy faculty of Vilno

University, after which he continued his studies at the Petersburg Pedagogical Institute until 1816 and was sent as a teacher of natural sciences to Mogilev and then Kyiv gymnasiums. From where he was invited by director V. Kukolnyk to Nizhyn. From November 1820, he was appointed a professor of physical, mathematical and natural sciences at Prince Bezborodek's Nizhyn Gymnasium of Higher Sciences.

In higher grades, he read courses in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, differential and integral calculus, general physics with the study of the laws of mechanics, statics, optics, catoptrics and dioptrics, as well as the rules of sound propagation and the basics of chemistry. In addition, from 1827 he taught the rules of field fortification and the basics of artillery for the 9th grade. However, a special professor was soon appointed for military sciences.

After the transfer of the director I. Orlay to the Riche-lieu Lyceum, K. Shapalinskyi during 1826–1827 pp. performed the duties of the director of the Gymnasium. In the summer of 1827, an event took place at the educational institution (the so-called “freedom case”), which affected the future fate of the scientist. Professor of political and legal sciences M. Bilousov criticized the Tsar in his lectures and called for the abolition of the monarchy. Professor Shapalinskyi sympathized with Bilousova and tried to protect him from the denunciations of the reactionary part of the professors. Senior high school students spoke on the side of Professor Bilousov, but this did not affect the decision of the authorities. In 1830, the “case” ended for Shapalinskyi with indefinite exile to Vyatka “for harmful influence on youth” and a ban on teaching and scientific activities. He arrived there in March 1831 and lived in extreme poverty and was often ill. It was only in 1836 that he was accepted into the service of the provincial government, tasked with monitoring the activities of the printing house and the archive.

In the 1840s, the former professor assumed the position of district manager in Yaransk, and from 1843 he

21 *Учитель Гоголя в вятской ссылке*, <https://vyatkawalks.ru/wiki/kazimir-varfolomeevich-shapalinskiy> [access: 12.10.2022].

22 *Гимназия Высших Наук и Лицей Князя Безбородко*, Петербург 1881, p. 66.

23 *Ibidem*, p. 298–299.

became an assessor of the Vyatka chamber of civil and criminal cases until his death in 1867. In Vyatka, he did not lose contact with his students, who carried with them love and respect for K. Shapalinskiy for many years, including M. Gogol²¹.

As another student from Nizhyn, professor and rector of Petersburg University, P. Redkin, noted about his teacher: “impeccable honesty, boundless justice, true straightforwardness, humble silence, quiet seriousness, strict moderation and asceticism in life, the absence of any selfishness, constant readiness for all kinds of self-sacrifice for the benefit of one’s neighbor – these are the main features of the moral character of this pure person, worthy in all respects of a much better fate”²².

Another famous scientist of Polish origin, who worked for some time on the territory of the Northern Left Bank, was M. Pilyankevych. He was born on October 27 (November 8) 1819 in the city of Chernihiv in the family of Ivan Pylyankevych, a Latin teacher at the local gymnasium, who, after completing his studies at the royal lyceum in Zamost, moved to the Left Bank in 1804. By the way, in 1820–1822, I. Pilyankevych worked as a junior professor of Latin at the Nizhyn Gymnasium of Higher Sciences, but after the death of the director V. Kukolnyk, he transferred to the Kyiv Provincial Gymnasium. Mykola was educated at the Kyiv Gymnasium and at the Faculty of Law of the University of St. Volodymyr, who graduated in 1839 with a gold medal for the work “On the Grounds for Refuting the Death Penalty”. During 1839–1841, he worked as a history and geography teacher at the Kyiv-Podilskiy Noble School, but his thirst for scientific activity prevailed and he became a professor of civil law at the Nizhyn Law Lyceum. Subsequently, he went abroad, where during 1843–1846 he advanced his training at the universities of Berlin, Leipzig, Göttingen and Heidelberg. After his return, he became an adjunct professor at the encyclopedia of law department of the University of St. Volodymyr²³. Until the last days

of his life in 1856, he taught the history of the philosophy of law, the encyclopedia of law, the history of the law of European countries, general history and the study of Slavic laws.

The presence of a higher educational institution in the provincial Nizhyn changed the entire character of the city's lifestyle and cultural life. Representatives of the Polish community also took part in this enlightened movement. One should think of a Pole, a gifted enthusiast, but with «narrow national-Polish aspirations» – V. Kopernytskyi, the elder brother of the famous figure of the Polish national movement – Isidor Kopernytskyi.

Valerian Stanislavovich Kopernytskyi was born in 1819 in a family of landless noblemen of the Kyiv province, in 1844 he graduated from the University of St. Volodymyr in Kyiv and taught Latin at the Nizhyn Law Lyceum. After Nizhyn, he worked as a Polish language teacher in Chernihiv, Nemirov, Kamianets-Podilskyi gymnasiums. After the uprising of 1863, according to the trial in Kamianets-Podilskyi, the retired collegiate assessor V. Kopernytskyi was found guilty and sent to live in the Penza province, but from the 1870s he already lived in the Vistula region, where he died in 1895 .

The representative of Polish origin is Anton Andrzejovskyi, a professor of natural sciences at Prince Bezborodek's Lyceum. He was born in 1785 in Vorkovichi in Volyn and came from a poor noble family. His father Lukasz first served in the national cavalry, and after marrying the daughter of the lieutenant of the Ostroh Regiment, Kazimierz Sobinskyi, left the service and became the cashier of P. Pototski's bank in Varkovichi. After the Russian-Polish war of 1792, due to which the family became impoverished, they returned to Volyn²⁴.

A. Andrzejovskyi received his primary education in Korka, where he was taken by his mother's brother, the director of the paint shop at the porcelain factory, and then studied in Tuchyna under the guidance of Professor F. Shopovich, who at that time lived in the

²⁴ М. Костриця, П. Даргонський, Антон Андржейовський дослідник флори Волині, "Велика Волинь", 30 (2004), р. 252.

25 Г. Лисенко, М. Шевера, Антон Андржейовський (*Antoni Andrzejowski*) – найвидатніший ботанік Ніжинської Вищої Школи [in:] VII Міжнародна заочна науково-практична конференція “Актуальні питання біологічної науки”. Збірник статей, В.М. Гавій (ed.), Ніжин 2021, p. 49–50.

Valevsky estate. It was under the influence of the latter that the young man felt the call to natural sciences. Later he entered the school in Mezhyrich-Koretskyi, which he had to leave after the 4th grade (in 1801) due to the death of his father. At that time, he was taken care of by the daughter of the governor of Valevskiy, Karolina, and her husband, Count A. Khodkevich. Leaving for Vilna, they took Anton with them, where he was engaged in painting under the guidance of the famous Polish artist Yu. Oleszkiewicz. After studying in Vilna (about 1806), Anton entered the Volyn Gymnasium and after graduation became a governor, laid out parks and organized greenhouses in noble estates, taught drawing in the elementary grades of the gymnasium, while simultaneously working as an assistant to Professor V. Besser, under whose leadership he began systematic study of botany. In 1818, he received the position of adjunct at the Department of Botany and Zoology at the Higher Volyn Gymnasium, and in 1814–1830 pp. carried out a number of botanical expeditions in the Right Bank and Kherson provinces. In 1834, after the closure of the Volyn Lyceum, he was transferred to the University of St. Volodymyr to the post of adjunct of the Department of Natural History, and later to the Nizhyn Lyceum, where he took care of the museum, collected plants and taught natural history. The work of the scientist, devoted to the study of the flora of the southwestern part of Ukraine and the former Podilsk province, has not lost its relevance even today, and the herbarium he collected with 10,000 species of plants was one of the largest of its time. After two years of work in Nizhyn, the scientist resigned and moved first to Zhytomyr, and later to Nemirov, and in 1862 – to Stavyshech, Taraschchanskyi District, where he established a botanical garden in the estate of Count A. Branitskyi. A. Andrzejovskiy died here in Stavyshech on December 12, 1868²⁵.

The higher educational institution in Nizhyn was known far beyond the borders of the Left Bank of Ukraine

and enjoyed popularity. But the institution gained even greater authority after its reorganization into the Historical and Philological Institute, of which there were only two in the Russian Empire.

Among the famous scientists of Polish origin in Ukraine, one should mention Witold Novodvorskyi, who was born on June 2(14), 1861, in the Lemno estate of the Igumenskii district of the Minsk province, in an impoverished family of the Polish nobility, who moved and settled on Belarusian lands after the Union of Lublin. His parents, a small nobleman of the Roman Catholic faith, Vladyslav Novodvorskyi and Aloiza Shpett, linked their son's future with public service, so they sent the boy to the Polotsk Military Gymnasium, which he successfully graduated in the spring of 1878, and already in the fall he entered the Petersburg Institute of Road Engineers connection But the young man's interest in history, which he was fascinated by in his high school years, prevailed, and in the 3rd year he left his studies and transferred to the Faculty of History and Philology of Petersburg University as a free student. In May 1882, W. Novodvorskyi passed the exam as an external student at the Latin Gymnasium for the matriculation certificate and was given the opportunity to fully study at the university, where he received excellent training and graduated in 1885 with a candidate's degree in the department of general (world) history²⁶. Novodvorskyi spent the next 20 years in the northern capital of the empire as a history teacher. He gave lectures at the Petersburg First Cadet Corps, gave lessons at the women's school of St. Elena and the women's school at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Kateryna Despite the intense pedagogical work, W. Novodvorskyi did not abandon the idea of obtaining a scientific title, so in November 1893 he successfully passed the exam for the master's degree in history at his alma mater. The young teacher did not fall out of sight of the university management, so in March 1900 he was invited to the position of private docent to give lectures

²⁶ О. Самойленко, *История и историки Польши...*, р. 45.

27 *Eadem*, *Методологічні та історіографічні сентенції історика Вітольда Новодворського*, "Література та культура Полісся", 51 (2009), p. 104.

28 J. Hulewicz, *Akademia Umiejętności w Krakowie 1873–1918. Zarys dziejów*, Wrocław–Warszawa 1958, p. 143–145.

29 О. Самойленко, *Методологічні та історіографічні сентенції...*, p. 105.

at the department of general history. This gave him the opportunity to immerse himself in scientific work and accelerated the process of writing his dissertation research "The Struggle for Livonia between Moscow and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1570–1582)", which he defended on May 9, 1904 at a meeting of the Specialized Council of his faculty²⁷.

At the border of the 19th and 20th centuries. active study by scholars of Polish history began. In a short time, the researcher gained recognition in scientific circles not only in Russia, but also in Poland, as a thorough Polish. A number of articles in Polish and Russian were published in encyclopedic editions and magazines, dedicated to outstanding Polish political figures, historians and writers – J. Zamoyski, A. Czartoriyski, A. Pavinski, K. Shaynokh, A. Mickiewicz, and others.

At the same time, W. Novodvorskyi established close relations with the Historical Commission of the Akademii Umiejętnosci in Krakow, on whose behalf in 1902 he was involved in the publication of the original "Interregnum" by S. Orzhelskyi. The scientist found a copy of the complete chronicle and worked on the first volume, but the transfer to Nizhyn prevented him from completing the work. In general, at this time he maintained active relations with Polish scientists, prepared materials and intelligence for various Polish publications: "Ateneum", "Glos", "Kwartalnik Historyczny", "Prawda", "Przegląd Historyczny", "Wielka Encyklopedia Illustrowana"). This could not help but affect the growth of authority and positive attitude towards the young scientist on the part of Polish scientists²⁸.

From September 1906, the so-called the "Ukrainian period" of the scientist's activity, when the master of history W. Novodvorskyi was appointed extraordinary professor at the department of general history of Prince Bezborodek's Institute of History and Philology in Nizhyn²⁹.

The Nizhyn Institute at the end of the 19th – at the beginning of the 20th century. was the main center for

the development of education and science in Left Bank Ukraine, where quite powerful intellectual forces were concentrated.

In September 1906, the educational process was resumed at the institute, and Novodvorskyi became one of two professors in the department of general history (on September 17, 1906, the czech F. Rezhabek was also appointed), who divided the teaching of courses between them. Professor Rezhabek focused on reading ancient and medieval history, historiography and source studies, and Professor Novodvorskyi - new history of Western European countries, philosophy and methodology of history, and also, for a certain time, read a special course on the history of England in the 16th – 17th centuries for students of the history department.

In a short time, Novodvorskyi gained recognition in academic circles in Ukraine. His energy, pedagogical experience, and encyclopedic knowledge also attracted educational institutions in Kyiv. He taught at St. Volodymyr's University (since 1908) and the Kyiv Commercial Institute (since 1909), at the Women's General Education Courses of M. Dovnar-Zapolskyi (since 1908) and Evening Higher Courses of A. Zhekulina (since 1909). In parallel with the pedagogical activity, he continued to engage in scientific activities. For several years (1908–1910, 1913–1914), the scientist traveled to England, France and Germany, where he worked in archives and libraries.

During the Ukrainian Revolution, W. Novodvorskyi participated in the Polish cultural and educational movement. While remaining a professor at the Institute of History and Philology, he spent a lot of time in Kyiv, acting as one of the founders of the Higher Polish Scientific Courses and the Polish Scientific Society. Powerful Polish scientific forces gathered in Kyiv in 1917, which made it possible to organize these institutions. Along with Novodvorskyi, who taught the courses "Poland in the times of prosperity and decline (XVI–XVIII centuries)" and "Genesis and development of modern democracy",

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 107.

³¹ Г. Самойленко, О. Самойленко, *Поляки в Ніжині та їх роль...*, p. 69–70.

famous Polish scientists worked: chemist B. Shyshkovskiy, encyclopedist L. Yanovskiy, mathematician Yu. Talko-Hryntsevich, anthropologist C. Białobrzeskij, antiquary W. Klinger, philosopher H. Yakubanis, literary critic A. Drohochevskiy, linguists K. Appel and G. Ulyashin, etc.

It is not known for sure what exactly, the hard mental work of recent years, the difficult financial situation of the family, or the socio-political and socio-economic changes (not the acceptance of Bolshevism) that took place in Ukraine in 1917–1918, affected Witold's health Vladyslavovich, but he suffered a mental breakdown and for several months the professor was forced to stay in the hospital. The management of the institute provided significant support to his family, employed the scientist's wife Maria Yosypivna, and allocated significant costs. The treatment was successful, and already in August 1918, Novodvorskiy, along with other professors of the Nizhyn Institute, made a vow of loyalty to the Hetmanate: "I solemnly promise to faithfully serve the Ukrainian State, recognize its state power, obey its laws and protect its interests and well-being"³⁰.

With the loss of Ukraine's independence and the establishment of the Bolshevik dictatorship, W. Novodvorskiy expressed a desire to go abroad. Such an opportunity appeared with the opening of Stefan Batory University in Vilno. A well-known scientist in the field of natural sciences and philosophy, pedagogue M. Sidletskiy (1919–1921) was elected rector. It was on the initiative of the latter that on January 15, 1921, Novodvorskiy was elected a professor of general history at Vilno University, but he managed to get to his new place of work only in September. In addition to his teaching activities, he also served as the director of the University Public Library (November 25, 1921–July 1, 1922).

W. Novodvorskiy died on November 25, 1923 and was buried at the famous Ross cemetery in Vilnius³¹.

Representatives of the Polish community participated equally actively in the artistic life of the Northern Left Bank.

In the 70s of the 19th century, the Polish family of the Wilkonskis moved to Nizhyn, wanting to provide their children with a quality education here³². In the genealogy of Vladyslav Florianovich Vilkonskyi and his wife Antonina Iozafativna, the destinies of several Polish families are intertwined. Vladyslav-Jan was the son of Florian Vilkonskyi, who came from an impoverished noble family, and Antonina Paderevska was the aunt of the world-famous pianist, composer and public figure I. Paderevskyi (1860–1941). It was she who, after the death of Ignatius' mother and the imprisonment of his father as a participant in the 1863 uprising, raised Ignatius and his older sister Antonina. While living in Nizhyn, Vladyslav Vilkonskyi and his wife took an active part in the musical life of the city. V. Vilkonskyi was a good violinist, and his wife played the piano well³³.

In 1887, a musical and dramatic society was organized in Nizhyn to promote musical art and develop the artistic tastes of the city's residents, the musical section of which was headed by V. Vilkonskyi.

After the death of his wife, V. Vilkonsky married Antonina Yanivna Vilkonska (Paderevska), who was also a musician, worked as a piano teacher, participated in student and high school evenings for the benefit of poor high school students. She also actively participated in concerts organized by the director of the Historical and Philological Institute, professor F. Gelbke, and his wife, Karolina Fridrihivna, head of the "Association for Aid to the City's Poor", where the entire Nizhyn elite gathered.

The institute also organized student evenings. Memories of several such evenings have been preserved. So, on December 6, 1895, A. Vilkonska (Piano) together with student Emberg (Harmonium) accompanied the student choir, which performed "Dies igae" by Mozart. "Choir of fiddlers, chorus of courtiers and the finale" from the opera "The Snow Maiden" by P. Tchaikovsky were also performed. A. Vilkonska (Piano) together with Myronovych (Flote), Kartovel (Violino), Rychman

32 О. Самойленко, *Розвиток гімназійної освіти на Чернігівщині (XIX–опочаток XX ст.)*, Чернігів 2011, 297 с.

33 Г. Самойленко, О. Самойленко, *Поляки в Ніжині та їх роль...*, р. 89.

34 *Ibidem*, p. 90.

35 *Ibidem*, p. 91.

(Violoncelle) performed “Quartet in F-Dur W.Ponpo” on themes by Schubert. P. Tchaikovsky’s work “Chant sans paroles” was performed by A. Vilkonska together with Kartovel (Violin I), Tsvetkov (Violino II), Akymenko (Alto), Rykhman (Violoncello)³⁴.

The son of Vladyslav Vilkonskyi, Stefan (Stanislav) Vilkonskyi, was born on August 21, 1870 in the village of Novosilky in Zhytomyrshyn, moved with his parents to Nizhyn, where he studied at the men’s classical gymnasium at the Historical and Philological Institute until 1888. Later, he entered the Warsaw Conservatory in the class of Professor V. Alois. During his studies, the young musician took part in concert activities as a performer of compositions on the cello. He then studied at the Prague Conservatory, and in 1895 he became a student at the Petersburg Conservatory (class of Professor A. Verzhbylovych), which he graduated in 1901. Researcher L. Ginzburg noted that “Stepan Vladyslavovich was one of Verzhbylovych’s favorite students and in many respects learned performance style of his teacher”³⁵. During his studies, S. Vilkonskyi visited his relatives in Nizhyn and took part in concerts arranged by F. Protsenko, the organizer of musical life in the city. At that time, he also communicated with the members of the chamber quartet, which appeared in 1905, under the leadership of the czech Vidrevych, to “play and control”. The quartet consisted of his father V. Vilkonskyi (first violin), V. Savenko (second violin), Z. Kirylenko (cello), F. Rykanovskyi (viola). The repertoire included works by Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Glinka, Glazunov.

After graduating from the conservatory, he worked for 3 years at the Petersburg commercial school, and from 1904 he was engaged in teaching at the music school of the Astrakhan branch of the Russian Music Society, where he taught cello, quartet, and chamber ensemble subjects.

In 1908, S. Vilkonskyi moved to Chernihiv to the position of director of music classes, and after some time

he headed a music school, in which he later had well-deserved authority. In parallel with administrative work, he improved the teaching of subjects, which included a complex of special disciplines that provided theoretical training for students. S. Vilkonyski was also engaged in artistic activities, performed as a soloist, demonstrating his skill in playing the cello. Later, he became the leader of a symphony orchestra that performed Haydn's oratorios and Rubinstein's works. S. Vilkonyski was also known in Chernihiv as an organizer of musical and anniversary evenings, concerts of popular musicians, which was periodically reported in the "Russian Music Newspaper"³⁶.

As a member of the Chernihiv Music and Drama Society, he helped organize theater performances, art exhibitions, etc. S. Vilkonyski did not forget about Nizhin either, he maintained close ties with local musicians, in particular with F. Protsenko, who organized a string orchestra in the city, and later – a symphony, in which S. Vilkonyski also played. S. Vilkonyski's work in Chernihiv Oblast contributed to the spread of professional musical education in the region and the establishment of professionalism in the art of music. Friendship with the director of the Kyiv Conservatory – the famous composer and conductor Reingold Glier, who knew S. Vilkonyski well as a fine cellist, organizer of musical education in Chernihiv region and propagandist of musical art in the region, contributed to the fact that in 1920 he moved from Chernihiv to work to the music and drama institute named after M. Lysenko, where in 1945 he received the title of professor, and in 1950 – Honored Artist of Ukraine³⁷.

The name of another figure of Polish origin is associated with the spread of musical art in the region – Boleslaw Leonardovich Verzykiwskyi (1880–after 1928). At the beginning of the 20th century cinema appears in Ukraine. In many cities, including the Left Bank, numerous "illusions" were opened, showing films of German, French, Italian, and American production.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 92–93.

³⁷ Г. Самойленко, *Вільконський Стефан Станіслав* [in:] *Поляки в Ніжині. Біографічний довідник*, Ніжин 2015, p. 49.

38 *Идет, Болеслав Леонідович Вержиківський...*, р. 62–63.

39 Г. Самойленко, О. Самойленко, *Поляки в Ніжині та їх роль...*, р. 98.

In 1907, B. Verzhikivskiy moved to Nizhyn together with his aunt, whom the locals called Madame Vega. They opened the “Vega” cinema in the rented large manor of Tansky with a two-story house. It was the only hall in the city for watching silent films. Both in technical and musical terms, the matter was set at a high level. The films were accompanied by the music of the symphony orchestra, the conductor and composer of which was B. Verzhikivskiy. Sometimes the musician himself sat down at the piano and provided musical accompaniment.

Demonstration of motion pictures turned out to be a profitable business. B. Verzhikivskiy and his aunt expanded the territory of their estate. There was a skating rink, a stage for concerts and premises for a theater in which various groups and soloists performed, and the theater troupe of P. Saksagansky toured here more than once.

B. Verzhikivskiy was fond of music, to some extent he was an ideological artist-musician and spared no expense in the musical and technical part of cinema. During the nationalization of the cinema, he went to work for Narosvita, conducted the orchestra and served in the same cinema as a second pianist until 1928³⁸.

In 1920, B. Verzhikivskiy organized a symphony orchestra from local music lovers and led it. The repertoire of the orchestra consisted of works by famous composers M. Lysenko, M. Glinka, A. Gulak-Artemovskiy, as well as L. Beethoven, J. Mozart, Dvořák, and others.

B. Verzhikivskiy supported M. Hlebov, who planned to stage opera performances in Nizhyn. Thus, on June 26 and July 29, 1920, a play was shown in the form of 4 scenes from the opera “Eugene Onegin” by P. Tchaikovsky. The orchestra was conducted by B. Verzhikivskiy. And on July 7, 1921, the opera “La Traviata” was shown, the instrumental part of which was performed by an orchestra under the direction of B. Verzhikivskiy. The local press highly appreciated the joint work of M. Hlebov and B. Verzhikivskiy³⁹.

The musician also collaborated with F. Protsenko, who in 1919 organized a folk choir, and B. Verzhikivskyi – a symphony orchestra. Many talented people took part in these groups, and in 1921 F. Protsenko staged two operas: “Zaporozhets za Danube” by S. Gulak-Artemovskiy and “Natalka Poltavka” by M. Lysenko. The success was unsurpassed⁴⁰.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 99.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 101.

In 1923, a studio-workshop for the training of art workers was organized in Nizhyn at the theater, among the teachers of which was B. Verzhikivskyi. He continued his teaching activities at the Nizhyn Institute of Public Education (former Institute of History and Philology). The symphony orchestra under the leadership of B. Verzhikivskyi also prepared its own repertoire, which it performed at a high professional level. It was noted in the local press that:

With Nizhyn's poverty of musical forces, Verzhikivskyi's orchestra is a very significant force. We think that Comrade In the near future, Verzhikivskyi can show us not only musical excerpts, but also entire concerts. It is necessary to support the musical activity of the theater in the person of Verzhikivskyi by all means⁴¹.

In December 1926, by the decision of the People's Commissariat of Education of the USSR, the All-Ukrainian Day of Music was held for the first time in the city, the purpose of which was to popularize the art of music among the masses. The main role was given to the institute choir under the direction of F. Protsenko and the orchestra of B. Verzhikivskyi, which they successfully coped with.

On July 16, 1928, with the death of his father, B. Verzhikivskyi left to Latvia and never returned to Left Bank Ukraine.

Thus, ethnic Poles, with relatively small numbers, brightly presented polonium on the Northern Left Bank

of Ukraine, made a significant contribution to the development of education and science not only in the region, but also in the whole of Ukraine, left a noticeable mark in the educational and cultural life and a good memory residents of cities and towns of Chernihiv Oblast. Undeniable confirmation of this is the fact that Chernihiv Music School № 1 still bears the name of S. Vilkonskyi, the works of W. Novodvorskyi are being republished, and Andrzejovsky's carnation is named in honor of A. Andrzejovskyi.

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