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Vitalii TELVAK,

orcid.org/0000-0002-2445-968X

Doctor of Historical Sciences (Dr. Hab. in History),

Professor at the Department of World History and Special Historical Disciplines

Ivan Franko Drohobych State Pedagogical University

(Drohobych, Lviv region, Ukraine) telyak1@yahoo.com

Sviatoslav ZHURAVLOV,

orcid.org/0000-0001-7875-4038

Candidate of Historical Sciences (Ph. D. in History),

Junior researcher at the Department of Source Studies of Modern History of Ukraine

Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Source Studies of the National Academy of

Sciences of Ukraine

(Kyiv, Ukraine) zuravlovsvatoslav27@gmail.com

Bohdan SHTOMA,

orcid.org/0009-0005-2923-9183

Postgraduate Student at the Department of World History and Special Historical Disciplines

Ivan Franko Drohobych State Pedagogical University

(Drohobych, Lviv region, Ukraine) b.shtoma@gmail.com

HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN SCIENCE IN “ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY”¹

Commemoration in 2023 of the 150th anniversary of the foundation Shevchenko Scientific Society (hereinafter: SSS) attracted considerable attention of the entire cultural community of Ukraine as SSS is the oldest Ukrainian-language public scientific institution in Ukraine. The beginnings of the Society date back to 1873, to the literary, cultural and educational Shevchenko Society, and since 1892 become the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Despite the difficulties in its development due to the statelessness of Ukraine and later the official closure by the Soviet occupiers in 1940, the Society continued to work underground (1940–1944). It later resumed its activities abroad (1947). From 1989 to today, it still works successfully in Ukraine. SSS has a unique role in the history of science and the consolidation of national forces in Ukraine. This is the first unofficial Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, which defended the national culture before the establishment in 1918 of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. The history of SSS is associated with the names of hundreds of Ukrainian scientists and foreign researchers who have made significant contributions to Ukrainian and world science. Moreover, the society’s past represents the transfor-

mations, processes and phenomena that have taken place in the history of Ukrainian science from the last quarter of the XIX century to the first decades of the XXI century.

Given the importance of the SSS and its contribution to the development of Ukrainian science, its members nurtured the idea of creating an encyclopaedia dedicated to the Society for a long time. In 1922, Vasyl Shchurat proposed preparing a historical guide to the 50th anniversary of the SSS. However, this idea was never implemented due to a lack of funds. However, all generations of Ukrainian scholars of the twentieth century were aware of the need for such publication.

The idea of preparing and publishing the SSS encyclopaedia became even more determined immediately after restoring the parent society in Lviv (1989). After the proclamation of Ukraine’s independence, this proposal was repeatedly discussed at various scientific forums. Thus, at the III Scientific Annual March Session of the SSS in Lviv in 1992, the concept of the project was announced in the report “On the preparation of the ‘Shevchenko Scientific Society Encyclopaedia’”, which kicked off the dic-

¹ Наукове товариство імені Шевченка: Енциклопедія / Відп. ред. О. Купчинський. – К.; Л.; Тернопіль, 2012. – Т. 1: А – Бібл. – 600 с.; 2014. – Т. 2: Бібл. – Вес. – 616 с.; 2016. – Т. 3: Вес. – Глин. – 620 с.; 2019. – Т. 4: Глин. – Даш. – 620 с.; 2022. – Т. 5: Даш. – Ж. – 700 с.

tionary of entries and the formation of a bibliography of the subject. However, it was not possible to start the implementation of the project at that time due to significant financial and personnel difficulties, so the work was postponed for many years.

Discussions on the SSS encyclopaedia project resumed in the second half of the 2000s. In particular, in 2007, the initiative group of SSS members posted a preliminary list of 3820 entries of the SSS Encyclopaedia for general discussion on the Internet. Finally, in 2008, thanks to the favourable conditions, support and funding of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (from now on – NAS of Ukraine), scholars started the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” project in Lviv, which continues to this day. This work was headed by Oleh Kupchynsky, a well-known Ukrainian historian, philologist, archeographer, doctor of historical sciences, professor, chairman of the SSS in Ukraine (2005–2014), editor of the “Visnyk NTSh” (“Herald of SSS”) and “Zapysky NTSh” (“Notes of SSS”) since their transfer to Ukraine, member Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, honorary member of the Ukrainian Heraldic Society. He proposed the theoretical foundations, organisational algorithms and principles for organising the register of articles and the selection of encyclopaedic entries.

The editor-in-chief also engaged more than a hundred scientists and dozens of institutions from Ukraine and abroad, primarily the Institute of Encyclopaedic Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, regional SSS organisations in Australia, Europe, and Canada, the USA and other institutions and foundations.

It should be noted that in his work, O. Kupchynsky relies on a long-standing SSS tradition in the field of encyclopaedic studies. For example, it is appropriate to mention such well-known publications as “Ukrainian people in its past and present” (St. Petersburg, 1914–1916), “Ukrainian General Encyclopaedia” (Lviv; Stanislaviv; Kolomyia, 1930–1935), “Encyclopaedia of Ukrainian Studies” (1949–1984, 1995) that involved editors, authors, leaders-organizers, etc. In addition, SSS is a partner of the Institute of Encyclopaedic Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in implementing one of the most significant projects of modern Ukrainian encyclopaedias – “Encyclopaedia of Modern Ukraine” (22 volumes published to this date).

Among many modern Ukrainian publications in encyclopaedic studies, “Encyclopaedia of SSS” has well-thought-out conceptual and methodological principles. They are set out in an extensive and informative preface to the first volume by the editor-in-chief O. Kupchynsky (vol. 1, pp. 7-36). This

fundamental publication aims to reveal the role of SSS in the history of Ukraine, Europe and the world, to characterise critical scientific problems that SSS members have been working on and emphasise the achievements and discoveries of the Society in various fields. The encyclopaedia represents a holistic and multidimensional image, focusing on personalities and institutions, including regional centres operating in Ukraine and abroad. The publication describes the development of scientific knowledge from 1873 to the present day.

O. Kupchynsky defines the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” as a branch or departmental encyclopaedia (vol. 1, pp. 26–27). It would be more accurate to describe it as an institutional encyclopaedia since the five published volumes comprehensively represent the history of the scientific and cultural environment created by this institution, its structure, networks, communication contacts and creative connections. Scientists who have collaborated with the society and areas of activity, various practices, projects, works, periodicals, series, and other publications. In addition, the national and international scope of SSS significantly expands the subject area of encyclopaedic studies of its history.

The concept of the publication involves the inclusion of a diverse set of biographical and thematic articles. The project’s editor-in-chief chose the line of a comprehensive presentation of the society’s activity. O. Kupchynsky writes in the preface that as the chairman of the publishing council, he decided “to publish encyclopaedic articles that would depict the Society not as a narrowly localised and closed institution, but in the context of the general development of national science and the direct contribution of SSS to the scientific process. Therefore, it is planned to cover the widest range of scientific interests of the Society and emphasise the special status of its work as a public scientific institution” (vol. 1, p. 28).

Such a contextual approach should be considered appropriate because SSS, especially during its heyday in the last quarter of the nineteenth – early twentieth century, was not only a scientific institution but also a kind of laboratory of socio-political thought of modern national ideology, moderator of cultural and social life, and not only sub-Austrian Ukraine, but also all Ukrainian lands divided by imperial borders. SSS spread national ideology among the masses and initiated many important cultural and political projects.

Given this understanding of the conceptual foundations of the publication, types of articles: 1) articles – biographies dedicated to scientists, members of the Society, researchers related to the institutions

of the Society, prominent historical figures whom members of the SSS studied; 2) thematic articles (events, facts, phenomena from the history of SSS, its structures, institutions with which the society cooperated, regional organisations, etc.); 3) serial editions of SSS; 4) periodicals of SSS; 5) critical historical phenomena, events that were the subject of research by scientists of the Society (vol. 1, p. 33). The published four volumes present a more comprehensive range of problem-thematic topics, but the outlined article types generally cover most of the contained materials. It is important to note that all articles have a detailed reference apparatus, which consists of a bibliographic publication description of various categories: works of researchers, literature about them, and, if available, archival sources and more. In many articles, this apparatus is a significant part of the entry that increases the search value of the encyclopaedia's entry for various bibliographic and source heuristics. The publication is designed for different categories of readers, i.e. takes into account the needs of search in a pure reference format and in-depth queries on relatively narrow topics and issues.

We would like to note some general observations about the external attributes of peer-reviewed volumes. The first volume contains 248 entries; the second includes 293 entries; the third has 305 entries; the fourth consists of 227 entries, the fifth has 225 entries, so 1298 in total. If we are guided by the above-mentioned projected number, then five volumes make up about a third of the planned encyclopedic articles.

However, let us note that the number of scheduled entries is approximate. In preparation and processing, contributors usually find additional areas, contexts, and new sources, facts, personalities, and terms. Therefore, large encyclopaedic projects at some stage often reformat or expand their architecture. As a result, the peer-reviewed volumes of the SSS encyclopaedia are a substantial part of this great project, with prominent architectural outlines and specific features.

The "Encyclopaedia of SSS" content acquaints with the historical conditions in which the Society was created, developed, and reached the status of an authoritative scientific public institution. The encyclopaedia reveals the main stages of development of the institution and contains articles that characterise the directions and specific phenomena of the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, medicine, and even some technical sciences from the second half of the nineteenth century to this day. It also pays attention to the inter-institutional relations between the SSS and its members.

Among the entries of the first five volumes, there are biographical articles about Ukrainian and foreign intellectuals whose activities were connected with the SSS. It is quantitatively dominated by reports about a relatively large cohort of researchers in history, philology, literary studies, ethnology, folklore, and others. Articles about writers and artists also share the spotlight. Relatively little is covered about the representatives of the natural sciences due to dominance in the humanities and social sciences in the SSS, especially during the late nineteenth – early twentieth century. At the same time, some biograms, both in terms of volume and depth of the researched issues and the range of processed source materials, are innovative research. For example, the entry "Mykhailo Hrushevsky" (vol. 4, pp. 369-392) describes the state of historiographical reflection on this outstanding scientist and the most successful leader in history of SSS.

The next largest group of articles is devoted to various research issues developed by members of the SSS, with humanities and social sciences in the spotlight. To illustrate, we would like to mention such entries as "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the research of the Shevchenko Scientific Society" (vol. 2, pp. 545–554)", "Armenia and Armenian colonies in Ukraine in the research of members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society" (vol. 3, pp. 152–160)", "Greek colonies in the research of members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and other institutions" (vol. 4, pp. 255–262), "Decorative and applied art in the research of members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and other institutions" (v. 5, p. 35–45).

"Encyclopaedia of SSS" also focuses on institutional issues. These are several articles covering the organisational and administrative activities of the Presidium, sections and commissions of the Society, its printing, binding, office, bookstore, library, museum, academic house (dormitory), charitable foundations, and finally, research institutions. A separate group of articles acquaints the reader with the activities of foreign departments of the Society, which is still a little-known problem even for researchers of the history of science. In addition, many articles are devoted to institutions that created or collaborated with members of the Society and periodicals that SSS members founded.

Given the contextual concept chosen by the editor of the "Encyclopaedia of SSS", the encyclopaedia presents several major review articles, such as "Austria" (vol. 1, pp. 67–76), "Abstractionism" (vol. 1, p. 58–61), "Bilingualism" (vol. 2, pp. 142–152), "Bulgaria" (vol. 2, pp. 268–274), "Vatican" (vol. 2, pp. 522–527), "Galicia" (vol. 3, pp. 438–451), "State council in Vienna" (v. 5, p. 89–93), etc. The authors of these

articles focused on the connecting points between SSS members and covered phenomena, processes and events. Thus, in the first of these articles, the emphasis is on the commitment of the Austrian government to the establishment of Ukrainian socio-cultural and scientific organisations, including SSS, as well as financial assistance to the establishment and development of the Society during the imperial era. And the article “Abstractionism” and a brief acquaintance with this artistic trend provide information about its study and reflection in various practices and studios of SSS members.

Ukrainian scientific issues dominate in the volumes. In addition, the publication also contains many articles on foreign scholars and public figures who have influenced the development of relations with Ukrainian colleagues and collaborated with SSS and other institutions. This is not accidental because the history of SSS in the initial and pre-war periods unfolded in Austria-Hungary, in the interwar period – within the Second Commonwealth, in the diaspora – mainly in the Western world. At the same time, the authors of the SSS encyclopaedia focus on the biographies of foreign members of the Society and numerous partner institutions (societies, libraries, magazines).

It should be noted that Polish stories dominate in this solid layer of diverse information devoted to non-Ukrainian issues, given the close Polish-Ukrainian cultural ties and the above-mentioned long-term residence of our peoples as part of one state. At the same time, in encyclopaedic articles, the authors reveal little-known, even to researchers, biographies of Polish intellectuals or facts about Polish-Ukrainian institutional cooperation. This information will undoubtedly be of considerable interest to the Polish user of the SSS encyclopaedia. Many Polish articles are already present in the first volume of the “Encyclopaedia of SSS”. The biogram “Abraham Vladyslav” (vol. 1, pp. 52-54), along with general biographical data, shows in detail his contribution to the study of the past of the Ukrainian lands of the ancient Commonwealth, as well as little-known information about the reception of historiographical ideas of Polish historian colleagues from SSS. Another example of institutional issues is the article “Akademia Umiejętności w Krakowie” (vol. 1, pp. 118–120). This article focuses on the participation of Ukrainian scientists (A. Petrushevych, M. Hrushevsky, I. Franko, etc.) in the work of this institution. Numerous facts about Polish-Ukrainian inter-institutional cooperation are provided in the article “Akta grodzkie i ziemskie ...” (vol. 1, pp. 120–122), which is dedicated to an important archeographic project in which historians of the

two nations collaborated with solidarity. This example is just one of the many.

Moreover, in the following volumes of the SSS encyclopaedia, along with scholars, more and more articles uncover Polish public figures who have contributed to establishing the Polish-Ukrainian dialogue. A good example here is a thorough article about Jerzy Giedroyc (authored by Oleg Kupczynski) (vol. 4, pp. 508–513), who influenced a new concept of Polish-Ukrainian relations, which, according to the author, had a significant impact on the formation of state policy and relations in general between independent Poland and Ukraine.

We mentioned above that, given the peculiarities of the institutional formation of the Society, especially in the early stages of its history, the pages of the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” are dominated by information on the development of humanitarian knowledge. At the same time, the peer-reviewed volumes of the encyclopaedia pay due attention to the outstanding Ukrainian and foreign scientists connected with the Society in other fields: medical, natural, technical, military, etc. We also find articles devoted to the characteristics of the institutional history of the mentioned branches of science.

The above problem-thematic diversity of articles of different informativeness creates the original integrity of the project, designed for different categories of readers as consumers of relevant information. This, in turn, highlights the editor-in-chief’s challenges in selecting authors, as they seek specialists in a particular disciplinary field or field and those who could organically link general and institutional layers of information. Let us note that the architectonics of the vast majority of articles in the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” indicates a successful combination of authorial, editorial, bibliographic and other practices.

Finally, the peer-reviewed volumes are well-adapted ideal accompaniment, which illustrates the presentation of the main layers of information. Sometimes there are up to 20 or more items of illustrative material per article. The illustrations are high quality; the photos are very diverse in genre. These are portraits and pictures of book covers and titles, genre photos and landscape illustrations, and maps. Ukrainian encyclopaedias can rarely boast of such a variety of images. The first volume contains 1181 illustrations and a map, the second – contains 1476 illustrations, the third – includes 1409 illustrations and ten maps, and the fourth – has 1145 illustrations and two maps. Unfortunately, in the fifth volume, the compilers did not specify the quantitative parameters of the given illustrative and cartographic material, although the volume is richly illustrated, like the previous parts

of the encyclopaedia. Many of the illustrated materials relate to Polish stories of the institutional phenomenon of SSS.

The first five volumes of the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” allow us to characterise it as a highly informative, unique in nature and scope publication dedicated to one institution. The appearance of the “Encyclopaedia of SSS” will accelerate the development of national forms of development of the history of sci-

ence, revealing the multifaceted potential of scientific thought in the past and today. At the same time, it lays the foundation for writing a multi-volume history of SSS, which is long-awaited for the Ukrainian and foreign public. Therefore, we wish the publishers, editors and authors of the following volumes of the SSS encyclopaedia inspiration and perseverance in implementing a complex but significant project for Ukrainian science.