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LITERATURE STUDY

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THE META-GENRE AS A LITERATURE PROBLEM

The article discusses main approaches to the terminological definition of the meta-genre in Russian, Belarusian and foreign literary studies; it identifies signs of meta-genre formations. The purpose of the study is to systematize the experience of scientific research on the problem of the meta-genre in various literary practices as well as to identify essential features of the meta-genre formations.

In modern literary process original genre models frequently appear indicating a new type of authors' thinking and reorganization of the entire artistic system as a whole. In this regard, there is a need for a detailed study of the specifics of the genre formations that ensure development of the «supreme» narration. The creation of modern meta-theory theories is based on the fundamental principles developed by Yu. N. Tynyanov and M. M. Bakhtin on the problem of the literary genre. Russian literature studies have developed three concepts revealing a terminological content of the concept «meta-genre» (N.L. Leiderman, R. S. Spivak, Ye. Ya. Burlina). In Belarusian literary criticism A. N. Andreyev's theory of the meta-genre is marked by a particular philosophic approach. In Western European and Anglo-American discourses the problem of the meta-genre is considered in the receptive-communicative aspect and is based on Tsv. Todorov's theory of the «fiction». Due to intensive terms interpenetration from complementary scientific disciplines, the article raises the problem of differentiating the following concepts: «meta-genre», «mega-genre», «hyper-genre», «genre generalization», «discourse», etc.

We consider the meta-genre as a universal category combining literary works with similar structural and semantic features in building a world model reflecting the constants of consciousness and culture in a certain historic period. The main features of the meta-genre formations include a common world-modeling principle, a common semantic and extra-gender trend, a large size and a high degree of abstraction, syncretism, complex architectonics, cultural limitedness and syncretism.

Key words: *Meta-genre; synthesis; abstraction; the world model; Yu. N. Tynyanov; M. M. Bakhtin; N. L. Leiderman; R. S. Spivak; Ye. Ya. Burlina; Tsv. Todorov.*

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A LILY AND A ROSE IN THE CONTENT OF FLORA IN VYACHESLAV IVANOV'S «TRANSPARENCY»

The article presents flora characteristics of the second book of lyrics «Transparency» by Vyacheslav Ivanov. On the basis of the frequency dictionary data and comparison with the

frequency of floral symbols in Vyacheslav Ivanov's poetic books such as «Helmsmen Stars», «Cor Ardens», «Gentle Mystery» and «Evening Light» the study concludes either commonness of Ivanov's floral world (as a rule, the most frequent symbols are a rose, an oak and a cypress) or originality of the flora content «Transparency».

This book, for the first time contains three floral symbols that are the most frequently used. They are the symbol of an oak and even two flowers – rose and lily, besides, lilies managed to push the rose from the first place that was the most popular symbol in Ivanov's lyrics. The analysis showed that despite the apparent difference between a snow-white lily and a scarlet rose, the circle of symbolic meanings of both colors includes heavenly and divine meanings.

The unity of the symbols of the lily and the rose is found due to the use of the software system «Hypertext Search for Companion-Words in Author's Texts». The lexical combinations with the components «rose» and «lily» selected with the help of this complex unite a significant number of common companion-words. Comparison with similar lexical combinations in the works of Andrei Bely – Vyacheslav Ivanov's colleague on the symbolism (the material of the study was his book «Gold in Azure», published in the same year when Ivanov's «Transparency» appeared) made it possible to distinguish the all-symbolic and the individual authorial in lexical combinations with the components «rose» and «lily».

Key words: *Vyacheslav Ivanov; «Transparency»; poetic world; floral symbols; frequency dictionary; rose; lily; image paradigm; lexical combinations.*

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THE TIME OF TROUBLES IN DANIIL ANDREYEV'S POETIC SYMPHONY

Daniil Leonidovich Andreyev (1906–1959) is one of the most mysterious and tragic figures in the history of Russian literature, mysticism and philosophy. As a poet and philosopher he tried to comprehend the history of Russia creating new poetic syntheses – poetic symphonies. «Rukch» Symphony about the Time of Troubles (1952) is a literary work in the structure of «poetic ensemble» «Russian Gods» (1930–1958; published in 1993).

The article analyzes this text using the intertextual and comparative methods. The problem of the work connects it with the biblical books, in particular, with the Old Testament –

the Book of Lamentations. The article specifies that the motif of cry and grief repeats throughout the whole work. This motive paradoxically performs a function of encouraging the people to unite in the disaster. The article demonstrates common features of Andreyev's Symphony and a musical composition.

Moreover, the paper identifies a number of intertexts that link the analyzed text with «History of the Russian State» by Nikolai Karamzin, therefore the connection of Andreyev's ideas with a long-term conservative tradition becomes evident. Andreyev frequently uses concepts and ideas interpreted in a prose form in the philosophical and mystical treatise «The Rose of the World». In the «poetic ensemble» the poet performs the function of a chronicler and a myth-maker, who organizes and re-interprets the complex historical events and heroes of Russia. The time of troubles, according to the poet-chronicler, has its roots in the crimes of Ivan the Terrible. The mythical concepts are full of fantastic characters such as demons, creatures «uicraors» and spirits of wisdom «rodomysls».

Key words: Time of Troubles; Daniil Andreyev; poetic symphony; Ivan the Terrible; False Dmitry; history of Russia; intertextuality; intertext; myths.

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«RIPPING A PIECE OF LIFE FROM OBLIVION»: LITERARY PORTRAITS OF PHILOLOGISTS IN «THE NOVEL OF ONE LIFE» BY V.S BAYEVSKY

The article analyzes creative heritage of Smolensk State University professor V.S. Bayevsky (1929–2013). On the basis of the «Philologists» part of «The Novel of one Life», Bayevsky, for the first time makes an attempt to systematize and analyze literary portraits of scholars and contemporaries of the Smolensk philologist.

Bayevsky created literary portraits of Yu.M. Lotman, B.Ya. Bukhshtab, L.Ya. Ginzburg, S.A. Reiser, A.V. Makedonov, M.L. Gasparov. These portraits were formed on the basis of Bayevsky's diary entries, which had been made immediately after meetings with his colleagues. The archival materials, to which the philologist refers, are also represented by letters from the above-mentioned addressees, that gives «The Novel of One Life» an incontestable value. One of the main dominants of the literary portrait becomes setting for authenticity as well as a documentary character of the portrayed image.

The article reviews the history and theory of the literary portrait genre. The paper outlines compositional blocks similar to the indicated literary portraits and specifies those that constitute exceptions. It can be noted that within the boundaries of the mentioned part, each chapter is characterized by a set of stable features that are characteristic of the literary portrait.

The concept of the person being portrayed is composed of the history of acquaintance, a

biography (which can be told both by Bayevsky and the person being portrayed) and a character's a portrait, areas of their interests and major scientific works. In the literary portrait, which is created by the professor, readers can see not only a human fate history (either a portrayed person or a creator of the portrait), but also the history of science without censorship – such as it really was.

Attention is also paid to graphic expressive means, prevailing on the pages of the third part of «The Novel of One Life», such as epithets, comparisons, metaphors, analogies, aphorisms.

The findings, supported by the examples, can later be applied to the study of V.S. Bayevsky's artistic heritage.

Key words: *V.S. Bayevsky; «The Novel of One Life»; literary portrait, dairy, memoirs.*

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SYLLABLE DISTRIBUTION IN VERSE TEXTS

The research of the sphere of syllabic system in verse texts and specific types of syllables in different rhythmic positions of the verse line has been undertaken in numerous studies of both typically poetic features (a rhyme, a rhythm) and a number of morphological classes of words in certain positions in poetic works. Despite such attention to the aforementioned subject quantitative methods as well as statistics only recently have been used to estimate the distribution of syllables of different types throughout poetic texts.

The present article studies distribution of different types of syllables in poetry. This study sets the goal to apply appropriate mathematic methods to estimate the distribution of syllables in poetic texts and use statistics to find out the relationship of different syllable types in texts.

The samples of 700 to 1000 words from six long poems by Russian authors were analyzed. Syllable division is carried out according to sonority theory in terms of which syllable formation is based on the increase in sonority. Within the framework of this theory all syllables are divided into types according to the number of consonants and their order in the syllable. Syllable type counts lead to building the syllabic models of poems. All syllable types of every text are downranked, and afterwards in order to determine ranks distribution the exponential function is used which shows a very good result (high values of determination coefficient).

The results obtained demonstrate regularity in the distribution of syllables in texts and show that this kind of regularity does not depend on the topic or an author's individual style.

The other direction of the study is to explore distances between open and closed syllables. These distances have been analyzed, using the coefficient of variation which shows that the distance schemes of open syllables are the same for all the authors whereas closed syllable distance scheme varies from one author to the other, marking their individual style differences.

Key words: poems; syllable types; distribution; exponent function; distance; variation coefficient.

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**RUSSIAN AUTHOR'S LEXICOGRAPHY MONUMENTS.
EXPERIENCE OF COMPILING DICTIONARIES OF LANGUAGE IN THE COMEDY
«WOE FROM WIT» BY GRIBOYEDOV IN THE EARLY XX CENTURY**

The article deals with remarkable literary monuments of Russian lexicography of the early XX century. They recorded the language in the Comedy «Woe from wit» by Griboyedov. One of them is «Dictionary of the Language in the Comedy “Woe from wit” by A. Griboyedov» compiled by V.F. Chistyakov. It gives a semantic characteristic of each word, which is reduced to the definition of the word meaning or a number of word meanings, to the interpretation of the word content, if it is possible, in accordance with the meaning, what Griboyedov himself intended to use. V.F. Chistyakov’s dictionary, according to available information, was compiled. However, it was published in Smolensk in 1939 and contained only the first issue including the words beginning with «A» and «B». In 1939 V.F. Chistyakov was called with the report at session of the Moscow Dialectological Commission named after N.I. Marr of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. After that, V.F. Chistyakov practically did not publish his works and went to Siberia, where during the Great Patriotic War his traces were lost.

The second monument of the author's lexicography of the comedy «Woe from wit» by A.S. Griboedov is «The Dictionary of the Language in the Comedy “Woe from wit” by A.S. Griboedov» compiled by L.D. Surazhevsky. However, this work has not been published. There is only a manuscript kept in the Pushkin House. Actually, the dictionary is an Appendix to the thesis of L.D. Surazhevsky devoted to the study of the language of the Comedy by A.S. Griboedov. The described thesis is dated 1941. Moreover, it is known that the thesis defence took place in Moscow in June of the same year. In later bibliographies relating to studies of «Woe from wit», the name of L.D. Surazhevsky is missing.

Key words: Russian author lexicography; V.F. Chistyakov’s and L.D. Surazhevsky’s dictionaries of language in the comedy «Woe from wit» by A. Griboyedov.

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SOCIOLINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SMOLENSK WRITTEN RECORDS OF THE XVI–XVII CENTURIES

The article is devoted to the study of the processes in the Russian language of the late XVI–XVII centuries, the period when the formation of the norms of the Russian language begins. This requires the involvement of written records of different genres in various areas. Therefore, the study of business writing is of particular importance.

The changes in the sphere of the business language, which has become the leading force in the formation of the norms of the national Russian literary language peculiar to the period under study, play a large role in the language development. The vocabulary of the business written records contains some elements of popular-colloquial language, dialect speech, Slavic bookish words, and borrowings as well. Moreover, business written records are not a mixture of heterogeneous genetic elements; on the contrary, they represent quite an arranged linguistic unity, which varies in different territories due to interaction with the regional diversity of the popular-colloquial language (a territorial version of the business written records).

Each region had its unique business written records owing to the regional features typical of a particular territory and defined by sociolinguistic and sociocultural peculiarities. The formation of the dialect of the Smolensk region was influenced by the historical conditions which influenced the region for a long time. Being part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Smolensk region had quite an exceptional linguistic formation. The business documents present the speech of various social groups. The analysis of the business language in the Smolensk region is a complex and contradictory unity, where the words diverse in genetic terms (bookish, dialect, colloquial, loanwords ones) are combined and intertwined. The study observes frequent use of words with a particular functional tendency, a wide or narrow variability, a very different stylistic colouring and a different valency.

Key words: term, popular-colloquial words; vocabulary, written records; Smolensk region; toponym; toponymy; microtoponym.

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THE AUTHOR'S «I» EXPRESSION IN THE INTERVIEW GENRE OF MILITARY DISCOURSE

The article is devoted to the study of an interview genre in English publicistic discourse. The article is aimed at the study of the composition of the interview in different magazines and the analysis of the expression of the author's «I» in the genre. The study of the author's «I» enables to examine the person as an individual and the person as a reflection of the collective society. It is set that anthropocentrism peculiar to the genre is represented in anthropocentric trinity: an addresser (a journalist who takes an interview) – a communicant / communicants (an interviewee / interviewees) – an addressee (a reader of a magazine).

The article determines tactic communicative goals, which are the interviewee's aims. Giving an interview to the definite magazine an interviewee finds himself being involved in the analyzing of actual events and the perspective of their development.

The study of the interviews' texts is directed to cognition of the person himself, his intentions, intelligence, culture, profession. M.M. Bakhtin pointed out the key role of a person in any text: «A person in his personal specific features always expresses himself that is he creates a text (though a potential one)» [Bakhtin, 1986].

The study of the author's «I» of an interviewee through the words functioning in the text as a product of his speech and his intentions is actual and important in the study of speech genres of the middle size [Bakhtin, 1986].

The research is done in the perspective of cognitive and communicative linguistics. The first one is to describe an interviewee's intention and representation in a verbal form whereas the second approach supposes communication based on global and tactic goals. The interviewee's global goal is to give an interview and the tactic goals are represented in communicative and semantic development of the text of the interview. The communicative and semantic development of the text forms a composition of the interview and the author's «I» is the centre, the «inner code» (according to V.V. Vinogradov) of the communicative and semantic development of the text.

The article represents multilevel means with the help of which the author's «I» is objectified.

Key words: *interview-monologue; interview-polilogue; genre; interviewee; military discourse; composition; anthropocentric trinity; linguistic means; intention.*

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ROBERT BRIDGES' INDIVIDUAL STYLE IN HIS EARLY LYRICS: THE CONCEPTS SPHERE PECULIARITIES

The author's metaphorical system is one of the most important features of an individual style. The metaphor studies provide knowledge of peculiarities of the author's mental picture of the world or his concepts sphere. The article deals with the metaphorical system features in the early lyrics of Robert Bridges the poet-laureate, one of the prominent representatives of the English poetry of the late XIX – early XX centuries. This article focuses on concept-targets namely those phenomena that have attracted the greatest interest of the author and, in his opinion, require rethinking.

The analysis of the metaphor in the poems by Robert Bridges has provided information about the characteristics of the author's individual style in general and made it possible to identify and describe the frequency core among the concept-targets in the poet's early works. On the basis of the obtained data, the author makes conclusions about the methods of metaphorical interpretation of each concept-target included in the frequency core.

Concepts Mental Sphere, Organ, Time and Plants make up the frequency core among the concept-targets. Space, Light, Water and Sound make up the second most frequent group, and the other units of the concepts sphere are on its periphery.

The results of the analysis show that for the initial period of the development of Bridges' individual style, it is characteristic to use several methods of metaphorical interpretation of each concept-target. The obtained results demonstrate that in the first period of his work Robert Bridges considered both the inner side of a person and the outside world. However, in the poet's

early poetry, there was no opposition between a man's microcosm and the macrocosm of the surrounding world, which was typical of many romantic poets. Besides, the phenomena of nature attracted the author's greatest interest. The prospects for the further studies include analysis of Robert Bridges' later works that will contribute to establishing the patterns in the evolution of the author's individual style.

Key words: *concepts sphere; metaphor; frequency core; concept-target; Robert Bridges.*

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PRAGMATIC AND SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF STUDYING DIALECTAL LEXIS IN SPORTS COMMUNICATION (BASED ON THE GERMAN LANGUAGE AND ITS NATIONAL VARIANTS IN AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND)

The article deals with the role of dialects as a relevant form of existence of the German language in sports communication. According to the survey, sports discourse is rapidly changing its peripheral status into one of the fastest-growing conceptual areas captivating new spheres of communication and new discourse practices.

Dialects in the sports language space function quite actively and serve different purposes: with their help participants of the discourse emphasize their regional identity outlining those who belong to their circle and those who do not, supplying the utterance with additional evaluativity, etc. Dialects are used by sportsmen, trainers, sports officials, fans. Most often dialects are used in sports fans' discourse: the range of «coverage» includes team fight songs, chants, lyrics, club anthems, communication in chats, autobiographies and so on.

The article particularly considers interaction of sports discourse with the language space of other national variants of the German language – Austrian and Swiss German. According to the research, the language of sports discourse in Austria and Switzerland differs in a certain way from «pure» German variant: the specificity consists a prominent tendency to the use Anglicisms

and Americanisms to nominate key notions in the sports discourse as well as creation of nationally coloured metaphoric images, choice of means to express evaluation (meliorative and pejorative) and others. The article applies the following methods such as discourse analysis, componential analysis, model-based analysis, classification, a lexicographical method, conceptual and frame analysis and a comparative method.

Key words: *sports discourse; sports communication; sports language space; dialects; Austrian German; Swiss German; metaphors.*

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COURT LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE OF THE POLICODE TEXT: ON THE PROBLEM OF NONVERBAL COMPONENTS RESEARCH

Despite some unresolved theoretical issues, modern linguistic legal experts are trying to cope with ever-growing volumes of demanded applied research of speech statements texts. However, the development and emergence of new communicative practices has led to an increase in the non-verbal component of communication, including the active use of polycode materials, which are non-homogeneous texts combining two or more semiotic codes. First of all, it concerns interpretation of various kinds of images, which predetermined the need to develop new approaches in the preparation of special expert findings.

In this paper, the author sets a goal to determine possible methodological methods of linguistic legal assessment of non-verbal components of a polycode text. The presence of a sufficient number of concepts in the analysis of the perception of hybrid texts allowed the author to assume the possibility of their use in this direction. These theories, as well as some others, presented in modern legal studies, cognitive and cultural linguistics, serve as a practical material of our research activities. The methodological basis of the work consists of general scientific methods (analysis, systematization, modeling, generalization, etc.) as well as linguistic methods (discourse analysis, linguo-semantic analysis).

Having referred to the approaches, presented in the scientific literature, to the process of the polycode text perception, it is possible to note their unity in understanding the presence of differences in the preservation of verbal and nonverbal information in memory. However, most of the available theories do not consider deeply enough the problem of reaction and the degree of influence of non-verbal elements on a linguistic personality, that is a necessary condition for an adequate linguistic legal assessment of the polycode text. The most successful in this view is the approach formulated by Russian scientists A.V. Gorbacheva, A.N. Puchkova, M.A. Osadchy, who considered the analysis of conceptual ideas and the principles of their activation in the perception of pictorial material of the polycode text. In his turn, the author supplements the developed approach by defining the need for the research in identifying the concept sphere of law offenses regarding the text as an object of legal assessment.

In this case, the author proposes to substantiate a semantically unified system of concepts that is possible due to the existing developments in the field of cognitive linguistics and linguistic studies. Further, the studied non-verbal components of the polycode text should be subjected to special analysis, they should be considered as semantically significant components (connotative segments) located in the field structure of the concept. This method will make it possible to determine their importance in the process of perception by a linguistic person and to clarify the addressee's purpose and the degree of influence exerted by his/her text. In addition, it is proposed to conduct further research in the development of approaches to the adequate decoding and interpretation of non-verbal sign material and the development of new methods of forensic linguistic examination of a polycode text. The presented results can be in demand for practical expert activities as well as for the theory of legal studies.

Key words: monocode / polycode text; concept; linguistic expertology; legal studies; image.

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FIXED ADJECTIVE SIMILES IN THE PRISM OF STRUCTURAL AND LEXICAL UNIVERSALS

Linguoculturology, cognitive linguistics, intercultural communication as rapidly developing linguistic branches deal with phraseology. Due to their help scientists are able to read cultural codes: to explain mechanisms of obtaining, processing and using knowledge as well as to make a naive world picture of a language personality. As a result of these modern approaches, phraseology passed from stating to explanatory discipline.

A relatively new trend in linguistics is phraseology research in the theory of the language universals aspect. Linguistic typology systematically studies unique vocabulary and universals in a language and its aim is to research interlanguage variation. It's known that studying so called language unique words inherent in all or the majority of the world languages since any variation is impossible without similarity.

The aim of the research is to reveal universal features in the structure and semantics of fixed adjective similes in eight languages – representatives of Germanic (English, Swedish), Slavic (Russian, Belorussian, Check, Bulgarian, Croatian) and Baltic (Latvian) groups. So the objects of the research are similes of the English, Swedish, Russian, Belorussian, Check, Bulgarian, Croatian and Latvian languages. Descriptive, comparative, typological methods as well as methods of cognitive analysis and a continuous sampling method are used in the research.

Fixed similes are in focus of the research of different studies such as linguistics, logic, philosophy. V.V. Vinogradov was one of the first scientists who paid attention to the similes as specific phraseological units. Being a part of phraseology fixed similes possess all characteristic properties as steadiness, reproducibility, separate format and variability. But in spite of rather definite variability similes possess a precise structure. Three the most frequent models of fixed adjective similes in eight languages are found out, it points to a unified logic and psychological

nature of comparison. The structural similarity provides for searching for the universal in lexical meaning. As a result of the comparative analysis of phraseological units of eight languages identities and different variations (lexical, morphological and positional ones) have been found out. These combinations of fixed adjective similes compose 120 joinings out of possible 247 ones. Thus, 48.6% of correlations lead to the conclusion that fixed similes possess a universal nature. Comparison of the joinings also demonstrates that their overwhelming part serves to characterize a person and a subject, nature and abstract concepts. This proves anthropocentricity of similes in the represented languages due to common cognitive processes inherent in humans.

Involvement into the research not only adjective similes of a larger quantity of languages from various groups may serve as evidence of the hypothesis for similes lexical universalism and their anthropocentricity.

Key words: comparative and typological analysis; cognitive linguistics; typology; linguistic universal; fixed adjective similes.

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HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

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SMOLENSK PROVINCE IN THE 1921s–1925s: BELARUSIZATION FROM ABOVE?

In its program, the Bolshevik party initially declared the right of nations to self-determination up to separation. In October 1917 having come to power, they did not abandon their principles in the national issue, and what is more, the Bolsheviks began practical activities for their implementation. The outskirts of the multinational Russia fell far behind the central region in their economic, cultural and political development. Therefore, in March 1921 the X Congress of the RCP(B) set the first tasks for the development of national republics, primarily based on their national languages. At the XII party Congress in the spring of 1923 the agenda was already devoted to the need to transfer all spheres of life in the regions according to the national basis. This policy was called «indigenization» («korenizatsiya»). In the republics the name was specified: «ukrainization», «belarusization», etc.

However, belarusization, for example, was not to be confined only within the borders of Belarus; its implementation was also expected in the Russian Federation in places with compact residence of Belarusians. Smolensk province was one of such Russian regions. But unlike Belarus, the problem of transferring the office work into the Belarusian language was not raised here and the public servants were not forced to learn Belarusian. The foreground issue was about introducing the Belarusian language and studies of Belarus at schools and the subsequent transition of schools to the Belarusian language. It was not expected in the whole province, but in districts with a significant number of Belarusian population.

However, in practice the local population turned out to come first among those who did not welcome the policy of belarusization, the people did not see the need for it and rejected it. The example of the Smolensk region is a case in point.

Key words: *belarusization; Smolensk province.*

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GRAIN MONOPOLY OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RESULTS (IN MARCH – OCTOBER 1917)

During the First World War, a food crisis arose in the country. The tsarist government could not resolve it. The problems of the food crisis and the fight against hunger were the responsibility of the Provisional Government. It should be taken into account that Russia had to solve the food problem in the conditions of constant revolutionary upheavals and this problem developed from the socio-economic into the political sphere.

The article covers the period from March 1917, when the Provisional Government introduced the grain monopoly, until the October Revolution of 1917, when the Bolsheviks won. The analysis of the main provisions of the law «On the Transfer of Bread to the State», which meant the imposition of grain monopoly in the country. The article deals with issues of food supply of the urban population and the army. Taking into account the provision of food to the city population, the task of organizing a food procurement system arose. This proved to be an impossible task for the Provisional Government. The content of each event of the grain monopoly is revealed: presence of food committees authorities; accounting of bread and rationing of consumption by its producer; establishment of firm prices for agricultural products and requisitions; confiscations and bans on the export of grain as incentives for the monopoly implementation; agitation measures; regulation of the supply of the population with necessities.

The article characterizes the situation in agriculture of the country, issues of agriculture and labor shortage. The paper shows a drop in the agricultural production, which is reflected in their harvesting for the army and cities. The food crisis had a negative effect on the working-class people of the city and the countryside intensifying the revolutionary sentiments. It was shown that in the first nine months of the grain monopoly, the Provisional Government could not resolve the food crisis, which was one of the reasons for its overthrow. Specific examples, facts and figures are given in the grain-producing provinces of southern Russia.

Key words: Provisional Government; hunger; defense duties; food committees; surplus appropriation system or «razvyorstka»; distribution; revolution; supply; fixed prices; bread monopoly.

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«THE RIGHT DEVIATION» IN THE SMOLENSK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE PURGE OF AUCP(B) IN 1929

The XVI All-Union Conference of the All-Union Communist Party Bolsheviks (AUCPB) which took place on April 23–29, 1929, in Moscow, criticized position of N.I. Bukharin and his group of «The Right Deviation» for the shift of the general party line. The Conference set ambitious tasks before the Soviet People: to catch up with and overtake developed capitalist countries in engineering and economy. The proclaimed leap was considered impossible without attack on capitalist members inside the cities and villages of the country. The attack was unrealistic without total mobilization of the Communist Party, the Soviet institutions and non-party citizens. But first, the Party had to be released of unreliable and hesitating members. That was the reason why the Conference decreed to begin a general purge and revision of party cadres in 1929. That action was planned to be spread on the whole territory of the Soviet Union.

The article is devoted to the issues, found by the Smolensk City Committee of AUCP(B), during the revision of the Regional Financial Department and the City Financial Department. The revision was a part of citywide purge of 1929, related to the struggle with «The Right Deviation» supporters.

The City and Regional Financial Departments came to the Party authorities's attention during the period of «Smolensk Scandal» in 1928. Then, the financial institutions were disclosed as providers of different kinds of apparent support to class opponents of the Soviet Power, including debt reliefs for privately-owned bargainers and industrials, deliberate understatement of profits, leading to tax arrears.

That was the reason why the Smolensk City Committee of AUCP(B), performing decisions of 16th Conference of the Party in the course of 1929 purge, decided to check the financial institutions the first to release them from criminal and socially foreign members.

Key words: «The Right Deviation»; AUCP(B); Smolensk; financial department; taxes; purge.

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**AT THE ORIGINS OF STATE ARCHIVE SERVICE
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE SMOLENSK
AND VITEBSK SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVAL COMMISSIONS)**

The article discusses the role of the Smolensk and Vitebsk Provincial Scientific Archive Commissions in the development of archives in the Russian province in the early twentieth century. The author emphasizes recognition by modern researchers of the importance of the commission's activities in the archive sphere, archaeographic, scientific, historical, museum and local history research. According to historians, the provincial commissions have accumulated valuable experience in the acquisition and preservation of regional archives, library and museum collections, the study of documents and their subsequent publication as well as the training of qualified archivists.

The Smolensk and Vitebsk Provincial Scientific Archive Commissions can be credited with preservation of a significant number of historical sources, ancient monuments, and awareness building aimed at introducing the provincial public to the cause of preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of these regions. The specific material in the article shows main stages of the work of the Commissions for Archive Documents Processing, creating their own archives of the Provincial Scientific Archive Commissions (PSAC), preparing printed publications, due to which regional study of local lore was conducted on scientific basis. The employees of the archival commissions were needed as specialists of the State Archive Service created in the first years of the Soviet government.

The experience of the Smolensk and Vitebsk PSAC, as shown in the article, currently becomes the subject of special study. The author has analyzed modern publications of the sources covering the history of PSAC and publications of Russian and Belarusian scholars about the activities of PSAC, personalities, complexes of archival and museum materials, the work of commissions in the difficult conditions of the first years of Soviet power.

Key words: *The Smolensk Provincial Scientific Archive Commission; The Vitebsk Provincial Scientific Archive Commission; The State Archive Service; historiography of archive service development.*

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USING THE SCIENTIFIC REFERENCE APPARATUS OF ARCHIVES FOR THE SEARCH OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT FOREIGN CITIZENS IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE XIX CENTURY

The article deals with the logic of searching for archival information about foreign citizens in the Russian Empire in the first half of the XIX century. The author shows the possibility of using the modern scientific reference apparatus of the federal archives of the Russian Federation (the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the Russian State Historical Archive) and regional archives (the Documents Storage Department until 1917 in the Central State Archive of Moscow, the Central State Historical Archive of St. Petersburg, the State Archive of the Smolensk region) as well as the National Historical Archive of Belarus in Minsk.

In addition to traditional guidebooks, reference indexes, card files, inventory of funds, archives possess storage and retrieval systems, which are posted on the official websites. The author of the article gives specific recommendations for effective using of the scientific reference apparatus and gives examples of obtaining information about citizens of foreign countries in a certain historical period.

The article emphasizes that the scientific reference apparatus of the archives is far from perfect since it does not cover the entire volume of documentary materials contained in a particular archive. Moreover, each archive creates its own information retrieval system. Nevertheless, the placement of fund lists (in the form of scans of manuscripts or electronic lists) on the websites of large archives allows researchers to get acquainted with them online and carry out a preliminary selection of cases for the further study of the latter in the archive reading room. The Russian State Historical Archive provides users with the opportunity to order papers through the «user account» on the archive website. On the example of available databases created by archivists of the State Archive of the Smolensk Region, the author points out the logic of search queries for specific foreigners' personalities. The scientific reference apparatus of archives currently available shows a significant potential for introducing computer technologies into the archival practice.

Key words: *scientific reference apparatus of archives; archival information; foreign citizens; foreigners; the Russian Empire; the first half of the XIX century; computer databases; search system.*

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THE LEADERS OF THE GREAT PRUSSIAN REBELLION (1242–1283): THEIR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The article is devoted to the state of Prussian leaders, who were at the head of the Great Rebellion against Teutonic Order (1242–1283). The goal of research is to determine their structure and functions. These leaders represented a social organization that was an alternative to the system of Teutonic State and was a catalyst for the development of the Order relations with local population.

To research this issue, not thoroughly studied in historiography, the list of Prussian leaders was made that was mentioned in chronicles and historical works of the XIVth–XVth centuries. The list, including 21 persons, was created by using prosopographical analysis, comparative-historical and typological methods. On its base the following conclusions were made that the leadership of the Great Rebellion was formed by three groups: leaders of several tribes, leaders of one tribe and leaders of separate districts. All of them, as traditional military leaders, were obliged to command troops from land or districts. The other their functions were differed depending on their belonging to one of the groups: development of the general strategy in campaigns (leaders of one or several tribes) and solving local military tasks (leaders of separate districts). Designation of these groups by single terms testified to crystallization of their state to the middle of the XIII century.

This process occurred under the circumstances of social–property differentiation that manifested in appearance of the group of the leader's retainers. All these factors prepared a transition of the Prussian under the power of one leader. However, this opportunity was never realized because of the change of the Prussian leaders into the administration of Teutonic State.

Key words: *leader; tribe; retinue; militia; noblemen; Teutonic State; Order.*

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THE NOBLEMAN AND HIS HONOUR IN GOTZ VON BERLICHINGEN'S MEMOIRS

The article is devoted to the analysis of the nobility's ideas about honor of the social group in the autobiography of Gotz von Berlichingen – a famous representative of the Franconia nobility, a famous knight-robber, a hero of the German neo-romanticism.

His fame became great when he accepted the management of the rebellion group during the Peasants' War of 1524–1525. Due to the loss of a hand in one of the battles and acquisition of an iron prosthetic hand he got the nickname «The Knight with an Iron Hand». Berlichingen became the main character of the play by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The play glorified the knight, first of all, as a literary hero, but not as a real historical character.

Berlichingen's autobiography left to his descendants sheds light on a set of crucial events and important aspects of social daily routine in Germany in the XVIth century. The state of the lowest nobility, namely – knights of the Empire, was difficult and contradictory. This thesis is confirmed by fragments from the submitted ego-document and the third-party historical sources reflecting the epoch. The author's text perfectly illustrates a behavior model peculiar to the representative of a noble family in conditions, typical for him and shows motives and the purposes of realization of separate actions.

Within the main issue set in the article, it is necessary to pay attention to the question concerning the evolution happened to the system of values typical of the elite from the late medieval tradition till an era of the early Modern Times. Having created a certain matrix showing a concept of the German nobleman's honor in the XV–XVI century, it is possible to draw a conclusion based on the nature of these representations in Gotz von Berlichingen's memoirs as well as on the extent to which they were typical of the epoch.

Key words: Gotz von Berlichingen; gentry; chivalry; autobiography; honour; The Holy Roman Empire.

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THE IDEA OF «THE BALANCE OF POWER» TAKEN BY ENGLAND AS AN ARGUMENT TO JUSTIFY ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS AT THE END OF THE XVII – THE EARLY XVIII CENTUREIS.

The article is devoted to the idea of «the balance of power» in the British policy at the end of XVII – the early XVIII centuries as an argument for justification of England foreign policy interests. Often under the guise of aiming at the all-European well-being the English ruling elite used one continental power fear of the hegemony for advance of its own trade interests. Britain became a leader of the alliance in the Nine Years' War (1688–1697) and in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–1714) in the fight against France under the reign of Louis XIV and parallel to these events started to position itself as the arbitrator in the international affairs of all European continent, thereby providing own political and economic benefits along with internal political safety.

The discussion of problems of «the balance of power» and «universal monarchy» is found in numerous works of the famous publicists and pamphleteers. The well-being of Britain begins to be associated with the preservation of the European balance. Daniel Defoe stressed that European hegemon would be replaced by a new one therefore it was necessary to be ready to the fact that any power, including allies, could become an opponent.

The discussions were found either on the pages in the essay or held in the Parliament where the Whigs and Tories as antagonists interpreted «the balance of power» in different ways. Within the same debate the question of British continental interventionism and isolationism with the use of sea power in solving strategic tasks to strengthen the power of the Empire was discussed. After the establishment of the Succession to the Hanoverian throne, Albion's connection with the continent increased. These issues became more critical, that created more conflicts both in domestic policy and foreign one.

Key words: *balance of power; diplomacy; British foreign policy; universal monarchy; Great Britain.*

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THE BAR CONFEDERATION OF THE 1768–1772 AND THE RUSSIAN POLICY IN THE LITHUANIAN-BYELORUSSIAN LANDS OF THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH

The article deals with the policy of Catherine II towards the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the activity of the Russian Embassy in Warsaw as well as the Russian troops located in the Commonwealth, which were ordered to suppress the rebellion of the Bar Confederation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The reference to the theme indicated is caused by 250-year from the date of the rebellion start.

Lithuania in the XVIII century invariably kept special political and strategic value for Russia, especially under the conditions of the Russo-Turkish War (1768–1774) for campaigns of the Russian armies on a battlefield with Phorta as well as with bar confederates. It was quite understood in St. Petersburg. The preparation of the Sejm of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1768 was the aim of the Russian policy. However, it did not take place. After the convocation of the Sejm N.V. Repnin had high hopes of overcoming political anarchy and preservation of institutes of the Polish and Lithuanian statehood. The Russian measures taken against the bar confederates were not limited to military ones and, moreover, they did not represent repressive actions.

Up to the middle of 1771 St. Petersburg and its representatives in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth tried to reach a compromise in the civil war of «two nations» between fighting against each other and for the Polish-Lithuanian statehood institutes including the preservation of Lithuanian political autonomy.

Key words: *The Bar Confederation; The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; The Grand Duchy of Lithuania; The Sejm of 1768; The Russian troops in Poland; N.V. Repnin; magnate and gentry's factions of Lithuania.*

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THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET FACTOR IN THE INTEGRATION OF THE RECOVERED TERRITORIES IN POLAND AFTER THE WAR

On the basis of the documentary sources and studies carried out by Russian and Polish historians, the article analyzes the role of the Soviet military administration in providing the preconditions for the integration of the so-called Recovered territories in the final stage of the war and in the early post-war years. These lands were Warmia and Masuria, Pomerania, Silesia, a part of Greater Poland and other areas that were not a part of the Second Polish Republic before the war and transferred according to the decisions of the Berlin (Potsdam) Conference from Germany to Poland in 1945. The position of the Soviet Union was the decisive factor that ensured a significant increment of the Polish state in western and northern directions. At the same time, the territorial claims of the Poles for their historical and former German lands largely coincided with the geopolitical interests of the USSR in the formation of new frontiers in the West.

The article focuses on various forms of the USSR influence on the integration processes taking place in Polish society, functioning of the systems of the Soviet military commandant's offices, diplomatic missions and advisers. The author emphasizes the role of the Soviet military formations, civil institutions and representatives in organizing necessary conditions for the beginning of «repolonization» (the return of the Polish image) of the Recovered territories. They contributed to the restoration of infrastructure and the creation of necessary conditions for the

life of new Polish settlers. In addition, the Soviet military and civilian representatives had to deal with the settlement of the conflicts between Poles and Germans, migrants and local Polish-speaking residents (former German citizens); therefore the transfer of power to the Polish administration was often delayed.

In general, the policy of the Soviet Union contributed to the rapid formation of the Polish administration and the organization of peaceful life in the newly attached territories; it became an important factor contributing to the relatively quick stabilization of the situation in the Recovered territories and favorable conditions for their further integration into the Polish People's Republic.

Key words: *Soviet factor; Recovered territories; The USSR; Poland; The Second World War; integration.*

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