

Рецензії

Reviews

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THE CHRONICLE OF THE VILLAGE THAT REFLECTS UKRAINIAN HISTORY
(review of the monograph: Golysh, H., Voropai, A. & Lysytsia, L. (2022). The village of Dengy in Ukrainian history from ancient times to the present: people and events: a historical and local history essay. Cherkasy)

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ЛІТОПИС СЕЛА, ЩО ВІДДЗЕРКАЛЮЄ УКРАЇНСЬКУ ІСТОРІЮ
(рецензія на монографію: Голиш Г., Воропай А., Лисиця Л. Село Деньги в українській історії від давнини до сьогодення: люди і події : історико-краєзнавчий нарис. Черкаси : Вертикаль, 2022. 328 с.)



Nowadays, in the great trials for the Ukrainian people caused by large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation, the importance of local lore studies is increasing, which allow to understand the events of our national history more substantively and serve patriotic upbringing of

Ukrainians. In this connection, publication of the revised book is quite timely and socially significant.

It was authored by the director of the M. Maksymovych Scientific Library of Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkasy,

Associate Professor H. M. Holysh (head of the author's collective and editor), associate professor of the Department of Archaeology and Special Branches of Historical Science L. H. Lysytsia and local studies historian A. Yu. Voropay. Such a combination of research efforts of scientists and enthusiast-searcher and ensured the proper result of the creative efforts of this authors team.

The proposed edition is complex scientific-popular research of the history and present of the village of Denhy of Zolotonosha district of Cherkasy region. The information presented in the book is based primarily on the various documentary sources and heritage of «oral» history collected by authors over many years. In particular, the materials of the Central State Historical Archives (Kyiv), the State Archives of Poltava and Cherkasy Regions, the current archive of the local economy and the rural community have been used quite productively. Many facts to reconstruct the history of the said settlement are taken from published documents. Information, drawn from the newspaper fund and the collection of old printed books of the V. Vernadsky National Scientific Library (Kyiv), funds of Cherkasy regional and Zolotonosha local lore museums became useful. The prominent place in the source database also belongs to narrative sources: the memories of participants of events, the results of interviewing and interviewing the Denhy inhabitants.

The proposed edition consists of two books: the first of which contains basic information and the second is an appendix. The composition of the main information content consists of 5 large sections, which in turn are divided into 28 subdivisions. It draws attention to the logic, the unity of the structural parts of the publication and the versatility of their content.

At the beginning of the local history narrative, a socio-demographic portrait of this Ukrainian village was presented, and the origin of toponym «Denhy» was convincingly interpreted. Geographic information about this settlement: relief, geological structure, climate, flora, fauna, natural resources, etc. are also fully represented. The undisputed advantage of the publication is a professional author's analysis of more than 90 local microtoponyms: old names of streets, corners, mounds and graves. It is quite appropriate to provide in the text of several local legends related to individual microtoponyms.

The most detailed and meaningful saturated is the section dedicated to the past of the village. Its chronological coverage – from the beginning

of the first millennium, which dates from the first monuments of life on these lands to the present. However, the authors quite rightly consider ancient times only as a prehistory of Denhy, and according to the established tradition of historicism associate the initial stage with the first written mention of the village in historical documents (the first third of the seventeenth century).

All events of the 400-year-old past of the village are presented in the context of Ukrainian history with their clear correlation with the current chronological periodization and consistent compliance with the established concepts of domestic historiography. The authors emphasize that Denhy is one of the oldest Cossack settlements of the Left Bank of Cherkasy region, at one time the sotnia centre of the Kropyvnya Regiment, whose Cossacks created immortal Ukrainian glory in the Khmelnytsky era, fought against enemies, and their descendants opposed the social injustice, created the wealth of native Ukraine during tireless work. The authors do not miss the tragic pages of rural history of the Soviet era: famine, political repressions and more. The present pages of the life of rural residents, including the current challenges of martial law, are also fully written. The leitmotif of the publication is the idea that the pages of the history of the simple Ukrainian village are completely filled with both incredible drama of rural everyday life, and vivid examples of combat prowess, labour and spiritual achievements.

From the textual analysis of the reviewed work, it follows that its authors in the composing of empirical material serve the concept of «total history», which was formulated by the founders of the French Annales School by L. Febvre and M. Bloch. After all, the object of coverage was all without exception of the field of rural existence, presented through the prism of historical time: socio-economic relations, spiritual and ecclesiastical life, everyday life, natural environment, mentality, etc. Such microhistorical sections have ensured the thoroughness and persuasiveness of the information content.

The obvious positive feature of this edition is its consistent anthropocentricity and compliance with the traditions of humanistic historiography. Exactly the people – the main actors of the historical process are at the epicentre of all events covered in the book. Persons are tightly accompanied the event narrative; they are specifically devoted to two structural parts of the publication. In particular, the section «Envoys of the Native Village» contains short stories about nearly 100 inhabitants of Denhy, who

were worthy of representing their native village in various fields: they became well-known managers, engineers, agrarians, educators, doctors, culture, journalists, artists, public figures. The final section contains the detailed biographies of the most famous inhabitants of Denhy, who have achieved truly all-Ukrainian glory. In particular, it is a great Ukrainian state-builder of the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917 – 1921 Serhii Shelukhin, prominent Ukrainian and Turkmen artist Ivan Cherinko, Shevchenko Laureate, People's Artist of Ukraine Andriy Gonchar, Honored Professor of St. Volodymyr University Vasyl Demchenko, Academician, laureate of the State Prize of the USSR Andriy Shevchenko, famous folklorist Yakiv Demchenko and others.

The testimony of the research thoroughness of authors is a bibliographic list of sources and literature used, which is represented by more than 320 positions. For a more convenient orientation of readers in the text of the book, its structure contains nominal and geographical indexes, and for the sake of summarizing information in terms of time is offered a chronological table of the most important events of the village history. The publication is summed up by thorough abstracts in Ukrainian and English. The above scientific-reference apparatus of the publication increases its informative level.

The narrative is accompanied by more than 500 photographs, illustrations, maps of both archival origin and modern production. They illustrate different pages of the history and present of the village, present its recreational objects and famous people.

The materials of the book-appendix significantly complement and specify the main text. It contains 14 rather volumetric tables of participants in various historical events or awarded with combat and labour awards. For example, the register of the Denhy Cossack Sotnia, detailed information about the participants of the World War I and World War II, lists of victims of Holodomor and political repression, mothers with many children from the eighteenth century etc. Of course, these materials, along with their self-sufficiency, have a great source of source. In this connection, the memories of the Denhy inhabitants about the events of World War II, collected by the authors and included as the individual section, are noteworthy.

We should also mention the stylistic features of the reviewed edition. Its text is presented in a lively and coming for the general public language, which makes it readable and attractive. With certain caveats, the journalistic style of this

story seems quite justified in publications of local lore studies. The headings of the structural parts are selected quite successfully, organically inscribed in the text canvas and accompanying by epigraphs. Numerically relevant are numerous subordinate explanations of individual anachronistic definitions, as well as ranks, titles, social statuses, incomprehensible concepts, etc.

The high printing level of edition, which is made on high-quality chalk paper, also deserves an approval. The illustrations to the main sections presented in the decorative genre are skillfully created by the famous Cherkasy artist Olga Kurska.

Of course, the reviewed edition is not devoid of some shortcomings. Obviously, given the lack of sources, some periods of village history are outlined only schematically, without proper factual filling. This applies, in particular, to the events of the Hetmanate, the beginning of the twentieth century, NEP era and more. In places, the authors are too fond of the literary style of information. The author's conclusions and generalizations are deserved to greater depth.

Despite the above, we state the general level of publication, which significantly fills the gaps of study of local history. It can be useful not only to scientists and local lore specialists, but also to the general reading community, interested in the knowledge of the past and modern native land and can be used for both cognitive and educational purposes.

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