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**FEATURES OF ACTIVITY OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION OF
THE KYIV LITERACY SOCIETY ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF
LITERATURE AMONG THE POPULATION OF RIGHT-BANK UKRAINE
(END OF XIX – BEGINNING OF THE XX CENTURY)**

At the end of XIX century, progressive Ukrainian intelligentsia paid considerable attention to the education of the population by spreading the printed word. One of those methods was the establishment of public libraries. The Kyiv Literacy Society was also diligently engaged in the opening of libraries.

Activity in the opening of the reading rooms and bookstores was primarily related to the actions of the structural units of the Kyiv Literacy Society, the Library commission in particular, which was created in 1897. But we can safely say that the Library commission existed in previous periods of existence of the Society. However, its activity was mostly sporadic and was not regulated by any approved instructions.

The establishment and operation of libraries of the Kyiv Literacy Society is the most successful initiative of the organization. The first rural public libraries were opened in the mid-80s of the XIX century. With the resumption of the organization, its activists continued the work. Libraries were opened at the expense of funds that were provided to the Society for this purpose by individuals, charitable societies and trustees, local authorities, and others. In all time, the Society had formed about a thousand different libraries. Apparently, there was no province on the Right-bank Ukraine where there would not be a reading room opened at the Society's expense.

The organization also paid considerable attention to the libraries in educational institutions.

The Library commission undertook all the work on the acquisition of libraries and the opening of bookstores. Furthermore, activists of the Library commission prepared and published several collections with a review of literature that was «suitable for people». Thanks to the commission there was a regular free distribution of books to rural schools, libraries, and other educational institutions.

Keywords: *Kyiv Literacy Society, Library commission, library, bookstore, reading room.*

ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ БІБЛІОТЕЧНОЇ КОМІСІЇ КИЇВСЬКОГО ТОВАРИСТВА ГРАМОТНОСТІ ПО ПОШИРЕННЮ ЛІТЕРАТУРИ СЕРЕД НАСЕЛЕННЯ ПРАВОБЕРЕЖНОЇ УКРАЇНИ (КІНЕЦЬ ХІХ – ПОЧАТОК ХХ СТ.)

У кінці ХІХ ст. прогресивна українська інтелігенція значну увагу приділяла освіті населення шляхом поширення друкованого слова. Одним із таких методів було започаткування публічних бібліотек. Київське товариство грамотності також сумлінно займалося відкриттям бібліотек.

Активність у відкритті бібліотек-читалень, книжкових складів та магазинів була пов'язана, перш за все, з діяльністю структурних одиниць Київського товариства грамотності, зокрема бібліотечної комісії, створеної 1897 р. Але, можна з впевненістю стверджувати, що бібліотечна комісія існувала і в попередні періоди діяльності Товариства. Проте її робота мала здебільшого епізодичний характер і не регламентувалася будь-якими затвердженими інструкціями.

Створення та функціонування бібліотек Київського товариства грамотності – найбільш успішне починання організації. Перші сільські народні бібліотеки були відкриті ще в середині 80-х р. ХІХ ст. Із відновленням діяльності організації її діячі продовжили розпочату справу. Бібліотеки відкривалися за кошти, які надавали Товариству для цієї справи окремі особи, благодійні товариства та піклувальники, місцева влада та ін. За весь час Товариством сформовано близько тисячі різноманітних бібліотек. Мабуть, не було повіту на Правобережній Україні, де б не існувала читальня, відкрита на кошти Товариства. Значну увагу організація приділяла і бібліотекам при навчальних закладах.

Бібліотечна комісія фактично взяла на себе всю роботу з комплектації бібліотек і відкриття книжкових магазинів. Крім того, діячі бібліотечної комісії підготували та видали ряд збірників із оглядом літератури, «придатної для народу». Завдяки комісії відбувалась регулярна безкоштовна розсилка книг сільським школам, бібліотекам та іншим установам освіти.

Ключові слова: *Київське товариство грамотності, бібліотечна комісія, бібліотека, книжковий склад, бібліотека-читальня.*

Formulation of the problem. The Kyiv Literacy Society – is a public cultural and educational organization founded by the advanced intelligentsia of the city of Kyiv with the aim of «spreading literacy and basic useful knowledge» among the poorest sections of the population. V. Naumenko, T. Lubenets, O. Andriyashchuk, M. Lysenko, M. Vasylenko, E. Chykalenko, P. Zhytetsky, and others took part in the activity of the Society. The main activity of the organization was the distribution of fiction and non-fiction among the population of the Right Bank of Ukraine. The Library commission has been set up to improve the work in this direction.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Some aspects of the problem of the activity of the Library commission of the Literacy Society were covered in the article by N. and A. Kalenichenko. In particular, the authors paid attention to the history of the foundation and functioning of the library of the Kyiv Literacy Society. Highlighted some aspects of the commission in the development of methodological issues [7].

Besides, in 1999 a monograph by L.D. Berezivska «Educational activity of Kyiv educational societies (second half of XIX-beginning of XX century)» was published. In the monograph, the author widely reveals the activity of the Library commission and its opening of libraries on the Right-bank Ukraine [1].

The history of the founding of public libraries on Podillya was covered in the study «Podillya libraries in the late XIX – early XX century» by O. Zavalnyuk and O. Komarnitsky. In particular, the authors noted that on Podillya the Kyiv Literacy Society opened libraries in the village of Velyki Mechety (April 21, 1906), Tokarivka, Balta County, Oleksandrivka (August 9, 1905), Kapustyany (December 15, 1907), Bratslav County, Stepanovka (October 12, 1901), Vyschi Kropyvny, Haisyn County [8].

Setting Objectives. The purpose of the study is to highlight the features of the Library commission of the Kyiv Literacy Society in the field of literature distribution among the population of the Right-bank Ukraine.

Presenting main material. The establishment and operation of libraries of the Kyiv Literacy Society is the most successful initiative of the organization. The first rural public libraries were opened in the mid-80s of the XIX century. With the resumption of the organization, its activists continued the work. Libraries were opened at the expense of funds that were provided to the Society for this purpose by individuals, sobriety society and guardianship, local authorities, and others. The Literacy Society, for its part, has undertaken to apply to the local authorities for permission to open, select and complete libraries. In all time, the Society had formed about a thousand different libraries. Apparently, there was no province on the Right-bank Ukraine where there would not be a reading room opened at the Society's expense. The organization also paid considerable attention to the libraries in educational institutions.

Activity in the opening of the reading rooms and bookstores was primarily related to the actions of the structural units of the Kyiv Literacy Society, the Library commission in particular, which was created in 1897. But we can safely say that the Library commission existed in previous periods of existence of the Society. However, its activity was mostly sporadic and was not regulated by any approved instructions. Thus, on January 15, 1895, the Library commission reported to the Council of the Literacy Society that 30 student libraries and 10 literacy schools had been created from the book stock. Student libraries consisted of 1,810 books worth 263 krb. 15 kop. Thus, the cost of each library ranged from 6 krb. 60 kop. up to 12 krb. 17 kop. As for the 10 libraries for literacy schools, they were staffed in the amount of 111 krb. 40 kop. and the cost of one library was 11 krb. 4 kop. Student libraries were distributed as follows: 3 libraries together with paintings were transferred to the day shelters for workers children; 7 libraries were intended for sending to public schools of the Ministry of Public Education of Podolsk province; 18 libraries were transferred to similar educational institutions of Kyiv and Volyn provinces; 1 was transferred to the church-parish school of Uman district in the village of Loschevy to the priest V. Radzinovsky, 1 – to the Sunday school in Kyiv at the Tsarskokonstantinovsky Church. As for libraries for literacy schools, 2 were transferred to Mariinsky and

Podilsky orphanages in Kyiv, 2 – to literacy schools of Radomyshl district, and 1 – to literacy school of Kyiv district of Gleva volost in the village of Yurivtsi. The rest of the libraries were intended for schools of literacy of Uman district [6, p. 56].

In 1897, the permanent Library commission was established. To this end, the «Program of the Library Commission of the Kyiv Literacy Society» was developed and approved, which regulated the basic principles of activity and functioning of the Library commission. The main tasks of the commission according to the «Program ...», approved by the Council of the Society on January 29, 1897, were:

- compilation of a systematic catalog of books suitable for public reading;
- formation and mastering of public reading rooms;
- free distribution of books to rural schools, libraries, and other educational institutions [15, p. 15].

The Library commission consisted of: the chairman, his deputy, and one member of the commission appointed by the Council, as well as an unlimited number of other members of the society. A special condition was that the commission must have included representatives of the Council. However, not only members of the society could take part in the activities of the commission. The commission met at least once a month, except for the summer months. All cases were approved by voting, and in order to control the activities of the commission, the Council obliged it to submit for consideration and discussion the summary records of the meetings of the Library commission. However, the constant problem of the commission, as well as the whole Society, was the search for funds. According to the program of activities, the commission existed due to donations, funds allocated by the Council of the Society for the development of librarianship, as well as due to the concerts, lectures, performances, and other events held with the knowledge of the Council of the Society [15, p. 17].

The commission included three representatives of the Society's Council: V. Alexandrovsky, F. Yermeev, and J. Mishin. In total, by the end of the year, the total number of commission members had reached 60 persons. J. Mishin was elected as a chairman. The most important issue of the commission's first year was the search

for funds to establish libraries. Therefore, they decided to hold a theatrical evening, with which they managed to collect 410 krb. 25 kop. In total, the Library commission had 800 krb. at its disposal. (200 of which are donations). Another important issue of the commission's activity was the formation of a list of books most suitable for use in public libraries. Therefore, almost the entire first year of the commission's existence was spent in developing of a catalog of books most suitable for use in public libraries. When discussing the question of how best to solve the problem of compiling a catalog, the members of the commission concluded that it should be divided into separate sections. The following sections were created: 1) fiction; 2) historical; 3) natural history; 4) agricultural; 5) social and legal; 6) geographical; 7) technical; 8) religious and moral [9, p. 24].

Each section selected the necessary books and compiled a review of them according to a standard plan. Thus, it had to contain the format of the book, the number of pages, the price of the publication, the quality of the paper and printing, as well as the motives that guided the section in selecting books. In particular, in 1898, 314 books were reviewed by all sections, of which 142 were on fiction, 96 on natural history, 47 on medicine, 17 on history, and 12 on religious and moral. And not only new books were reviewed, but also editions of previous years. However, due to a large number of new publications, this practice had to be abandoned. As for the books published in previous years, only a short bibliographic index was compiled for them.

The practice of forming libraries to order of various institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, has become positive activities of the Library commission. In particular, in 1898 a request was made from the peace mediator of Ostroh County to form a library for 50 krb., from the Pyriatyn Zemstvo – a request to help buy books for libraries and bookstores for 1450 krb., from the peace mediator of Kaniv County – for 450 krb. for local libraries for the Budaevsky trusteeship of public sobriety [10, p. 33].

However, the formation of libraries and free distribution of books was not done by the whole commission, but only by a specially formed subcommittee, which developed a program of activities of each library following the approval by the Society Council a certain model of the library project. As an example of the activity of the

Library commission, it is possible to give the report on its work for 1903. So, that year 8 libraries named after F. Pavlenkov were opened in Volyn, Podolsk, and Kyiv provinces, in Tripoli library was opened at the expense of Professor S. Ivanov, as well as a library in Kovel with the help of a charitable society. At the same time, eleven libraries previously established by the Kyiv Literacy Society were replenished with new receipts, and books were sent to six cities in the South-Western krai for a total of 54 krb. 78 kop. In total, on January 1, 1907, the Kyiv Literacy Society opened 167 libraries named after F. Pavlenkova, 51 of them in Kyiv province, 80 in Volyn province, 36 in Podil province [3, p. 18].

The library commission also paid great attention to the publication of the collection of reviews «Folk Literature». Its publication took place during 1903-1904, only three issues were published. Despite the lack of publication, this collection became an important manual for library managers and ordinary readers. In 1903, the library commission published 1,000 copies of a collection of reviews of sections of fiction, history, geography, natural history, and medicine under the title «Folk Literature. Collection of reviews of the Library commission K. O. Gr. about books for public reading. Issue. 1». The collection was popular among those who were not indifferent to the spread of the printed word of the population. After all, on January 1, 1904, only 305 copies remained in the warehouse. There was also a small brochure «The List of books» published for free reading-rooms and school libraries costs from 5 krb. In the summer of 1904, due to the huge popularity of the manual, the second edition was published with a total of 1,000 copies [12, c. 77].

In addition to a review of Russian-language literature, huge attention was also paid to the books in Ukrainian. However, this initiative immediately received a response from the government. Thus, by order of the Department of General Affairs of the Ministry of Education of January 10, 1904, «a collection of reviews of the library commission of the Kyiv Literacy Society on books for public reading, due to the placement of the department with a recommendation of works in the Lesser Russian dialect, is not allowed by the Minister for use in libraries» [2, p. 56].

These were not the last attacks by the government on the Library commission. In August 1907, the chairman of the Literacy Society V. Naumenko was fined 100 krb. for refusing to inform the governor of Kyiv who was the editor of the brochure «Review of current popular literature», which contained on pages 5 and 9 reviews of two brochures of Shvedov-Marusin's «In anticipation of the execution» and Lazarev's «How the peasants were given freedom», which were banned for use by the court [5, p. 7].

And still, the Library commission admitted that book reviews are no less important task of the commission than libraries opening: with a huge amount of books it is getting harder to orient between them for those who form libraries and books should be treated with caution due to the large percentage of books without positive characteristics [13, p. 34].

The opening of Sunday schools of the Kyiv Literacy Society raised the necessity of opening new libraries at them. So in 1896 library was formed at the First Sunday school. There were 330 copies in its funds. In 1897-1898 the library was replenished with new items in the amount of 109 copies. The books were selected after a detailed acquaintance with them by teachers and therefore sold out quite slowly. The library was managed by a person specially appointed by the Library commission. After receiving a book from the librarian, each teacher distributed it to her group. 112 students took books from the school library. 880 copies of books were taken in 26 weeks. Accordingly, an average of 1.9 books per student per year. All books were distributed by certain genres: 1) religious and moral – 2%; 2) historical and biographical – 22%; 3) geography and ethnography – 13%; 4) fiction – 62%. After the audit of the library, it turned out that there was a lack of 36 books – 20 on fiction and 16 others [14, p. 22].

The new library was also opened at Sunday school which was located in Kyiv prison. It was formed together with the school in 1899. A year later, the school was closed, and the library, despite the specific living conditions and insufficient staff (3 people), continued its existence [11, p. 10].

Due attention was also paid to the opening of libraries at public schools in the South-Western krai of the Russian Empire. In particular, the trustee of the Kyiv educational district on January 28, 1904, informed the chairman of the Literacy Society that he had received permission from the Minister of Internal Affairs to open public libraries at Trypillsky, Shpolyansky, Brusylovsky, Kyiv provinces, and Andrushevsky, Volyn province rural two-grade schools [2, p. 18].

As of January 1, 1905, there were 41 school libraries: 26 – at ministerial single-grade schools, 7 – at two-grades schools, 3 – at literacy schools, 4 – at church-parish schools, and 1 – at a private Jewish school [7, p. 72].

In 1906, the Library commissions for the first time staffed libraries for two-grade schools of the Ministry of Education: in Korostyshiv, Kyiv province, for 10 krb. 87 kop., as well as in the city of Krasnopil, Volyn province for 11 krb. 04 kop. Besides, they assisted in a two-class parish school in Vyshhorod (Kyiv province), staffed ten libraries for single-class schools of the Ministry of Education of Kyiv, Podil, and Volyn provinces, as well as three libraries for church-parish schools [3, p. 19].

All in all, for the whole time of its existence for the Society's funds and support were formed about one thousand libraries. Moreover, approximately 700 libraries were opened directly by the members of the Society on behalf of the Kyiv Governor F. Trepov, a significant part of the libraries was put into operation at the request of zemstvos and sobriety committees [4, p. 10].

Conclusions. Thus, over the years of its existence, the Library commission has achieved significant success. In particular, under her leadership, members of the organization opened libraries, bookstores, and shops. Besides, collections were prepared, which consisted of reviews of the fiction and scientific literature of the time were prepared for publication and published.

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