

Larysa Levchenko  
(State Archival Service of Ukraine)  
Doctor of historical sciences, Professor, loralewch@gmail.com  
ORCID iD: 0000-0001-9097-7373

## The archival branch of Ukraine from 1917 to 1960: Structural and management reforms

For Ukraine, the period of 2017–2021 is the centennial commemoration of the Ukrainian Revolution (1917–1921) during which the State of Ukraine first appeared on maps of the World<sup>1</sup>. That period in the history of Ukraine was clearly a dynamic one, and included the creation of the National Archival Service and an archival branch of government in general. In the archival historiography of the Soviet period, the dominant belief was that the Ukrainian State Archival Service had been established through Vladimir Lenin's Decree 'On Reorganization and Centralization of Archival Affairs in the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic' (June 1, 1918)<sup>2</sup>. However, modern historians in Ukraine claim that the history of the National Archival Service and the archival branch began in September 1917 after establishing the Library and Archival Division which was a part of the Department of Arts operated under the General Secretariat on Education of the Ukrainian Central

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<sup>1</sup> From November 22, 1917 – the Ukrainian People's Republic was an autonomous part of the Russian Republic; from January 22, 1918 to April 29, 1918 – the Independent State of the Ukrainian People's Republic headed by the Ukrainian Central Council; from April 29, 1918 – to December 14, 1918 – the Ukrainian State (Hetmanate) headed by Hetman Pavlo Skoropadskyi; from December 14, 1918 to November 10, 1920 – the Ukrainian People's Republic, headed by the Directory.

<sup>2</sup> В.К. Нікітін, *Архівне законодавство СРСР і архівна справа в СРСР. Лекція 1. Одеса-Харків 1931*, р. 9; *Ленінський декрет у дії*, [in:] *Архівознавчий збірник*, Київ 1938, р. 3–10; С.Д. Пількевич, *40 років радянського архівного будівництва на Україні*, [in:] *З історії архівного будівництва на Україні. Збірник статей, присвячений 40-річчю радянського архівного будівництва на Україні*, Харків 1958, р. 9; О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні (1917–1973)*, Київ 1975, р. 5.

Council<sup>3</sup>. Frequently recurring reorganizations of the State Archival Service and the archival branch during the last century depended on the Communist Party policy, the reforms of public authorities, and administrative-territorial divisions in the Soviet Union and Independent Ukraine, as well as pervading attitudes to the place and role of archives in society. The reorganizations concerned both the management of the archival branch in general and its internal structure. At the beginning of twenty-first century, the State Archival Service and the archival branch of Ukraine was faced with the possibility of yet another reorganization due to next circle of reforms taking place in Ukraine.

Scientific works devoted to various aspects of archival branch history in Ukraine have been published by M. Dubyk, I. Khomych, V. Kuzmenko, I. Matiash, O. Mitiukov, N. Moskovchenko, R. Pyrih, T. Sebta, D. Shchedryna, A. Chaikovskiy and other Ukrainian authors<sup>4</sup>. The works of these scholars are almost unknown to the world scientific community. Unfortunately, there are

<sup>3</sup> І. Матяш, *Архівна справа в Україні 1917–1921 рр.: особи, події, здобутки*, 'Пам'ятки' 1998, vol. 1, р. 4–10; *Архівна та бібліотечна справа в Україні доби визвольних змагань (1917 – 1921 рр.): Збірник наукових праць*, ред. В.С. Лозицький, Київ 1998, р. 1–276; Г. Борзяк, І. Матяш, *Формування системи архівних установ та розвиток української архівістики*, [in:] *Архівні установи України. Довідник*, vol. 1, Київ 2005, р. 11–25; Л. Андрієвська, *Відзначення 90-річчя створення в Україні системи державних архівних установ*, 'Архіви України' 2008, vol. 1–2(260), січень-квітень, р. 7–12.

<sup>4</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні...*, р. 1–272; *Idem*, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні в 1923–1925 рр. Створення Єдиного державного архівного фонду УРСР*, 'Архіви України' 1974, vol. 3, р. 3–12; *Idem*, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні в 1925–1930 рр. і I-й Всеукраїнський з'їзд архівних працівників*, 'Архіви України' 1974, vol. 4, р. 10–24; *idem*, *60 років архівній справі в Українській РСР*, 'Архіви України' 1978, vol. 3, р. 20–34; *idem*, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні в 1932–1937 рр.*, 'Архіви України' 1975, vol. 1, р. 12–23; *idem*, *Радянське архівне будівництво в західних областях Української РСР*, 'Архіви України' 1979, vol. 5, р. 15–25; В. Кузьменко, *Державні архіви в Україні за роки радянської влади*, 'Український історичний журнал' 1978, vol. 5, р. 53–61; Д.С. Щедрина, *3 історії встановлення і розвитку партійних архівів на Україні*, 'Український історичний журнал' 1978, vol. 5, р. 45–52; Р.Я. Пиріг, *Документальна спадщина Компартії України: проблеми інтеграції в систему державної архівної служби*, 'Константи: Альманах соціальних досліджень' 1996, vol. 2(5), р. 5–10; М. Дубик, *Архівна справа в окупованій Україні* [автореф. дис. ... канд. іст. наук], Київ 1997, р. 1–22; Н. Московченко, *3 історії створення центральних та місцевих архівів України*, 'Студії з архівної справи та документознавства' 2003, vol. 9, р. 7–11; *eadem*, *Правові засади розвитку архівної справи в Україні (1919–1932 рр.)*, 'Студії з архівної справи та документознавства' 2004, vol. 11, р. 5–13; *eadem*, *Розвиток архівної справи в Україні (1919–1932 рр.)* [дисертація канд. іст. наук: НАН України; Інститут української археографії та джерелознавства ім. М. С. Грушевського], Київ 2003, р. 1–176; І. Матяш, *Проекти архівної реформи: основні положення та спроби втілення*, 'Архіви України' 2008, vol. 1–2(260), р. 22–38; Т. Себта, *Крайове управління архівів, бібліотек і музеїв при райхскомісарі України: історичний нарис*, 'Архіви України' 2009, vol. 3–4(264): травень-серпень, р. 111–127; І. Хомич, *Історія архівної справи в Україні у другій половині 1960-х–2010 рр. (історіографія)*, 'Студії з архівної справи та документознавства' 2012, vol. 20, р. 44–50; А.С. Чайковський, *Архівна справа в Україні у 1938–1960 рр.*, 'Архіви України' 2014, vol. 6(294): листопад-грудень, р. 74–91.

still many unexplored fields in the history of the Ukrainian archives, so more in-depth scientific studies and publications are required.

The history of the State Archival Service and the archival branch of Ukraine can be divided into the following periods:

- the pre-revolutionary period until 1917 (archives of ministries and departments; archives of government authorities (for example, the offices of governors) and courts; provincial, city, uyezd and volost self-governing bodies archives; universities and scientific and historical societies archives; private archives; as well as provincial scholarly archival commissions and three historical archives – in Lviv, Kyiv and Kharkiv – which had already functioned on the territory of Ukraine by 1917. At the same time there was no unified archival legislative and any central body to manage these archives;

- 1917–1921 is characterized by attempts to found a central administrative body to manage archival affairs on the territory which was under the control of the Ukrainian authorities as well as by efforts to implement archival reforms in Ukraine. During this period, Soviet archival bodies were also established in Kharkiv and in the provincial centers. The end of this period, and in fact all of the following years until 1938, were marked by the massive destruction of documents created by the instruments of the Russian Empire, as well as compulsory requisitioning and transfer of the most valuable documents to the central archives of Moscow and Leningrad;

- during 1921–1928 the archival branch of Ukraine operated under the New Economic Policy of the Bolsheviks; the Ukrtsentrarkhiv was able to pursue a relatively independent archival policy and protect the interests of Ukraine at the all-USSR level;

- 1929–1938 was marked by the integration of the archival system of Ukraine into the pan-USSR archival system, the strengthening of administrative and command trends in the management of archives, and repressions of archivists. A system of Communist Party archives was formed in parallel to the state archives system;

- during the period from 1938 to the end of the 1960s, the archival branch of Ukraine was subordinated to the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVS, from 1946 – the Ministry of Internal Affairs). At that time, the archives functioned in conditions of increased levels of secrecy. On the eve of the Second World War, the archival branch of the UkrRSR<sup>5</sup> increased due to the addition of archives of Western Ukraine, Bukovina and a part of Bessarabia, but these archives were not fully integrated into the archival system of the UkrRSR

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<sup>5</sup> Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic (*Ukrainska Sotsialistychna Radianska Respublika* (in Ukrainian transliteration), UkrSRR – from March 6–10, 1919 – to 1937), Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (*Ukrainska Radianska Sotsialistychna Respublika* (in Ukrainian transliteration), UkrRSR – after 1937).

before the war. During the Second World War, the archives of Ukraine were only partially evacuated beyond the Urals. Most of the archives remained on Nazi-occupied territory and operated under the Nazi archival administration suffering significantly as a result. In fact, almost all the records created by institutions in the decade before the war were destroyed. By the end of the period, the decision had been made to transfer control of the archival branch to the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR;

- during 1960-1991 the archival branch of the UkrRSR developed rapidly: buildings for archives were erected in some central cities of regions, archival theory and practical methods were improved, international cooperation was initiated. The archival repositories acquired new complexes of historical documents including photographs, audiovisual records, and manuscripts. Much attention was given to the professionalization of archive staff, microfilming of the most valuable archival documents, and creating of archival guidebooks and catalogs;

- the period of Independence (from 1992) in the archival field began with the merger of state and party archival systems into a single unit, the partial transfer of archival fonds from the archives of the Security Service of Ukraine to the state archives, and the adoption of the Law 'On the National Archival Fonds and Archival Institutions' by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Significant steps were taken in expanding of the network of archival institutions (two central archives, ministerial archives and almost 2000 labor archives for the storing of liquidated institutions records were created), improving regulatory and normative functioning in the archival field, creating search aids, introducing information technologies in archives, and developing international cooperation. However, in the second half of the 2000s, the archival branch of Ukraine gradually entered into a crisis and ceased to respond adequately to challenges of our time and society. The reasons for this were the growing political influence on archives, the removal of highly qualified professionals from the management of the State Archival Service, massive downsizing of archival staff (including a reduction in the number of archive staff with special archival education to fewer than 2 % of employees), and the decrease in funding for archives from the State Budget. Today the archival branch of Ukraine has faced the issue of reforming.

Give the above historical outline, the aim of this article is to review changes in the management and the structure of the archival branch in Ukraine from 1917 to 1960.

The Library and Archival Division of the Arts Department of the General Secretariat on Education of the Ukrainian Central Council was headed by Olexander Hrushevskyi (1877-1943) - an outstanding historian, ethnographer and literary critic - who was brother of the President of the Central Council, Mykhailo Hrushevskyi (1866-1934). There were two sections in the Division:

an archival section and a library section. The Division developed a plan to create the National Archives of Ukraine in which records of national value were to be concentrated. In order to register historical records moved from Ukraine to Russia in different periods of Ukrainian history the Division began working on the 'Archival Ukrainika' project and identifying original Ukrainian records and manuscripts held in both Russian state archives and private collections<sup>6</sup>. In their practical activities, the Library and Archival Division focused on establishing links with the provincial scholarly archival commissions in Katerynoslav, Poltava, Tavria, Chernihiv as well as with local organizations of the Ukrainian society 'Prosvita'. The Division sent questionnaires to local archival institutions with the aim of conducting an archival survey; it also attempted to found a central archive for storing records of the liquidated provincial and district agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The prospects for establishing a research institute with a view to archivists training and publishing of the archeographic yearbook 'Pamiatky' were likewise outlined. On January 9, 1918 the Archival and Library Division (by that time its name had been changed frequently) was subordinated to the Arts Department of the Ministry of Public Education of the Ukrainian People's Republic.

On April 29, 1918, Pavlo Skoropadskyi (1873–1945) became the Hetman of Ukraine. After that, the Library and Archival Division was subordinated to the Main Administration of Arts and National Culture of the Ministry of People Education. In the early days of the Hetmanate, the Division had two independent leaders. The Library section was headed by the former leader of the Division, Olexander Hrushevskyi, whilst Vadim Modzalevskyi (1882–1920), a well-known historian from Chernihiv, became the head of the Archival section. On April 12, 1918 V. Modzalevskyi took control of the unified Archival and Library Division. On May 11, 1918 Modzalevskyi's colleague and follower – the noted historian and archivist Prof. Volodymyr Miyakovskyi (1888–1972) – joined the Division. During Modzalevskyi's leadership an apolitical, non-party spirit and orientation toward the national idea became dominant in the Archival and Library Division as well as in archival institutions in general. The Division considered its main task as being to fundamentally reform the archival branch in Ukraine. A draft of archival reforms was proposed by a member of the Archival section, Ivan Kamanin (1850–1921). It was planned that a Main Archival Department, a National Archives (or the Main State Archives), an Archeographic Commission, and an Archaeological Institute would be established in Ukraine. The Main

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<sup>6</sup> The Central State Archives of Supreme Bodies of Power and Government of Ukraine (TsDAVO of Ukraine), Fond (F.) 2581 'People's Ministry of Education of Ukrainian People's Republic, Kyiv, 1917–1918', Opys (Op.) 1, Sprava (Spr.) 12, Arkush (Ark.) 21–22.

State Archives had to concentrate and keep the records of supreme bodies of state power as well as the administrative and judicial agencies whose authorities had been extended to the whole territory of Ukraine. The regional central archives were to be founded in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odessa for storing historical documents and manuscripts for the period up to the end of the eighteenth century. In a well-structured archival network, the provincial concentrated archives would have been positioned at the third level, the county assembled archives – at the fourth. The provincial archives were aimed at keeping and maintaining the historical records of the nineteenth century. The county archives charged with collecting records of local institutions for 25 years and then to hand them over to the provincial archives. In turn, after 50 years of storing them, the provincial archives would to select historical records of national importance and transfer them to the regional archives. Scientific archival commissions, whose tasks included an appraisal of records in provincial, county and rural institutions for transferring them to the provincial and county archives, were to be created as elements of the archive system<sup>7</sup>. On September 18, 1918 V. Modzalevskiy sent the Memorandum on archival reform to the Ministry of People Education; the archival reform was based on the idea of extending public ownership ‘represented on behalf of the Main Administration of Arts and National Culture, the National Archives of the Ukrainian State and provincial archives and commissions’ of archival records of all departments<sup>8</sup>. Realizing the complexity of the potential reform, V. Modzalevskiy suggested establishing a ten-year transition period, during which the archival commissions were to appraise the records in various departments and identify complexes of valuable historical records that would either be deposited in the National Archives or stored in regional or provincial archives. As well as the archival system other changes were proposed and begun. One of the most important was the opening on November 3, 1918, of the Kyiv Archaeological Institute for training future librarians, archivists, and archeologists. The famous historian, Prof. Mytrofan Dovnar-Zapolskyi (1867–1934) became the director of the Institute. Unfortunately, the government of Hetman P. Skoropadskyi did not have the opportunity to implement the planned archival reforms before it’s time in power came to an end. Likewise, the Institute failed, with its students not even able to finish the first semester.

The period of the Hetmanate was also marked by events of extreme importance to the day. The Ukrainian delegation headed by Prof. Sergij Shelukhin (1864–1938), Petro Stebnytskyi (1862–1923), and the Archival Committee

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<sup>7</sup> The Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine (Kyiv), F. 1235 ‘Hrushevskies, 1830–1958’, Op. 1, Spr. 1056, Ark. 81–82.

<sup>8</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 2201 ‘The Ministry of Education of Ukrainian State, Kyiv, 1918–1919’, Op. 4, Spr. 2, Ark. 4.



headed by Petro Kholodnyi (1876–1930) discussed the issue of the repatriation of the Ukrainian archival fonds with the Russian delegation at the peace talks in Brest-Litovsk during May–October 1918. Ukraine demanded repatriation of archival documents belonging to the Ukrainian people which were kept in the Moscow Archives of the Ministry of Justice, the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Archives of the Holy Synod and the Senate, in Rumiantsev and Historical museums in Moscow, the Public Library, and the Library of the Academy of Science and so on. The activity of the Ukrainian archival mission in the negotiations with Russia was unsuccessful, but it was the first time when the world community paid attention to the problem of returning the national archival heritage to Ukraine which the Russian colonial authorities had been seizing and appropriating illegally since the sixteenth century<sup>9</sup>. Russia returned only a small amount of captured historical documentary heritage to Ukraine in the 1920s and from the 1930s the transfer of archival fonds from Ukraine to Russia reached such a large quantity that today millions of Ukrainian documents are still kept in the archives of Russia, and Ukraine has no hope of having them returned.

The next draft of the archival reform was submitted to the Government of the Directory by V. Modzalevskyi on January 11, 1919. In addition to the previously proposed measures, the new project also dealt with the preservation of landlord and private archives<sup>10</sup>.

On January 6, 1919, the Bolsheviks proclaimed the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic in Kharkiv, and on January 29, 1919, they approved the Council of People's Commissars. On February 3, 1919, the All-Ukrainian Committee for Ancient Monuments and Arts Protection (VUKOPYS – in Russian, VUKOPMYS – in Ukrainian transliteration) was created as a part of the People's Commissariat on Education. The Archival and Library Section which operated under the VUKOPYS was founded on February 8, 1919. The famous historian-archivist, a Privatdozent from Kharkiv University Victor Barvinskyi (1885–1940), was the leader of this section until April 1919. After the Bolshevik government had moved from Kharkiv to Kyiv, the Archival section was headed by V. Modzalevskyi. On April 1, 1919, the Council of People's Commissars vested the People's Commissariat on Education with greater powers in the area of historical monuments and artworks. According to the Decree of the Council of People's Commissars dated April 1, 1919, no agencies could destroy their records without the permission of the People's Commissariat

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<sup>9</sup> С.І. Кот, О.О. Нестуля, *Українські культурні цінності в Росії: перша спроба повернення, 1917–1918*, Київ 1996, р. 1–300.

<sup>10</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 3689 'The Main Administration on Arts and National Culture of Ukrainian People's Republic, 1918–1920', Op. 1, Spr. 17, Ark. 2–3.

on Education<sup>11</sup>. Indeed, it is this fact that inspired V. Modzalevskiy to present his new project for archival reform to the Bolshevik government<sup>12</sup>. Firstly, he proposed entrusting the supervision of archival institutions to the VOKOPYS, to establish 'integrated archival fonds', and to create the Central All-Ukrainian Main Archives in Kyiv and provincial and county archives in provincial and county cities. Secondly, V. Modzalevskiy suggested establishing a Central Archival Administration under the People's Commissariat on Education and founding provincial archival offices in provincial centers. These archival organs were to implement the archival reform in the country. It was a new idea, and one that the Bolsheviks warmed to. On July 18, 1919, the People's Commissariat on Education issued the Decree on the reorganization of the Archival section of the VUKOPYS into the Main Archival Administration subordinated to the Out-of-school Division of this Commissariat<sup>13</sup>. In July 1919, V. Modzalevskiy sent the Memorandum on the management of state archives in Ukraine to the People's Commissariat on Education in which he explained how the management on archives should be organized<sup>14</sup>. According to the Memorandum, the People's Commissariat on Education was supposed to determine the main directions of the archival policy and to control the archival institutions' activity in the country. The Director of the All-Ukrainian Archival Fonds was to be assigned to manage the archival branch directly. Simultaneously, the Director was to be the head of the Main Archival Council and to run the Main Archival Administration and the All-Ukrainian Main Archives. Directors of the Provincial Archival Fonds were to be entrusted with governing of the Provincial Archival Offices and the Provincial General Archives; also they were to be heads of the Provincial Archival Councils. Furthermore, V. Modzalevskiy addressed a letter to the Out-of-school Division in which he highlighted the inconsistency of the directives of the People's Commissariat on Education and expressed regret at their failures even in Kyiv, not to mention all of Ukraine.

On July 30, 1919, the staff of the Main Archival Administration started operating, and the employees even were going to receive mandates. V. Modzalevskiy was appointed as the Chief of the Main Archival Administration. However, a Decree on staff reduction was issued, a result of military events: the Bolshevik government prepared to evacuate and the VOKOPYS stopped

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<sup>11</sup> The State Archives of Mykolaiv region (DAMO), F. R-98 'The Mykolaiv provincial division of people education, 1920-1923', Op. 1, Spr. 20, Ark. 101.

<sup>12</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166 'The Ministry of Education of Ukraine, 1917-2000', Op. 1, Spr. 680, Ark. 6-7; TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 1, Spr. 709, Ark. 25-27; TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14 'The Main Archival Administration under the Council of Ministers of Ukrainian RSR, 1918-1993', Op. 1, Spr. 6, Ark. 11-12.

<sup>13</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 1, Spr. 512, Ark. 25.

<sup>14</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 1, Spr. 709, Ark. 22-24.



its activities. On August 11, 1919, V. Modzalevskyi protested against the dismissals. He insisted on non-political and non-party aspects of the Main Archival Administration activity as he had done previously<sup>15</sup>. On August 17, 1919, troops of the Ukrainian People's Republic under the command of Symon Petliura (1879–1926) entered the capital of Ukraine, and the next day the Volunteer Army of General Anton Denikin (1872–1947) appeared in Kyiv as well. The staff of the Main Archival Administration had not left Kyiv together with the Bolsheviks. Moreover, the employees continued their work until October 15, 1919, after which according to an order of the Head of the Kyiv educational district the door of the archival office was sealed and all employees were finally dismissed. V. Modzalevskyi wrote about this fact later:

The fading Archival Administration established in September 1917 under the General Secretariat of Ukraine had different names and eventually became the Main Archival Administration. It was almost exclusively engaged in saving archives which were being destroyed everywhere during the times of ruin and putting in order the items that were saved. So the Archival Administration activity was divided into two parts: the struggle for the preservation of archives and the organizational work aimed at implementing the fundamental archival reform in Ukraine. Of course, it is arguable whether the Archival Administration understood its tasks correctly; whether the principles that formed the basis of its activity were appropriate; whether it was able to separate the primary issues from the secondary ones, and so on. However, there is no doubt that the Archival Administration pursued only archival purposes and its activities were apolitical. Therefore, it is not surprising that this entity seemed useful and necessary to all the governments in Ukraine. The necessity and usefulness of a special body that protects archival materials from destruction in such a tumultuous and chaotic period of history as we have been experiencing were clear to the General Secretariat of the Ukrainian Central Council, the Hetmanate, the Directory, the Soviet powers, and only nowadays has the existence of the Archival Administration been deemed absolutely unnecessary, and been destroyed. Why? Perhaps its nature has changed, life may have regained normality and archives are safe, accommodated, and accessible to every researcher. Unfortunately, that is not true...<sup>16</sup>.

After the Volunteer Army had entered Kyiv the Historical Monuments and Arts Protection Committee began functioning at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences initially and at the University of St. Volodymyr subsequently. The Committee was headed by Prof. M. Dovnar-Zapolskyi. V. Modzalevskyi wrote that the Committee was to take the place of the VUKOPYS, but instead of that it became 'an arena for settling private and national scores'. The member of the Committee Mykhailo Yasynskyi (1862–1935) inspected the

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<sup>15</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 1, Spr. 709, Ark. 28.

<sup>16</sup> The Institute of Manuscript of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, F. XXIX, Spr. 1823, Ark. 1-4.

Archival Administration and prepared a report for the Committee. After the announcement of this report, the Committee decided to liquidate the Archival Administration and to establish the Archives for keeping the records of liquidated state organs.

V. Modzalevskyi and his adherent V. Miyakovskyi were accused of Bolshevism. On this occasion, V. Modzalevskyi said to M. Dovnar-Zapolskyi that he had cooperated with the Bolsheviks himself and therefore he had no right 'to throw stones at us and sling mud at us'. V. Modzalevskyi argued that as the head of the archival branch in Ukraine he had attempted to implement archival reforms, to save archives from the destruction, to look for sources of funding, and to increase the number of archival staff. The Committee created various barriers to this activity, so V. Modzalevskyi was forced to leave the organization. In fact, the Archival Administration's activities were never widened to encompass the whole territory of Ukraine; the climate for the stability-oriented archival reforms was not appropriate because of the political processes taking place in Ukraine, and the war.

Having based itself in Kyiv, the Directory created the Arts and National Culture Main Administration as a part of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Kyiv archives of Ancient Acts at the University of St. Volodymyr, the Kyiv, Poltava, Chernihiv, and Katerynoslav scientific archival commissions were subordinated to this Administration. A Commission headed by Prof. Pylyp Klymenko (1887–1955) was founded with the aim of drafting a Statute on the future National Archives of Ukraine. Another Archival Commission personally headed by the Minister was also established with a special purpose in the Ministry of Education. Its tasks included the appraisal, collection, and preservation of historical documents on the struggle of the Ukrainian people for Independence. The storage for these materials was to be arranged in the Museum-Archives of Ukraine's liberation. The Directory left Kyiv on February 2, 1919, and moved to Vinnytsia. The location of the Directory changed depending on the military situation: Proskuriv (now Chmelnyckyj city), then Rivne, and finally Kamianets-Podilskyi. In July 1919 the activity of the Directory in the archival field was based at the Kamianets-Podilskyi University, the rector of which was the Minister of Education Ivan Ohienko (1882–1972). The staff of the 'educational and research archives' at the University drafted law on archives, tried to establish a network of archival institutions, and a 'graduate archaeological school' for archivists training. Along with the Decrees on the preservation of the archival documents, the Directory made a decision about transferring archival records for reprocessing at paper mills. In this regard on September 24, 1919, the Head of the Book Chamber Yuriy Ivanov-Mezhenko (1892–1969) demanded a stop to the destruction of archival records. After he left Kamianets-Podilskyi, the Preservation Antiquities and Arts Commission (J. Pelenskyi, P. Klymenko, A. Sereda, M. Obidnyi and others) provided care

of archives. Its competence included control over the reprocessing paper mills in particular. The Commission began publishing the 'Ukrainian Antiquities' yearbook, but only one issue was ever printed<sup>17</sup>.

Considering the projects of archival reforms in Ukraine that took place during the period 1917–1920 the doctor of historical sciences Iryna Matiash concluded that their conceptions were the basic theoretical achievement of Ukrainian governmental organs in this period. The authors of reform projects (O. Hrushevskyyi, I. Kamanin, V. Modzalevskyyi, and others) tried to look for optimal models for the State Archival Service in order to save and maintain national archival treasures. As stated above, the projects of archival reforms comprised: the declaration of public ownership of archival records, the centralization of archives management, the creation of a structured network of archival institutions, the concentration of national archival records in the National Archives (the Main State Archives) of Ukraine, the development of a scientific basis for using archival information, and the foundation of an educational system for archivist training. Although none of those projects were implemented, they had a direct impact on the further development of the archival system in modern Ukraine<sup>18</sup>.

In late October 1919, Bolshevik troops launched the offensive actions against Ukraine: on December 12, 1919 they occupied Kharkiv, on December 16, 1919 – Kyiv. The Soviet government renewed its operations in Kharkiv which became the capital of Ukrainian SRR from 1919 until 1934. The Soviet archival 'construction' (the term of Soviet times) began in Ukraine after the Bolshevik power had been established. Among other government agencies, the All-Ukrainian Arts and Antiquities Protection Committee (VUKOPMYS) began working under the ruling People's Commissariat on Education. On January 8, 1920 a meeting of the Archival section of the VUKOPMYS took place on the improvement of the archival sphere. However, the VUKOPMYS did not remain active for long on this matter, and was essentially devoted to its reorganization.

On December 11, 1919, the All-Ukrainian Revolutionary Committee was established and Hrygoriyi Petrovskyyi (1878–1958) became its Head. The Committee issued 'immunity charters' prohibiting requisitions of archival buildings and archival records without its permission<sup>19</sup>. However, on February 7, 1920 the All-Ukrainian Revolutionary Committee established a special agency – the Special All-Ukrainian Archival Commission (OVAK) – to register

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<sup>17</sup> Передача архівів Університету, 12 листопада 1919. Газета «Боротьба», 12 листопада 1919.

<sup>18</sup> І. Матяш, *Проекти архівної реформи...*

<sup>19</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 9, Ark. 4.

archives and supply the paper industry with secondary raw materials<sup>20</sup>. On April 24, 1920, the provincial offices of the OVAK were founded by the Decree 'On the Establishment of Provincial Commissions for Withdrawal and Disposal of Unnecessary Archival Materials'. In such a way, on the one hand, the Bolsheviks solved the problem of the paper crisis. On the other hand, to create a communist society the Bolsheviks needed new Soviet populations with communist consciousness, so they destroyed historical documents of the Imperial period to erase the memory of the past. The Ukrainian scholars and archivists O. Vodolazhchenko and V. Barvinskyi wrote in 1925 that the archival sections under provincial departments on education fought with the provincial organs of the OVAK to preserve archival materials. If archivists did not manage to seize valuable archival records, the OVAK transferred them to recycling paper-mills of the 'South-paper' trust without any appraisal and the archivists' protests were not taken into account<sup>21</sup>. For example, in just the first quarter of 1921 the OVAK organs disposed of 23,441 poods<sup>22</sup> (the equivalent 393,808 kg) of archival materials including 8,820 in the Poltava province, 6,504 in the Katerynoslav province, in the Kharkiv province - 4,483, and in the Kyiv province - 3,634 poods. 13,851 poods were transferred to paper mills for recycling. 9,588 poods consisted of the records which had texts only on one side of each sheet of paper so they were transferred to new soviet organizations to make documents on the blank pieces of paper<sup>23</sup>. In Kherson city the leader of the local OVAK O. Shmatov initiated a program of total utilization of archival records to solve the paper deficit problem, a move the Political Executive Committee approved<sup>24</sup>. The short report about the OVAK activity revealed that 11 provincial organs of the Commission transferred 128,062 poods (2 151 441,6 kg) to the 'South-paper' trust during the winter of 1920 and 1921<sup>25</sup>. It was a tragedy for Ukrainian archives and although the OVAK was liquidated on January 13, 1922<sup>26</sup>, archival records utilization continued until the end of the 1930s.

<sup>20</sup> DAMO, F. R-97 'The Mykolaiv provincial archival commission on withdrawal and utilization of archival materials, 1920-1922', Op. 1, Spr. 3, Ark. 4.

<sup>21</sup> О. Водолажченко, В. Барвінський, *Короткий нарис історії архівної справи на Україні та діяльності Укрцентрархіва за 1924 рік*, 'Архівна справа' 1925, vol. 1, p. 46-47.

<sup>22</sup> 1 pood is the equivalent of 16,8 kg.

<sup>23</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 18, Ark. 10.

<sup>24</sup> О. Макієнко, *Роль Особливої Всеукраїнської архівної комісії та її місцевих інституцій у розвитку архівної справи в регіонах України*, 'Студії з архівної справи та документознавства', vol. 22-23, Київ 2015, p. 39.

<sup>25</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 18, Ark. 1-3.

<sup>26</sup> *О ликвидации деятельности ОВАК, губернских архивных комиссий и архивных секций Губисполкома*, [in:] 'Собрание узаконений и распоряжений Рабоче-Крестьянского Правительства Украины', 1-18 января 1922, vol. 1, p. 21.

On March 9, 1920, the People's Commissariat on Education adopted the 'Interim Regulations on Archival Affairs' according to which all archives – including private archival collections, church and monastery archives were declared public property and transferred under the control of the archival sections of provincial education divisions<sup>27</sup>. One of the first acts which determined the state archival policy in Soviet Ukraine was the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of UkrSRR, dated April 20, 1920, and signed by Chrystian Rakovskyi (1873–1941)<sup>28</sup>. The basic points of the previous act were duplicated in it and based on these acts the archival sections operated in provinces. On April 6, 1921 the All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committee made a decision to establish the Commission on the history of Ukrainian Revolution and Communist Party ('Istpart') which laid the foundations for the Communist Party's archival system<sup>29</sup>.

In Kharkiv, on April 28, 1921, a panel of the People's Commissariat on Education heard a suggestion by the Chief of the VUKOPMYS Levko Kovaliv for extracting the Main Archival Administration from the VUKOPMYS, linking it with the 'Istpart', and creating another panel to manage this entity consisting of an adherent of the Ukrainian Republic's Independence and the cultural Ukrainization in Soviet Ukraine Mykola Skrypnyk (1872–1933), the Deputy People's Commissar on Foreign Affairs Levko Kovaliv (1894–1937) and Stanislaw Kosior (1889–1939)<sup>30</sup>. The next panel, moderated by the Deputy People's Commissar on Education Yan Riappo (1880–1958), was held on August 24, 1921. Yan Riappo was a historian and had been involved in archival affairs since 1917, when he had created an archival commission in Mykolaiv. He signed a decision to approve the Statute, the staff schedule, and the composition of the Main Archival Administration (Holovarkh) panel. M. Skrypnyk was the first Chairman of this panel; his deputy was an outstanding Ukrainian historian and academician, Dmytro Bahalei (1857–1932); members included – scholars Petro Halperin (1902–1988), M. Dovnar-Zapolskyi, and Vasyl Veretennikov (1880–1942)<sup>31</sup>. In addition to the Main Archival Administration in Kharkiv, the central and historical archives, as well as the central archives of revolution, were founded in Kharkiv and Kyiv and the provincial centers of Ukraine. The control over archival affairs in provinces was assumed by provincial archival administrations (gubarkhs) under which provincial

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<sup>27</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 2 'The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 1918–1999', Op. 1, Spr. 591, Ark. 124.

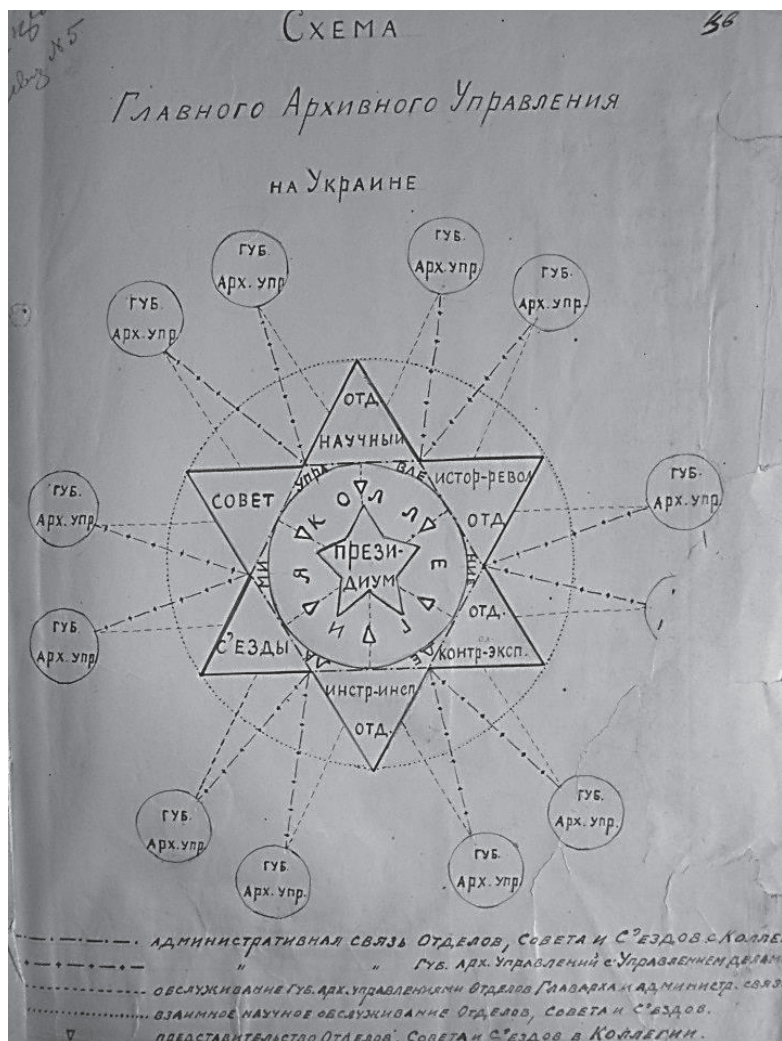
<sup>28</sup> DAMO, F. R-97, Op. 1, Spr. 3, Ark. 6.

<sup>29</sup> *Постанова Всеукраїнського Центрального Виконавчого Комітету 'Положення про комісію при ВУЦВК з історії Української Революції і Комуністичної Партії', [in:] 'Культурне будівництво в Українській РСР', Київ 1959, p. 112–113.*

<sup>30</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 2, Spr. 16, Ark. 22.

<sup>31</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 166, Op. 2, Spr. 16, Ark. 75.





Pattern 1. The scheme of the Main Archival Administration structure  
 (TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 21, Ark. 36)

historical archives and archives of revolution operated<sup>32</sup>. The Holovarkh was entrusted to implement the 'Interim regulations on archival affairs'. It consisted of the following divisions: scientific, historical-revolutionary, instructor-inspectorate, supervisory-operational. The archival sections were liquidated and all their functions were assumed by the gubarkhs, whose temporary compositions (liquidation committees) consisted of former archival

<sup>32</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 22, Ark. 13.



section chairmen and one of their members. The permanent compositions were formed from responsible officials: chairmen, secretaries, and members. The county archival sections came under the control of the gubarkhs<sup>33</sup>.

The Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR 'On the Archives Protection' dated October 31, 1922, proclaimed the creation of the United State Archival Fonds (EDAF). In accordance with it, all archival documents were deemed to be the EDAFs and control over them belonged to the Holovarkh. But there were exceptions to this rule: firstly – the 'Istpart' kept its own records; and secondly – all military documents had to be transferred to the military-scientific archives of the Russian Federation in Moscow. All state organizations had to register their archives, assign record keepers in their offices, and transfer archival records to state archives every three years. The organizations could not destroy their records without permission from the Holovarkh or its local organs. In addition, nobody was allowed to transfer archival documents abroad except the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and in cases of international agreements<sup>34</sup>. Although the principle of archival branch centralization had been to liberate the archives from bureaucratic control, in the 1920s, administrative-supervisory aspects of the centralization were foregrounded, and party and political interests prevailed over scientific ones.

In January 1923, the All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committee (VUTsVK) approved the 'Regulations on the Central Archival Administration', according to which the Holovarkh under the People's Commissariat on Education was reorganized into the Ukrainian Central Archival Administration (Ukrtsentrarkhiv) under the VUTsVK. The Ukrtsentrarkhiv carried out the general management of the archival field in the Republic. The local organs of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv were the gubarkhs, working under Presidium of the Province Executive Committees. The gubarkhs directed the activity of provincial historical archives which were created to store and use local archival materials.

On April 12, 1923, the VUTsVK adopted the Decree on the new division of the territory of the UkrSRR into counties and districts. The further improvement of the administrative-territorial division was connected with the liquidation of provinces which, after the replacement of volosts and uyezds by counties and districts, became unnecessary elements of the local state administration system. The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

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<sup>33</sup> Инструкция Главного Архивного Управления 'О порядке открытия Губархов и ликвидации губернских архивных комиссий и архивных секций Губкомписов', 30 ноября 1921, [in:] 'Пам'ятки', vol. 1, Київ 1998, p. 201–202.

<sup>34</sup> Постанова Ради Народних Комісарів 'Про охорону архівів', [in:] 'Збірник узаконень та розпоряджень Робітничо-Селянського уряду України', 1922, vol. 46, Art. 681.

the Bolsheviks which took place in October 1924 decided to liquidate the provinces and implement the three-level system of governance. On June 3, 1925 the VUTsVK adopted the Decree 'On the Liquidation of Provinces and the Implementation the Three-level System of Governance' according to which the whole territory of Ukraine was divided into 41 counties, 600 districts, more than 10000 rural councils, including 12 national districts and more than 500 national rural councils. The transition to the three-level system of governance required radical reorganization of the network of archival institutions. As such, the gubarkhs were liquidated, and in their place county archival administrations (okrarkhs) were created. In order to liquidate the gubarkhs, temporary archival commissions were established. The gubarkhs had to transfer collected archival documents to historical archives, revolutionary divisions, and repositories of county archives<sup>35</sup>. On June 10, 1925 the Council of People's Commissars approved the structure and the staffing of the Central Archival Administration and county archival administrations. The Revolutionary Central Archives, the Central Historical Archives (Kharkiv and Kyiv branches) and the Ancient Acts Archives were subordinated to the Ukrtsentrarkhiv<sup>36</sup>.

On July 25, 1925, the Ukrtsentrarkhiv approved a special instruction regulating the main activities of okrarkhs. There were three groups of the okrarkhs. The choice of the group depended on the size and importance of the county. The first group was assigned such tasks as: organization and control over archival affairs within the county; management of the county historical archives; preliminary appraisal of the EDAF's documents and transferring them to the Kyiv Central Historical Archives, the Kharkiv Central Historical Archives (depending on distance) and the Kharkiv Central Archives of the Revolution (materials on the history of the Revolution). Under the first group of okrarkhs permanent expert-verification commissions and county historical archives were created. As a rule county historical archives had two divisions: general history and history of the Revolution. Control over archival affairs in the counties, transferring archival materials from organizations to archives, storing records in reserve archival repositories prior to their division into records with permanent terms, and selecting records which could be to destroy belonged to duties of the county archival administrations of the second and third groups. The evaluation of documents in the repositories of the second

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<sup>35</sup> Інструкція Центральної Комісії трьохступеневої системи управління про порядок ліквідації Губерніяльних Архівних Управлінь, [in:] 'Бюлетень Укрцентрархіву', vol. 1-2, Харків 1925, p. 9-11.

<sup>36</sup> О структуре и штатах Центрального Архивного Управления УССР, его учреждений и окружных архивных управлений, [in:] 'Собрание узаконений и распоряжений Рабоче-Крестьянского Правительства Украины', vol. 31, Part 1, 26 июня 1925, Art. 243, p. 455-457.

and third group okrarkhs was carried out by permanent expert-verification commissions of the okrarkhs of the first group<sup>37</sup>.

Because of the changes in the network of archival institutions, on November 4, 1925 the VUTsVK and the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSSR approved new Regulations on the Central Archival Administration of the UkrSSR (Ukrtsentrarkhiv) and its local organs, according to which the Ukrtsentrarkhiv assumed the general management of archival affairs in the Republic, solved problems of record concentration in archival repositories, and organized the publication of archival documents. The Revolutionary Central Archives, Central Historical Archives and the Central Labor Archives (in Kharkiv); and the department of the Central Historical Archives – with two subdivisions ancient acts and historical ones (in Kyiv) were subordinated to the Ukrtsentrarkhiv directly. The new Regulations determined the relationships of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv with the 'Istpart' and the Commission for the Study of the Professional Movement History ('Istprof'). The tasks of these bodies in the fields of identification, systematization and scientific processing of documents were carried out by the archival institutions operating under the Ukrtsentrarkhiv<sup>38</sup>.

On December 16, 1925, the VUTsVK and the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR adopted the Decree 'On the United State Archival Fonds of the Ukrainian SRR' and abolished the Decree 'On the Archives Protection'. The United State Archival Fonds of the UkrSRR was an abstract concept which meant the completed files, documents and correspondence of all liquidated and existing state and public institutions, were kept in the archival repositories of the Central Archival Administration as well as outside them. Military archival documents were one of few exceptions<sup>39</sup>.

At the beginning of 1926, the network of county archival administrations in the UkrSRR was finally completed and the following okrarkhs were created: Artemivsk, Berdychiv, Bila Tserkva, Vinnytsia, Hlukhiv, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhia, Zinovievsk, Izium, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Katerynoslav, Kyiv, Konotop, Korosten, Kremenchuk, Kryvyi Rih, Kupiansk, Lubensk, Luhansk, Mariupol, Melitopol, Mykolaiv, Mohyliv-Podilskyi, Nizhyn, Odesa, Pavlograd, Pervomaisk (Pershotravensk), Poltava, Pryluky, Proskuriv, Stalin, Starobilsk, Sumy, Tulchin, Uman, Kharkiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, Shepetovka, and the Holovarkhiv of Autonomous Moldavian SRR (in Balta).

<sup>37</sup> *Загальна інструкція Окрархам, 25 липня 1925, vol. 1-2, Харків 1925, p. 34-35.*

<sup>38</sup> *Положення про Центральне Архівне Управління УСРР (Укрцентрархів) та його місцеві органи, 4 листопада 1925, [in:] 'Збірник узаконень, розпоряджень і інструкцій в архівній справі', vol. 1, Iss. 2, Харків 1927, p. 8-15.*

<sup>39</sup> *Постановление Всеукраинского Центрального Исполнительного Комитета и Совета Народных Комиссаров УССР 'О Едином Государственном Архивном Фонде УССР', [in:] 'Бюлетень Укрцентрархіва', vol. 1(3), Харків 1926, p. 2-4.*

The historians and archivists, united around the Archeographical Commission of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (VUAN) and headed by M.S. Hrushevskyi (the former President of the Ukrainian Central Council), increasingly felt the party and political pressure on the archives and tried taking steps to decentralize the archival branch management, withdraw archival institutions from the subordination to the VUTsVK, and expand access to archival documents. Under the influence of the Archeographical Commission's point of view, in September 1926 the People's Commissariat on Education presented its own conclusions on the organization of the archival branch in Ukraine and impeached Lenin's Decree of June 1, 1918 'On Reorganization and Centralization of Archival Affairs in the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic' as well as the idea of the archival affair centralization in general. It was noticed that archival institutions had previously been closely joined with research activity.

Subsequently, the People's Commissariat on Education put forward its own project of archival branch reformation consisted of three variants for the archival institutions' management reorganizing. According to the first variant, central archives and krai historical archives in matters of scientific research and technical work were to be subordinated to the Main Department of Science (Ukrnauka) of the People's Commissariat on Education and the Archaeographic Commission of the VUAN. In accordance with the second variant they were to be transmitted to the Ukrnauka, and the only control on archival and administrative work would come from the Ukrtsentrarkhiv. The third variant involved restoring the authority of the People's Commissariat on Education in the archival sphere, as it had been before 1923. In this case, the organizational division of the VUTsVK was to be vested with administrative control over the departmental archives and records management in the People's Commissariats's departments. This project was categorically rejected by the 'Istpart' and the Ukrtsentrarkhiv, and subsequently by the VUTsVK, which called it a hidden attempt by Ukrainian nationalists to break the principle of archival branch centralization that had been enshrined in the Soviet archival legislation and to reduce Soviet state control over archival document use. On May 8-13, 1926, the First All-Ukrainian Congress of Archivists took place in Kharkiv, where party leaders did everything to denounce the tendencies towards the archival management decentralization<sup>40</sup>. Though the old school of Ukrainian historians and archivists had received a damaging blow at the Congress - in March of 1927 the Secretariat of the Central Committee of Communist Party recognized the utility of strengthening the archival organs with Communist Party' members - the influence of this school's representatives was still strong until the beginning of 1930s. At that point, the

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<sup>40</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні в 1925-1930...*, p. 14-15.

Ukrtsentrarkhiv's position was strong enough to object to the creation of the Central Archival Administration of the USSR, and dispute the questions of identifying the fonds of all-Soviet Union value and military archival fonds.

On December 30, 1922, the First Congress of Soviets of the USSR passed the Declaration of the creation of the USSR and the Treaty on the creation of the USSR. The Treaty established the Council of People's Commissars and a few the USSR People's Commissariats, notably: in foreign affairs, military and naval affairs, foreign trade, means of communication, Post and Telegraph, workers' and peasants' inspectorate, labor, foodstuffs, finances and the Supreme Soviet of the People's Economy. Nothing was mentioned about archives in this Treaty, but in 1923 the RSFSR Tsentrarkhiv submitted a draft regulation to the Council of People's Commissars on establishing the Central Archival Administration (the Tsentrarkhiv) of the USSR which was sent to the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR for consideration. On January 26, 1924, the Second Congress of Soviets of the USSR adopted the First Constitution of the Soviet Union. It determined a sphere of matters which belonged to the competences of the Soviet Union's supreme organs of power. Among those competencies was: foreign policy, borders, military forces, transport, and communications, economic planning, war, and peace announcement. Although every Republic had obtained the right to be free from the Union, the USSR started to turn into a highly centralized, unitary state.

On March 28, 1924, the Small Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR issued a decree which stated: '...the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR found it unacceptable to subordinate the Tsentrarkhivs of Soviet Republics to the Central Archival Administration of the USSR, but at the same time had no objection to establishing an archival organ under the Central Executive Committee of the Union which would manage the archival affairs of the People's Commissariats and central entities of the USSR...'<sup>41</sup>.

In May 1925 the accession process of Ukraine to the USSR was completed. However, during the New Economic Policy, the total abolition of Ukrainian people's achievements had not happened yet, and Ukraine tried to save the attributes of statehood. Thus, the previously mentioned First All-Ukrainian Congress of Archivists (1926) adopted a resolution condemning the creation of the Tsentrarkhiv of the USSR<sup>42</sup>. The participants of the Congress suggested convening periodic meetings to coordinate activities of the archives of the

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<sup>41</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 161, Ark. 42.

<sup>42</sup> Резолюція I-го Всеукраїнського з'їзду архівних робітників по докладу М.А. Рубача, *Діяльність Центрального Архівного Управління й чергові завдання архівного будівництва*, [in:] *Бюлетень Укрцентрархіву* 1926, vol. 9-10(11-12), 5 червня, р. 5.

All-Union departments and make decisions on special scientific and archival issues<sup>43</sup>.

In the Tsentrarkhiv of the UkrSRR's conclusion to the next draft regulation on the establishment of the Central Archival Administration of the USSR, – which was submitted by the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs in July 1926 to be considered by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, – there was the following remark:

The question of establishing the Tsentrarkhiv of the USSR is not only a special archival issue, but it is also basically a constitutional one. Art. 1 of the Constitution of the Soviet Union exhaustively defined competencies of the organs of the USSR, but it gave no directives on whether the organs of the USSR are able to regulate archival affairs and determine procedures of transferring and storing archival materials which lost their importance for office activities etc. According to Art. 3 of the Constitution of the USSR every Union Republic carries out the authority on its own excluding the functions determined in the Art. 1 of the Constitution. Consequently, there are no all-Union organs for the management of archival affairs and every Union Republic has its own legislation in the field of archival 'construction'. Thus, the creation of the Tsentrarkhiv of the USSR limits the constitutional rights of the Union Republics<sup>44</sup>.

The draft prepared by the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs was appealed by the Permanent Mission of the UkrSRR on June 26, 1928<sup>45</sup>. The Ukrtsentrarkhiv insisted on the inconsistency of the draft of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the Constitution of the UkrSRR in the Memorandum sent to the Presidium of the VUTsVK on July 3, 1928. The Ukrtsentrarkhiv drafted its own project, which would make it possible to create the Central Archives of the USSR (not the Central Archival Administration of the USSR) and regulate some questions of storing the archival materials of the All-Union organs of power in the archives of the Union Republics. On October 10, 1928, the Ukrtsentrarkhiv's project was sent to the Central Executive Committee of the USSR on behalf of the government of Soviet Ukraine<sup>46</sup>.

As a result, the Central Executive Committee of the USSR decided to create the Central Archival Administration of the USSR, but also agreed to convene an Ad Hoc Committee composed of seven representatives to resolve all the points at issue. The outstanding Marxist historian Mykhailo Pokrovskiy (1868–1932) headed this Committee; Mykhailo Rubatch (1899–1980) as the Chief of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv, represented Ukraine. Representatives from other Union Republics were not included in the Committee.

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<sup>43</sup> В.В. Максакон, *История и организация архивного дела в СССР (1917–1945)*, Москва 1969, p. 228.

<sup>44</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 161, Ark. 43.

<sup>45</sup> Ibidem, Ark. 70.

<sup>46</sup> Ibidem, Ark. 104–105.



The VUTsVK perceived 'too broad an expansion of the concept of archival fonds of all-Union value' as the main disadvantage of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs' draft. The first meeting of the Committee was held on November 24, 1928. On December 8, 1928, M. Rubatch wrote a letter to M. Pokrovskiy in which he raised the issue of the inaccuracy in the Minutes of the meeting and demanded amendments. Soon, a comparative table of the main points of the 'Central Archival Administration Authority Ordinance' was sent to Ukraine. However, only minor amendments were introduced, and the final text was provided according to the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs' draft. The Belarusian and the Transcaucasian Republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) supported Ukraine and proposed their own projects as well<sup>47</sup>. Despite the protests of Union Republics, on April 10, 1929 the Central Executive Committee of the USSR and the Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR approved a mutual Ordinance to create the Central Archival Administration of the USSR<sup>48</sup> in which Art. 2 determined the concept of archival fonds of all-Union value. This concept covered a long abstract list of archival materials, including those belonging to the Congress of Soviets, the Central Executive Committee, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, People's Commissariats, and other all-Union bodies; archival materials of the period of the February revolution of 1917; all materials related to the establishment of Soviet power on the territory of the USSR; as well as documents on the Red Army history and the Civil War; the archives of the central government entities which had functioned until October 1917 and public organizations whose the activities had extended on the whole territory of the state; and all other relevant materials which could have been recognized having an all-Union value in accordance with the decisions of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR. The Central Archival Administration of the USSR had the rights to dispose of them at its discretion<sup>49</sup>. A huge number of valuable historical documents were removed from the territories of the Union Republics to the central archives of the Russian Federation and have still yet to be returned. In 1928–1930, the New Economic Policy was drawing to a close to be replaced by collectivization, industrialization, the dispossession of kulaks, and a search for class enemies. Thus, the period of 1925–1929 was the only one in the history of the Soviet Ukraine archives when they could develop more or less freely. Indeed, Ukraine lost the battle for the independence of its archival branch and the consequences of this were tragic.

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<sup>47</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 161, Ark. 117–124, 130–131.

<sup>48</sup> Постановление от 10 апреля 1929 г. 'О Центральном архивном управлении Союза ССР'. From electronic resources 'Библиотека нормативно-правовых актов Союза Советских Социалистических Республик'. [http://www.libussr.ru/doc\\_ussr/ussr\\_3567.htm](http://www.libussr.ru/doc_ussr/ussr_3567.htm)

<sup>49</sup> Архивное дело. Iss. II(19), Москва 1929, p. 111–112.

In accordance with the 'Regulations on the Party Archives' in May 1928 the Ukrtsentrarkhiv ordered the county archival administrations to accept the Communist Party's archival materials for storing. For this purpose, the Party Sections were formed in the okrarks. They concentrated the archival materials from Party cells, city, county and rural Committees of the Communist Party. The archival documents of former uyezd and provincial Party Committees were transferred to the krai historical archives.

After the Institute of the Party History and the October Revolution which operated under the Central Committee of the Communist Party had been established, in August 1929 the United Party Archives was created as a special unit. It administrated the Party Sections in the historical archives of the counties. Subsequently, the United Party Archives became an independent unit - the Central Party Archives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. The Party Archives were created in all regions under the Regional Committees of the Communist Party. By 1959, Party Archives were already present in all oblasts of the UkrSRR. The Party Archives on the level of oblasts were subordinated to the Regional Committees of the Communist Party, and at the general Republican level - to the Archives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. From 1966 to 1991 the activity of Party Archives and the functioning of the Party Archival Fonds were regulated by the 'Regulations on the Archival Fonds of the Communist Party'.

On January 25, 1928, the VUTsVK and the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SRR adopted the Decree 'On the Central Archival Administration of the Ukrainian SSR (Ukrtsentrarkhiv), the Institutions which are operated under it's, and its Local Organs'<sup>50</sup>. The Ukrtsentrarkhiv was subordinated to the Presidium of the All-Ukrainian Central Executive Committee. The central archives and the krai historical archives were subordinated to the Ukrtsentrarkhiv directly. They based operations upon the Ukrtsentrarkhiv's rules, directives and instructions and received appropriations from the State Budget which the Central Executive Committee had assigned to the Ukrtsentrarkhiv. The Decree for the first time legislatively determined the structure and the profile of central and krai historical archives, including the Central Archives of the Revolution, the Central Historical Archives and the Central Labor Archives (in Kharkiv); the Central Historical Archives and the Central Archives of Ancient Acts (in Kyiv); krai (inter-regional) historical archives in the cities of Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, and Chernihiv. These archives were recognized as scientifically-

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<sup>50</sup> Положення 'Про Центральне Архівне управління УСРР (Укрцентрархів), установи, що є при ньому, та його місцеві органи', [in:] Збірник законень, розпоряджень і інструкцій в архівній справі, Iss. II, Харків 1928, p. 3-16.

organized repositories of archival materials. In such a way for the first time, the scientific nature of archives activity had been emphasized. In order to solve scientific-organizational and archival-technical issues, the permanent councils headed by the chiefs of archives were founded in the central and krai historical archives. The local archival institutions were divided into two groups. The first group included Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Poltava, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Zhytomyr, Artemivsk, Vinnytsia, Kremenchuk, Mykolaiv, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhia okrarks. All other okrarks belonged to the second group. The Decree clarified the composition of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv's Council. It included the department chiefs of archival studies and administrative-organizational activity, the representative of the People's Commissariat on Education, the Chief of the 'Istpart', and the representative of the 'Istprof'.

On April 5, 1930, the VUTsVK and the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR approved the newly revised Decree 'On the United State Archival Fonds of the Ukrainian SRR (EDAF)' which provided the Ukrtsentrarkhiv with the rights of control on the archival divisions of all scientific institutions, museums and libraries in the Republic and the acquisition of their historical documents for storage in the state archives. A 10-year period of record storing in the archives of institutions and organizations was established. This was one of the last independent decisions of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv.

On September 12, 1930, the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR adopted an amendment to Art. 7 of the Decree 'On the United State Archival Fonds of the Ukrainian SRR'. The archival fonds of the All-Union value were placed under the general control of Ukrtsentrarkhiv, but from then on the Ukrtsentrarkhiv was subordinated to the Central Archival Administration of the USSR. The concentration, organization, and use of these archival fonds were carried out by the local archival authorities of the Republic in accordance with the general rules approved by the Central Executive Committee of the USSR.

The formation of administrative divisions of Ukraine (oblasts and districts) began in 1932. Because of it, a new reorganization of the archival institutions' network took place: oblast (region), city, and district archives were created. The new archival network was introduced according to the Decree of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the UkrSRR dated June 20, 1932 'On the Central Archival Administration of the Ukrainian SRR, its Local Organs, and Institutions which are under them'. The Decree determined that the main task of archival institutions was 'the scientific work aimed at servicing the class struggle of the proletariat. In the area of theoretical sciences, in particular, in the field of historical science, this struggle is considered as a fight for the bolshevization of science and educating of broad masses of working people on the basis of historical documents in the spirit of

Marxism Leninism<sup>51</sup>. Thus, central, oblast, and state historical archives were recognized as scientific archival institutions that preserved, systematized, and scientifically used the archival materials of historical value.

The Decree defined the new structure of the apparatus of the Central Archival Administration of the UkrSRR (TsAU of the UkrSRR) and modified the central state archives network. The All-Ukrainian Central Archives of Ancient Acts was created on the basis of the Kharkiv Central Historical Archives; the Kyiv Oblast Historical Archives was founded on the basis of the Kyiv Central Historical Archives; and in September 1931 the All-Ukrainian Central Photo Archives was created.

The Main Archival Administration of the Moldavian ASSR including the Moldavian State Historical Archives, oblast archival administrations operating under presidiums of oblast executive committees; district and city archives, which first appeared in the structure of executive committees of district and city councils, as well as in the general network of archival institutions of Ukraine in 1932, became the local organs of the Central Archival Administration of UkrSRR. The primary efforts of the oblast archival administrations were focused on governing archival 'construction' on the territory of oblasts, districts, or cities including the control of archival affairs in district executive committees, city, or rural councils, state and public institutions, organizations and enterprises etc. Oblast, district, and city archives received appropriations from the local (oblast, city, or district) budgets. These archives started their activities in difficult conditions which can be illustrated with the help of the letter written by the archivist of Bashtanka district (Mykolaiv oblast) Vekla Hanopolska: '...I am a new official servant and I need strong support in my working... the building is going to ruin and soon the ceiling is going to crash down on my head. Everything is very aged, but no money is appropriated from our district budget to build a new house for the district archives...' (March 31, 1938)<sup>52</sup>.

In the 1930's command and repressive methods for archives governing were strengthened. A result of this was the campaign for 'cleaning up' archives (paper campaigns) and archival staff purging. The logical continuation of the course on politicization and subordination of archives to the Communist Party interests became the transition of them under control of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR (NKVS) in 1938. In Stalinist time the NKVS was the main repressive organ in the USSR. In March 1939 the Main Archival Division was created within the structure of the NKVS of the UkrRSR to govern archives in the Republic. In June 1941 it was reorganized

<sup>51</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні в 1925-1930...*

<sup>52</sup> DAMO, F. R-1002 'The Archival Division under Administration of the Executive Committee of the Mykolaiv Oblast Council of People Deputy, 1932-1988', Op. 1, Spr. 11, Ark. 4-5.

into the Archival Department of the NKVS of the UkrRSR and the central archives were subordinated to the Archival Department of the NKVS directly. Respectively the oblast archives were under the control of the chiefs of the NKVS in the oblasts, city and district archives were subordinated to the chiefs of the city and district NKVS. One result of including archives in the NKVS system was strict centralization and secrecy. Moreover, the transferring of archives to the NKVS had a negative impact on the district archives and moreover caused their liquidation in some oblasts. The reason for this was the disinclination of the district authorities to fund those archives which were not subordinated to them. The financial conditions were improved by issuing the Council of People's Commissars' ordinance 'On the transferring state archives, oblast archival divisions, municipal and district archives from local budgets to Republican Budget' (on January 10, 1941)<sup>53</sup>. In 1939-1940 the management of archives in Western Ukraine, Bukovina and a part of Bessarabia was rebuilt upon the model of Soviet archival system<sup>54</sup>.

First of all, the Internal Regulations which characterized by increased control over employees was introduced in the archives. They had no rights to talk to each other during the working day, nor to leave working places without permission of the chiefs, etc. The main prohibition concerned the content of archival documents: 'All data on the number, content as well as places, methods, and conditions of maintaining archival materials which are kept in archival repositories are not subject to disclosure'. Every month, the NKVS administration was provided with information on workers who had violated the requirements of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, dated June 26, 1940 'On the transition to an eight-hour day, a seven-day working week, and the prohibition to employees to leave the workplace at enterprises and in organizations without permission'<sup>55</sup>.

Secondly, the Rules for researchers attending the reading rooms of the state archives were issued and approved by the Chief of the Archival Department of the NKVS of the USSR major Nikitynskyi on September 19, 1941. According to the Rules, a researcher who had finished his work in the reading room was obliged to submit extracts copied out from archival documents during the day to the manager of the reading room. These materials were available to the researcher only after the director's inspection<sup>56</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні (1917–1973....*

<sup>54</sup> Зміцнення командно-адміністративної системи управління архівами та їх підпорядкування НКВС, [in:] 'Архівознавство: Підручник для студентів вищих навчальних закладів' [Під ред. Я. С. Калакура], Київ 1998, p. 50.

<sup>55</sup> ДАМО, Ф. R-1002, Оп. 1, Spr. 14, Ark. 9.

<sup>56</sup> Правила для посетителей читальных залов государственных архивов СССР, 19 сентября 1945 г. ДАМО, the scientific library, Nr. 902-P, 941.

It is a pity to have to write this, but today it is important to recognize that archives were an important factor in the implementation of the Stalinist policies of repression. The archivists were forced to investigate archival documents for operational NKVS purposes, bluntly speaking to search information about persons who had nobleman or merchant origin, worked in state institutions at Imperial times, were prosecutors, judges, policemen, served in gendarmeries, prisons, customs, the Tsar Army, were deputies of city councils, governors, directors of gymnasiums and banks, owners of private industrial and trading enterprises, members of political parties (the Polish party, the United Social Democratic Labour Party, the Bund, the Poale Zion, the Ukrainian National Association, the Monarchists, the Borotbists, the Octobrists, the Trudoviks, the Mensheviks, the Socialist-Revolutionaries, the Anarchists, the members of the Union of the Russian People, and the People's Freedom Party, the Ukrainian Society of 'Prosvita'), as well as the participants of revolts against Soviet power, the White Guardsmen, the Makhnovists, the Trotskyists, the adherents of Petliura and Hetman P. Skoropadskyi, ministers of religious worships, sectarians, foreign colonists, and representatives of foreign governments, etc. The NKVS were provided with information cards on all these people and their relatives. The cards were sent monthly to the Second Division of the NKVS. It was a secret-political department created specifically for the fight against political enemies of the Communist regime. Unfortunately, the author of this article does not possess the data from all the archives of Ukraine, however, 'information about the investigation of archival materials for operational NKVS purposes' obtained in the State Archives of the Mykolaiv region is no less disturbing<sup>57</sup>.

For example, on November 1, 1940 information was sent from this archives to the NKVD for 2,841 persons, December 24, 1940 - for 906, February 4, 1941 - for 125, February 26, 1941 - for 4,550, March 5, 1941 - for 4614, March 22, 1941 - for 4747, April 21, 1941 - for 5120, May 5, 1941 - for 5,254, May 20, 1941 - for 5,311, June 6, 1941 - for 5,683, and June 23, 1941 - for 5,133 persons<sup>58</sup>. The archival fonds which contained information on these individuals were classified and transferred to the security divisions of archives. At the beginning of the Second World War, these fonds were either destroyed or evacuated for further research. To date, no one has yet compared the names on these cards with the names of those ones who died in Stalin's concentration camps. The archivists found themselves among the first who were repressed.

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<sup>57</sup> Типовой список архивных материалов, выделяемых в отделы секретных фондов центральных, республиканских, краевых и областных государственных архивов, Москва 1939, p. 1-5.

<sup>58</sup> DAMO, F. R-1002, Op. 2, Spr. 16, Ark. 1-47; F. R-1002, Op. 2, Spr. 12, Ark. 1-4.



From May 25 to June 1, 1929, the Second Congress of archival workers of the RSFSR was held in Moscow. In that year the Soviet Union celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of J. Stalin (1878–1953) and this event determined to a certain extent the fate of archives and archivists in the USSR. After this Congress, meetings of archivists in the USSR were no longer held. Tetiana Khorkhordina calls 1929 - the year of the 'great turning point' which spearheaded the period of totalitarianism triumph, and which led by 1938 to the transfer of archives to the control of the NKVS. T. Khorkhordina stated that during the decade 1929–1938 a 'militarization' of the archives occurred. The remnants of archivists' scientific independence were annihilated, and a rigid system of their subordination to the party-state dictatorship was established. T. Khorkhordina emphasized that at that Congress 'voices of those who soon were repressed in the course of processes that began in 1930 and finished in 1938–1939 had been heard for the last time'. She concluded that it was a 'Congress of doomed ones'. Even M. Pokrovskiy who was the first Chief of the Tsentrarkhiv of the USSR deplored the creation of this Union-wide archival organ. T. Khorkhordina believed that he had kept in mind the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs which sought to dispose of its archives on its own. Unfortunately, M. Pokrovskiy was the one who played a significant role in the case of the Academy of Sciences (1929–1931) when more than one hundred historians and archivists became the first victims of repressions. In that year J. Stalin compared archivists to 'archival rats', 'putrid liberals', 'frauds-pettifoggers'. It could be said that M. Pokrovskiy was lucky because he died of natural causes in April 1932<sup>59</sup>. The next Chief of the Tsentrarkhiv of the USSR, Jan Berzin, was killed during the Great Purge in August 1938. Despite his arrest, M. Rubach was able to avoid being shot, but the next Chief of the Ukrtsentrarkhiv Semen Semko was killed in 1938. The wave of repressions caused the deaths thousands of scholars, local historians and archivists.

On the eve of the Second World War, on March 29, 1941, the Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR approved the Regulations 'On the State Archival Fonds of the USSR and the Network of the State Archives of the USSR'. The State Archival Fonds was determined as a complex of documents that had scientific, political, and practical values regardless of date, content, appearance, technique, and method of reproduction. The Regulations highlighted the unity of the State Archival Fonds and didn't divide it into the Fonds of the Union Republics<sup>60</sup>. The network of the state archives was not reformed on account of the beginning of the War, and as before it consisted

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<sup>59</sup> Т. Хорхордина, *История Отечества и архивы, 1917–1980-е гг.*, Москва 1994, р. 139, 143, 147, 151, 175–178.

<sup>60</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні (1917–1973...)*, р. 126–127.

of seven central Republican archives including the Central State Historical Archives, the Central Archives of the Revolution, the Central Archives of Labour, the Central Archives of Ancient Acts (in Kharkiv), the Central Archives of Ancient Acts, the Central photocinemaarchives (in Kyiv), and the Central Archives of Ancient Acts (in Lviv). The network of archives also included 23 oblast state archives, 2 military-historical archives, and 21 affiliates of oblast state archives. In districts and cities, there were 746 district archives and 65 city archives. The general length of archival shelves reached to 183831 running meters<sup>61</sup>.

The author of this article does not pay attention to the structure of the archival branch and the work of archives during the Nazi occupation, when the Ukrainian archives were operated under the occupational authorities, firstly because in this context we cannot discuss the subordination of archives to the Ukrainian government in general, and secondly, this topic, as well as the theme of archives work in the conditions of evacuation in the Urals, require special consideration. After the Nazi occupiers were expelled from Kyiv and from some oblasts, on April 23, 1943, the NKVS issued the Instruction to organize the work of organs of the NKVS's Archival Department in the regions of Ukraine freed from Nazi occupation. It defined the main tasks for resuming the work of archives<sup>62</sup>. On August 12, 1943, the NKVS ordered to create the collection of documentary materials on the history of the Great Patriotic War (the term of the Soviet times), as well as the materials of Nazi occupational organs of power. Soon, the special workgroups which collected and examined the documents of the wartime period started activities in the archives of oblast centers and the capital of Ukraine. They helped the Republican Commission that investigated Nazi crimes on the territory of Ukraine<sup>63</sup>. After the Second World War considerable efforts were made to return archival documents removed by the Nazis from occupied regions of Ukraine.

The Archival Department of the NKVS started its operation in the second half of 1943. On December 1, 1943, an order was issued to create the Central State Archives of the October Revolution and Socialistic Construction of the UkrRSR (TsDAZhR of the UkrRSR), and the Central State Historical Archives of the UkrRSR (TsDIA of the UkrRSR), the Central State Archives of cinemaphotophonodocuments of the UkrRSR (in Kyiv). Affiliates of the TsDAZhR of the UkrRSR and the TsDIA of the UkrRSR were established in Kharkiv, and an affiliate of the TsDIA of the UkrRSR was created in Lviv. The archival fonds of the Central State Historical Archives and the Central State Archives of Labour were transferred to the affiliate of the TsDAZhR of

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<sup>61</sup> Ibidem, p. 133.

<sup>62</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 1, Spr. 2335, Ark. 2-6.

<sup>63</sup> TsDAVO of Ukraine, F. 14, Op. 2, Spr. 6, Ark. 12.

the UkrRSR, the fonds of the Central State Archives of the Revolution were conveyed to the TsDIA of the UkrRSR, and the fonds of the central archives of ancient acts of Kyiv, Lviv and Kharkiv were inserted in the fonds' composition of the TsDIA of the UkrRSR and its affiliates in Lviv and Kharkiv<sup>64</sup>. In January 1946 the archival division of the NKVS, the oblast state archives (Uzhhorod) and its affiliate in Mukachevo, 4 city archives, and 13 county archives were created on the territory of Zakarpattia oblast<sup>65</sup>. The oblast state archives renewed working and some of them acquired new buildings. Only 636 of the 828 city and district archives were able to begin working by the end of 1946. The NKVS proposed the idea to liquidate the city and district archive network and establish a state inspector's position to control record-keeping and archival affairs in organizations of cities and districts, but ultimately this idea was not implemented. On July 5, 1946, the conjoint Ordinance to better the accommodation of state archives in the oblasts of the UkrRSR was issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR<sup>66</sup>. It helped to save a great amount of documents and developing archival affairs on the level of cities and districts. In 1954 on the basis of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR the Crimean oblast was transferred to Ukraine, and consequently, the State Archives of Crimean oblast appeared in the structure of the archival network of the UkrRSR. At the same time, the State Archives of the Cherkasy oblast was created on the basis of the affiliate of the State Archives of Kyiv oblast.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR (held in 1956) denounced the personality cult and dictatorship of J. Stalin. The same year the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the Ordinance 'On Measures to Improve the Regime of Storing and Using Archival Materials in Ministries and Departments'. Subsequently, the same ordinance was passed by the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR<sup>67</sup>. It was admitted that the archives in the Republic were in an unsatisfactory state and did not possess the facilities to store documents. Furthermore, access for researchers to documents was too difficult, archivists had no rights to the scientific investigation of archival documents, new technologies had been introduced in archives too slowly, and the authorities had not paid enough attention to archival problems. It was decided to make urgent efforts to improve the archival affairs in the Republic.

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<sup>64</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні (1917-1973...)*, р. 147.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibidem*, р. 154.

<sup>66</sup> Науково-інформаційний бюлетень ФН УРСР, vol. 2(32), 1958, р. 6-7.

<sup>67</sup> Збірник постанов і розпоряджень Уряду Української Радянської Республіки, vol. 7-8, 1956, Art. 73, nr. 408.

On August 13, 1958, the Council of Ministers of the USSR approved the new Regulations 'On the State Archival Fonds of the USSR', in which the scientific-research tasks of central state archives of the USSR, the Union and Autonomous Republics, and state archives of oblasts were highlighted<sup>68</sup>. On the basis of the new regulations, in 1958 the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR approved a new network of state archives in the Republic, but the changes were insignificant. The affiliate of the TsDAZhR of the UkrRSR in Lviv was reorganized into the Central State Historical Archives of the UkrRSR. In Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Sevastopol former municipal archives of varying compositions of documents were reorganized into archives of permanent storage of documents. In the same year, the construction of the archival complex on Solomenska' street in Kyiv was begun. On January 3, 1959, the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR approved the Regulations 'On District and City State Archives with Variable Composition of Documentary Materials'<sup>69</sup>. District and city archives were subordinated to the executive committees of district and city councils, but the methodological management of their activities was entrusted to the archival divisions of the NKVS. During the period of 1956-1960, 407 city and district archives received new or additional facilities and both – the number of employees and budgets of these archives were significantly increased.

In his book 'Soviet archival construction in Ukraine (1917-1973)', O. Mitiukov concluded that despite the considerable improvement of archives state in the Republic during Khrushchev Thaw, further development of archival affairs had been retarded by their subordination to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (formerly – the NKVS). O. Mitiukov emphasized that in the period when the state archives had being subordinated to the NKVS (1938-1960) they had moved away from science, departmental interests had dramatically impacted the activities of archives, the creative nature of the archival work had received no sufficient support<sup>70</sup>. On August 10, 1960, the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR adopted a Decree to delegate the function of archives management from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of UkrRSR to the Archival Administration under the Council of Ministers of the UkrRSR, ushering in a new history of Ukrainian archives.

Thus, in the years 1917-1960, the archives of Ukraine survived in harsh conditions. The Revolution, the loss of national independence, social and economic decline in the interwar period, the Holodomor massacre, Stalinist repressions, the Second World War, political and departmental interests, and changes of the administrative-territorial division all had significant impact

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<sup>68</sup> Собрание Постановлений Правительства Союза Советских Социалистических Республик, vol. 14, 1958, Art. 112.

<sup>69</sup> ЗП УРСР 1959, vol. 1, Art. 4, nr. 20.

<sup>70</sup> О.Г. Мітюков, *Радянське архівне будівництво на Україні (1917-1973...)*, p. 186.

on the formation of the archival branch of Ukraine. It is hard to believe that in those circumstances the archives of Ukraine were able to not only survive but also to develop. Obviously, this development was promoted by the great will of the Ukrainian people to preserve its national history and archival documents, in anticipation of transferring them to future generations.

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Larysa Levchenko

## Sieć archiwów ukraińskich od 1917 do 1960 r.: reformy w strukturze i zarządzaniu

### Streszczenie

Artykuł omawia zmiany w strukturze i zarządzaniu archiwalną siecią Ukrainy w latach 1917–1960. Służba archiwalna i sieć archiwów niepodległej Ukrainy rozpoczęła swoją historię we wrześniu 1917 roku po utworzeniu Oddziału Archiwalno-Bibliotecznego w Departamencie sztuki Sekretariatu Generalnego; jest to data potwierdzona przez wielu ukraińskich uczonych, która pozwala nam stwierdzić, że sieć archiwów Ukrainy ma 100-letnią historię. Zmiany w strukturze sieci archiwalnej i jej kierownictwie zależały od polityki partii komunistycznej, reformy podziału administracyjnego i terytorialnego oraz struktury władz publicznych, a także od ewolucji poglądów na temat roli i miejsca archiwów w społeczeństwie. Historię sieci archiwalnej w latach 1917–1960 można podzielić na następujące etapy: w latach 1917–1921 archiwiści Ukrainy zaproponowali projekt stworzenia scentralizowanej sieci archiwów Ukrainy; w latach 1921–1928 utworzono organy zarządzające archiwami Sowieckiej Ukrainy, które prowadziły stosunkowo niezależną politykę w sferze archiwalnej; dla okresu 1929–1938 charakterystyczna jest walka ukraińskich archiwistów o niezależność od organów archiwalnych RFSSR i ZSRR, włączenie ukraińskich archiwów do systemu archiwów ZSRR, początek represji i przemieszczanie dokumentów z archiwów Ukrainy do centralnych archiwów RSFSR. W omawianym okresie powstała nowoczesna struktura ukraińskiej sieci archiwalnej, podzielona na archiwa centralne, regionalne, okręgowe i miejskie, powstał także system archiwów partyjnych; w latach 1938–1960 archiwa Ukrainy były podporządkowane NKVS (Ministerstwu Spraw Wewnętrznych), dokumenty archiwalne wykorzystywano do celów operacyjnych NKVS, a wielu archiwistów było represjonowanych. Dopiero podczas Odwilży Chruszczowa (1960) archiwa Ukrainy uniezależniły się od NKVS, rozpoczynając nowy etap ich historii.

**Słowa kluczowe:** archiwa na Ukrainie, historia archiwów ukraińskich, reformy archiwalne na Ukrainie, państwowa służba archiwalna Ukrainy

Larysa Levchenko

## **The archival branch of Ukraine from 1917 to 1960: Structural and management reforms**

### **Abstract**

In this article, the changes in the structure and the management of the archival branch of Ukraine during 1917–1960 are considered. The Archival service and archival branch of independent Ukraine began its history in September 1917 after the Library and Archival Division of the Ukrainian Central Council had been established, a date confirmed by a number of Ukrainian scholars, and one that allows us to state that the archival branch of Ukraine has a 100-year history. Changes in the structure of the archival branch and its management depended on the policy of the Communist Party, reforming the administrative and territorial division and public authorities' structure, and also on the evolution of views on the role and place of archives in society. The history of the archival branch during the period of 1917–1960 can be divided into the following stages: in 1917–1921 the archivists of Ukraine proposed projects for the creation of a centralized archival system of Ukraine; in 1921–1928 the organs for governing of the archives of Soviet Ukraine were formed, and conducted a relatively independent policy in the archival sphere; the period of 1929–1938 marked by the struggle of Ukrainian archivists for independence from the archival organs of the RSFSR and the USSR, the integration of the Ukrainian archives into the archival system of the USSR, the beginning of repressions and the removal of documents from the archives of Ukraine to the central archives of the RSFSR. During this period the modern structure of the archival branch of Ukraine was divided into central, regional, district and city archives, and acquired its present framework, and a system of party archives was likewise formed; in 1938–1960 the archives of Ukraine were subordinated to the NKVS (the Ministry of Internal Affairs), archival documents were used for operational NKVS purposes, and many archivists were repressed. Only during the Khrushchev Thaw (1960) were the archives of Ukraine saved from the NKVS and a new stage of their history began.

**Keywords:** archives of Ukraine, history of Ukrainian archives, archival reforms in Ukraine, State Archival Service of Ukraine