

STATE CHERNIVTSI REGION ARCHIVES – DOCUMENTARY TREASURY OF BUKOVYNA

The regional archives of Bukovyna, the first director of which was Professor of Eastern Europe Chair at the Chernivtsi university Volodymyr Milkovych, began their activity on November 1st, 1907. It is the second oldest archival establishment in Ukraine after the Central state historical archives of Ukraine in Lviv. Contemporarily they are a storehouse of ukrainian history documents (one of them dates back to 1418), a treasury of cultural property of Bukovineans.

Self-sacrificing work of Milkovych laid basis for collecting and concentrating in the archives unique documents from the history of Bukovyna and a set of other european countries. As early as in 1908 the archives had in their disposal about 100 documents of XV-XVIIIc., and in 1914 the quantity increased to 500 oldest historical documents, topographic charts and 428 documents of modern time.

With the beginning of World War I the archives actually ceased their activity, as Bukovyna became a battle-field and at the beginning of November 1918 the latter were liquidated alongside with all other state establishments in connexion with the break-down of Austrian-Hungarian empire.

After Bukovyna had joined royal Roumania in 1924 there again raised a question of foundation of archives, but now state Roumanian ones. With this purpose a commission dealing with state archives of Bukovyna in Chernivtsi was formed, consisting of outstanding scientists-historians: Ion Nistor (president of the commission), Simeon Reli (secretary), Teodor Balan, Reimund Kaindl, Vasile Grecu and others. The commission has functioned for almost 14 years, having no status of regional administration of state archives (it was taken only in 1938). But both Simeon Reli and Teodor Balan did all their best for the archives to work and concentrate in their store-houses documents on history of the region.

An important legislative act, which determined the status and tasks of all state archives of Roumania, including that of Chernivtsi, became the law "About establishment of state archives", adopted in Roumania on June 12th, 1925. According to the law all state archives on the territory of the country were under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and were ruled by the General Direction of state archives, with headquarters in Bucharest.

Beginning with 1925 the archivists had been investigating state and communal archives, managed the questions of business papers in state charters of the region, confirmed their nomenclatures of affairs.

In 1930 the premises of the archives, consisting of only 7 rooms, including 4 as store-rooms had 810 piles with documents of austrian administrative and judicial organs, 256 registries of incoming and outgoing correspondence, 208 books with the copies of ancient documents, concerning

the estates and villages of Bukovyna, 1500 historical documents dating to XV-XVIIIc. In the original, copies and translations, 280 topographic charts and 1200 printed issues of the library.

A new historical period of modern state archives of Chernivtsi region began after joining of North Bukovyna and Khotyn district of Bessarabia with Ukrainian republic and formation of Chernivtsi region on August 7th, 1940.

On November 1st, 1940 the Chernivtsi regional historical archives began their activity, which was broken off by the WW II. At the end of 1940 there were 100 tons of scattered papers in the archives. In the first quarter of 1941 47 tons more came. A great work of putting them in order and using for scientific, economic, cultural, educational and informational purposes was made.

The archives renewed their activity in April 1944, at the same time they were renamed as the state archives of Chernivtsi region, and were submitted to the archival administration of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in Chernivtsi region. Their staff at that time amounted to 25 workers. Almost at once they faced several important tasks: collecting archival documents of Austrian and Rumanian periods left in different establishments; returning the documents removed during the war; carrying out scientific and technical processing of the archival funds and creating necessary scientific- informational apparatus; the use of documents for scientific, economic, cultural, educational and informational purposes.

By the end of 1944 there had been renewed all the set of regional state archives (14 district ones) and formed the Chernivtsi city archives.

In June 1960 the archival establishments were removed from under ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs system and transferred to the archival administration at the Soviet of Ministry of UkSSR and regional executive Committees, including that of the archival department of Chernivtsi.

In 1988 the archival department of regional executive committee was abolished and the state archives of Chernivtsi region became governing organ of regional archives.

According to regulations on the state archives of Chernivtsi region, which were confirmed by head of the Chernivtsi regional state administration on February 5th, 2001, № 59 the archives are a structural subdivision of the Chernivtsi regional state administration, accountable to its head and the state archives committee of Ukraine.

Nowadays the state archives in Chernivtsi have 4075 funds with 1473838 paper documents, 1072 cinema documents, 65900 photodocuments, 555 phonodocuments, 1060 registration units for the period between 1418-2003.

The archives contain the documents of establishments, organizations and enterprises having existed on the territory of Northern Bukovyna and the former Khotyn district of Bessarabian region of Russia from 1775 till the period of reunion with UkSSR, and those of Chernivtsi region of Ukraine

(1940-1941, 1944-2001). The list is supplemented by the documents of Roumanian- German occupation period of 1941-1944.

All those invaluable sources on the history of our land, as well as history of Austria, Roumania, Moldova and other countries of Europe are an integral part of national archival fund of Ukraine. The oldest documents of the archives are collections /f.1023, f. 1024/. They have been compiled by both Bukovinean state archives commission and Franz Vikenhauser, a researcher of the history of Bukovyna and date back to XV-XVIIIc., when Bukovyna was a part of Moldavian principality. These documents are the patents of Moldavian powers that be concerning property regulations of monasteries and private individuals to use land, premises and pastures, documents on buying- selling procedures of immovables, determination of collective landowning boundaries, marking off the estates between the inheritors; bills, agreements, certificates reflecting political and economical life, the activity of Orthodox Church in Bukovyna, foundation of monasteries; reports on quarrel investigations between landowners, the nobility patents, testaments, historical, economic and geographical characteristics of villages and towns of Bukovyna; information about relations of our land with other countries, building of towns, fortresses, work of handicraft shops.

On the other hand, these documents are manuscripts and copies in the Old Moldavian and Old Slavonic languages with translation into German and Roumanian. Among the oldest documents of the archives are: the patent copy of Moldavian landlord (1418), concerning the property acknowledgement and boundary determination of the estates Oprysheny and Pryvoloky (German translation from Old Moldavian); a parchment purchase deed privilege of Moldavian prince Petro to Ion Lupu on the village of Cherkanul (1546) written in Cyrillic alphabet. There are also the oldest buying-selling agreements and other materials on the estates of Glyboka, Vasyliv, Yuzhynets, Zhadova, Chunkiv, Shyshkivtsi, Kulivtsi, Zastavna, Tysovets, Bahrynivka, Stavchany (1595, 1625-1629, 1648, 1664-1790), patents on boundary determination of the next inhabited localities of Bukovyna: Zadubrivka, Shyryvtsi, Shyshkivtsi, Novoselytsya. Here one can see as well a historical and geographical description of towns, controlled by Kympolung office administration (1800), materials concerning foundation and functioning of churches on the territory of Bukovyna (1840-1846), patents, purchase deeds and other papers on the villages of Khotyn district (1644-1665), papers of Moldavian landlord Hryhoriy Hika enclosing information about the transfer of some estates to cloisters (1737).

The basic stages of economic and social life development in Bukovyna till the reunion with Ukraine are represented in the documents of mid – XVIIIc. They reflect two historical periods of the region: being a part of Austria (since 1867 Austria-Hungary) (1774-1918) and joining royal Rumania (1918-1940, 1941-1944).

Austrian period funds of establishments, such as Military Administration of Bukovyna (1775-1786), Halych government authorising Bukovyna (1775-1861), Bukovinean regional administration (1786-1853) illuminate public relations in the region, the order of governing Bukovyna (1778-1820), municipal (1826) and rural (1822-1847) communities, the questions of including Bukovyna to Halychyna and its governing (1786), the description of Bukovyna's state borders, administrative – territorial organization: separation of hamlets, formation of independent communities, changing villages into trading towns, the status of population, colonization of the land, giving privileges to colonists, legal status of national minorities. Here belong the questions of estate property, land conflicts investigations, peasants' complaints about increasing corvee, the system of landowning and questions of land usurpation, agriculture, agrarian movement in the 40th of XIXc., peasant rebellion under the guidance of Lukyan Kobylytsya. There are also historical documents concerning Great French revolution, napoleonian wars, numerous Balkan wars, revolutions (1848) in Germany, Austria, France and other countries. Of peculiar interest are lawsuit documents (peasant communities versus landowners) of the end XVIII – mid XIXc. They characterize the precondition of serfdom abolition in Bukovyna.

A lot of papers are those of the funds of Bukovinean regional administration, executive committee of Bukovinean parliament, metropolis of Bukovyna, Chernivtsi city magistracy, regional court and district administrations.

The documents of these funds say about voting to the State House of Austrian Ambassadors, Bukovinean parliament, municipal magistracies and rural administrations, political and administrative reforms (1859-1862, 1910-1912, 1918), administrative-tax division, imposing taxes. Much is said here about foundation and functioning of trading industrial chamber, state of agriculture and industry, opening of factories, rent of enterprises, activity of joint-stock companies and life of working people. The funds contain also the construction statute of Bukovyna, inform about building new high roads, woods protection and the activity of forest corporations. Great attention is paid to organizing of post, telegraph and telephone connexion, constructing and repairing of railways, automobile transport, education (opening and functioning of the beginning schools, gymnasiums, lyceums, vocational schools, university).

Rumanian period funds are rich in papers of Minister-delegate of presidium bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs secretariate, State Minister authorizing Bukovyna, second ministerial directorate of Bukovyna, district prefectures, materials on roumanization of the region, closing of ukrainian schools, interdiction of the Ukrainian language.

Among the rest there are funds of Russian Empire establishments, existed on the territory of Khotyn district of Bessarabian region (1812-1917) and Chernivtsi region of the WW I period (1914-1917). Documents of soviet period (1940-1941, 1941-1944) are represented in the funds of the soviets,

executive committees and their administrations and departments, court units and prosecutor's offices, economic establishments.

Of particular importance are documents concerning nationalization of land, banks, industrial enterprises, trading establishments; collectivization of agriculture, creating of new enterprises, development of science, education and culture.

A separate group of funds of the province government of Bukovyna documents, regional commission on the assistance of german fascists' crimes investigation on the territory of Chernivtsi region, units of Rumanian police and gendarmerie, recollections of the former ghetto and concentration camps prisoners. To this group belong over 10 thousand filtering cases received from National Security Administration of Ukraine in Chernivtsi region and citizens, who were sent by force to work in Germany and Roumania or once being in concentration camps.

Scientific-reference library comprises: 27495 books and booklets, 746 yearly files of magazines, 3530 special issues, 3187 yearly files of newspapers.

Literature of informational character is represented in the library by: encyclopaedias, reference books of administrative-territorial division, address and telephone books, different guide-books. In the library one can be acquainted with legislative, political and local lore studying literature.

Cinema documents have become part of the archives since 1970. The first of this kind is a documentary film "Bukovyna – ukrainian land", shot in 1940. Among filmdocuments there are war chronicles of 1944, chronicles about industrial and agricultural development, development of science and culture, health protection.

First photodocuments appeared in the archives in 1962. They include photonegatives, originals on glass (1910) with the pictures of architectural memorials of Chernivtsi; photos of the participants of national liberation movement of the region, well – known people, writers, artists, actors, honourable citizens of Chernivtsi. Of help here is the system of scientific reference apparatus: fund descriptions, indexes; systematic, geographical, name catalogues, informational card indexes. All in all there are 694362 cards in the catalogues. The archives offer information service and a reading hall. The archivists give consultations and competent help to the users of the reading hall.

To make it public, exhibitions of documents are organized, articles and selections are published, radio and TV programmes take place, seminars, demonstration lessons.

Great work is carried out to fulfil requirements of thematic and socio-legal character received from establishments, organizations, enterprises and individuals.

In reference work just to protect rights and to satisfy social demands of citizens, funds of local boards and administrations are used, not to say

about those of municipal, district and rural soviets, courts, industry enterprises, collective farms.

People show their increasing interest in searching for their family trees, that is why civil status documents are always used when rendering genealogical information. The documents of that kind have been kept in the archives since 1776.

The functioning departments in the state archives of Chernivtsi region are as follows: department of state registration and scientific-informational apparatus; the one of administrative archives completion; departments of information, publication and use of documents; organizational department; sector of provision and retaining of documents and funds.

Nowadays the sources of state regional archives completion are 216 establishments, organizations and enterprises.

According to Ukraine's law "About national archival fund and archival establishments" the state archives of Chernivtsi region authorises archival affairs on the territory of Chernivtsi region and is a regional scientific-methodical centre on the questions of archival affairs.

State archives of Chernivtsi region

Address: Ukraine, 58029, Chernivtsi, Stasyuka st., 20-a.

Director: Zhmundulyak Dmytro Dmytrovych

Deputy director: Vukliyk Svitlana Anatoliivna

Telephones: 57-86-54 (director's reception)

57-37-46 (deputy director)

54-50-01 (information)

email: chernivtsiarhiv@gmail.com

Working hours: every day; Saturday, Sunday – days off

Authors:

Zhmundulyak Dmytro Dmytrovych, Masiyan Nataliya Bogdanivna