

УДК 378.12(477.83)(092)"19"

II 30

Oleh PETRECHKO

**PROFESSOR OF THE LVIV UNIVERSITY
SOLOMON LURIE**

This article is devoted to the work and life of classical philologist, historian-classicist, Professor of the Lviv University Solomon Lurie. The author utilized previously unknown materials from Prof. Lurie private archive which shed the light upon his pedagogic style and scientific work while in Lviv. In the city of Lviv, scientific-pedagogical activity of Solomon Lurie got its «second wind».

Key words: *S. Lurie, professor, Lviv University, Classical Philology ancient history.*

Overview. In February 2015, I. Franko Lviv National University held a scientific conference, dedicated to the work of a famous classical philologist, expert on antiquity, Professor Solomon Lurie. The participants highlighted the significant contributions of the scientist to the formation of postwar Lviv school of classical philology. At the same time, Prof. Lurie was also an outstanding scholar in the field of ancient history, the author of great popular science books for children and youth.

The working life of Prof. Lurie reflects the complicated reality and difficulties faced by any professional involved in the historic science faced during the Soviet era. In researching any topic, a scholar had to keep in mind that the results must not contradict the tenets of Marxism and Leninism or the promulgations of the last Party congress etc. Despite this, many historians of the Soviet period had courage to put

the historical facts in the first place, meticulously interpreting it. High-principled scientific and public positions could (and did) cause trouble and hardships both for the scientist's professional and daily life. Prof. Lurie, leading a modest life, but being uncompromising in public appearances (oral or literary) [14, 3], had to battle a myriad of accusations of real and imaginary «sins». Although he was not arrested, he was forced to move from one job to another. I. Franko Lviv State University was the last place of employment for the scientist. The foregoing hardly stimulated his scientific and educational work but Prof. Lurie's scientific achievements ranked him among the leading experts on antiquity and classical philology of the twentieth century.

Analysis of the recent research and publications. Scientific achievements of Prof. Lurie and his life are discussed in a number of publications [1; 2; 3; 6; 8; 13; 16; 17]. Yet, the scientific heritage of the scientist has not been explored fully. In particular, some of the researchers rate Prof. Lurie's monograph «Anti-Semitism in the ancient world» [10] as «important», while others do not mention it at all [15]. Detailed discussions regarding this work had place in the Russian-language historiography, whereas in the Western world it remains virtually unknown [9, 11]. Analysis of historiography shows that there are significant gaps in the study of the researcher's Ukrainian period, in particular his Lviv-period. Professor Eduard Frolov's monograph rather amply investigates Lurie's scientific activities in Leningrad. However, his life in Ukraine is described briefly: Prof. Lurie «got a job in Odessa, in the local Institute of Foreign Languages (1950 – 1952 years), and later in Lviv, where he finally got the position in his main specialty. From 1953 and until his death (30 October 1964), he was a professor of the department of classical philology in Lviv University, which, thus became his new, after Leningrad, scientific harbor» [13, 458]. The separate sources of information about his work at the I. Franko Lviv State University can be found in the Ukrainian historiography. The authors of the article «Classical Philology at Lviv University (1946 – 2013)» note that during his Lviv period (1953 – 1964 years), the scientific work of Prof. Lurie was flourishing. During that time, he

publishes such fundamental works as «Unchangeable words functioning as a predicate, in the Indo-European languages» (1955), «Language and culture of Mycenaean Greece» (1957), «Fundamentals of historical phonetics of the Greek language» (1961). It is emphasized that «for the first time in the Soviet Union, a seminar on Mycenaean Greece was held under the leadership of Prof. Lurie» [4, 341]. Therefore, scientific heritage and life of Solomon Lurie, especially his Ukrainian period, require further research.

The aim of the research is to trace the life and scientific-pedagogical activity of Prof. Lurie during his Lviv period of life.

S. Lurie was born in Mogilev (Belarus) on December 25, 1890, according to the Julian calendar, or January 8, 1891 according to the Gregorian calendar. In his personal employment application to the Lviv University, Solomon Lurie stated year 1890 as the year of birth [I, file 8014, p. 7]. His father was a doctor and his mother was a housewife. In 1909 – 1913, upon graduating with the highest honors from high school in Mogilev, S. Lurie studies at the classical department of History and Philology Faculty of the Imperial St. Petersburg University. As a student, he publishes two scientific articles in «ЖМНП» [I, file 8014, p. 11], although in the list of works by S. Lurie there is only one work for the year 1913 [12, 231]. In 1911 – 1913 the young researcher prepared a monograph «Boeotian League». It was the volume of almost 600 pages, for which he received a gold medal from university [11, 31 – 32]. The work was published in 1914. After graduation S. Lurie stays at the university with the prospect of getting a professorial position. In 1917 he passes an examination for master's degree and gets a job in the Archive of revolution. In 1918 – 1920, S. Lurie works as a professor of Samara University, where he teaches courses on ancient authors, literature and history. In 1920 he returns to Petrograd and in 1921 he gets a job in the 1st Higher Pedagogical Institute and later at university. Since 1922, S. Lurie works as an assistant professor, and since 1927 – as a professor. In 1929 the reorganization of the university led to his dismissal due to «the lack of work» and his transition to a position of a senior scientist researcher of the Institute for Language Culture. In

1933 – 1935, Solomon Lurie works at the Institute of History of Science and Technology. After the restoration of historical faculty at Leningrad University, S. Lurie was invited there for a professor's position and in 1940 he headed the department of ancient history.

In 1941, he managed to leave Leningrad before the blockade and was taken on the professor position in Irkutsk University. In 1943, S. Lurie returned on the position of professor and the head of the ancient history department at Leningrad University, which, until the lifting of the blockade, was temporarily located in Saratov. There S. Lurie successfully defended his thesis for Doctor of Philology degree (Higher Attestation Commission decision from 30 September 1944). From 1940 to 1949, he also, held the second job as a senior research officer at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He worked at Leningrad University until 1949, first at the Historical Faculty and later at the Faculty of Philology.

In 1949, S. Lurie was dismissed from the positions at the Academy of Sciences and at University. The reason was the charges with «errors of objectivistic nature» [I, file 8014, p. 11, reverse side]. Due to the efforts of the President of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, S.I. Vavilov, S. Lurie returned to work at the Academy of Sciences, but for a short time. Eventually, S. Lurie, deprived of his favorite work in Leningrad, moves to Odessa (1950). There he gets the post of Professor and the Head of Department at the Institute of Foreign Languages. As of November 26, 1951, he was registered in Odesa, Podbielski Street 37 (today, Koblevska Street), apartment 3 [I, file 8014, p. 15]. But, in Odessa S. Lurie did not work for long either. At the end of 1952, due to the exacerbation of hypertension, he had to retire. S. Lurie received academic pension and in early 1953 he returned to Leningrad.

Despite the health improvement and certain changes in the socio-political life after the death of Stalin, Professor S. Lurie was aware of the lack of prospects for his return to research and teaching at Leningrad University. On June 11, 1953, Solomon Lurie learned about the announced vacancy at Lviv University and the same day he wrote a letter asking to allow him to apply for the position of the head of department or

professor's position of Philological Faculty. The application ends with the post scriptum with the reference to the Order of the Minister of Higher Education of the USSR from 3 October 1949 which allowed pensioners to enter the academic staff positions with the suspension of pension payments [I, file 8014, p. 3, reverse side]. Positive references by academician Ivan I. Tolstoy, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Peter V. Ernshtedt and the late president of the Academy of Sciences Sergei I. Vavilov were attached to the application. In a reference dated 1950, Prof. P. Ernshtedt identifies Solomon Lurie as «the most prominent representative of the science of the history of Greece in the USSR» [I, file 8014, addendum № 8].

On August 17, 1953, Rector of LNU appealed to the rector of Leningrad State University with a request to clarify the reason for dismissal of Professor Lurie on July 1, 1949. Another inquiry was addressed to the Director of Odessa State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages with a request to send a reference of Professor Lurie [I, file 8014, p. 18, 19]. Extract from the rector's order, which came from Leningrad, stated that Prof. Lurie was discharged due to significant errors in the scientific and educational work [I, file 8014, p. 33]. In the reference sent from Odessa it was stated that professor Lurie left his job at the Institute of Foreign Languages unsolicited [I, file 8014, p. 35].

Solomon Y. Lurie was appointed to the post of professor of the department of classical philology on September 1, 1953 with a salary of 5,500 rubles per month [I, p. 1]. In Lviv, he lived at the address Kotovskogo (today Dontsov) Street 4, apartment 5-A. Above we have cited opinions of Ukrainian historiography about the flourishing scientific work of Prof. Lurie during his Lviv period of life (1953 – 1964). Indeed, at Lviv University, research and teaching activities of Solomon Lurie got a «second wind». In the list of Prof. Lurie's publications for 1949 – 1953 only two works are mentioned: an article in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia under the slogan «Archimedes» (1950) and translation of the Latin treatise Epinus (1951) [I, file 8014, p. 26]. But after 1953, scientific articles and monographs of the

scientist were published regularly [12, 234 – 236]. Professor Lurie was assigned to teach a course of the Greek language history, a special course on ancient Achaean dialect and a course on history of ancient mathematics at the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics. In Lviv local libraries there was not enough literature necessary to prepare the aforementioned courses «at the appropriate scientific level». Given the foregoing, Prof. Lurie undertook a scientific mission to Moscow from 01.14 to 07.02.1954 p. [I, file 8014, p. 38, 39]. This trip, like many others, was granted «without payment of expenditure» [I, file 8014, p. 39, 42, 47, 48, 50, etc.]. Expenses were covered by Prof. Lurie or at the cost of inviting party [I, file 8014, p. 36, 56]. In some cases, one could expect to be paid for the travel expenses [I, file 8014, p. 98]. On May 27, 1955 Professor Lurie was re-elected to the post of the professor of classical philology. Solomon Lurie did not take part in voting for his candidature, although he was a member of the University Board [I, file 8014, p. 62].

On June 5, 1957, a decree of the Council of Ministers «On payment of science workers» was issued. It introduced additional payments for the scientific degree for those who worked at a factory. Salaries of managers of all levels were substantially decreased. The salary of junior and senior researchers remained almost unchanged [5, 25]. Instead, the new salary of the professor of the classical philology department S. Lurie was 4500 rubles [I, file 8014, p. 104].

In the book, published in Russian in Paris in 1987, «The Story of One Life,» the author tells about a negative reference by the head of the department, Michael Bilyk, which professor S. Lurie needed for submission to the contest in Moscow University or for a trip abroad [7, 227 – 228]. This story is not quite accurate. In a statement addressed to the Rector on April 25, 1958, Solomon Lurie asks for a reference from his place of work for submission to the Writers Union regarding his admission as a Union member [I, file 8014, p. 113]. In Prof. Lurie's personal file, an undated characteristic is stored. It contains an amendment and is signed by the dean and the secretary of the party bureau of the Faculty of Foreign Languages. After the introduction, the courses,

taught by prof. S. Lurie, are specified. It also states that in the years 1956/1957 he traveled with students for practical training to the archaeological sites on the Black Sea. Reference also mentions that he supervised diploma and course papers. It was noted that S. Lurie gives lectures and workshops at appropriate scientific and theoretical level. The next sentence is blotted out, but it can be read: «But the ideological level of lectures not always meets the requirements of the Soviet university». Further it is said: «Professor S. Lurie works productively and intensively on scientific works, he wrote a large number of papers and monographs on classical philology». In the next paragraph, the lack of participation in ideological education and social work of department, faculty and university are mentioned. The conclusion is, that the «passive attitude of professor S. Lurie to the socio-political and pedagogical activities of the department and the faculty does not contribute to the ideological education of students».

In the last sentence we read: «Reference is issued for submission in the Union of Soviet Writers, to get a sanatorium permit» the second part after the comma is crossed out, and the comma at the end is changed into a period. [I, file 8014, p. 111]. Based on this, there was made a reference, dated May 6, on behalf of the rector and the secretary of the Party Committee of university. The final text is dated 8 May. It is clarified there that «Reference is issued for submission at the Writers' Union for member election» [I, file 8014, p. 112, 115].

These were not the only reasons that hindered professor from realization of his scientific and personal plans. Solomon Lurie also had to take into account his health. His examination in the therapeutic part of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR was held by a senior researcher of the Academy, a PhD in Medicine, Iryna Ganelin, the wife of his son Jacob. The conclusion of the doctors that the combination of normal teaching load and scientific work was strictly contraindicated for Professor S. Lurie. As a result, on 3 July 1958 Solomon Lurie wrote a resignation to the Rector. He asked to be dismissed from full-time work at Lviv University, which would allow him to retire once again [I, file 8014, p. 118].

However, already in the late summer of 1958, Professor S. Lurie returned to full-time position as a professor of the department of Classical Philology [I, file 8014, p. 121]. Apparently, it was difficult for him to stay without his beloved work, and the department had no equivolent replacement. On June 20, 1960, he was once again elected to the post of professor of Classical Philology. Submitted reference mentions his distinguished scholarship, originality and freshness of the research. There is no mention of the ideological level of lectures, participation in social, political and educational activities of the department and faculty [I, file 8014, p. 135 – 138]. Minutes of the election commission of the University board meeting recorded 40 ballots marked «agree» and 3 ballots marked «disagree».

In early January 1961, Y. Solomon received a formal gratitude which was included into his personal file on the occasion of the 70th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of his scientific and educational activities [I, file 8014, p. 144]. Professor received wishes of further success in teaching and scientific work and good health. Indeed, his health condition remained far from perfect. From 19 to 29 March 1961 Prof. Lurie was on a sick-leave because of severe hypertension [I, file 8014, p. 150 – 154]. In late December 1962, he left for Leningrad for treatment. He was given a sick leave December 20, 1962. Solomon Lurie came back to work only 6 February 1963 [I, file 8014, p. 158 – 163].

On September 11, 1963, Prof. Lurie submitted an application to the rector, asking to appoint him to the post of assistant professor. This would gave him the right to perform only half of the prescribed for the full-time professor duties. The reason for this request was the health condition. Resolution on the application consisted of two points: 1. Transfer to the post of assistant professor; 2. Express gratitude for the longstanding conscientious work [I, file. 8014, p. 167]. In September 1964 S. Lurie's health significantly deteriorated. On September 18, 1964, he did not come to work [I, file 8014, p. 174]. On October 30, after a serious illness, Solomon Lurie passed away.

Summarizing, we shall state the following: Professor S. Lurie made a significant contribution to the development of the department of Classical

Philology of I. Franko Lviv University. In the city of Lviv, scientific-pedagogical activity of Solomon Lurie got its «second wind». There is no doubt that the atmosphere of the city was a significant incentive for his scientific and educational achievements. Lviv is the city where the cultural traditions of Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Russians and Armenians are intertwined, and is the place of the important part of Professor Solomon Lurie's scientific and educational heritage.

A promising line for further research of the problem is the study of life and scientific-pedagogical activity of Prof. Lurie during his life in Odessa.

Bibliography

I. LNU Archive, file 8014.

1. Амусин И.Д., Ботвинник М.Н., Глускина Л.М. Памяти учителя / И.Д. Амусин, М.Н. Ботвинник, Л.М. Глускина // ВДИ. – 1965. – № 1. – С. 228 – 230.

2. Боровский Я.М. Соломон Яковлевич Лурье : К семидесятилетию со дня рождения / Я.М. Боровский // Opera philologica : сборник / Я.М. Боровский ; ред.: А.К. Гаврилов, В.В. Зельченко, Т.В. Шабурин. – СПб. : Дмитрий Буланин, 2009. – С. 398 – 402.

3. Гаврилов А.К. С.Я. Лурье и У. фон Виламовиц-Меллендорф : История заочного сотрудничества / А.К. Гаврилов // А.К. Гаврилов. О филологах и филологии : Статьи и выступления разных лет / А.К. Гаврилов ; отв. ред. О.В. Бударагина, А.Л. Верлинский, Д.В. Кейер. – СПб. : Изд-во С.-Петербург. ун-та, 2011. – С. 122 – 143.

4. Домбровський Р., Чернюх Б. Класична філологія у Львівському університеті (1946 – 2013) / Р. Домбровський, Б. Чернюх // Вісник Львівського університету. Серія історична. – 2013. – Випуск 49. – С. 340 – 349.

5. Зезина М.Р. Материальное стимулирование научного труда в СССР. 1945 – 1985 / М.Р. Зезина // Вестник РАН. – 1997. – № 1. – Т. 67. – С. 21 – 27.

6. К 70-летию профессора С.Я. Лурье. (Эллинист) // ВДИ. – 1960. – № 4. – С. 196 – 204.

7. Копржива-Лурье Б.Я. История одной жизни / Б.Я. Копржива-Лурье. – «Paris» : «Atheneum», 1987. – 267 с.

8. Лебедева Е.В. Научная деятельность С.Я. Лурье в Самарском государственном университете, 1918 – 1921 гг. / Е.В. Лебедева // Вестник Волжского университета им. В.Н. Татищева. Серия «История». Вып. 2. – Тольятти, 2000. – С. 226 – 234.

9. Левинская И.А. Предисловие / И.А. Левинская // Лурье С. Антисемитизм в древнем мире. попытки объяснения его в науке и его причины / С. Лурье. – 2-е изд., испр. и доп. автором. – Москва; Иерусалим : Мосты культуры: Гешарим, 2009. – С. 9 – 42.

10. Лурье С. Антисемитизм в древнем мире. Попытки объяснения его в науке и его причины / С. Лурье. – 2-е изд., испр. и доп. автором. – Москва; Иерусалим : Мосты культуры: Гешарим, 2009. – 396 с.

11. Протоколы засѣданій Совѣта Императорскаго С.-Петербургскаго Университета за 1913 годъ. № 69. – Петроградъ : Типографія Б.М. Вольфа, 1915. – 230 с.

12. Список трудов С.Я. Лурье // ВДИ. – 1965. – № 1. – С. 231 – 236.

13. Фролов Э.Д. Русская наука об античности (историографические очерки). – СПб. : Изд-во С.-Пб. ун-та. – 1999. – С. 452 – 477.

14. Фролов Э.Д. Тернистый путь ученого : С.Я. Лурье и его «История Греции» / Э.Д. Фролов // Лурье С.Я. История Греции / С.Я. Лурье ; сост., авт. вступ. статьи Э.Д. Фролов. – СПб. : Издательство С.-Петербургского ун-та, 1993. – С. 3 – 24.

15. Baumgarten A.I. Elias Bickerman as a historian of the Jews : a twentieth century tale / A.I. Baumgarten. – Tübingen : Mohr Siebeck, 2010. – 377 p.

16. Nadel B. Professor Solomon Luria / B. Nadel // Meander. – 1965. – № 6. – P. 209 – 225.

17. Vitz-Margulis B. Solomon Luria and his Contribution to the Study of Antiquity / B. Vitz-Margulis // Scripta classica israelica. – 2003. – № 22. – P. 273 – 276.

Петречко Олег. Професор Львівського університету Соломон Якович Лур'є. Розглянуто трудовий та науковий шлях філолога-класика, історика-антикознавця, професора Львівського університету Соломона Лур'є. На основі аналізу документів із особової справи С. Лур'є, що зберігається в архіві Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка, простежено львівський період його життя, науково-педагогічну діяльність. У Львові науково-педагогічна діяльність професора Лур'є отримала «друге дихання».

Ключові слова: С. Лур'є, професор, Львівський університет, класична філологія, антикознавство.

Петречко Олег. Професор Львовского университета Соломон Яковлевич Лурье. Рассмотрен трудовой и научный путь филолога-классициста, антиковеда, профессора ого университета

Соломона Лурье. На основе анализа документов из личного дела С. Лурье, хранящегося в архиве Львовского национального университета имени Ивана Франко, исследован львовский период его жизни, научно-педагогическая деятельность этого времени. Во Львове научно-педагогическая деятельность профессора Лурье получила «второе дыхание»

Ключевые слова: С. Лурье, профессор, Львовский университет, классическая филология, антиковедение.