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Viktoriya TELVAK

Candidate of Historical Sciences, Assistant Professor, Department of World History and Special Historical Disciplines, Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University, 24, Ivan Franko Str., Drohobych, Ukraine, postal code 82100 (viktoriatelvak75@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4671-743X>

Researcher ID: <https://publons.com/researcher/3026747/viktoriya-telvak/>

Vitalii TELVAK

PhD hab. (History), Professor at Department of World History and Special Historical Disciplines, Ivan Franko Drohobych State Pedagogical University, 24 Ivan Franko Street, Drohobych, Ukraine, postal code 82100 (telvak1@yahoo.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2445-968X>

Researcher ID: X-5320-2018

Fadey YATSENYUK

PhD in History, Associate Professor, Department of History of Ukraine, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, 2 Mykhailo Kotsyubinsky Street, Chernivtsi, Ukraine, postal code 58000 (fadey2010@ukr.net)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2054-9805>

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DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF THEORY AND METHODOLOGY ON THE PAGES „KWARTALNIKA HISTORYCZNEGO” BEFORE 1914

The purpose of the article – to find out the peculiarities of the discussion of theoretical and methodological issues by the authors of the «Kwartalnik Historyczny» journal during the first period of its existence (before 1914). The methodological basis of the work is an interdisciplinary approach with particular emphasis on the structural-functional systematic analysis of historiographical facts and the comparative-historical method, based on the principles of objectivity and historicism. The scientific novelty of the article lies in the study of a little-known problem of moderation by magazine editors «Kwartalnik Historyczny» theoretical and methodological discussions at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Conclusions. In conclusion, we note that “KH” appears as a true laboratory of Polish theoretical and methodological thought of the late 19th – early 20th centuries. The focus of theoretical reflections of the magazine’s authors was on the issue of defending Polish historical interest while portraying the key events of the past of Central and Eastern Europe. Polish intellectuals depended on prescribing in the historical discourse of the time an idealized image of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a powerful European state, which was famous for its democratic system and tolerant attitude towards its national minorities. The authors of the magazine explained the decline of the state exclusively by the fact of external aggression. In the field of methodology of historical knowledge, thanks to the publication’s openness to representatives of various historical schools and directions, the presence of many cognitive constructs is noticeable on its pages – from classic positivist to modern ones in the style of Karl Lamprecht’s cultural-historical direction. The leading feature of the periodical of the pre-war period was empiricism, which came to Lviv scholars from the German historiographical tradition, to which the founders of the periodical appealed as a model. The consequence of this empiricism was theoretical skepticism, which consisted in an extremely cautious attitude towards both classical methodological techniques and the latest epistemological models. The demonstrated theoretical openness and content universality of “KH” allow us to attest that the journal is the mouthpiece of the entire Polish historical science of the modernist era.

Key words: “Kwartalnik Historyczny”, Polish historiography, problems of theory and methodology, scientific press, reception.

Вікторія ТЕЛЬВАК

кандидат історичних наук, доцент кафедри всесвітньої історії та спеціальних історичних дисциплін, Дрогобицький державний педагогічний університет, вул. Івана Франка, 24, м. Дрогобич, Україна, індекс 82100 (viktoriateltvak75@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4671-743X>

Researcher ID: <https://publons.com/researcher/3026747/viktoria-teltvak/>

Віталій ТЕЛЬВАК

доктор історичних наук, професор кафедри всесвітньої історії та спеціальних історичних дисциплін Дрогобицького державного педагогічного університету, вул. Івана Франка, 24, м. Дрогобич, Україна, 82100 (teltvak1@yahoo.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2445-968X>

Researcher ID: X-5320-2018

Фадей ЯЦЕНЮК

кандидат історичних наук, доцент кафедри історії України Чернівецького національного університету імені Юрія Федьковича, вул. Михайла Коцюбинського, 2, м. Чернівці, Україна, 58000 (fadey2010@ukr.net)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2054-9805>

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ОБГОВОРЕННЯ ПРОБЛЕМ ТЕОРІЇ ТА МЕТОДОЛОГІЇ НА СТОРІНКАХ „KWARTALNIKA HISTORYCZNEGO” ДО 1914 Р.

Анотація. Мета дослідження полягає в з'ясуванні особливостей обговорення теоретико-методологічної проблематики авторами часопису «Kwartalnik Historyczny» у перший період його існування (до 1914 р.). **Методологічне підґрунтя** становить міждисциплінарний підхід. Особливий акцент зроблено на структурно-функціональному системному аналізі історіографічних фактів і порівняльно-історичному методі, виходячи з принципів об'єктивності та історизму. **Наукова новизна** статті полягає у дослідженні малознаної проблеми модерування редакторами часопису «Kwartalnik Historyczny» теоретико-методологічних дискусій наприкінці XIX – на початку XX ст. **Висновки.** У підсумку зауважимо, що „КН” постає правдивою лабораторією польської теоретико-методологічної думки кінця XIX – початку XX ст. У фокусі теоретичних рефлексій авторів часопису перебували питання відстоювання польського історичного інтересу при зображенні ключових подій минулого Центрально-Східної Європи. Польським інтелектуалам залежало на прописуванні в тогочасному історичному дискурсі ідеалізованого образу Речі Посполитої як могутньої європейської держави, яка славилася демократичністю устрою та толерантним ставленням до своїх національних меншин. Занепад держави автори часопису пояснювали винятково фактом зовнішньої агресії. В ділянці методології історичного знання, завдяки відкритості видання для представників різноманітних історичних шкіл і напрямків, на його сторінках помітною є присутність багатьох пізнавальних конструктів – від класичних позитивістських до модерних у стилі культурно-історичного напрямку Карла Лампрехта. Провідною рисою часопису довоєнного періоду був емпіризм, котрий дістався львівським ученим з німецької історіографічної традиції, до якої як взірцевої, апелювали засновники часопису. Наслідком цього емпіризму став теоретичний скептицизм, що полягав у надзвичайно обережному ставленні як до класичних методологічних технік, так і до новітніх епістемологічних моделей. Продемонстровані теоретична відкритість та змістова універсальність „КН” дозволяють нам атестувати часопис рупором всієї польської історичної науки доби модернізму.

Ключові слова: „Kwartalnik Historyczny”, польська історіографія, проблеми теорії та методології, наукова преса, рецепція.

Problem statement. Modern historiography pays special attention to periodicals as platforms of scientific communication and mouthpieces of the latest conceptual trends. At the same time, specialised journals played a particularly significant role in non-state nations during the imperial era, when they not only moderated the activities of researchers of the past but were also tribunes of public

education and national awareness. In this regard, the activity of the well-known Lviv magazine is marked by considerable influence „Kwartalnik Historyczny” (further – „KH”). As a result of its continuous operation for almost 150 years, the magazine became an expression of paradigmatic changes in Polish and, more broadly, the entire Eastern European historiography.

The role of the journal in discussing ways of updating the methodological foundations of historical science is especially significant. For the first time, such a loud discussion took place at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which marked the beginning of a radical change in the theoretical and methodological paradigm that determined the ways of modern humanitarianism. With this in mind, below we will focus on understanding the theoretical and methodological issues presented on the pages of the pre-war publication. In our opinion, this problem is important for a better understanding of the peculiarities of the formation of contemporary Polish historiography.

The purpose of the article – to find out the peculiarities of the discussion of theoretical and methodological issues by the authors of the „KH” journal during the first period of its existence (before 1914).

Analysis of recent research and publications. Modern researchers of the Lviv historiographic centre note the importance of studying the contribution of Polish scientific periodicals to the modernization of the theoretical and methodological foundations of professional historiography (Śreniowska, 1960; Maternicki, 1996). However, despite the exceptional role played by “KH” in the structuring of the Lviv historiographic center (Polish and Ukrainian), we can name only a few articles in which the contribution of the magazine’s editors to the conceptual rearmament of socio-humanitarian studies at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries is casually mentioned. (Руда, 2004; Тельвак, 2005; Тельвак, Тельвак, 2005, s. 11–39; Тельвак, 2008, s. 75–99; Лазурко, 2010; Telwak, Łazurko, 2013; Lazurko, Dikhtievskiy, 2021; Telvak, Telvak, Zhuravlov, 2023; Telvak, Telvak, Vlado, 2023). This determines the relevance of the topic of our research.

Presentation of the main material. When considering the theoretical and methodological reflection in the pages of the journal, we can talk about the existence of two types of publications. The first, where theoretical reflection was the subject of special research, is called “declarative”. And the second, presented by “applied theory” – instrumental and specific application of theoretical and methodological constructs. And if there were few investigations of the first type, then “applied theory” was, to some extent, inherent, understandably, in practically all publications. Summarizing the available material, we grouped it into several most frequently emphasized theoretical and methodological problem groups.

Theoretically, the magazine was set on defending the rights of Poles within the boundaries of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. First of all, such a historiosophical confrontation was directed against the official spokesmen of German and Russian historiography, who tried to prove the historical inevitability of the divisions of Poland, to defend the special culture-treger mission of their states concerning European peoples in general and Polish in particular. The attempts of foreign scientists to enrich their national treasury by borrowing Polish cultural heritage were particularly acutely perceived by Polish historians. K. Liske’s review of the German publication about Kromer’s life and activities was indicative in this respect. In it, the author, basing his argumentation on the fact of the latter’s German speeches, presented Kromer as a figure of German culture. The reviewer quite emotionally finished his critical review: “Gentlemen of the Germans, we will not take Fr. archbishop Dinder, no matter how often he speaks Polish to his diocesans, so leave us also – please – our Kromer and do not make him someone so disgusting as a national hermaphrodite who does not know what nationality he belongs to” (X., 1887, s. 52–53). German researchers tried to prove the naturalness of the occupation of the western territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, to break the chain of historical memory of the Poles who inhabited it. Those, in turn, contrasted with them the facts of the ethnic composition of the lands seized by the Germans, proving the durability of the historical tradition between all the former lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Łoziński, 1906, s. 724–728). Polish scholars accused their German colleagues of a weak familiarity with authentic sources and the Polish historiographical tradition.

No less a threat to national Polish historiography was posed by Russian historical works written from the official point of view of the invading state. Russian historians emphasized the plight of the peasantry within the ancient Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and hyperbolized social and state conflicts, leading the reader to think about the historical futility of Polish state governance and the inevitability of Poland's divisions. At the same time, historiosophical theses were put forward in the spirit of Slavophiles about an ideal confederation of all Slavs under the "wise" rule of the Russian autocracy. We note that the origins of such historiosophical constructions were to a large extent in the Polish intellectual tradition itself. T. Korzon was one of the first to draw attention to this in his essay on the historiosophy of S. Staszic. He proved that a prominent Polish public figure long before the Russian Slavophiles formulated the key provisions of the theory of all-Slavic brotherhood (Korzon, 1887). Polish historians, reviewing all, however noticeable, phenomena of Russian Polonistics, conducted a sharp polemic with its theoretical constructs. Especially unacceptable were theses about the historical perniciousness of Polish parliamentarism, the "saving" role of Russians in the fate of Poles in the 19th century, the "naturalness" of the unity of all Slavs in a single Russian empire, the usurpation of the Polish nobility on Ukrainian lands, etc. According to B. Lozinsky's accurate expression, Russian scientists often "...allowed the temperament of a political figure to disturb the peace of a historian" (Łoziński, 1909, s. 631).

The biggest professional flaw of Russian Polonistics was the weak familiarity with Polish primary sources and historiographical material, which also did not contribute to the translation of many discussions into a scientific channel, giving rise to all kinds of, as one of the reviewers figuratively put it, "sucked from the finger" conjectures and fantastic constructions (Lewicki, 1887). In general, Polish scholars noted the existence of significant mental and socio-political obstacles in the Russian professional environment regarding the coverage of Poland's past. Polish historians considered the works of Galician Muscophiles to be a certain local variant of the Russian odious historiographic scheme. A. Petrushevich's works were a favourite object of Polish scientific criticism. Reviewers wrote about the tendency of the author, hatred of everything Polish, and sympathy for Russia. The greatest harm of his works, according to Polish historians, was the significant spread among the common people, the intelligentsia and the clergy. They argued that the escalation of national hatred could not be acceptable to the historian.

No matter how strange it may seem at first glance, criticism of Russian and German historiographical literature was not self-important for Polish historians. Against the background of a sharp confrontation with the spokesmen of historical officialdom, we often come across reviews marked by a completely different tonality. Polish researchers sincerely welcomed the phenomena of Russian Polonistics, written from the standpoint of objectivity and scientific correctness (Godzawa, 1887). Polish scientists are convinced that the latest Russian historical science is increasingly getting rid of the stereotypical view of the Polish past. The evaluations of M. Kareev's historical works were positive. Although the Russian scientist was accused of a certain national bias, the latter was at the expense of the all-Russian historiographical tradition, with which M. Kareev increasingly breaks away. In connection with the works of the latter, certain mental national stereotypes, which were transferred to historiographic works, were recognized as insurmountable. An example of such "natural stereotypes" was cited by Polish scientists as the persistent negative attitude of Russians towards the politics of the Jesuits. "It would be simply ridiculous," noted one of the reviewers of M. Kareev's work, "if someone wanted a Russian historian to be a friend of the Jesuits" (W.Z., 1887, s. 337).

Polish scientists also awarded S. Platonov's works with high marks, marked, in their opinion, by objectivity and national tolerance. And, even though the author is poorly oriented in Polish sources and historiographical material, his works "are a good expression of the progress of Russian historical science" (Czermak, 1890, s. 586). We can cite no fewer examples of the positive assessment of some phenomena of German Polonistics (Askenazy, 1899). This once again proves the thesis about national tolerance and the correctness of the editorial policy of the magazine's editors.

The problem of the presentation of Ukrainian historiography on their pages is of special interest to domestic researchers of Polish historical periodicals. In the case of "KH", this interest is strength-

ened by the fact of the active participation of Ukrainian scientists themselves in reviewing Slavic literature for publication. So, I. Franko and B. Barvinskyi were regular reviewers of the magazine. In general, modern researchers write about the importance of studying the contribution of Polish scientific periodicals to the formation of domestic professional historiography (Maternicki, 1996, s. 284). It should be noted that the magazine has always been distinguished by prudence and correctness in its assessment of Ukrainian historical works and has not allowed chauvinism to enter its columns.

The Polish-Ukrainian theoretical discussion, devoted to the past of the Ukrainian lands as part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, was marked by a much calmer tone, however, with no less zeal. This polemic became especially acute after the arrival of the still-young M. Hrushevsky in Lviv, who, after heading the university department, launched an extremely active scientific and organizational activity. The historical school created by an outstanding scientist focused mainly on the past of Galicia and the Right Bank. In general, despite the polemical nature of most reviews of Ukrainian scientific literature, reviewers have always noted the high professional level of domestic historians. Especially high were the evaluations of the works of the most prominent Ukrainian scientists of the specified region, I. Franko and M. Hrushevsky.

Polish historians highly appreciated the methodological level of the works of many Ukrainian historians, the detail of their treatment of the problem, the depth of historiographical and source analysis. In the context of the investigated problem, it is extremely interesting to trace the common understanding of scientific theoretical and methodological standards by representatives of the Polish and Ukrainian scientific environment. Young Ukrainian historiography also faced the task of defending the priority of objectivity and scientific correctness of historical research, fighting diltantism and national chauvinism (Тельвак, 2001). This similarity is especially noticeable during the regular analysis of review texts on the latest publications, posted on the pages “Notes of the Shevchenko Scientific Society” and “KH”. Let’s look at the characteristic example – two reviews – the Polish one by A. Cholovsky (Czołowski, 1889) and the Ukrainian one by M. Hrushevsky (Грушевський, 1900) based on the work of A. Petrushevich. Comparison of the critical considerations identified by these predecessors reveals the complexity of the criteria that they were summed up by reviewers until the famous Galician historian – it’s an insult to write about the vastness of systematization and the facts of the matter. A. Petrushevich, criticize the specific language of the author. In general, the materials of the journal disprove the claims in a number of modern scientific works regarding the underestimation by the “KH” editorial board of the importance of researching theoretical and methodological issues.

Criticism by Polish researchers of foreign Polonistics was not limited to historiographies of immediate neighbors. Researchers from other countries, who approached the study of Polish history incorrectly and without detailed knowledge of the matter, distorting the national historiographic scheme, were repeatedly criticized by Polish historians. We find especially a lot of criticism of French Polonistic studies, the authors of which not only, according to the conviction of most reviewers, were unfamiliar with Polish sources and historiography, but also, quite often, had little orientation in the most elementary historical specifics (Korzon, 1890, s. 193). O. Baltser, a regular reviewer of French Polish studies, even remarked on this matter: “It is not news for us to find in French literature works about Polish affairs, written without familiarity with Polish affairs; these are, usually, real “historical fantasies” that can sometimes be good fun” (Balzer, 1887a).

Methodological problems on the pages of the magazine differed by much less declarativeness, compared to historiosophical topics. However, her presence in the “applied” plane was no less representative and multifaceted. Such predominance of the practical aspect over the declarative testified to the depth of methodological interests in the professional Polish environment, an effort not to get carried away with the creation of abstract constructions, but to implement in practice a methodological toolkit useful for the researcher. Professor B. Dembinski of the Lviv University expressed this opinion in a concentrated way: “The development of science, the expansion and deepening of the range of research always requires attention to the method, requires detailed equipment and improvement of weapons for the protection of knowledge and truth” (Dembiński, 1893, s. 199).

Among the contemporary publications on the pages of “KH”, the most specific methodological load was carried by critical materials. The general point of the reviews published in the journal was to focus on methodical and methodological aspects of the research, that is, on those epistemological foundations that allowed the author to solve the task set before him. Almost all critics noted the degree of methodological skill of the author of the reviewed publication, its compliance with the scientific standards of the time. The first review of the first volume of “KH” was symbolic in this regard, in which, among the advantages of the reviewed treatise by Professor M. Sokolovsky, it was noted that it was “written with an understanding of the method” (Σ., 1887).

The main goal, which determined the magazine’s editorial policy for a long time, was the competition for the scientific status of historical works through meticulous scientific criticism of historical Polonistics. Among the leading principles of historical research that ensured its scientific status, almost all authors of the journal preferred the principle of objectivity. What parameters did Polish historians put into the concept of objectivity and what research procedures ensured it? The authors of the magazine put critical source studies at the forefront. The presence of historical sources that exist independently of the researcher, they are convinced, allows to reconstruct the past of the people. The contributors to the magazine were convinced that there is a cardinal professional rule “to take every information from the original source” (Semkowicz, 1887). Practically every work published on the pages of the journal contained a review and criticism of the sources. It was this procedure that was supposed to distinguish fiction from science (Semkowicz, 1894). A constant refrain was also the emphasis on the need to use as many different sources as possible, which could mutually verify each other’s testimony during the analysis of historical events. For reviewers of the magazine, the violation of the principle of objectivity was monistic argumentation, that is, the researcher’s use of only one type of source, which leads to a distortion of the true image of history. Note that the understanding of critical source studies as a necessary component of the category of objectivity was inherent in most methodological works of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Overcoming subjectivism in historical science was also associated by Polish scientists with the rejection of speculative metaphysical theories and schemes that do not take into account all the diversity of historical events, thereby distorting the real picture of the past. On the pages of “KH” we constantly find reviews of various kinds of historiosophical opuses, usually created by amateurs. In these works, the historical specifics are prepared according to the intellectual and ethical preferences of their authors, without taking into account the elementary logic of historical development, not to mention any points of professional ethics. According to the general recognition of the journal’s authors, a priori, myth-making and tendency are quite often the consequences of the scientist’s banal unprofessionalism, unfamiliarity with research methods and methodology (Balzer, 1890, s. 165).

Another means of achieving objectivity in history, according to the authors of “KH”, is a comprehensive coverage of the studied phenomenon in order to reveal its essence and diversity of relationships with the surrounding world. Each event should be considered by scientists in the context of its immediate historical situation (Bostel, 1887). Reviewers of scientific literature have always advocated the tracing of genetic connections in history, which, in their opinion, would allow avoiding one-dimensionality in the explanation of events. V. Smolenskyi, T. Korzon, O. Baltser, V. Abraham and many other authors of “KH” wrote about the need to study the phenomena of the past in a broad historical context.

Among the methods of historical research on the pages of “KH”, we most often come across the use of the comparative-historical method. The importance of comparativism, according to Polish historians, is due to the fact that it plays the role of an experiment in history. They were convinced that the comparative method allows not only to increase knowledge about the past, but also to organically introduce the Polish past into the world historical process. Especially many works using the historical-comparative method can be found on the pages of “KH” in the field of legal history. As V. Semkovich emphasized, “the importance of comparative studies in the field of the history of Slavic law and system does not need to be proven” (Smoleński, 1890). Speaking about the heuristic advantages of the comparative method, the authors of “KH” drew the attention of researchers to the need to

observe certain rules for its use. You can compare only well-known historical objects and phenomena of the same type that are at the same stage of development, or different types at different stages (Semkowicz, 1908, s. 562).

Historical statistics can be attributed to the noted novelties of the methodological arsenal of Polish historians. At that time, it was considered that for the social sciences it is similar to the induction method in the natural sciences. At the end of the 19th century historical statistics was just beginning its ascent to the heights of popularity among humanitarians, therefore the authors of "KH", known for their theoretical skepticism, urged to be very careful and skeptical about the possibilities of new technology. They pointed to insufficient verification of their current statistical information, the weakness of the methodology of its processing, which must necessarily affect the final results. The use of the method in relation to ancient eras was considered a particularly difficult operation, as it was extremely difficult to verify the veracity of source evidence. S. Glombinski, reviewing S. Dashinska's essay "A few words about the method of historical statistics", using the example of this work, showed the methodological errors of the author when she calculated the population of ancient Greece on the basis of evidence about the amount of wheat imported from abroad. The reviewer emphasized the need for careful and critical application of historical statistics and denied the author's thesis about its independent disciplinary status (Halban, 1901). Therefore, the flourishing of historical statistics, S. Glombinski is convinced, is a matter of the future.

The discussion of the social functions of the knowledge produced by historians was marked by a solid methodological burden in European historiography at the time. The most important function of history, which reflects its nature and significance in society to the greatest extent, according to the magazine's authors, is the function of social memory. Historians saw the main goal of their studies as restoring historical justice in assessing the real contribution of the Polish people to the treasury of world culture, showing its important role in the European past. In their writings, Polish scientists especially emphasized the scientific-cognitive or heuristic function of historical science. In their opinion, the central task of history in performing this function is to provide society with the necessary knowledge to correctly solve problems that are important to it. Determining the regularity of the historical process, researchers often used their knowledge in discussing topical issues in the life of Polish society at that time. They convinced that the events of the past and historical experience should be taken into account by political figures. For Polish historians, the most urgent task was to present the key moments of the national past from the standpoint of the state tradition. The topics of the most recent period of history were marked by the special irritation of the discussion. Regarding the methodology of research and the methodology of representation of events of the recent past, a lively discussion broke out on the pages of "KH", in which Sh. Askenazi and B. Dembinski took part.

The focus of modern history researchers was on the events of the end of the 18th and the first half of the 19th century, when the Poles lost their independence and tried to regain it during a series of unsuccessful uprisings. Thus, O. Baltser, reviewing the work of T. Korzon about the times of Stanislaus Augustus, among its positive signs, particularly highlights the respectable public sounding of many of the historian's conclusions (Głabiński, 1893, s. 684). The discussion of the events of the last Polish uprising was marked by somewhat more lively reflection. "Every educated person," convinced H. Lisutki, "must know the past of his people, not only the distant past, but also the nearest". Therefore, the history of our last uprising must be written, and the sooner it happens, the better" (Balzer, 1887b, s. 696). Since this event was extremely "fresh" at the end of the 19th century, Polish historians suggested not to burden the course of the story with evaluative interpretations and not to impose their views and opinions on society, limiting themselves to the presentation of event material.

A key component of the set of discussed problems about the place of the historian and the knowledge he creates was the problem of writing a popular science synthesis of the history of Poland. The polemic surrounding the creation of popular and educational historical literature proposed by the editors has acquired a respectable theoretical and methodological sound. All participants in the discussion recognized the need for increased professional requirements for this type of work, given the exceptional importance they play in the formation of national consciousness. Scientists posed and

tried to solve the problem of the historian's professional and ethical responsibility to society. S. Kutrzeba voiced this position most exhaustively (Lisicki, 1893, s. 161). The result of the discussion was the development of certain recommendations necessary for writing popular and educational literature. First of all, there was a demand for professional and didactic excellence of the training manual. Also, significant demands were made for the simplicity and clarity of the presentation language, the rationality and uniformity of the structure of the material, its division into structural units (Kutrzeba, 1901, s. 554). Along with detail, excessive pettiness was rejected, the requirement not to abuse terminology and not to get carried away with quoting sources was emphasized (Kwiatkowski, 1894). It was called necessary to present Poland's past in a broad world civilizational context, which would make it possible to reveal the real contribution of Poles to the treasury of world culture. Equally important for the popular work was the problem of the correct chronological arrangement of the material, since in the textbook, which represents the entirety of the history of the people, the problem of periodization is of primary importance, and the accuracy of the view of the different periods of the past people largely depends on the chronological boundaries adopted by the author.

The set of theoretical and methodological issues analyzed above, traditional for positivist historiography, was far from exhausting all its diversity on the pages of “KH”. After all, it is clear that the spokesperson of the national historiography could not stand aside from the latest theoretical trends that appeared in humanitarianism at that time. And although the position of the authors of the journal can be safely called “theoretical skepticism”, this does not mean that they ignore the methodological innovations of the time.

L. Finkel's treatise published in the volume of 1894, dedicated to the novelties of the historical and theoretical thought of that time, is indicative in this regard. The reviewer's focus is on the historiographical discussion around the cultural-historical concept of K. Lamprecht. The Polish scientist analyzes in detail the arguments of supporters of political and culturally oriented historiography. According to his conviction, classically explained political history, as a story only about significant phenomena of the past, has long been unable to withstand criticism. On the other hand, a significant exaggeration for him is the absolutization of the factor of culture in history, the rejection of its political and state dimension, which also does not contribute to the adequacy of historical reconstruction. L. Finkel sees a way out of the situation in the unification and balancing of the best achievements of political history and cultural history, which will allow to harmonize the image of Clio at that time. However, such balancing of the subject of historical research should take place on the basis of political history, to which the Polish author gives the palm of primacy (Prochaska, 1901). It is noteworthy that the editorial board took a clear neutrality in methodological discussions, although it noted the importance of methodological topics for Polish science.

Conclusion. In conclusion, we note that “KH” appears as a true laboratory of Polish theoretical and methodological thought of the late 19th – early 20th centuries. The focus of theoretical reflections of the magazine's authors was on the issue of defending Polish historical interest while portraying the key events of the past of Central and Eastern Europe. Polish intellectuals depended on prescribing in the historical discourse of the time an idealized image of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a powerful European state, which was famous for its democratic system and tolerant attitude towards its national minorities. The authors of the magazine explained the decline of the state exclusively by the fact of external aggression. In the field of methodology of historical knowledge, thanks to the publication's openness to representatives of various historical schools and directions, the presence of many cognitive constructs is noticeable on its pages – from classic positivist to modern ones in the style of Karl Lamprecht's cultural-historical direction. The leading feature of the periodical of the pre-war period was empiricism, which came to Lviv scholars from the German historiographical tradition, to which the founders of the periodical appealed as a model. The consequence of this empiricism was theoretical skepticism, which consisted in an extremely cautious attitude towards both classical methodological techniques and the latest epistemological models. The demonstrated theoretical openness and content universality of “KH” allow us to attest that the journal is the mouthpiece of the entire Polish historical science of the modernist era.

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