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T. D. Chubina**PROSOPOGRAPHY AS A METHOD FOR COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHY
STUDY (USING THE EXAMPLE OF STUDY OF THE HISTORY
OF THE POTOTSKY FAMILY)**

Biography is an additional neutral and auxiliary means for historians, with the help of which you can conduct additional research of a historical phenomenon.

In this scientific article a prosopography as a method of research of collective biographies is viewed, which illustrates both the personality and the individuality of each individual who has fallen into the field of scientific interest of the researcher. The author considers this method of historical research on the example of the study of the Tulchin line of the Pototsky family.

Keywords: *prosopography, prosopographic portrait, historical method of research, collective biography, Pyliava emblem, the Tulchin line, the Pototsky family.*

Addressing the biographies of a particular group of individuals opens up additional opportunities for the detection and observation of regularities, which characterizes themselves and their activities. The totality of methodological techniques associated with this approach, as well as the product of their application are covered by the term prosopography. The latter, as a method, in our opinion, is very effective and far from being exhausted in terms of its cognitive potential, an instrument of science-educational analysis.

The subject of the author's scientific research is the history of the Pototsky family, in particular, its Tulchin line. There were six different families in the United Commonwealth of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, that used the surname Pototsky (Potocki): of the Liubych emblem, of the Ostoy emblem, of the Pyliava emblem, of the Sreniava emblem, of the Sheliga emblem, of the Yanina emblem. The most famous – the Pototsky family of the Pyliava emblem. The Pyliava emblem is presented with two crosses in the blue field, the third cross is half-depicted. According to the legend, this emblem was donated by King Wladyslaw Kucheryavy to the knight Zaroslav, Pototsky's ancestor. This family has gained political power in the middle of XVI century.

Representatives of the family owned vast territories, castles, estates in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, primarily in Podolsk, Bratslav, Belz, Rus and Krakow voivodeships, held important public positions in the United Commonwealth of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and later in Russia and Austria.

There are the Silvern and the Golden Pyliava emblems. The Pototsky family of the Tulchin (Hetman's) line belonged to the Silvern Pyliava emblem. The founder

of the Hetman's branch was the prominent military and political figure Stanislav Pototsky Revera (1579–1667), the great Head of Polish army, the governor of Kyiv, Krakow, etc., whose activities markedly affected the history of Poland and Ukraine, especially of the middle XVII century. Having got married to Sophia, a daughter of a bratslavsky starost, a general of the Podolsk lands, Valentin Alexander Kalinovsky and Helena Strus, Count Stanislav received estates for her in Bratslav, Volyn, Podilsky and Kiev voivodeships.

The partition of property between the sons of Count Stanislav began the two lines of the Hetman's branch: the first one – Anrii's and the second one – Feliks's Kazymezh. Marriage of the Count Felix's son – Zhozeph with Theophila Teresa from Tsentnery, Tulchin, finally consolidated Podillya estates for Pototsky, having started the Tulchin branch of the second line [2; 9-13; 15-18].

When it comes to creating a collective biography, a prosopographic portrait of a whole family in particular, as, for example, the Pototsky's family, the researchers face a number of problems of methodological content. One of them – the definition of the term «prosopography». It should be noted, that in the complex of special historical disciplines the status of the prosopography remains blurred and does not fall under the established criteria of discipline. It differs by the variability of object-objective localization, by branched interdisciplinary ties and by the absence of its own established disciplinary toolkit.

Prosopography (from Greek προσωπον – person and γραφω – I write, in writing) is engaged in the search, attribution and summarization of biographical and all the other data, in particular the appearance, character and personal qualities, relationships, kind of activity, career, various life circumstances, etc., about persons, which are mentioned in historical sources, in order to maximally complete reproduction of the past as a history of people. Prosopographies are also called collections of biographical essays on historians, rich in references to sources.

Bulgarian scientist Ivan Bozhilov in his monograph «Familijata na Asenevtsy (1186–1460). Genealogy and Prosopography» the term «prosopography» applies when creating a collective biography of the genus, but specifies that if there is not enough information about a person, prosopographical methods allow to reconstruct person's life and activities through a common factual material about the race in the time-spatial dimension. The researcher emphasizes that historical intelligence should be made taking into account the place of residence (region) of the representatives of the genus and mentality of the time in which they acted [1].

Modern dictionaries define a prosopography as a method of creating collective biographies. Moreover, as presented by the New Philosophical Encyclopedia, it consists of the definition of a certain circle of people, in the issuance of a number of identical questions about the dates of birth and death, the marriage and the family, social origin, place of residence, education, field of activity, etc. [6]. And a dictionary «Culturology. XX century» specifies that the methods of collective biographies (prosopography), which use new technologies of processing materials, are of particular importance in the reconstruction of the inner world of the person, replacing

the painful for socio-historical sciences contradictions between the individual nature of the facts and the general nature of the findings [5, p. 60].

Summing up the consideration of all the above definitions, we will try to give our own view of the problem in accordance with the tasks. Prosopography – is a method of researching collective biographies, which considers both personality and personality of each person who fell into the field of scientific interest of the researcher. Even in the absence of a sufficient amount of documentary and narrative material it allows with the help of the historical immersion to reconstruct the personality in his/her social, public and private lives, to recreate the individual's spiritual space. It should be noted that public and private are considered either as moving elements in a single continent of the sphere, or as facing one another (interrelated) sides of social and spiritual life.

When creating the historical genus, the prosopographical methods are universal. First, as a result of the study of this genre through the prism of life and activity of the individual, the historical epoch in which they lived and which is personified in their biographies becomes more saturated and many-sided. Secondly, the historical existence of an individual is considered, on the one hand, from the point of characteristics of the hero as a person, that is, the definition of his/her social status, the degree of participation in historically significant events, the impact on the social life and the life of subsequent generations, but on the other hand – in terms of identifying his/her personality, which determines the inner world of an individual, his/her spiritual potential.

The work on the creation of a prosopographic portrait of the Pototsky family has a number of essential features that require the application of such methodological principles.

1. First of all, it is necessary to determine the range of people who have fallen into the field of attention of the researcher. In the descriptive list compiled by the author only some representatives of the Pototsky family are present. These are the Pototskys, who have left a noticeable mark in the history of our country and who, in fact, made this family famous. About the other members of the family summary biographical information is submitted, and the main conceptual research line focuses on the outstanding Pototskys.

2. An important ambition is the construction of a prosopographic study. The available information about the Pototsky family disproportionately highlight its generations. On the one hand, a rather broad circle of sources about some representatives of the Pototsky family, on the other hand – fragmentary information, indirect sources about the others. Thus, the presentation of the material has the same imbalance. If we exclude from the circle the representatives of the Pototsky family about whom the information is insufficient, the study will be impoverished and will look incomplete. Prosopography allows one not to abandon the goal, but to build the history of the genus through a consistent reconstruction of the life and activities of individuals included in the prosopographic list.

3. The history of each family has its own distinction. In the construction of scientific intelligence such distinctions significantly affect its conceptual

foundations. If you do not find out and do not disclose them in a timely manner, further historical prosopographic research can lead to confusion, shifting emphasis, unacceptable mistakes.

Intending to show the connection between representatives of different generations and determine the place of the studied family in the general development of society, at the same time it is necessary to solve the problem, which is at the junction of genealogy and cultural history, – to identify the evolution of ideas that penetrate the history of this kind, and activity practices. A concrete person in his/her social realization is, to a large extent, a child of his/her epoch. But equally true is that in a child, bred in a family and within its framework is primarily socialized, a lot of things are conditioned by its traditions. The biological constants that are genetically determined are also important: they set the possibilities, and thus the boundaries, which often can't be overcome. The impact of all the above mentioned factors forms a unique combination, the basis of the psychological individuality of the person. And as the Czech scientist F. Gerek rightly pointed out, «interpretation of life's journey [...] turns out to be very superficial, if this path is not considered against the background of its psychological peculiarities» [4, p. 106]. On the example of the Pototsky family, one can observe all of the above: the role in the biography of generic biology, family traditions, trends of time reflecting the development of society.

For prosopographic research a group of individuals forms an attractive in many ways object. It adds a special integrity to their related connection, opening up additional opportunities for researching interesting to us the issues. It is necessary to formulate common questions to the group, get answers and compare them.

Such questions are: the family line as an object of study in the context of history; methodology of research in groups united by the cohesion of the family line; rational, emotional and aesthetic principle of the representatives of such groups, their reflection in activity; individual, family, sociocultural in the development; factors that determined the development of Ukraine and Poland in XVII–XIX centuries; «sprouts» of the spiritual elite and their social material; genetic and social in the ways of forming an elite, etc.

Taking this research, the author planned if not to achieve, then at least come significantly closer to the achievement of two goals.

The first one is common for scientific biographical literature – to restore the biographies of the prominent representatives of the Pototsky family. A significant part of the product of writing history, generated by the research efforts in this direction, is inevitably empirical and factual.

The second goal has taken shape from the specifics of the object of the study, from the fact that under the general framework several people gathered at once. Of course the composition of this group wasn't accidental. Its representatives are separated by time (the persons who create the extreme links of the chosen chain, the years of birth diverge almost a century and a half), by place of activity (almost the whole of Europe is arena), and in some cases by culture.

The possibility to increase the total mass created by the collective work of historiographers of the prosopography (in the sense of collective, comparative biographies) was complemented by the possibility of using the dissipation as an analytical method, oriented on scientific and cultural studies.

It should be noted that the role of the factor of heredity and inheritance was in the center of science of prosopography already in the first works of its founders, which became gradually classical. The «heredity-environment» solution was the main goal and the subject of the controversy of F. Galton and A. de Candole. Investigating it, they were particularly looking for and recorded the facts of related giftedness among scholars, making in this regard a number of valuable observations and generalizations [2, p. 28-32]. But the complexity of cutting down the parameters of the environment did not allow them to find a solution that could satisfy most of the scientific community. Their controversy remained incomplete, but the achieved intermediate results helped to significantly feel the field of cognitive capabilities of the prosopography itself as a method and eventually begin to «experience the space of this field».

Formation of an analytical sample of persons connected with blood affinity allows an attempt to distinguish in their individually unique characters and fate components, determined, firstly, by nature (biology); and secondly, the social principle (environment); and thirdly, multifactor components that are not reduced to the effect of one reason. The importance of such a distinction (by means of a surveyor and/or others) for understanding the «device» and the genesis of individuality is, in our opinion, obvious. We believe that this way opens the opportunity to make a step in the direction of problems of «great sound»: from the history of individual destinies to go to the riddles of the era – it's content, form, spirit, and in any case avoid some traps. English writer John Fowles, thinking about the lawfulness of historical reconstruction of extrapolation into society (his group) of thoughts, judgments, and views of individuals, warned against excessive admiration of this admission because of its frequent incorrectness: «When we judge the past epochs by their Popes, Addisons, we tend to safely forget that the genius artist is always an exception to the general rule, though, we want to believe in the opposite» [7, p. 453].

Working with groups that are made up of people, combined with the generality of the family, offers interesting opportunities for studying the evolution of some cultural phenomena, and above all because it extends the chronological framework of the study. The material, which covers a significant chronological period, is able to characterize these phenomena not only in statics, but also in historical dynamics. The latter is very valuable for the interpretation of particular material in different historical and cultural contexts. More integrity at the same time reveals the actual cultural aspect of events [8, p. 265].

By simplifying the picture a little, any socialized person can be represented as the result of the combined effect of three different factors, three substantially independent principles (Fig. 1):

The factor of time ("the spirit of the era") (caused by socio-cultural memory stored and continuously updated in the social institutions of society)

Genetic factor (caused by genetic memory and is psychophysiological characteristics of the individual)

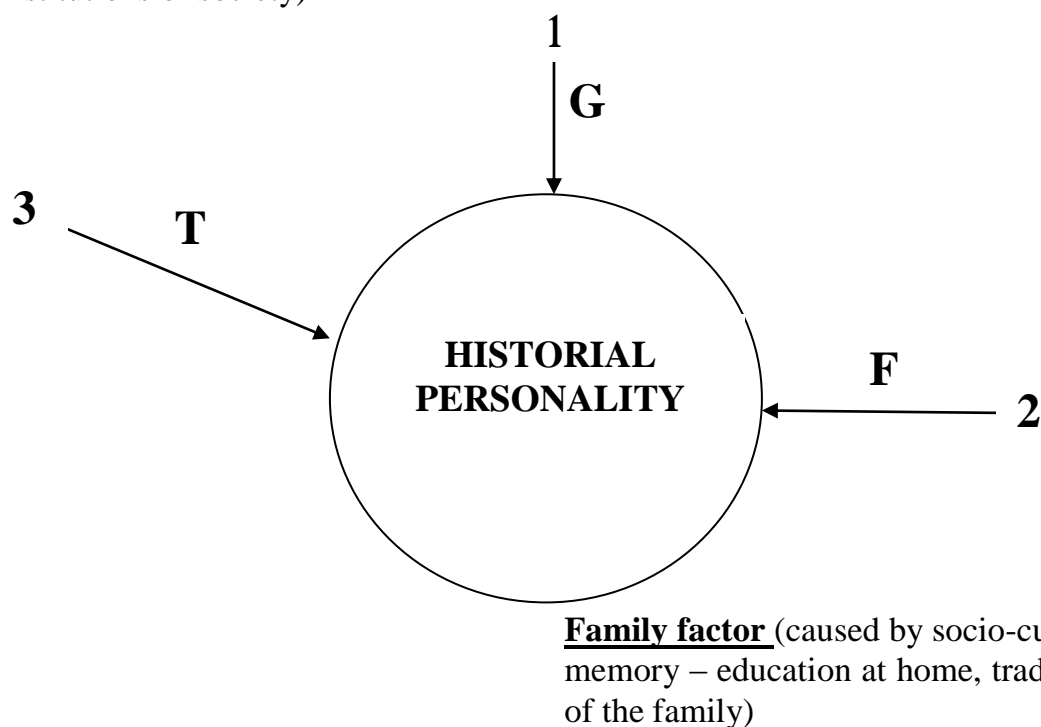


Fig. 1. A person as a result of the combined action of various factors

- family factor (F): the traditions of the family, of the component that is no longer genetic, but socio-cultural memory, which is broadcast at the level of microcosms of a society – a family and a number of social agents, through which this person is formed and developed; it is a socially adsorbed person's memory, which is transmitted not to all the space (environment) of childhood, but only to that part that is connected with home education;

- time factor (T): the «spirit of the era», formed from those mental stereotypes that the time imposes the individual, more precisely, the contemporary, mostly non-familial, cultural substrate, which is the carrier of experience only partially refined in various forms associated with social practices; it is another part of socio-cultural memory, which is stored and continuously updated in the structural branches of society at all levels.

All these three factors operate against the background of the individual uniqueness that is formed each time with the help of a new combination of elements of hereditary information.

The allocation of the contribution of each of the above has begun in most cases (not taking into account special model situations) is a very difficult task. In the methodological plan, in the general case, one should strive to capture, if possible, all variables, except for one – the one whose influence is investigated. Here the main problem is, as a rule, in the impossibility of purposefully regulating the state of the

object. A historian works with already existing personalities, with their already lived lives. But for comparative studies, he is to some extent free to purposefully form the ones that are studied in their totality.

Among the collections that are interesting for our research, the groups combined with the generality of the family have natural integrity. Representatives of one family have two components – the genetic predilection and traditions of the genus and they have a certain proximity. Of course, both the first and the second ones change over time. But these changes are relatively slow, substantially conservative, always evolutionary and always preserve the memory of the past.

Appealing to the samples, formed on the basis of the generality of the family, allows us to identify the outline of the procedure, which catches the influence of what we have purposely called "the spirit of the era". Affiliation to one family maximally brings together the entire sample by the factor G, and the individual representatives in its composition (brothers raised in one family) – also by factor F. It remains to learn how to track the change in factor T. Achieving this allows you to split the sample into subgroups (cohorts) at the close of birth dates. This is the case, and not on the basis of belonging to one «knee» (a generation of pedigree tree). The latter, in some cases, is permissible, but generally unacceptable: the birth dates within the generation can vary considerably, with differences increasing as the genitive serial number increases (the date range expands). The transition from one subgroup to another allows you to analyze the influence of the factor T, within the same subgroup – the individual variability and external factors that do not repeat for other units of the sample, but affect the formation of the person.

The material that allows us to investigate the history of the Pototsky family, in our opinion, is particularly well adapted to this kind of methodical manipulation.

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Т. Д. Чубіна

Просопографія як метод дослідження колективних біографій (на прикладі вивчення історії роду Потоцьких)

Біографія є додатковим і нейтральним допоміжним засобом для істориків, за допомогою якого можна провести додаткові дослідження того або іншого історичного явища.

У цій науковій статті йдеться про просопографію як метод дослідження колективних біографій, який кожному особу, що потрапила в поле наукової зацікавленості дослідника, ілюструє як особистість та як індивідуальність. Автор розглядає цей метод історичного дослідження на прикладі вивчення тульчинської лінії роду Потоцьких.

Ключові слова: просопографія, просопографічний портрет, історичний метод дослідження, колективна біографія, герб Пилява, тульчинська лінія, рід Потоцьких.

Т. Д. Чубина

Просопография как метод исследования коллективных биографий (на примере изучения истории рода Потоцких)

Биография является дополнительным и нейтральным вспомогательным средством для историков, с помощью которого можно провести дополнительные исследования того или иного исторического явления.

В этой научной статье речь идет о просопографии как методе исследования коллективных биографий, который каждого человека, который попал в поле научной заинтересованности исследователя, иллюстрирует как личность и как индивидуальность. Автор рассматривает этот метод исторического исследования на примере изучения тульчинской линии рода Потоцких.

Ключевые слова: просопография, просопографический портрет, исторический метод исследования, коллективная биография, герб Пилява, тульчинская линия, род Потоцких.