

REVIEW OF THE MONOGRAPH

LYMAN I., KONSTANTINOVA V. GERMAN CONSULS IN THE NORTHERN AZOV REGION. DNIPRO: LIRA, 2018. – 500 p.: PIC., MAPS.



Professors of history of Berdiansk State Pedagogical University Lyman I. and Konstantinova V. with the support of Wolfgang Messinger, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Donetsk / Dnipro office, developed scientific project devoted to researching the history of Ukrainian-German diplomatic ties during 2017-2018. The output of this scientific development turned into the publication of the book regarding the work of German consuls in Mariupol and Berdiansk from 1859 till the beginning of the First World War.

In the events of activation of current versatile relationships between Ukraine and European Union, appealing to this problem by the scientists is crucial and gives an opportunity to analyze the historical results of diplomatic relations with Germany, that plays a leading role in EU today. In the introduction Consul-General of Federal Republic of Germany Wolfgang Messinger mentioned that “the cities of Mariupol and Berdiansk had been under the focus of

economic interest for such countries as Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and the Kingdom of Prussia long before the creation of the first consulate in 1859”. Performing at Mariupol State University Consul-General pointed out that “Appealing to Europe is not a new and odd tendency in the history of Ukraine, but it represents the history of relationships, which has brought to both parties huge economic advantages and cultural enrichment”.

Lyman I. and Konstantinova V. gathered in their book a big volume of facts about diplomatic work of German consuls on the territory of Pryazov region at the time from establishing in the Northern Pryazovia agencies of Prussia and the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin after Eastern (Crimean) War till the closure of agencies of German Empire at the beginning of the First World War. In the research German, English, Spanish and French diplomatic sources are used. Interesting documents and photos, found by Berdiansk historians in German and Ukrainian archives, envisage the impact of German consulates on the industrial and agricultural modernization of Pryazov region in the second part of XIX - at the beginning of XX c., show “the life of Germans in Ukrainian surrounding”. At different times within the jurisdiction of German consulate agencies, that were in Berdiansk and Mariupol, were spreading along today’s Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Luhansk oblast of Ukraine.

In the book Lyman I. and Konstantinova V. analyze the big part of factual materials about the ties of Mariupol and Berdiansk with German countries, German colonists. The authors put in

their book biographical notes about German consuls Cornelius Jansen, Johann Friedrich (Ivan Fedorovych) Haemmerle, Karl Ossenkop, Alexander Sukkau, Mathias Cowacewitch, Jean Despot, Ewald Bremer.

Berdiansk historians drew the attention on settling German colonists (especially Mennonites) on the lands of Northern Pryazov region. The authors compared conditions of German immigrants in XIX c. in Berdiansk, Mariupol and the nearest regions, showed certain competitiveness of trade issue in these cities with German lands. A big volume of factual materials was published, that illustrates cargo flows of Mariupol and Berdiansk ports, oriented on foreign trade.

Biographical notes are devoted to German consulate representatives who were working in the Northern Pryazov region, these notes are followed by interesting details and photos of their mode of life. Diplomatic work of consuls was broadly depicted, as well as their role in ties between German colonists with their historical homeland.

Undoubtedly, scientific interest includes list of illustrations in the book of Lyman I. and Konstantinova V in particular the list of foreign consuls of XIX-XX c. in Berdiansk and Mariupol, comments on the work of Germans in the Northern Pryazov region in reports of British consuls in Berdiansk and Mariupol, reprints of German consulate agencies' documents in Berdiansk and Mariupol.

The authors conducted solid research of materials from German archives (Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Bundesarchiv), archives of Great Britain (The National Archives), Poland (Archiwum Panstwowe we Wrocławiu), Ukraine and Russian Federation.

It's necessary to specify that the printing of this scientific publication is of high quality. It was achieved thanks to Consulate General of Federal Republic of Germany. Organizers and partners of the project are Consulate General of FRG in Donetsk / Dnipro office, Berdiansk State Pedagogical University, Research Institute of Urban History "Urban Initiatives".

Presentation of the book of Berdiansk professors Ihor Lyman and Viktoria Konstantinova - "German Consuls in the Northern Azov Region" at Berdiansk State Pedagogical University was held during German weeks in Ukraine, on the 2ed of November 2018. The presentation of the book, together with Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany Wolfgang, was undertaken on the 6th of December at Mariupol State University. To carry out this scientific project means a lot for deepening amicable Ukrainian-German relationships.

Scientific publishing of Lyman I. and Konstantinova V. is a significant contribution to the research of the Northern Pryazov region history. It would state an interest for regional ethnographers, scientific-historical community not only of Pryazov region, but in general for Ukraine and Germany. The book "German Consuls in the Northern Azov Region" would be useful for teachers, postgraduates and students, who are interested in historical issues of Ukrainian-German relationships.

V. Romanzov