TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSOR KALAKURA YA.S.
AND THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SCIENTIFIC AND
PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY

VOLODYMYR VELYKOCHYY, SERHIY DEREVJANKO, PAVLO VYCHIVSKYI

Abstract: The article includes the main stages of life and scientific achievements of Professor Yaroslav Stepanovych Kalakura. The executions of this prominent historian and his scientific achievements are analyzed. It is considered his personal contribution to the development of Ukrainian historical science, in particular, in historiography, source studies and archival studies.

Keywords: school of science, history, researches, monograph.

Ya. S. Kalakura began his work in 1955 at school in Nyzhniy Verbizh in Kolomyia region, and in 1964 in the Stanislavsky Pedagogical Institute (now Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University). The Rector of this University Prof. Ihor Tsependa and Prof. Petro Fedorchak, speaking about the beginning of the professional activity of the jubilant, noted that the young scientist was remembered in the team as an extremely hard-working, persistent and tactful person, a talented teacher, a wonderful mentor. He applied much effort to develop the university set up teaching and methodological work, and promoted the development of local teachers' skills [3, p. 31–32].

Almost half a century of Ya. S. Kalakura's life and work invariably flows in the walls of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv University. Here he was a postgraduate student of the famous historian Ivan Ivanovych Shevchenko (“Beard”): here in 1980 he defended his doctoral dissertation, he went from the Deputy Director for Academic and Scientific Work at the Institute for the Promotion of Teachers of Social Sciences to the Vice-Rector of the University for Academic Affairs. Director of the Institute of social sciences in the 80’s. From 1994 to 2002 he headed the Department of Archival Studies and special branches of historical science, and after retirement, he remained the professor of this department as the Honored Professor of the University. The work in the department has become almost the most important period in the life of Yaroslav Stepanovych as a creative person, a teacher and researcher in the field of methodology of historical science, historiography, Ukrainian studies, source studies, archival studies and archaeography.

Due to his erudition, organizational skills and experience, he quickly managed to become the leader of the Department of Archival Studies at the University, not only to preserve and multiply the traditions of his predecessors-prominent archivists and source scholars like Fedir Shevchenko, Vyacheslav Strelskiy and Volodymyr Zamlynskyy, but also to initiate a new stage in its development as multidisciplinary center of theory, methodology, history and practice of historical science, source study, archival studies and special historical disciplines. Yaroslav Stepanovych initiated the elaboration of the
modern concept of professional archival education in Ukraine taking into account national traditions and experience of European states, led the author's teams to prepare and publish a new generation of university textbooks on archival studies, historical sources of history, created an author's course on Ukrainian historiography, formed a business and friendly atmosphere in the team. All this contributed to the growth of the scientific potential of the department, its methodological work, and the increase of authority among other departments of higher educational establishments in Ukraine.

Over the past five years, under the influence of democratization, informatization and European integration of Ukrainian society, significant changes have occurred in the subject of scientific work and in the content of the teaching activity of Professor Ya. S. Kalakura.

In the newest studios on historiography Ya. S. Kalakura researches the evolution of the historiographical situation, the leading tendencies in the development and enhancement of historical knowledge, starting from the times of knights and finishing with his contribution to the institutionalization of Ukrainian historiography by M. S. Hrushevskiy and the historiographical work of contemporary historians. An important place in these works was devoted to the issue of the de-communization of Ukrainian historiography, its final break with the methodology of the party-class and formational approach to history, the establishment of a civilized understanding of the historiographical process, the positive effects of anthropological, cultural and informational changes, which fundamentally influenced the nature and methodology of cognitive activity of historians.

The researches performed by Ya. S. Kalakura of a problematic and thematic nature, the range of which is quite wide, are worth noting: it is the question of historical memory, and the interaction of the historian and the authorities, the Ukrainian revolution, and the Famine in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian spirituality and historiosophy of Taras Shevchenko, and Ukrainian-Turkish relations of the Cossack Era etc. The author emphasized the need to protect the historical memory of Ukraine from the Kremlin neo-expansion, the separation from the concepts of Russian historians of the powerful orientation, the intensification of professional discussions, the consistent dissolution of speculations and the refutation of falsifications of Ukrainian history in Russian historiography, the resisting attempts of the latter to impose a distorted idea of Ukrainian past and present to the world. These problems have become particularly relevant in the context of Putin's aggression, the annexation of the Crimea and the support of separatist and terrorist forces in the Donbas district.

At the forefront of the latest research the historiographer puts forward the problems of the methodology of historiographical research. The publication of the first scientific methodical manual "Methodology of Historiographical Research" in Ukraine became a significant event. It thoroughly highlights modern approaches to the methodology of historiography as a holistic doctrine of the nature and organization of historiographical research, its theoretical foundations and conceptual paradigms, the structure, logical organization, rules, methods, means of the cognitive process and technology of research activities of scientists. In this definition, the author emphasized the key role and methodology as a holistic system of rules, methods and means of knowledge of the historiographical process, generalization of the achievements of historians from a particular problem, establishing the completeness and objectivity of the study. Without realizing the need for the interaction of all the components of historiography, it is impossible to examine and comprehend the general and the special in its development, and therefore to develop an adequate understanding and explanation of the historiographical process.

The author consistently advocates another methodological principle of historiography, namely, the refutation of false allegations, falsifications and distortions, especially those that affect historical truth. These are all kinds of insinuations that are distributed in the works of certain domestic and foreign historians in particular Poland, Russia, Romania, Hungary, Turkey, etc., especially those who are trying to construct a historical justification of the so-called concepts of the "Russian world", "Great Poland", "Great Romania or Hungary", "Great Ottoman Empire", to bring them Ukrainian context.

The author gives a key place to the system of scientific knowledge, which includes general scientific, professional (strictly historiographical), interdisciplinary and branch methods. He considers the most effective methods of historiographical analysis and synthesis, system-structural and problem-
functional approaches, logical, historical-chronological, historical-situational, comparative, retrospective, biographical, methods of concrete sociological research, typology, classification, scientometry, content analysis, etc. Based on the analysis of the experience of the leading historiographers, the author justifies the conclusion that any research can be successful and effective in the case of a comprehensive application of methods—first of all, those that allow them to efficiently solve the problem.

In addition to the work on the methodology of historiographical research, the author owns more than 30 articles on the theory and methodology of historical science, which are included in the terminological and conceptual Handbook on Historical Science such as: “methodological toolkit”, “historiographical process”, “historiographic situation”, “historiographic source”, “historiographical fact”, “postpositivism”, “modernism”, .etc. [1].

By systematizing the conceptual dimension of the historiographer’s methodological studies, it is impossible to avoid his increased interest in the methodology of civilizational comprehension of the history of Ukraine. In a series of articles Yaroslav Stepanovych reveals the meaning of the civilizational approach in historical knowledge, convincingly proves its advantages in comparison with the formal interpretation of the historical process. The civilization approach in conjunction with the intensification of interdisciplinary research in the field of general, problematic, conceptual, cultural and intellectual history has become the defining direction of modern Ukrainian historical science, which seeks to plunge into the peculiarities of Ukrainian regional civilization as part of the European and world civilization process, to find out ways of the integrity affirmation of the civilization system of Ukraine and the collision of local identities in it. Due to this approach, historical science proceeds from the crisis caused by the absolutisation of the formation theory, its party-class interpretation, and the history of Ukraine is increasingly emerging in the context of the world historical process. The civilization paradigm of history is based on the philosophy of the integrity of the world, on the dialectical unity of society and culture.

The civilization approach is especially important in the context of the study of Ukrainian civilization as such, which has been historically formed on the ground of the community of people and the objectively existing reality, representing the union of the nation and society, its political organization, spiritual and material values created by different generations of the Ukrainian people for more than a thousand years of continuous history—from ancient times to the present days. It naturally intertwines the identity of the Ukrainian people, its language, mentality and cultural and spiritual values, the amazing beauty of nature, creating together a unique combination of man and the environment, a rare cultural-geopolitical space. Having a locally-regional and marginal character, Ukrainian civilization, with all its components, historically and culturally rooted in Western European classical civilization, and is one of its ancient segments.

It is worth emphasizing that the theoretical and methodological foundations of the civilizational approach to the historical process were developed by Ya. S. Kalakura and other authors, and found their practical application in concrete historical studies, which were prepared with his participation. It is about his key role in the creation of civilization history of Ukraine from ancient times to the present days (in two books), the civilization dimension of the history of the culture of the Ukrainian people, and the mentality of Ukrainian civilization.

The last work is worth special consideration, because it covers for the first time in Ukrainian historiography the essence of the mental dimension of Ukrainian regional civilization, its phenomenon, historical sources and the main stages of development from the ancient times to the present days. The authors laid out theoretical and methodological, historiosophical and historiographical foundation of the civilized understanding of the mentality of the Ukrainian people, its changes in the process of ethnogenesis, nationalization, national liberation and state movement for self-affirmation and restoration of Ukraine’s independence. Much attention was paid to the evolution of the mentality of the Ukrainians under the influence of the origin of writing, the adoption of Christianity, the formation of the Cossacks, the development of book printing, university education, science, interdenominational dialogue, the mastering of the spiritual values of the Renaissance and Enlightenment, the historiosophy
of Gregory Skovorda, Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Mykhailo Hrushevskiy and others, the crystallization of the national idea, the establishment of the identity and unity of Ukrainian society.

Along with the historiographical and methodological studios Ya. S. Kalakura continues to explore sources on the history of the state of Ukraine, the Ukrainian resistance movement, the actual problems of special historical disciplines, archival studies and archaeography. He understands the peculiarities of the development of Ukrainian archive, its history and organizations including in post-Soviet Ukraine. The priority role in the study of archival management belongs to the author since he has a number of articles on this problem, which formed the basis of the first Ukrainian textbook on “Management of the archive” submitted to the press – a reference notebook of lectures.

As the Professor R. Ya. Pyrig correctly pointed out, those who had to work and communicate with Yaroslav Stepanovych, note his wisdom and intelligence, energy, hardwork, commitment, self-organization, active social position, which are organically combined with responsiveness and goodwill, indifference to people [2]. His 80th anniversary Ya. S. Kalakura celebrates at work, full of interesting designs and creative plans, warmed by the attention of family, relatives, colleagues, students and friends. They all wish him good health, further work in the field of historical science and the preparation of a new generation of historians, family warmth and long life.

REFERENCES


Address: Volodymyr Velykochyy, Serhiy Derevjanko, Pavlo Vychivskyi, Vasyl Stefanyk Prekarpathian National University, 57, Shevchenko Str., Ivano-Frankivsk, 76025, Ukraine.
E-mail: wws@pu.if.ua, serhiy.derevyanko@pnu.edu.ua, vuchivskui.pavlo@gmail.com
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У статті висвітлено основні етапи життя і наукових здобутків професора Ярослава Степановича Калакури. Проаналізовано основні наукові досягнення та напрацювання видатного історика. Розглянуто його особистий внесок у розвиток української історичної науки, зокрема, в історіографії, джерелознавстві, архівознавстві.

Ключові слова: наукова школа, історія, дослідження, монографія.