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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE STUDY OF THE RUSSIAN ÉMIGRÉ EGO-DOCUMENTS

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The article will provide an overview of current state of international cooperation in Russian émigré ego-documentary scientific study. The conception of ego-documentary includes memories, memoirs, biographies, autobiographies, letters and diaries, and makes reference to the European philological and historical science in the beginning, and gradually accepted by the Russian scientific community. Theoretical base in studying the memoirs was developed in Soviet era. But practical study of ego-documentary was in suspended status there. It is so often that memoirs, and even biographies and autobiographies were biased on committed political nature. In post-Soviet era the reunion of Russian metropolis and émigré literature happened. Interest in the study and analysis of Russian émigré heritage is increasing year by year. At first instance it was dealt with

the recognized Russian émigré literature masters, but then the range of scientific research began to cover the «second level» authors, periodicals (serials) publications, and single work authors. However the shortage of the publications exists. We need in the international cooperation between libraries and scientific centres especially in current digital era. Some examples of the cooperation are successful. It is worth to mention the dissertations, conferences and serials research workflow is increasing last years. So the interest is sustainable and has to be supported on the international level.

Keywords: *Russian emigration; ego-documents; periodicals; memoirs; international cooperation.*

Nowadays the specialists are not taking the idea of split XX century Russian literature seriously, and the ideological component is a thing of the pastime. It was replaced by an understanding of confluence and «saving idea of the truly creative forces conjunction» [5, p. 723] of Russian literature. So it is clear that to do any significant research in the national philology without cooperation on the international level almost impossible. At least it should be to have a simple access to the analyzed texts. After all, if the works of the most famous writers of the Russian exile become somehow available due to their massive republish, issue the anthologies and compilation of collected works, then the texts of «second plan» authors as well as the ego-documents are not available due to their few original prints and current rarity. In particular it covers the materials published by the authors and access to the periodicals (serials). But how do we need in these texts?

Is it possible for science to avoid them? At least at the moment as the works of much more considerable authors have not yet investigated thoroughly.

If we have a look at the literary process history it is clear that unlike in the previous centuries the memoirs in Russian twentieth century became the subject of constant researcher's attention [8, 10, and 12]. In the early 1930s, the concept of «confessional» memoirs was introduced. The series *Literaturnye memuary* [Literary Memoir] started to be published in 1948. By the end of 1970s memoir writers are distinguished by most researchers as a separate genre formation. Simultaneously the individual stages of genre development designated. But along with a desire to take control of the historical memory of the society in the USSR it has resulted to the publishing activity ceasing in the field of recent memoirs for a while. At the same time the memoirs of Russian émigrés received almost a paramount meaning. But if the written in the metropolis memoirs contain the principle of «a calm», the produced in exile ones have a certain element of the justification, even the self-justification, «fenced off» self, and an appreciable fight between the historical realities and their explanation. Self-deception is compounded by the deliberate rigging of the historical records. There are some tensions between an objectivity of the data and a subjectivity of the recalled one. Obviously for a researcher and a historian the objective events and their presentation are more important. As per literary critic, the subjective component of memoirs is most. Search and find of the line and explain how the subjectivity is able to translate the text into another fiction level – a task of the memoirs' researcher. As we know there is a typical mix of feature and documentary in the

memoirs, and even a shift from the artistic to the documentary in the XX century. But there is a reverse trend too – the memoirs begin to have more and more artistic so they might be viewed in the aesthetic perspective.

As already mentioned the Soviet era memoirs «was stagnant in a hidden evolution as being thrown on the archaic and long overcome stage of its existence» in terms of the internal logic of development [9, p. 53]. So there are so few summary reviews in regards of the memoir general features as a genre, as well as for the evolution of the form. It is still not made the annals of publications of the works. And there is no single comprehensive bibliography of the twentieth century Russian émigré memoirs [2, p. 7], although the similar studies took place abroad [8]. One such attempt was made recently with the release of the four volumes of annotated index named after *Russia and the Russian emigration in the memoirs and diaries* (Moscow, 2003-2006). However it is worth to say that the main work of researchers of this title was made with assistance of the already existed bibliographical indexes [8 and 12] and also held in the US libraries, archives and collections, as well as in the collections of Russian state libraries and the State Archives of Russian Federation. It is certainly could not cover the entire layer of the ego-documents of the Russian diaspora completely. Thus the majority of works published in Australia were not included in the collection, for instance, and they were omitted due to their inaccessibility outside of Australia. For example, some of the missed works are *Visiting Stalin: 14 years in the Soviet concentration camps* (Melbourne, 1969) by Nazarenko P.; *Russian family at home and in*

Manchuria: memoir (Sydney, 1986) by Gintze M.; *One of many ones* (San Francisco, 1978-1979) by Khirdov A.

During the Soviet times the Lenin State Library had a special security department (*spetskhran*) where a collection of émigré books and periodicals were stored. At the post-Soviet era along with a new name of the library a new name of this department had obtained. Today it is a department of Russian emigration at the Russian State Library. There was changed a nature of the fund too. It had ceased to be a high security department but become a repository of Russian foreign thoughts. Still works on updating the collection are continuing actively till now. However there was collected not all unfortunately. Is it possible to collect everything or almost everything published abroad in Russian? Moreover during XX century with its world wars and human migrations, no doubt, some works have been lost. But something remains unknown even to a narrow circle of the specialists.

That is why an international level cooperation is more important than ever in this subject. Especially at the digital age when any prints can be successfully scanned and thus preserved, if not in print but in the electronic form at least. Similar interaction between the various libraries of the world became recently. May be said as successful in this regard the following projects, the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) and the Hathi Trust Digital Library (<http://www.hathitrust.org/>). In respect of a bibliography of Russian émigré it is known the North Carolina State University (USA) project *Russia is out of Russia* (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/browse/collection/rbr/>) for a while. The similar digital «books exchange» between the Russian State Library and the Alexander Solzhenitsyn House of Russian émigré Library-Fund is as-

sumed. By the way, the last named book depository has implemented the several projects to digitize periodicals (*Illyustrirovannaya Rossiya* [The Illustrated Russia], *Rubezh* [Frontier], etc.) too. And the leading literary Russian émigré magazine *Sovremennye Zapiski* [The Modern Notes] was digitized by the Nabokov Museum (<http://www.nabokov-museum.org/digitalbooks1.html#>). There are a few interesting projects for republication of old rare books (4tets Rare Books project, Salamandra P.V.V. etc.). A new *Print On Demand* technology allows a publishing in relatively quick and bypassing bureaucracy methods that are often associated with the publication of any mass circulation book. Some of the state libraries of the world have collected a thematic collection of the publications not available in other parts of the world. So the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii (USA) has a large still-growing collection of Russian books published in China. The National Library of Australia has collected the Australian publications in Russian. At the same time the lack of such prints is sensed acutely in Russia preventing the productive work of local science.

Just look at the bibliography of theses to be sure that the associated with the Russian emigration study workflow is growing steadily. Back to the 1990s and 2000s it was began to appear the analytical works on the Russian émigré writers with inclusions of their memoirs heritage. It is worth to mention the dissertations *Estetika literaturnogo byta russkogo zarubezh'ya* [The aesthetics of the literary life of the Russian diaspora] (St. Petersburg, 2001) by Demidova O.R., *Memuaristika kak istochnik osmysleniya mentaliteta russkoy intelligentsii* [Memoirs as a source of understanding the mentality of the Russian intelligentsia] (Saransk, 1995) by Sirotina I.L., *Memuaristika*

kak metazhanr i ee zhanrovye modifikatsii. Na materiale memuarnoy prozy russkogo zarubezh'ya pervoy volny [Memoirs as a meta-genre and its genre modifications: On a material of Russian first wave memoirs] (Vladivostok, 2004) by Kirillova E.L., *Ideynoe i khudozhestvennoe svoeobrazie memuarnoy prozy vtorostepennykh pisateley russkoy literaturnoy emigratsii* (N. Berberova, I. Odoevtseva, V. Yanovskiy) [The intellectual and artistic originality of the memoirs by minor Russian literary emigration writers (N. Berberova, I. Odoevtseva, V. Yanovsky)] (Moscow, 2005) by Kuznetsova A.A., among them. The discussions of such perspectives are also occurring at the numerous conferences, scientific meetings and symposiums devoted to the Russian exile literature and to a new literary trend.

Thus the interest of the Russian philology to memoirs of XX century Russian emigration might be considered as sustainable one. However it has not always been taken a wide range of the memoirs of a different nature, i.e. is belonging to the creators from the different occupations. And there are almost no studies especially to examine the memoirs published in the Russian émigré periodicals. Exactly such attempt is made in our research is carried out at Department of Russian Literature History of XX-XXI centuries in the Lomonosov Moscow State University at present time. This is the attempt to study and to analyze the ego-documentary by a Russian emigration second wave as well as their post-war publications (after World War II). The research is based on a retrospective author selection of leading socio-political and literary émigré magazine *Vozrozhdenie* [Renaissance] (Paris, 1949-1974). These serials are not so rare in world library collections. In particular, there are the complete magazine collections at the previ-

ously mentioned Russian State Library and the Alexander Solzhenitsyn House of Russian émigré Library-Fund. But it was so little interest in the publications of these serials to both local and foreign researchers until now. We have found only one Ph.D. thesis entirely devoted to this subject [11].

But the Parisian *Vozrozhdenie* magazine gave the pages to some memoirists regularly. As a rule they were the little-known authors or sufficiently well-known and respected persons who were writing irregularly or sporadically. Their view of the described events is attractive as a confessional text primarily at the level of everyday life [4, pp. 49-50]. In support of correct selection we will quote the famous Russian poet K. Vanshenkin who noted that the main feature of the literary memoirs as a genre that they are written not only writers. In his opinion there were some artists, scientists, military officers left remarkable examples of memoirs – people who are unable to write the novels or short stories [7, pp. 12-13]. This observation is correlated directly with N. Koznova words that «every day in the life of ordinary person could tell a lot about the military reality, and the moral and spiritual atmosphere that has arisen in a particular town <...> and across Europe» [3, p. 391].

Along with it the goals and objectives of our research are included the desire to show the unity of émigré memoir literature to present the literary life outside the country as a complex phenomenon. At the same time we would like to pass a uniqueness of every publication by the principle of comparative consideration. As noted by Yu. Azarov, «the same and is remarking that the émigré periodicals (serials) are a very important field of the literary activity abroad. The research will

monitor the trends in the spiritual life, culture and literature as well as their individual manifestations» [1, p. 7].

Unfortunately the Russian émigré serials are remained on the periphery of the Russian philological study, staying the social journalism study rather than literature one. Along with the continuous study of the Russian émigré literature in Western science [9] the local research interest is noticeably manifested since the late 1990s. It is worth to note in connection to it the next dissertations as *Otrazhenie obshchestvenno-politicheskoy zhizni Rossii v pechati Russkogo Zarubezh'ya (20-30-e gody XX veka)* [The reflection of the socio-political life of Russia in the Russian press abroad (1920-1930s)] (Moscow, 2002) by Pimenov I.V. and *Literaturnye tsentry pervoy russkoy emigratsii. Istoriya, razvitie i vzaimodeystvie* [The literary centers of the first Russian emigration: History, development and interaction] (Moscow, 2006) by Azarov Yu.A. Gorky Institute of World Literature of Russian Science Academy has prepared and published five volumes of *Literatura russkogo zarubezh'ya. 1920-1940* [Literature of the Russian emigration: 1920-1940] (Moscow, 1993-2013) monographic series where a third volume contains the émigré periodicals details.

At the same time it is clear it was not made enough, and the philological science in Russia has yet to discover the rich, vast and excited world of the literary serials of the Russian emigration. The interest of the our country philologists focused to this scientific area is definitely not enough, the influence of the ego-documentary to the literature already undeniable, and additionally there are the growing number of researchers are concerning to the «second level» writers. So look forward to see the new and interesting works in the study soon.

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