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ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ ІНФРАСТРУКТУРИ  
ТА ТЕХНОЛОГІЙ**

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**The value of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University (1869-1930) in the development of scientific research and the popularization of scientific knowledge in Ukraine**

***Abstract.** The article reveals the importance of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University in the development of scientific research and the popularization of scientific knowledge in Ukraine. Social, economic, political processes that occur today in Ukraine actualize historical memory and direct historical science to comprehend the scientific processes that took place in Ukraine in ancient times. The reconstruction of scientific Ukraine in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries would be incomplete without an indication of the role and importance of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University. The author proves that the activity of the Society was versatile, large-scale, imbued with high scientific ideas and democratic tendencies. It is stated that the effectiveness of this activity was ensured by the active work of the most prominent figures of science, culture, education, namely:*

*V. M. Arnoldi, P. I. Biletskyi, O. A. Hrosheim, O. V. Hurov, V. Ya. Danylevskyi, A. M. Krasnov, I. F. Levakovskiy, O. V. Nahornyi, O. M. Nikolskyi, Ya. V. Roll, M. M. Somov, P. P. Sushkin, V. I. Taliev, L. S. Tsenkovskiy, O. V. Chernaya, V. O. Yaroshevskiy. In particular, the role of scientists in deployment of a wide range of floristic, faunistic, geological and geographical researches as in the territory of provinces of the Kharkov educational district, and it is far beyond its limits is shown. It is emphasized that thanks to the fruitful activity of members of society considerable scientific results which promoted the development of many branches of domestic natural sciences were received. It was a company with an effective organizational structure and program of activities; it achieved outstanding results both in applied research and in the popularization of science. The Society was one of the channels for ensuring the interconnection of science and society. It acted as a certain social institute, which envisaged conducting active communication activity both within the Society and beyond. Besides, training of future generations of scientists was carried out at a high level, which testified to another feature of the Society as a social institute and a phenomenon in the system of science. The author provides little-known information about the Society, specifies evaluations and conclusions, which relate to separate parts of the scientific and popularizing activity of the Society.*



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**Keywords:** *The Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University; natural science; science; popularization; educational activities*

## **Introduction**

In recent years, an enhanced study of the history of national science, in particular, the history of Ukrainian natural science, has been carried out in Ukraine. This interest in the past of Ukrainian science is natural. After all, studying the cultural heritage of our country, the history of its creation by the works of Ukrainian scientists, once again convinces us how great is the contribution of our compatriots to the treasury of world science. The current generation must have a clear idea of the leading role that domestic scientists have played in the development of world science. Studying the history of scientific thought allows us to understand more deeply the genesis of important scientific discoveries, promotes the upbringing of patriotism and develops a sense of pride in one's homeland.

150 years have passed since the beginning of the activity of one of the oldest groups of voluntary scientific associations of our country – societies of nature researchers at universities. These societies, which unfortunately do not exist in Ukraine today, were created on the initiative of the First Congress of Russian Naturalists in December 1867 – January 1868. The need for these new forms of organization of scientists was prompted to bring science closer to society. As experience has shown, the founding of societies of nature researchers at the largest domestic universities was one of the greatest achievements of the First Congress of Russian natural scientists (Gelfenbeyn, 1965). Societies have become a true consolidating force of scientists in the development of science. Well-known and little-known scientists – botanists, zoologists, physiologists, geologists, geographers – worked actively among them. The territory of our country, unique in the diversity of natural conditions, made it possible for researchers to study the amazing organic and inorganic nature.

Along with colossal scientific work, the Society carried out extensive cultural and educational activities: conducted excursions, organized public lectures, prepared special courses in science for schools and colleges, printed popular science works, participated in international congresses, etc. The members of the Society themselves organized a huge library. The scientists who made a significant contribution to the popularization of science were O. S. Brio, V. Ya. Danylevskiy, A. M. Krasnov, O. M. Nikolskiy, L. V. Reinhard, V. I. Taliev, L. S. Tsenkovskiy, and others.

The purpose of the article is to substantiate the importance of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University (1869-1930) in the development of scientific research and the popularization of scientific knowledge in Ukraine.

## **Research methods**

The paper uses general scientific and special historical research methods. Among theoretical - historical and theoretical analysis of domestic and foreign literary and archival sources; study and generalization of scientific literature,



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legislative documents of the relevant period; analysis, synthesis, comparison, method of parallels, generalization and systematization of actual material. Among the special historical methods there is the historical and retrospective method, which made it possible to trace the patterns and specifics of the historical reality of that time, as well as to characterize the value of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University in the development of scientific research and the popularization of scientific knowledge in Ukraine; a diachronic method by which qualitative changes and achievements of members of the Society in various fields of natural science were investigated; comparative-historical and historical-scientific methods made it possible to find out the scientific and socio-cultural value of the results of the activity of the Society (Pylypchuk & Strelko, 2018).

### **Results and Discussion**

The organization of scientific researches in societies of researchers of nature stimulated scientific search, promoted the development of the creative initiative of scientists. This group of societies, as noted in the literature, has made a huge contribution to the development of national and world science (Materials on the organization and operation of scientific natural societies and research institutions of Ukraine, 1921-1925, p. 92). Acquaintance with the literature convinces us that the history of societies of researchers of nature at pre-revolutionary universities of Russia and Ukraine has been studied very insufficiently. First of all, the mechanism of their amazing scientific productivity has not been properly identified. In general, academic societies at universities have always played a prominent role in carrying out educational and research functions and shaping the scientific worldview of young people.

M. P. Kononenko extremely aptly noted the role played by natural-scientific societies in the development of civil society. In particular, he noted: «Historically and pedagogically, the natural societies of Ukraine have created a socially significant and interesting, largely original, domestic teaching experience. The study of pedagogical theory and practice of natural societies of Ukraine, scientific works of their members convincingly shows that their achievement is often a high example of a harmonious combination of scientific and natural ideas, approaches in the educational process and formation of civil society. Members of natural societies of Ukraine paid considerable attention to the awakening and formation of different inclinations, abilities in school and student youth. Particular attention was paid to identifying and developing the talents of adolescents and young people (Kononenko, 2004, p. 99).

Analyzing the phenomenon of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University, it is important to pay attention to the fact that it acted not only as a collective subject of scientific activity which task was to produce, reproduce and transmit scientific knowledge but also to the remarkable socio-cultural significance of its activity. In fact, researchers united by a common interest in a free society, not regulated by class, property, educational boundaries, have played a leading role not only in the scientific but also in the cultural and social development of our country. The axiological

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approach to understanding natural science thought allowed us not only to state historical facts related to the activity of the Society, the creative achievements of its members, but also to reflect the deep moral meaning of their discoveries, their scientific works, their impact on future generations.

The second half of the XIX – the first third of the XX century – is a relatively short period in the life of our country; it is full of innovations of the scientific and organizational plan which contributed not only to the creation of the developed scientific community but also stimulated the most complete manifestation of the characteristic features of the national scientist among its members. The activity of scientists of this period was an important link between the system of value orientations adopted by the intellectual labour in the second half of the XIX century and the social type of native naturalist, which was formed on the edge of the XX century (Demuz, 2014). At this difficult time, the scientific elite carried out responsible tasks not only for the development of the system of scientific knowledge but also for the creation of its scientific community. Many of these scholars belonged to «diverse elite». Some natural scientists from their early years, overcoming considerable difficulties, formed their destiny. Their hard work, creative talent, unselfish attitude to science gave them a real opportunity to occupy a worthy place in it. All of them, without exaggeration, were committed to science and sought to make a significant contribution to their country's involvement in science. They have practically always played the role of enlighteners in society, teachers who have shaped the scientific worldview of their students. The main means of strengthening the social position of domestic scientists was self-organization, that is, informal ways of association and communication (Chesnova & Fando, 2008). This was one of the important motives of conscious orientation on the cultivation of collective ways of research work, which was manifested in the development of scientific schools and societies. Such informal formations are characteristic of the Institute of Science irrespective of the socio-cultural atmosphere that gives rise to them. However, domestic scientists saw a little more in organizing informal associations, namely, the creation of centres of collective creativity, scientific continuity, intellectual freedom.

At that time, a galaxy of outstanding scientists worked in Kharkiv-zoologists – O. V. Chernai, P. P. Sushkin, O. M. Nikolskyi; botanists V. M. Arnoldi, O. A. Hrosheim, A. M. Krasnov, Ya. V. Roll, V. I. Taliev, L. S. Tsenkovskyi, L. A. Shkorbatov; physiologists V. Ya. Danylevskyi, O. V. Nahorny; geologists N. D. Borysiak, O. S. Brio, O. V. Hurov, I. F. Levakovskyi, P. P. Piatnytskyi; geographers M. Ye. Krendovskyi, Yu. I. Morozov. And they were all honorary and full members of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University (Korobchenko, 2016). These scientists took an active part in the activities of the Society, through their work they raised national science to a much higher level. They have carried out a large amount of scientific research in the field of floristics, faunistics, botanical and zoological systematics, plant and animal morphology and physiology, as well as geology, mineralogy, and geography.

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The Society was the coordinator of the scientific activity of scientists. Natural scientists worked out theoretical and production problems of natural science, they played a special role in the spiritual and social life of Ukraine. The members of the Society held liberal positions, supported advanced students and advocated the freedom of scientific creativity. The relations of scientists with the authorities were not easy. In the second half of the XIX century, the tendency of the ambiguity of the state's stance on science intensified: on the one hand, it was recognized as a source of economic and military power, and on the other, it was suspicious of its democratic traditions and corporate spirit, which was based on Western European culture. The members of the Society play a leading role in the creation of a special form of scientific activity - collective scientific creativity. The special place of the Society in the development of national science is due to the fact that its research activity in comparison with the academic science (Academy of Sciences, universities, institutions of higher education) was closer to the needs of the national economy, it was more fundamental and diverse. The Society started to form and develop a number of the most important directions and problems that are successfully developing today.

The formation of the Society as a social structure was determined by the objective process of the historical development in the second half of the XIX century. At that time, the demand for basic research and skilled personnel increased significantly. While the need for personnel was mainly met due to graduates of Kharkiv University and other institutions of higher education in the country, the need for sound recommendations was met due to high professionalism, high organization of scientific work, socio-cultural and democratic community inherent in the society. The Society educated not narrow specialists, but naturalists with broad and thorough training in the main branches of natural science – biology, geology, geography, etc.

Referring to the initial period of activity of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University, you can see what a great contribution to the development of natural science was made by scientists under the auspices of the Society. One of the priority tasks, according to the Charter of the Society, was «conducting natural history studies in zoology, botany, mineralogy, geology, paleontology in Russia, and counties adjacent to the provinces of Kharkiv educational district; collecting and assembling systematic collections; publication of scientific works; dissemination of natural history in Russia». In the first year of its existence, the Society has equipped zoological expeditions for exploring Kharkiv province (P. T. Stepanov, O. F. Maslovskyi). Considerable collections of animals and plants were collected, information on the fauna and flora of the Siverskyi Donets was received, important geological observations were made. The company also directed its expeditions to study the minerals of the region (Polovka & Polovka, 2017). In 1869 H. F. Shperk, L. V. Reinhard and M. V. Sorokin made a trip to the outskirts of Belgorod in order to study the cryptogamous flora, visited for the same purpose the outskirts of Zmiyev, lakes of Sloviansk and the outskirts of Sviatohorsk Monastery ( now Mountain Artem). With the emergence of the Society, a period of systematic exploration of the

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Azov and Black Seas also began. Rich collections (which exist today) were gathered in expeditions and transferred to the Zootomical, Zoological, Botanical and Mineralogical Offices of Kharkiv University (91 collections in total).

With all the autonomy and independence of scientific societies from the administration of universities, their existence at the main centers of public education had enormous content. Thus, the Society's library was accessible to its members who were not full-time employees of the University. At the same time, the library of the Society itself was stored at the departments at which the relevant branches of the Society worked (Bagalej & Osipov, 1911). Collections gathered by expeditions organized by the Society were received at the departments and offices of the University. Meetings of the Society, which were lively held at the university and were followed by discussions, were accessible not only to those who were relevant to the university but also to anyone interested in a particular field of science. Thus, in all the years of its activity, the Society played an important role in the consolidation of scientific forces. The attraction to the Society was explained, on the one hand, by the desire of scientists to join their forces in order to spread the front of scientific research, to obtain more scientific data and more valuable scientific materials, and on the other hand, by those privileges and advantages in conducting scientific research, which gave the Society. Although it did not have very significant financial resources, it still allowed its members to occasionally go on scientific expeditions and trips, print scientific articles and notes in their publications, as well as the right to scientific hunting in any season of the year, etc. (*Ustav Obshhestva ispytatelej prirody pri Imperatorskom Kharkovskom universitete*, 1869). Members of the Society were scientists already known for their scientific works, as well as very young naturalists, among whom there were many students of the Department of Natural Sciences of the University.

It should be noted that the second half of the XIX century in biology was characterized by profound methodological shifts. It was a period of struggle for Darwinism, for the materialistic theory of the development of the organic world, against the ideas of creationism (Pavlenko, Ruda, Khorosheva & Khramov, 2001). In this struggle, the Society has shown itself as no other society in such a plan. It is here that we see strong supporters of Darwinism (O. M. Nikolskyi, P. P. Sushkin, L. S. Tsenkovskyi, O. M. Krasnov, V. I. Taliev) and even more aggressive supporters of anti-Darwinism (O. F. Brandt, O. F. Maslovskyi, Ye. O. Shults). The democratic and materialistic traditions cultivated in the Society, as well as the progressive views, served as an incentive for the research and education of young scientists. Through their scientific and social activities, natural scientists created a certain moral climate, a spiritual atmosphere in which the lives of more than one generation of scientists were flowing. Spiritual values were preferred in the Society, and the interests of science were paramount.

Scientists were interested not only in pure science. The Society has played an essential role in raising interest in natural science among the general population of Ukraine. Through their educational activities, the Society's naturalists have raised the

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level of education and spirituality of the people. The idea of direct relentless service to the people deeply penetrated the sphere of creative activity of the members of the Society, inspired them to find ways of introducing scientific ideas into the national consciousness. In this enlightenment, leading scholars saw a way of expressing their social position. The enormous cultural and educational role of the Society was in the promotion of natural science knowledge through the organization of public lectures and the publication of popular science literature. The Society successfully conducted scientific excursions and expeditions (within Russia, Ukraine and abroad), created exhibitions and museums, established awards, established a biological station, maintained active scientific links with other scientific societies and organizations. It is hard to deny that it is through the description of nature, popularization of natural science and one's language the patriotic education of a person is carried out, educational tasks are solved, love and respect for one's homeland and people are instilled.

One of the important forms of cultural and educational activity and at the same time engaging in experimental work of children and young people were numerous excursions, which gave a lot of material for its further scientific processing. The Society's research and excursion projects facilitated the organization of exhibitions and the replenishment of its own museum. The merit of the Society was also his active participation in the decoration of the provincial museums of history. Getting acquainted with interesting exhibits caused the desire of the general public to get to know the history of their land even more deeply, to study places of history and culture directly on the ground. This work laid the foundations for the further development of the tourist-excursion business as a social phenomenon. The members of the Society widely implemented the excursion method in order to study the problems of the history of Ukraine, local history, natural science, nature conservation. This greatly contributed to the development of Ukrainian culture, the formation of the national consciousness of the people (Korobchenko, 2014).

In the 20s of the XX century, the popularization activity of the Society significantly activated. To this end, in 1922, a scientific popular commission was established under the Kharkiv Naturalists Society. The main task of the Commission was to disseminate natural and historical knowledge among the broad circles, as well as to involve them in scientific work and to promote the objectives of the Society. The special task was to monitor the achievements of modern science and to familiarize them with the members of the Society. To meet these objectives, the Commission held special meetings at which reports and lectures were heard, provided exhibitions, excursions and expeditions of a scientific and popular nature. The commission consisted of full members and associate members. All full members of the Society could become active members of the Commission. All interested employees of the Society, as well as all those who were interested in science, could be associate members. The latter was elected, on the recommendation of two full members of the Commission, by voting. The Bureau of the Commission consisted of a chairman and a secretary, who were elected from among the full members of the

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Commission for the period of one year. The Commission convened regular and general meetings. At the regular meetings scientific reports, abstracts, literature reviews on various issues of natural science were read and discussed. At the general meetings Presidium election took place, budget and report of the Commission, business trips and appropriations were approved. All questions were resolved by a simple majority of the present full members of the Commission. General meetings were considered valid if at least half of the members residing in Kharkiv were present. The Commission used the seal of the Society. Regular meetings were considered valid with any number of those who gathered. The Commission was required to provide the Society with an annual report on its activities and a work plan for approval by the general meeting of the Society. The Commission's funds consisted of membership dues, government subsidies, lectures and courses, exhibitions and donations. Commission organized courses on techniques of excursion business.

Although it has not been possible to organize public lectures for the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University for a long time, natural scientists who understood the crucial importance of promoting scientific knowledge among the general public, found and implemented various ways and opportunities for organizing this.

The Donetsk Biological Station played an extremely important role in cultural and educational work. Thus, in 1927 a museum of local nature was organized at the station, which contained interesting collections of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, insects (a total of 70 species – 382 specimens). This museum was widely used for demonstrations. In addition to scientific work, a workshop was organized on the basis of the biostation and educational excursions were conducted for students of higher education institutions of Kharkiv.

In the early XX century, progressive members of the Society turned to the problem of nature conservation. Such scientists as V. G. Averin, S. I. Medvedev, V. I. Taliev, O. A. Yanata already began to realize the importance of nature conservation. Today, we clearly understand that nature and the nationwide struggle for its preservation and cleanliness are a crucial component of our culture. The experience of previous generations of scientists is extremely relevant today because even then they offered methods by which it was possible to form a correct system of values in the relationship between man and nature. People from all over Ukraine and Russia, sought guidance from the Society on how to study natural history objects and phenomena, shared their observations on nature, disinterestedly sent natural history objects and entire collections related to the fields of mineralogy, zoology, botany, palaeontology. These collections were scientifically processed by the scientists of the Society, and the results of this work were printed, which contributed to the accumulation of valuable material for the knowledge of nature.

The merit of the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University was its active participation in the decoration of provincial museums of history. Due to extensive publishing activity, each of the members of the Society was allowed to publish their research. The Society published «Trudy Obshchestva Ispytateley Prirody pri

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Khar'kovskom Universitete» (Proceedings of the Society of Nature Examiners at Kharkiv University), as well as «Protokoly zasedanii Obshchestva ispytatelei prirody pri Imperatorskom Khar'kovskom universitete» (Minutes of the meetings of the Society of Nature Investigators at the Imperial Kharkiv University) (Ustav Obshchestva ispytatelej prirody pri Imperatorskom Kharkovskom universitete, 1869). «Trudy» was a highly professional publication of the works of natural scientists of the Society, which contained great material for the formation of scientific concepts. The results of the research were presented by the members of the Society at the discretion of their colleagues and were published only after discussion at the meetings. The high scientific value of the published works was not in doubt, as each of them was previously discussed and a corresponding resolution was passed, which approved after the closed ballot. Discussion of progress and results was extremely important, as it allowed us to formulate common points of view, approaches, positions of participants. Each participant had the right for their opinion, had the right to express and defend it. Any suppression of discussion was strictly prohibited.

### **Conclusions**

Thus, the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University was an active public body, whose purpose was to comprehensively promote the development of natural science in our country. In the way of progress of science, voluntary scientific societies in general and the Naturalists Society at Kharkiv University, in particular, were the centers of crystallization, those centers of knowledge, the flame in which was maintained by the collective mind, multiplied by enthusiasm, encyclopedic education and high civic position of the scientists who led these associations. The high scientific authority of the Society relied on the authority of knowledge and logic of belief. Its successes were achieved through enthusiasm, free creative initiative, patriotism, deep scientific interest in the tasks of all its members without exception. The study of the practical and scientific activity of the Society is still relevant today because it extends our knowledge about the nature and scope of social and scientific life of our Motherland. For 60 years, the Society has symbolized the intellectual strength of our nation, its contribution to world civilization. In terms of autocracy, the Society was the bearer of leading scientific ideas, contributing to the development of science and the economy through its activities. In the Soviet times, it remained a democratic association of creatively gifted specialists, people from different classes. The Society was famous for its traditional multilateral links with national and international scientific schools and individual scientists. The close scientific and personal communication of the Society's natural scientists with European and American scientists has given the Society high scientific authority.

In fact, the Society reflected in its activities all the conceptual statuses of science. It was aimed at producing new knowledge. The obtained knowledge was transmitted not only to a limited number of representatives of one or another scientific area but also to the whole scientific community, society as a whole. The Society has become one of the main channels for ensuring the interconnection of

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science and society. It acted as a certain social institute, which envisaged conducting active communication activity both within the Society and beyond. In addition, the training of future generations of scientists was carried out at a high level, which testified to another feature of the Society as a social institute and a unique phenomenon in the system of contemporary science.

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**Значення Товариства дослідників природи при Харківському університеті  
(1869-1930) в розвитку наукових досліджень і популяризації наукових  
знань в Україні**

*Анотація.* В статті розкривається значення Товариства дослідників природи при Харківському університеті в розвитку наукових досліджень і популяризації наукових знань в Україні. Соціальні, економічні, політичні процеси, які відбуваються сьогодні в Україні актуалізують історичну пам'ять і спрямовують історичну науку до осмислення наукових процесів, які розгорталися на теренах України в минулі часи. Реконструкція наукового життя в Україні другої половини XIX - початку XX ст. була б неповною без окреслення ролі та значення товариства дослідників природи при Харківському університеті. Авторка доводить, що діяльність Товариства була багатогранною, широкомасштабною, пронизаною високими науковими ідеями і демократичними тенденціями. Вказано, що ефективність цієї діяльності забезпечувалась активною працею найвизначніших діячів науки, культури, освіти, а саме: В. М. Арнольдї, П. І. Білецького, О. А. Гросгейма, О. В. Гурова, В. Я. Данилевського, А. М. Краснова, І. Ф. Леваковського, О. В. Нагорного, О. М. Нікольського, Я. В. Ролла, М. М. Сомова, П. П. Сушкіна, В. І. Талієва, Л. С. Ценковського, О. В. Черная, В. О. Ярошевського. Зокрема, висвітлюється роль вчених у розгортанні широкого спектру флористичних, фауністичних, геологічних і географічних досліджень, як на території губерній Харківського навчального округу, так і далеко за його межами. Підкреслюється, що завдяки плідній діяльності членів товариства були отримані значні наукові результати, які сприяли розвитку багатьох галузей вітчизняного природознавства. Товариство було організацією з ефективною організаційною структурою і програмою діяльності, досягло непересічних результатів як у дослідженнях прикладного характеру, а також у популяризації науки. Товариство було одним із каналів забезпечення взаємозв'язку науки і суспільства. Воно виступало як певний соціальний інститут, який передбачав ведення активної комунікаційної діяльності як у середині Товариства, так і за його межами. Крім того, на високому рівні здійснювалась підготовка майбутніх поколінь учених, що свідчило про ще одну рису Товариства як соціального інституту й феномену в системі науки. Авторка наводить маловідому інформацію про Товариство, уточнює і конкретизує оцінки і висновки, які стосуються окремих сторін наукової і популяризаційної діяльності Товариства.

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**Ключові слова:** Товариство дослідників природи при Харківському університеті; природознавство; наука; популяризація; просвітницька діяльність

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### **Значение Общества испытателей природы при Харьковском университете (1869-1930) в развитии научных исследований и популяризации научных знаний в Украине**

*Аннотация.* В статье раскрывается значение Общества испытателей природы при Харьковском университете в развитии научных исследований и популяризации научных знаний в Украине. Социальные, экономические, политические процессы, которые происходят сегодня в Украине актуализируют историческую память и направляют историческую науку на осмысление научных процессов, которые происходили на Украине в прошлое время. Реконструкция научной жизни в Украине второй половины 19 – начала 20 века была бы неполной без указания роли и значения общества испытателей природы при Харьковском университете. Автор доказывает, что деятельность Общества была многогранной, широкомасштабной, пронизанной высокими научными идеями и демократическими тенденциями. Указано, что эффективность этой деятельности обеспечивалась активным участием выдающихся деятелей науки, культуры, образования, а именно: В. М. Арнольди, П. И. Белецкого, А. А. Гроссгейма, А. В. Гурова, В. Я. Данилевского, А. Н. Краснова, И. Ф. Леваковского, О. В. Нагорного, А. Н. Никольского, Я. В. Ролла, Н. Н. Сомова, П. П. Сушкина, В. И. Талиева, Л. С. Ценковского, А. В. Черная, В. А. Ярошевского. В частности, показана роль ученых в разворачивании широкого спектра флористических, фаунистических, геологических и географических исследований, как на территории губерний Харьковского учебного округа, так и далеко за его пределами. Подчеркивается, что благодаря плодотворной деятельности членов общества были получены значительные научные результаты, которые способствовали развитию многих отраслей отечественного естествознания. Общество было организацией с эффективной организационной структурой и программой деятельности, достигло весомых результатов в исследованиях прикладного характера, а также в популяризации науки. Общество было одним из каналов обеспечения взаимосвязи между наукой и обществом. Оно выступало как некий социальный институт, который предусматривал ведение активной коммуникационной деятельности как в самом Обществе, так и за его пределами. Кроме того, на высоком уровне осуществлялась подготовка

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будущих поколений ученых, что свидетельствовало о еще одной характеристике Общества как социального института и феномена в системе науки. Автор подает малоизвестную информацию об Обществе, уточняет и конкретизирует оценки и выводы, которые касаются отдельных сторон научной и популяризационной деятельности Общества.

**Ключевые слова:** Общество испытателей природы при Харьковском университете; естествознание; наука; популяризация; просветительская деятельность

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