

**THE PRESS AND DIARIES AS THE SOURCES  
OF THE ODESSA CITY MAYORS PROSPOGOGAFIC PORTRAIT  
IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19th - BEGINNING THE 20th CENTURY**

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**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the consideration of the main Odessa newspapers and sources of personal origin, which reflected the figures and activities of city mayors in 1863 – 1914. The role and peculiarity of using such materials for the creation of a prosopographic portrait of a professional group is specified. The result is the necessity to include these sources to reflect the full picture of Odessa's past after the adoption of the new City Regulations and before the outbreak of World War I.

**Key words:** press, newspaper, diary, mayor, city government, prosopography.

**INTRODUCTION.** In the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, figures holding the position of mayor had an important influence on the socio-economic and cultural development of Odessa. The City Duma and its leaders gained special powers under the City Regulations of 1863 and 1876.

Semyon Vorontsov, Nikolai Novoselsky, Grigory Marazli, Valeryan Ligin, Pavel Zeleny, Petro Kryzhanovsky, Vasily Protopopov, Nikolai Moiseyev and Boris Pelikan were city mayors of Odessa during 1863-1914. For modern citizens the names of S. Vorontsov, N. Novoselsky, G. Marazli are acquainted, but only occasionally they can say something about the activities of these people. The names of other city heads remain a mystery even for scientists.

**METHODOLOGY.** One of the directions of prosopographic research is the creation of collective biographies of person's groups united by a specific trait: family, professional, social, political, ethnic, etc. Prosopography deals with the search, attribution and synthesis of biographical and all other data (appearance, traits and personal qualities, family ties, field of activity, career, various life circumstances, etc.) about the persons mentioned in historical sources for the purpose of complete reproduction of the past as a history of people (Tomazov, 2012: 40).

The periodicals, the main varieties of which are newspapers and magazines, occupy a leading place in the source base of Ukraine's Modern and Contemporary history. Their specific feature is a complex synthetic character: many forms of information (documentary, chronological, personal, etc.) are presented. The practice of publishing official materials and sources transforms the press into a kind of treasure trove of of a certain epoch that cover events in various directions (Kalakura, 2002).

In this study, the three civil major newspapers of the period under review were the “Odessky Vestnik” (Odesskij Vestnik, 1863-1893), “Odesskie Novosti” (Odesskie Novosti, 1890-1914), and “Odessky Listok” (Odesskij Listok, 1895-1910), that on their front pages promptly provided information on the activities of mayors for the Odessa city community.

The main types of such sources of personal origin are memoirs, diaries, private correspondence, biographies, autobiographies, travel notes and more. The value of these sources is determined by the peculiarities of their origin, since they belong to a specific author, and therefore reflect the direct perception of the world, historical events and phenomena. They contain peculiar information of the social and psychological level, which is absent in other types of sources (Kalakura, 2002).

One of the striking examples of sources of personal origin of the period under study is “Notes by E. S. Andreevsky” (Zapiski Je. S. Andreevskogo, 1913-1914). Erast Andreevsky was the personal doctor of the family of mayor Semen Vorontsov. Andrievsky was close to Vorontsov in all important decisions that were made in the city council to improve the city and its residents.

**RESULTS.** Analyzing the content of newspapers, it can be noted that much attention was paid to the news of the provincial, general-imperial and world-wide scale, slightly less coverage of urban affairs. Special sections were created to familiarize with the affairs and decisions of the City Duma. The pages of Odessa News contain engravings of mayors. As well as special attention was drawn to the “*feuilletons*” - short stories of contemporaries of events, which were mostly sarcastic. It described the character and behavior of celebrities in different situations quite

often. In the Andreevsky's diaries you can find a lot of information about the nature of the mayor and the impact of his environment.

**CONCLUSIONS.** Therefore, the press as a separate source can serve as additional material to supplement the sources of the act. "*Feuilletons*" are a rather subjective source that is also entitled to use in prosopographic research. The applying of diaries allows the historian to reproduce in more detail and color both individual events and characteristics and features of certain eras, individuals. All the aforementioned materials are an important vehicle for public events that give new character to the mayors and reflect the impact of the political situation in the country on the city's self-government.

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