

Yusupova Y.G., MSPU

**“THE REGISTERS OF DNEIPER COSSACKS’ ARMY”
COMPILED IN 1649 AS ONE OF THE RICHEST MONU-
MENTS OF HISTORIC ANTHROPONYMY”**

Investigating the lexical wealth of the historic possessions of the language, including evaluating creative achievements of its bearer in the field of vocabulary, assists not only in further learning the creative spirit of the people in the area of its language at the corresponding stage of its existing and in revealing its lost resources. It also influences positively present state of the language and the culture of the people, their functioning in general.

Studying anthroponymy of the people in one of its sections helps to reveal lingual means and ways of identifying people, interactions of onomastic funds adjacent areas and peoples while forming national anthroposystems and regional subsystems, and ethymological analysis of the stems represented in surnames becomes an inexhaustible source for reconstructing historical-cultural heritage of the people, first of all its social and political structure, its manufacturing, religious beliefs, traditions, and in its turn, assists in defining characteristic features of the people on the background of its neighbours in time and space.

One of the richest written possessions of the historic anthroponymy is “The Registers of Dnieper Cossacks’ Army” compiled in 1649. The choice of the source is caused by several reasons. First, “The Registers” were compiled in the middle of the 17th century, when the surname system of the nation was forming actively. Thus, the cossacks’ anthroponymy is not established surnames but only nicknames freshly formed on the basis of the language and language environment in which the cossacks were living. Second, “The Registers” comprehend great territory, which corresponds with such existing now regions as Vinnitska, Kyivska, eastern part of Zhitomirska, Cherkasska, most part of Chernigivska, Poltavska, south-eastern part of Sumska regions. Due to the fact that all the regiments were organized according to the territorial principle every nickname reflects not only the word itself but the word with its localization. Thus, to a great extent “The Registers” as a language monument may be regarded as a peculiar dialectological atlas of the middle of the 17th century. Third, the source contains great anthroponymic material: 40,449 proper

names are fixed in the document. Besides, among the cossacks there are representatives of at least three language families: Indo-European, Turkish and Finno-Hungarian. The fact that there are also representatives of the two world religions—Christianity and Muslim – in “The Registers” should also be mentioned. Without their investigation even the general idea about this document will be incomplete. These facts are of great importance for the objectiveness of the conclusions made.

Investigating German borrowings in the anthroponymy of “The Registers” we investigate one of the essential results of the contacts of the Ukrainian language with the German language which were taking place to a great extent due to the mediation of the Polish language. Thus, investigation of the German elements in the Ukrainian language is also investigation of German elements in other Slavonic languages, first of all in Polish. This fact has incontestible meaning for the history of culture.

All the previous investigations made were based on the readings by Bodyansky O. M. In 1995 the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine published a new edition of “The Registers”, in which a great many of the mistakes made by Bodyansky O. M. in his time were corrected and the spaces were mostly filled. Actually, “The Registers” have a new outlook now, and thus demand new investigation, both historical and linguistic.

As the history of the Ukrainian language, and of its vocabulary in particular, is still not investigated properly the written fixation of the Ukrainian vocabulary as it was in 1649 is an important milestone in the history of the development of the vocabulary of the Ukrainian language. To the counterbalance of the other monuments of the Ukrainian language of that period “The Registers” to the greatest extent reflect the truly existed language environment, so in many cases the oldest fixations of the German elements in the Ukrainian language will be undoubtedly dated by 1649 – by the year when “The Registers” were compiled. And for the future ethymological and historical investigations of the Ukrainian language the date of the oldest fixation is an important reference point for investigating interactions of the Ukrainian language, in this case with the Germanic languages. It is also important to state that in the ethymological dictionaries of Germanic languages, e. g. German or Dutch, the oldest time of fixation of this or that word is always stated. We can hope that due to the investigation conducted it will be possible to make a list of the oldest fixations of the German borrowings in

the Ukrainian language. Thus, even now we can doubt the trulyness of the statement made by Shansky (Concise Ethymological Dictionary) about the date of the oldest fixation of the surname **Столярєнко**: “borrowed not later than in the 18th century”. Undoubtedly, the word “столяр” even in the middle of the 17th century was an element of the vocabulary of the Ukrainian language. Thus, investigation of “The Registers” may contribute much to correcting some mistakes concerning the date of the oldest fixation of some borrowings in the Ukrainian language.

Great attention should be paid to the names of the professions and occupations, that mainly represent the city culture, as “The Registers” are not only the list of surnames of cossacks but also of the representatives of those social layers that took active part in the first period of the War for Independence.

E.g. the surname **Друкъ** and its derivatives is met in the document twice,

Маляр and derivatives-three times, **КушнѢр** and derivatives – twenty eight times,

Бондар and derivatives-thirty seven times, **Шынкар** and derivatives – thirty four times, **Солдат** and derivatives- five times, **Аптикар** –one time, **Слюсар** and derivatives-thirty three times, **Крамар** and derivatives-fourteen times.

All the above mentioned examples are borrowings from the German language.

Another problem is the form of the written fixation of the surnames-professions and their territorial variants and the defining of the reasons for the appearing of these variants.E.g. the surname **Слюсар**, besides this variant, has other two: **Слисар** and **СлѢсар**. Konrad Kunze in his work “Vornamen und Namen im Deutschen Gebiet” states that there exist the following dialectal names of professions in the German language: *Schlösser, Schlessen, Schlöt(t)er* and *S(ch)letter*. Thus, we may suppose that the variant **СлѢсар** can be a written fixation of the German dialectal word but not the Ukrainian variant of fixation.

Very important is the fact that the way of life vocabulary is reflected in “The Registers”. Thus, for the history of the word *грунт* in the Ukrainian language the written fixation is also essential. In the document the surname “**Кгрунтъ**” is met, which indicates non-fricative “r”. Besides, other German

borrowings are found in the document: **Шпакъ** and derivatives- seventeen times, **Шпиль** and derivatives-six times, **Шмать** and derivatives-ten times, **Тєсля** and derivatives –fifteen times,

Книшь and derivatives – one time, though there exist doubts in the German origin of this word, **Штофъ** and derivatives-nine times. This layer also deserves peculiar investigation.

On the basis of “The Registers” it is possible to make a number of dictionaries, which will essentially fill the gaps in studying the history of the Ukrainian vocabulary. But unquestionably “The Registers” should be investigated in the context of the Ukrainian language of that period.

Thus, it is important to state that “The Registers of Dnieper Cossacks’ Army” is a unique monument of the history and culture of the Ukrainian nation of the first half of the 17th century, a great source of the history of the Ukrainian cossacks and the state system of Ukraine and a magnificent field for reseach work. The new edition of “The Registers” is a unique source not only of the Ukranian but also of the European history and culture.

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