

“HOUSING ISSUES” OF KYIV ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN 1940’S–1950’S

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The article analyses living and working conditions of Kyiv archaeologists in the 1940’s and 1950’s, when Kyiv gradually recovered from the terrible war destruction. Like all Kyiv citizens, archaeologists suffered from a lack of housing and the necessary equipment and furniture but continued their research. All this was compounded by the intensification of post-war repression. After the restoration of its activity, the Institute of Archaeology was located on Taras Shevchenko Boulevard with several other institutes of the Academy of Sciences until 1960. In the same building there was a dormitory for employees. All this did not improve the work of the institution, but also led to interpersonal conflicts. The sluggish bureaucratic system created in the USSR forced the use of the Institute’s administrative resources to solve ordinary household issues. To improve the living conditions of staff, as well as to ensure relatively normal working conditions, Directorate of Institute of Archaeology had to repeatedly escalate by writing numerous letters, both to the leadership of the Academy of Sciences, and to the Soviet institutions of various levels for the purpose of “knocking out” at least some living quarters for archaeologists. This situation continued for many years after the war. In addition to the everyday problems of the Kyiv archaeologists, the directorate of Institute of Archaeology tried to assist Lviv archaeologists in such situations, who formally were a part of Institute of Archaeology. However, in most cases, this assistance did not produce any results.

In addition, the “housing issue” also concerned the Institute of Archaeology, because for many years the institution had major problems with the lack of space not only for staff but also for the collection of finds. These problems were also exacerbated by the plundering of the Institute itself and its collections during the war.

Key words: history of archaeology, everyday life of Kyiv citizens, everyday life of archaeologists, Taras Shevchenko boulevard, 14.

As it happens, the lifestyle of an archaeologist is inevitably associated with expeditions: trenches, tents, outdoor camps. But for a larger part of the year an archaeologist, like any other scientist, spends in the city: at their desk, in archives and libraries. This article aims to reconstruct the living conditions of archaeologists in Kyiv in 1940’s–1950’s. Chronological timeframe is set by location of Institute of Archaeology at Taras Shevchenko Boulevard, 14 (1934–1960), but the most attention will be given to postwar period. The purpose of this research would be to establish the details of life of archaeologists and their impact on working relationships in Institute of Archaeology and its scientific activity. This study does not intend to cover topics of life during occupation and evacuation, as they deserve to be studied separately.

Life in postwar Kyiv has been a subject of multiple historian studies, including everyday life of ordinary citizens [Малаков, 2008; Овсіюк, 2017]. There are also separate publications that cover the anthropology of archaeological trade, that show several specifics of relationships between team members [Буйських, 2014]. The aim of this study is to cover the postwar living conditions of employees of Institute of Archaeology of Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian SSR.

Since 1934 Institute of History of Material Culture (renamed to Institute of Archaeology in 1938) was located in a building formerly occupied by First Men’s Gymnasium at Shevchenko Boulevard, 14. That same building was also home so several other institutions of Academy of Sciences: Literature Institute, Institute of History of Ukraine, Institute of Languages, and, until 1936, All-

Ukrainian association of Marksist-Leninist Institutes. And before that, it was the location of State Library of All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (now The State Library named after Volodymyr Vernadsky). As late as 15 years after the city was freed from Nazi occupation there was many unaccounted boxes in the basement of Institute of Archaeology. For example, in 1959 someone found boxes with books that were left in the basement by the Library of Academy of Sciences, which has moved out in 1934. Most likely these books were just forgotten because at that time they did not have any serious value (old statistical catalogues, railroad catalogues, reports from local authorities and State Duma) [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до спецвідділу АН УРСР від 16.09.1959]. It is important to note that many historical documents were saved thanks to this "forgetfulness". It is also possible that in some cases by avoiding registering pre-Revolutionary documents scientists, archivists and librarians were attempting to save them from destruction.

Upon their return to Kyiv the employees of Institute of Archaeology were greeted by a looted and destroyed building. So for the first several months (starting from July 1944) scientists were busy searching for institute's property, obtaining furniture, construction materials and other equipment from various sources, and having it transported to the Institute's building [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, оп. 1, спр. 4, с. 26]. Also, after liberation of Kyiv the Extraordinary State Commission for ascertaining and investigating crimes perpetrated by the German-Fascist invaders and their accomplices has begun their work. One of the main aims of the commission (and, perhaps, the most important one for the Soviet government) was to collect evidence for claiming compensation for damages (primarily financial) to the USSR. To that end, after liberation of Kyiv the commission was surveying not just factories, but also scientific and cultural institutions (universities, scientific research institutes, museums, etc.). During these investigations there were reports being put together of damage incurred.

In October 1944 almost entire team of the Institute, headed by director Lazar Slavin, created a report of material damages:

"During German occupation the Institute has sustained a lot of damage. There were books, archaeological collections, scientific equipment and other property thrown out of the building. Having remodeled the space where the Institute was located, Germans have destroyed the restoration laboratory. The remaining scientific equipment was sent to Germany" [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, оп. 1, спр. 3, с. 1]. The topic of destiny of archaeological collections of the Institute requires a separate investigation, but the interesting part of that document is the list of equipment necessary for the Institute's restoration lab. Even before the war there was a chemical technology lab at the Institute, modeled after a similar department in Leningrad. Its associates were studying technological processes used in ancient times, as well as performing restorations, implementing new methods based on their research. It is worth mentioning that most likely not all the equipment listed was actually in possession of the laboratory prior to German occupation, but anyone familiar with Soviet bureaucracy knows that one had to list maximum amounts of everything in order to get something. The Institute also had a photo laboratory. According to the report [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, оп. 1, спр. 3, с. 2] the following were either stolen from the lab or completely destroyed: Michaelis Apparatus (a laboratory appliance of lever action used to determine limits of durability by bending), two melting pots with platinum cover (for melting metals), ten different electric appliances (galvanometers, pots, baths, heating elements), an exhaust vent, three marble tables, three small electric motors, four "Zeisikon" photo cameras 18-by-19, one "FED" camera, reproduction table, two magnifiers, eight tripods, drying cabinet for photo prints, electric equipment set for shooting and print development, contact stand, different camera filters, reflectors, special lab cabin for prints development, ten different lenses and glasses for cameras. The Institute's library also suffered quite a bit. The loss was estimated at 7000 books (out of 7500 prior to occupation [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 24]) and 200 maps, including unique historic maps from 16th thru 18th centuries. The photo archive was also looted; over 5000 photos and 10000 negatives were lost [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, оп. 1, спр. 3, с. 3] (the Institute's photo library accounted 35000 units [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 27]): *"photo library was one of the most important parts of the Institute – the archive of negatives and prints, documenting*

archaeological expeditions in Ukraine for past 25 years. More than half of those negatives and prints were referencing expeditions and works that have not yet been published. The photo library, amounting to many thousands of units, had the status of State Archaeological Preserve" [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 24]. It needs to be mentioned that fortunately not the entire collection was destroyed and looted. According to memoirs of associates that stayed in occupied Kyiv they were trying to preserve valuable materials, sometimes keeping them in their homes. The photo archive of Institute of Archaeology is still being catalogued: Galina Stanitsina has been conducting scientific and technical development of negatives on glass for many years [Станиціна, 2015].

A separate report was put together on archaeological collection issues [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 20–28]. The associates first listed out which items were stored in Institute's Funds until 1941 and specified uniqueness of the collections. Only a small portion of the collection was taken during the evacuation to Ufa by employees; most likely these were small items that did not take up a lot of space and could be taken as luggage, thus not requiring any special handling: *"Of all the archaeological materials that were held in Institute's funds only a small portion of unique items from collection of antiquities were evacuated, from Olbio, Kyiv and Raikovetsky collections. There were only three boxes taken away"* [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 24]. It is reasonable to assume that evacuees were selecting the most precious objects based on their specialization; for instance, Lazar Slavin probably selected most valuable items from Olbio collection, since he was the director of that expedition.

As of 1944 archaeologists were missing the following in the Institute's funds:

1) Trypiliian collection from excavations in village of Halepye in 1939, village of Vladimirovka in 1939 and 1940, village of Gorodok 1939–1940, totaling up to 4000 objects.

2) Collections of Dneprostroy expeditions (before construction of Dnepr hydroelectric station with consequent flooding of significant territories in 1927–1933 archaeologists conducted several expeditions in order to establish and document archaeological objects); from Neolithic camp of Sobachka-Vovchok (excavations of 1928–1929): ceramics, labor tools made from flint, stone and bone totaling up to 9000; "Durna Skelya" camp excavated in 1928: ceramics, labor tools made from flint, bone and copper, totaling up to 1625; camp by village of Perun: ceramics, labor tools made from flint and bone totaling up to 3500; collection from excavations on Vinogradsky island: flint and stone tools, tools from bone, ceramics and copper objects.

3) Olbio collection lost almost half the objects that were held in the Institute.

4) The collection of objects from Korchevatsky burial mound, discovered in 1937, was completely removed.

5) The unique collection from Kantserka valley (Dnipropetrovsky region) has disappeared. It included materials from a ceramics factory that had several furnaces and several thousand fragments of ceramics. These materials had not yet been published.

6) Raikovetsky collection was also looted, including agricultural tools and instruments of trade professionals.

7) Kiselevsky collection was completely removed. It only was in state of scientific and technical processing [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3, спр. 329, с. 25–27].

The archaeological collections were partially held in State Republic Historical Museum (now National Museum of history of Ukraine) and were moved several times during German occupation to several other museums, like Museum Town, Lenin Museum (now "National Kyiv-Pechersky historical-cultural preserve") and Pedagogical Museum. Obviously, many losses are attributed to these "migrations". According to the report put together by deputy People's Commissary of Enlightenment A. Fillipov in 1944, museum was missing the following collections that were shipped off to Germany: collections of Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, Trypillian culture and Bronze and Copper Ages; Scythian collection; exhibition-grade (most presentable – *D.C*) portion of Olbian collection; collection of cultures of field burial; exhibition portion of collection of Kyiv Rus [ЦДАВО, ф. 4620, оп. 3,

срп. 327, с. 145]. Unfortunately, all these reports of lost collections and stolen equipment do not tell a story of human losses. There has not been a document found to this day that accounts for how many archaeologists perished, even though many of them went to the army and some stayed in occupation. The same is true of other professions. This is due to how Stalin's regime operated: 1) human life had no value; 2) survival was a reason to blame. People's destinies became separate objects of research only in late 1980's–1990's.

The scientific staff not only had to perform their regular research activities as well as restoration of their workspace, but also take care of maintenance: for instance, archaeologists were tasked with cleaning corridors and staircases on first and second floor, as well as cleaning and maintenance of fourth floor. It is explicitly stated that even though all cleaning and small repair expenses were split evenly between all institutes that occupied the building, the maintenance of fourth floor was the sole responsibility of Institute of Archaeology [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, накази президії АН за 1945, наказ 29 24.04.1945].

The living conditions of Institute's employees in postwar years were quite difficult. The Institute frequently had to officially intervene in order to solve housing issues.

For example, because of many buildings destroyed, many Kyiv citizens had to live in shared apartments. And frequently people coming back from evacuation found their former homes occupied by others. This was the situation encountered by Adel Furmansky.

Prior to the war she was living at Mala Zhitomirska, 5, apt 53 with her husband and daughter. According to the sources, this was a shared apartment, typical for Kyiv, and her family lived in one room and had a kitchen (the kitchen was divided back in 1940 by Furmansky family in order to create additional living space) [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до голови виконкому Печерського району від 8.07.1948]. Some apartments initially had several kitchens, also shared apartments were outfitted with several rooms where meals could be prepared. After their return from evacuation Adel Furmansky lived in that same apartment with her daughter, but the space split off from the kitchen was occupied by someone named V. Ekshtat. It is difficult to say whether there were any family relations between Furmansky and Ekshtat, but there definitely was a domestic conflict because Ekshtat caused Furmansky to lose access to part of the kitchen. A somewhat ordinary domestic dispute got escalated all the way to the directorate of the Institute, which infers that more ordinary measures were not very effective.

And while in Kyiv "neighbor wars" were mostly affecting personal mental health of their participants, in Lviv domestic conflicts had much more dire consequences. Since 1940 Lviv's archaeologists were under purview of Institute of Archaeology as a Lviv branch of AI. So it's not unusual that in 1945 an associate of Lviv branch named Olena Biyovska has asked for Lazar Slavin's (as a director) and Mychailo Rudynsky's (as a scientific secretary) help in resolving a domestic dispute (she was in charge of archaeological funds in Lviv branch and was a lab assistant in several expeditions) [Ситник, 2012, с. 196].

In June 1942 during the occupation of Lviv her family (with her sister) was moved by decision of Gestapo from a 5-room apartment on Monchinska st. 66 to a 3-room one on Modzhevska (Osipenko), 3, apt 7. After her sister got married in 1944 Olena started renting the two free rooms, making some profit. People that were renting the rooms from her during the war continued to do so after Lviv was liberated. In June 1945 a whole delegation showed up on Biyovska's doorstep: the house management director, a Red Army captain S. Ponomarev with his wife and a major that was introduced as a member of City council and a deputy of Higher Senate. The purpose of their visit was to inform that this apartment had been designated for the captain and his wife and the previous tenant must vacate the premises in 24 hours. It needs to be mentioned that private property was not recognized in USSR and formally all housing belonged to the state. When Western Ukraine was annexed into USSR this practice came about to Lviv as well, but it's reasonable to assume that local population was very unhappy with it, as they were not accustomed to "Soviet living". Also, based on Biyovska's testimony the visitors were quite rude in their expressions. For instance, she was told that

"a Russian officer cannot live with these Ukrainian scumbags" and that "we will destroy you all". She was also threatened with an arrest. When Biyovskaya has reported the incident to the police, they checked the documents of potential new tenants and realized that they have no rights to the apartment. So essentially this was an attempt to hijack the place using official authority. Unfortunately for Biyovskaya captain's wife somehow obtain the order to take over the apartment [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 30, нерозібрана частина, листи від Олени Біювської 29.06.1945]. Mykhailo Rudynsky has reviewed the situation during his visit. He pointed out that Biyovskaya was assigned an apartment at Engelsa st, 52 apt 7, but that same apartment was also claimed by three other people [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 30, нерозібрана частина, листи від Олени Біювської, дата невідома]. As a result, Olena Biyovska ended up homeless yet again. As of 1946 the housing situation was still unresolved, despite multiple petitions to directorate of Institute of Archaeology and Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian SSR. Oleksandr Sytnyk mentions that in the end of 1949 Olena Biyovska was first fired as part of yet another "Stalinist cleansing" and then deported to Siberia [Ситник, 2012, с. 240] despite petitions from both colleagues from Lviv and associates of the Institute in Kyiv. It is reasonable to assume that the basis for arrest was, besides scientific activity, the housing conflict. In her letters Olena mentioned that she's still studying and her career as a scientist is still in the beginning. In the human resources report of 1948, she is listed as a topographer and temporary in charge of funds (scientific associate and technical personnel) [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, звіт про роботу Львівського відділу за 1948 рік].

Institute of Archaeology in Kyiv occupied 3rd and 4th floors as well as the basement. In postwar years the building was not only the place of work for many archaeologists, but also their home: "The fourth floor is home to doctor of historical sciences Mykhailo Rudynsky, head of department of prehistory, candidate of sciences Arkady Dobrovolsky, head of department of Scythian-antics candidate of sciences Oleksii Terenozhkin, candidate of sciences Fedor Kopylov and Sofia Odintsova, as well as Fani Shtitelman and Boris Rabichkin, both of whom are not working at the Institute. There are cameras and photo labs, storage, archaeological archives spread between the living rooms. Head of the department of Slavic Archaeology Vasil Dovzhenok lives on the third floor" [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до Віце-президента АН від 15.08.1955]. Children also had to live with their parents in these conditions. And even with such tight quarters not everyone had the place in the Institute. Scientific secretary Rostislav Vyezhaev had to live on 10 sq meters with his family of four some place outside. The directorate of the Institute tried to solve this situation by multiple petitions to the authorities.

For instance, Oleksii Terenozhkin was invited to work in Ukrainian SSR. However, the director of Institute Peter Efimenko wrote in 1948: "The biggest challenge is to provide living space from academic funds" [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист від Єфименка до Тереножкіна від 28.06.1948]. As an alternative the scientist was offered to first move to Lviv. Unfortunately, housing issues there were solved much more swiftly, which is illustrated by the case of Olena Biyovska.

Mychailol Rudynsky was provided, as per order of Soviet of Ministers of Ukrainian SSR, a two-room apartment in 1950 at Kreschatik, 25. However, the house construction was delayed, and it was not ready to move in [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до голови Київської міської ради від Єфименка від 27.04.1951]. During that time he, with his sisters and a niece, was living in two rooms of Institute of Archaeology, located on different floors. One was on the third floor – scientific secretary's office, and another on fourth where restoration lab was supposed to be located [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до Президіуму АН від 16.09.1950]. Eventually he was given an apartment in the house of Academy of Sciences at Sverdlova, 10 (now Proreznaya st.) where he lived until his death in 1958.

In 1959 Institute of Archaeology started preparations for moving to a new building on Kirova st. 4, that was built specifically for institutes of Academy of Sciences. However, before that archaeologists were offered space on Lenina st. 53 (now Bohdana Khmelnytskogo) in a house

"formerly occupied by baptists" (Yet another example of resolution of housing crisis and fight against religion by Soviet authorities). This building ended up being too small for the Institute, because they were only promised 100 sq meters [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, лист до Віце-президента АН від 25.05.1950]. In 1959 there was 1013 sq meters assigned for Institute of Archaeology in Shevchenko boulevard building for the following needs: departments of prehistory, Scythian-antic and Slavic archaeology; library; scientific archives; administrative offices; museum-exhibition (hall of 3rd floor); camera labs; storage of equipment and materials; photo lab; drafting room; storage of chemicals and funds (hall of 4th floor) [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, дані про площу та кількість співробітників Інституту археології 1.12.1959].

Also, until the Institute's move the housing issue for its associates has not been resolved. As of 1960, the following employees still lived in the Institute's building:

Oleksii Terenozhkin with family of 5 on 25,4 sq meters of space;

Rostislav Vyezzhaev with family of 2 on 18 sq meters of space;

Fedor Kopylov with family of 4 on 23,6 sq meters of space;

Sofya Odintsova on 17,5 sq meters of space;

Viktoria Dobrovolsky, widow of employee of the Institute, on 26,6 sq meters of space;

Fani Shtitelman, head of department of West and East museum (now museum of arts named after Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko) with husband and child on 23,3 sq meters of space [НА ІА НАНУ, ф. 62, нерозібрана частина, список мешканців, що мешкають в приміщенні Інституту Археології].

Such prolonged living in a closed environment, in very difficult living conditions inevitably led to conflicts and "neighbor wars". Therefore, it is very important to trace interpersonal relations in the collective in order to understand the history of archaeology of postwar period. Besides, studying everyday history provides an opportunity for new interpretation and deeper understanding of processes taking place in Soviet archaeology during postwar times.

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“КВАРТИРНЕ ПИТАННЯ” КИЇВСЬКИХ АРХЕОЛОГІВ У 1940–1950 РОКАХ

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У статті розглянуто умови життя і роботи київських археологів у 1940–1950 роках, коли Київ поступово відновлювався від страшних лихоліть війни. Як і всі кияни, археологи страждали від нестачі житла та необхідного устаткування, проте продовжували свої дослідження. Все це також ускладнювалося посиленням репресій у повоєнний час. Після відновлення роботи Інститут археології до 1960 р. розміщувався на бульварі Тараса Шевченка з низкою інших інститутів Академії наук. У цьому ж приміщенні знаходився і гуртожиток для співробітників. Все це не сприяло покращенню роботи інституції і призводило до міжособистісних конфліктів співробітників. Створена у СРСР неповоротка бюрократична система змушувала для вирішення звичайних побутових питань застосовувати адміністративний ресурс Інституту. Для покращення житлових умов своїх співробітників, а також для забезпечення відносно нормальних умов роботи керівництво Інституту археології було змушено неодноразово звертатися з багаточисельними листами як до керівництва Академії наук, так і до радянських установ різного рівня з метою “вибивання” хоча б якогось житла для археологів. Така ситуація продовжувалася багато років по завершенню війни. Крім побутових проблем киян, керівництво Інституту археології намагалося допомогти у подібних ситуаціях львівським археологам, які формально підпорядковувалися Інституту археології. Проте у переважній більшості випадків ці спроби не були результативними.

Крім того “квартирне питання” стосувалося і самого Інституту археології, адже протягом багатьох років інституція мала великі проблеми з нестачею простору не тільки для співробітників, але і для колекції знахідок. Ці проблеми також були значно посилені розграбуванням самого Інституту та його колекцій під час війни.

Ключові слова: історія археології, повсякдення киян, повсякдення археологів, бульвар Тараса Шевченка, 14.