

In memoriam

FAMOUS UKRAINIAN HISTORIAN:
VERA ZHUK (1928–2008)

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Abstract. The article deals with the contribution of Vera Zhuk to historical research in Ukraine. The author tells about wide scientific interests of V. Zhuk: ancient history, Cossack period, national minorities, religion, culture, education, outstanding people of Ukraine and Poltava region. Iryna Petrenko notes that V. Zhuk's active work continued research traditions of Poltava region.

In Soviet times the historian Vera Zhuk was persecuted by the authorities, there were several attempts on her life. She was not loyal to the Soviet regime, departed from the principles of Soviet compliance in historical research. The author of the article considers an important problems: a woman – a power, a woman – a state, a woman – an ideology.

Key words: Vera Zhuk, science, history, power, ideology, society, heritage, archival and teaching activity

The central region of Ukraine – Poltava region gave mankind many talented people: scientists, writers, poets, artists, inventors, statesmen. Among them it is worth remembering Vera Nikanorovna Zhuk – well-known in Ukraine and abroad scientist-historian, the archivist, the expert in the sphere of Slavic philology, in particular, of a bolgaristik, the author of over 800 scientific works, the candidate of historical sciences, the honored worker of culture of Ukraine.

V. Zhuk's scientific studies doesn't lose relevance now. Her works are devoted to many problems of national history and historical study of local lore. They represent a powerful contribution to development of Ukrainian historical science. The researcher was objective and deep scientist. Vera Zhuk was benevolent, decent, sensitive, tolerant and intelligent person.

The purpose of this article is to show Vera Zhuk's contribution to development of Ukrainian historical science, to define and characterize the sphere of interests of the scientist and her scientific achievements, to show prosecutions of the scientist in Soviet period because of her active national position.

The sources of the article are documents from personal archive of the author – Iryna Petrenko, the letter of the colleague – the historian Fargat Nurutdinov to

Vera Zhuk, scientific works of Vera Zhuk, and also memories of a vital and scientific way of the scientist.

Iryna Petrenko uses in the article system, complex, historical and culturological, historical and anthropological, gender approaches and different research methods: chronological, historical and comparative. The principles of historicism and systemacity are also used.

V. Zhuk was born on April 12 in 1928 in the suburban village of Krivusha Kremenchug district of Poltava region in the employee's family. In 1935 she became a pupil of the 1-st form of incomplete secondary (seven-year) school. Before World War II she finished the 6-th form. During World War II V. Zhuk with parents lived in the occupied territory, endured all fears of war and occupation, 1942 – till September 1943 worked at the public yard (collective farm). After release of the village V. Zhuk worked at the collective farm. In 1947 V. Zhuk graduated Kremenchug comprehensive school. In 1950 she entered the department of history of Kiev Taras Shevchenko state university and in 1955 graduated it with honours.

Vera Zhuk was directed on work in the State archive of Poltava region (then the Poltava regional state archive). She worked there till June 1978, at first at positions of the research associate and senior researcher, then – the head of department of use and publication of documents. Since June 1978 till September 1986 V. Zhuk worked at the Poltava state teacher training institute (now – National University) at first at the assistant's position, then the teacher, the senior teacher, the associate professor of history. After retirement she continued to work at the teacher training institute at the associate professor's position. V. Zhuk worked at Poltava regional institute of postdegree pedagogical education too.

Working in archive, V. Zhuk researched archiving stories, took part in preparation of two editions of the archive guide, collections of documents, publications in scientific magazines about searching and publishing work; made articles on different subjects. In the sixties she participated in preparation of volume „History of the cities and villages of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Poltava region” as a volunteer. For this work V. Zhuk received the title Honoured worker of culture of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

In May 1977 V. Zhuk defended the master's thesis on the subject „The Public of Ukraine in the Russian-Bulgarian Relationship in 60–70-th of the XIX Century” (her research supervisor – doctor of historical sciences of the P. Sohan). The academic degree of the candidate of historical sciences was awarded by the decision of Council at the Institute of history Academy of Sciences Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (May 1977). The rank of the associate professor was officially given on November 27, 1985.

It is necessary to tell that Vera Nikanorovna was in opposition to the Soviet power, she was „the internal dissident”. She didn't take an active part in public demonstrations or protests, but was always solidary with opposition. She was wise and sharp-sighted person, saw injustice, lie, deception, which were covered with good intentions and the Soviet grandiloquent ideals and aspirations. She

told, how KGB of Poltava region fought against her at the time of „Brezhnev’s stagnation”. The power couldn’t forgive her patriotism, deep interest to studying of Ukrainian history, after all she lifted so-called „undesirable, objectionable” themes. V. Zhuk showed a great interest to national history of Ukraine, especially its ancient period, her point of view not always coincided with the official point of view, academic historical science. It aroused indignation of the power and condemnation of colleagues.

Working in archive and having access to archives, she honestly wrote and investigated, without regard to an official course of historical science and the dominating ideology. Because of such views, some attempts upon the life of Vera Zhuk were made. And they were made secretly, like accidents. Vera Nikanorovna told how one of her colleagues during a lunch wanted to treat her with cakes and insisted. But Vera Nikanorovna didn’t begin to eat them, intuition didn’t betray her. The colleague didn’t eat the cakes too. And after a while V. Zhuk saw how this lady accurately papered cakes and threw them out in a trash can in the territory of archive.

Once having come to work, Vera Nikanorovna opened a box of the desk and saw that there is much „Dust” – a poison which is usually applied in fight against insects. „Dust” possesses sharp toxic impact on a person: in small and average doses causes poisoning, in high doses can cause death. The attack happened to V. Zhuk at once and there was a paralysis of an optic nerve. She spent in hospital much time, doctors supposed that sight would never return to her and she would be a disabled person. Nobody wanted to do an operation, actually life of the scientist was given up for lost. But, the world is not without kind people. Probably, the highest spiritual forces of nature preserved and rescued the talented scientist. Poltava ophthalmologist Olga Fiodorovna agreed to do Vera Zhuk necessary operation. It was the huge risk, for both the physician and the patient. The operation took place successfully, sight returned to Vera Nikanorovna, but not completely. Since then she wore glasses with thick lenses for the rest of her life.

I remember, Vera Nikanorovna told how she noticed that in her apartment was someone, however things were on the places, she felt presence of strangers who rummaged in her papers. The staff of KGB smeared walls at an entrance, near the apartment and in the apartment with some liquid, for certain poison, or some toxic substance.

Teaching at Poltava teacher training institute didn’t bring desirable tranquillity and comfortable occupation by favourite work too. In spite of fact that she was loved and respected very much by students, the university and faculty administration disliked her. Especially the head of the department who several times organized meetings where he publicly criticized Vera Nikanorovna, doubted in firmness of her ideological position. Vera Zhuk several times visited conferences in Bulgaria, where she worked in archives. On arrival to Poltava, it was faculty meeting where she was criticized, the scientist was forbidden to go abroad and to write articles on the Ukrainian-Bulgarian subject.

I remember she told me about one amusing episode at which she sincerely laughed. Once the head of the department collected an emergency meeting where angrily condemned Vera Nikanorovna that she wrote an article about famous writer N.V. Gogol. According to his words N. Gogol was the landowner and the landlord, and it wasn't necessary to write about him. The resolution of chair was severe: to forbade V. Zhuk to write and issue articles without their preliminary consideration and reviewing at faculty meeting for „rolling to bourgeois positivism”.

By the way, this head of the department played very negative role in destiny and the scientific biography of V. Zhuk. He early sent her to pension though she could work and prepare talented scientists and good teachers. And I consider that it was the big blow to intellectual potential of the Ukrainian historical science. Watching it, Vera Nikanorovna's students always remembered her and respected very much. They lived in different corners of the former Soviet Union, but always kept with her in contact, corresponded, congratulated on holidays, came on a visit, consulted. And it was also the real recognition her as scientist and the person. But officials from education as if didn't notice it. The most surprising that many of Vera Nikanorovna's ill-wishers are living now but who knows them. The main thing that we know her, remember her name and her scientific heritage.

Scientific interests of V. Zhuk were rather different. During the whole time of her scientific activity she took part in writing more than 20 collective scientific historical publications – books, collections of documents, 13 releases of a series of brochures „Our native land”¹, such solid works as „Administrative-territorial division of Poltavshchina” (1648–1941; 1943–2002), „Poltava. Historical sketch” (Poltava, 1999)² and others. Also she is an author (independently or in a co-authorship) of close 200 articles in books, brochures, scientific magazines, over 460 articles and references in encyclopedic editions, in particular in the encyclopedic reference book „Poltavshchina”³. V. Zhuk prepared methodical recommendations for teachers, students, pupils; published a large number

¹ Жук В.Н. Що знаємо про Полтавську губернію ? Якою була її економіка в дореволюційні часи ? / В.Н.Жук // Наш рідний край. Сторінки про економічний розвиток Полтавщини. – Полтава : Друкарня вид-ва «Полтава», 1990. – С. 3–10; Жук В.Н. Яка доля унікального дару молдавського господаря ? / В.Н.Жук // Наш рідний край. Сторінки про пам'ятки історії та культури Полтавщини. – Полтава : Друкарня вид-ва «Полтава», 1991–12. – С. 3–10; Жук В.Н. Наш рідний край. Сторінки з історії Полтавщини в запитаннях і відповідях / В.Н.Жук. – Полтава : ІВА «Астрєя», 1992. – 63 с.

² Адміністративно-територіальний поділ Полтавщини (1648–1941 рр.). Довідник з історії адміністративно-територіального поділу / Упор. Жук В.Н., Суховська З.М. – Полтава : Департамент поліграфії ПП «ЕНТ», 2002. – 205 с.; Адміністративно-територіальний поділ Полтавщини (1943–2002 рр.) / Упор Жук В.Н., Суховська З.М. та ін. – Полтава : «Полтавський літератор», 2002. – Ч. II: 3 історії адміністративно-територіального поділу. – 377 с.; Полтава. Історичний нарис / За ред. О.Б.Супруненко, М.А.Якименка, В.С.Лобурця та ін. – Полтава : Полтавський літератор, 1999. – 280 с.

³ Полтавщина. Енциклопедичний довідник / За ред. А.В.Кудрицького. – К. : «Українська енциклопедія ім. М.П.Бажана», 1992. – 1022 с.

of articles in magazines. V. Zhuk took part in many international, All-Ukrainian and regional historical conferences.

13 releases of the local history edition „Our Native Land” are widely used at schools and higher educational institutions of Poltava region. We can find many articles a speech about important historical events connected with history of Ukraine and Poltava region; nature reserves; development of education, culture, pioneers of rocket production, aircraft, astronautics who were born or lived in the region; articles about dungeons of Poltava and the ancient fortified cities of Poltava region, the Holodomor of 1932–1933 and the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945).

The scientist devoted many articles to such outstanding people, as I. Kotlyarevsky, T. Shevchenko, N. Gogol, V. Korolenko, Evgeny Bulgaris, Nikifor Feotoki, Afanasios Psalidas, N. Sklifosovsky, Yu. Kondratyuk, Yu. Pobedonostsev, N. Komarnitsky, A. Makarenko and another.

V. Zhuk is the author of historical sketches about temples and monasteries of Poltava region which were the centres of spirituality, education and culture: „The Poltava Krestovozdvizhensky Monastery and related with it important historical events. Articles with comments and photoillustrations”, „The Pearl of Kozelshchina. Pages from history of Kozelshchinsky Christmas of the Virgin of convent” (in a co-authorship with G. Serdyuk)⁴.

The main directions of V. Zhuk’s scientific activity – historical study of local lore, Poltava region (different periods); in branch of Slavic philology – studying of economic, cultural and other relations of Ukraine and Bulgaria, Poltava region and Bulgaria⁵. V. Zhuk investigated also a question of German colonists in Poltava region, biographies of the famous descendants of those colonists, who moved to Ukrainian lands in the second half of XVIII – at the beginning of XIX century⁶. V. Zhuk wrote brochures about Gradyzhsk, Dykanka, New Sanzhary, about Vitovt’s fight with Mongol-Tatar on Vorskla in 1399.

V. Zhuk worked much over creation of methodical recommendations, brochures for teachers and pupils. In the last decade of her life V. Zhuk paid attention to the problem of formation of the Ukrainian nation. She wrote about Ukrainian lands as a part of Great Skifiya, Sarmatiya, the Gothic state, under the

⁴ Жук В.Н. Полтавський Хрестовоздвиженський монастир і пов’язані з ним важливі історичні події. Статті з коментарями та фотоілюстраціями. Видання друге, перероблене і доповнене / Віра Никанорівна Жук – Полтава: ТОВ „АСМІ”, 2007. – 248 с.; Жук В.Н. Перлина Козельщини. Сторінки з історії Козельщинського Різдва Богородиці жіночого монастиря / Жук В.Н., Сердюк Г.Д. – Полтава : Поліграфічне підприємство «АСМІ», 2007. – 238 с.

⁵ Жук В.Н. На Шипці народжена. Нариси про дружні зв’язки Полтавщини і Болгарії // Жук В.Н., Кушнір М.С. – Х.: Прапор, 1970. – 108 с.; Жук В.Н. На Шипці народжена // Жук В.Н., Кушнір М.С. – Х.: Прапор, 1975. – 117 с.; Жук В.Н. Собор болгар України на Полтавщині / В.Н.Жук // Постметодика. – 2002. – № 1. – С. 57–58.

⁶ Жук В.Н. Долю пов’язані з Україною. Нариси з історії німецьких колоністів на Полтавщині, про долю їх нащадків і відродження німецьких товариств у краї / Віра Никанорівна Жук. – Полтава: Дивосвіт, 2006. – 330 с.

power of Huns, the Avarian khaganate, as a part of Great and Black Bulgaria, Kievan Rus and other early feudal states up to Mongol-Tatar invasion, and entries into structure of Grand Duchy of Lithuania; about historical roots of different ethnic groups, which lived on the Ukrainian territory in ancient times and also about relationship among them⁷.

The book „From gray-haired antiquity. Sketches from history of Ukraine and Poltava region (the VII Art. BC – the XVI Art. AD)” became a result of this long-term research work (3 editions on Ukrainian language). This research is devoted to the process of formation of the Ukrainian nation, little-known pages of national history, especially the period of Kievan Rus. In the monograph V. Zhuk disclosed peculiarities of staying of the Ukrainian lands in Great Skifiya, Sarmatiya, the Gothic state, under the power of Huns, the Avarian khaganate, Great and Black Bulgaria, under the yoke of the Golden Horde, as a part of Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The scientist showed the role of protobulgarians, torok, polovets and other ethnic groups in the formation of Ukrainian ethnos and in the process of state formation in the Ukrainian lands. V. Zhuk investigated historical roots of different tribes, which passed through the Ukrainian lands or settled on them, and their interrelations. Some sketches are devoted to the questions of time of foundation of Poltava and Kiev and the first written mentions about these cities. A number of hypotheses and conclusions, treatments and reasonings in the book were stated for the first time. V. Zhuk interpreted a number of insufficiently investigated questions not only in Ukrainian, but also in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish history.

In details studying ancient history of Ukraine, V. Zhuk connected its historical development with ancient Bulgars, Great Bulgaria, focused her attention on communications of Ukraine and Bulgaria. The scientist investigated life and activity of Bulyumar-Shek (Cheek), Kubrat (Horiv), Shambat (Kiy), participation of ukrainians in liberation of Bulgaria from five-century yoke of an Ottoman dynasty. In this research V. Zhuk cooperated with the famous historian from Kazan (Tatarstan) Fargat Gabdul Hamitovich Nurutdinov. Scientists were connected by a long correspondence, an exchange of opinions, views, scientific novelties. Fargat Nurutdinov kept and introduced into scientific circulation

⁷ Жук В.Н. Давні булгари і Кубрат – володар Великої Булгарії // Слов'янський збірник. – 2002. – Вип.1. – С. 65–88; Жук В.Н. Половці як складова частина українського етносу / В.Н.Жук // Слов'янський збірник. – 2004. – Вип.3. – С. 13–35; Жук В.Н. Сліди великих переселень народів на карті Європи / В.Н.Жук // Слов'янський збірник. – 2005. – Вип.4. – С. 10–26; Жук В.Н. Найдавніші відомості про Полтаву / В.Н.Жук // Історична пам'ять. Науковий збірник. – Полтава, 1998. – № 1. – С. 23–46; Історична пам'ять. Науковий збірник. – Полтава, 1999. – № 1–2. – С. 19–42; Жук В.Н. Кубрат – володар Великої Булгарії / В.Н.Жук // Болгарський ежегодник / Редкол.: Алексеєва Ю.Н. и др. – К.: Київський славистичний університет, 2006. – Т.6. – С. 101–109; Жук В.Н. Из глубины віків. Сторінки з історії Полтавщини від Скіфії до Великого князівства Литовського (VII ст. до н.е. – XVI ст. н.е.) / В.Н.Жук // Постметодика. – 2003. – № 1. – С. 44–52; № 2. – С. 46–53; № 3. – С. 8–21; № 4. – С. 10–15; Жук В.Н. Про Кия та час заснування Києва / В.Н.Жук // Постметодика. – 1997. – № 4. – С. 18–28.

unique written sources – the arch of ancient Bulgarian chronicles „Dzhagfar Tarikhy” and Karachaev – Bulgarian chronicles which open many „white spots” in the history of Ukraine and Poltava region. These unique sources give the chance to look at ancient history and the role of ancient Bulgarians in a new way.

In one of the last letters to Vera Nikanorovna where F. Nurutdinov congratulated V. Zhuk on anniversary, he characterized her:

Here and in modern Ukraine the only professional historian, who doesn't betray people, it is you, the woman. Really Ukraine was and remained the country of fearless amazons, but thus it is necessary to tell that your father from whom you, undoubtedly, received gift of the historian, was one of the few real men. After all the real amazons are born the real men. You are an honest historian (all underlinings of F. Nurutdinov). Such honest historians on the fingers can be counted. But, besides, that you are an honest historian, you are also the clever historian. You have so developed talent of the historian that it is possible to call it an unusual intuition. This intuition separates crowd of the ordinary, gray people, who are registered as historians, from historians-geniuses. I am happy that we work together, I learned much from you⁸.

Not all modern historians recognize Bulgarian chronicles officially. Some scientists try to deny and to criticize them, however, many researchers use them. Vera Zhuk also belonged to their circle. She paid attention to the fact that data which contain these sources, during the pre-revolutionary period later on particles certain scientists in materials of the Arab, Byzantine, Ukrainian, Persian (Iranian) Chinese authors tried to discover. For example, American scientist-Slavist (the son of the famous Soviet academician V. Vernadsky) G. Vernadsky, who didn't know about Ancient Bulgarian chronicles and used other sources, wrote in his work on ancient Russian history about events which occurred after death of the governor of Great Bulgaria Kubrat.

Vera Zhuk also pointed to researches of the academician of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the historian of diaspora E. Pritsak, who didn't read the chronicles of ancient Bulgarians, but on the basis of other sources wrote at one time that the prince Vladimir at first accepted Moslem, and then Christianity. Here we can remember the story of ancient Russian annalistic tradition in which it is told how Vladimir accepted ambassadors from the different states, listening to praises of everyone to their religions. V. Zhuk thought that Bulgarian chronicles can explain the reasons of such step of Vladimir. In the changed variant a legend of arrival of ambassadors with offers to accept this or that religion contained by them in the VII century. The governor of Great Bulgaria Kubrat (who in the first quarter of the VII century converted to Christianity in Byzantium) in 642 chose Moslem. At that time Arab caliphate took the offensive in Great Bulgaria. To avoid bloody war and to save the multi-cultural early feudal state from disintegration, Kubrat accepted Islam and signed peace with Arabs. Therefore, as a historical source the Bulgarian chronicles are rather reliable for identification the events of ancient history.

According to Vera Zhuk, these historical sources help to specify the answer to many questions in Ukrainian science, in particular the question about

⁸ Письмо Ф.Нурутдинова к В.Н.Жук, 2008 год // Личный архив Ирины .Петренко. – С. 1–10б.

Malopereshchepinsky treasure (found in 1912 in Mala Pereshchepina Poltava region), and its ethnic interpretation. Bulgarian historians (and also Russian, German, Austrian) have no doubts that the treasure is the grave of the governor of Great Bulgaria – Kubrat, who was buried in about 668.

This version we can find in the Bulgarian textbooks. However some modern Ukrainian researchers drop a hint of doubt about it. Carefully studying a historical figure of Kubrat as leader of the European level (for the time), Vera Zhuk confirmed conclusion of foreign scientists about Malopereshchepinsky treasure. Addressing to chronicles of ancient Bulgarians, the researcher expresses the position concerning process of ethnogenesis of Bulgarians – a scientific problem which haven't found unambiguous interpretation yet. A long time even authors of textbooks considered the southern and western Slavs as Turkic nomad tribes and only subsequently began to remember Turkic Bulgarians as their separate branch.

Thus, the historical bolgaristik in the scientific heritage of Vera Zhuk was various thematically and chronologically. The appeal to a wide range of historical sources, their careful analysis and wide scientific knowledge were typical for her investigations. Bolgaristic investigations of Vera Zhuk, in particular concerning ethno genesis of ancient Bulgarians, were always corresponded to scientific supervision of foreign thought and promoted advance of a national bolgaristik. The scientific and practical value of these studios is incontestable and promotes an adequate reconstruction of the past. Despite of the circumstance that outside of Bulgaria the theory of the East Iranian origin of ancestors of Bulgarians isn't universally accepted, the scientific heritage of the researcher objectively promotes expansion of source basis for the solution of a question of historical roots of one of the oldest ethnoses on the European continent. On the other hand, the analysis of scientific heritage of Vera Zhuk helps to get rid of decayed stereotypes concerning the level of development of the Ukrainian Slavic studies. It puts in the agenda a task about an integrated approach to studying history of ancient Bulgarians as the perspective direction of research of the domestic early medieval period⁹.

V. Zhuk took part in more than 20 international, republican, regional thematic and local history scientific conferences. Two times she visited Bulgaria. She worked with documents in many central state archives of the USSR, in the central and regional archives of Ukraine and in 4 archives of Bulgaria. Vera Nikanorovna kept in touch with many scientists, local historians, Poltava bibliophiles (she was the member of the Poltava club of bibliophiles). All that helped in her research work. In 2006 V. Zhuk became the winner of a regional award of Samiylo Velichko.

It is difficult to overestimate a contribution of V. Zhuk in development of modern science. Her openings in ancient history of Ukraine became a great

⁹ Самойленко Н.И. Праболгары в исследовании полтавского краеведа // Дуслык. – 2012. – С. 39.

achievement of the Ukrainian and world historical science. She was exclusively objective, persistent and hardworking scientist. V. Zhuk was extremely sincere, benevolent, decent, sensitive, tolerant, intelligent person. The scientist always listened, advised, helped in word and deed, supported other people.

Vera Zhuk imparted her knowledge to young scientists: she advised, helped. It was always possible to ask her any question on the history of Ukraine and Poltava region, she always found the answer, or advised literature which should be read. Former students and young scientists always remember Vera Nikanorovna with gratitude and gentle awe in soul. After all its ability to inspire, to awaken interest, to develop creative abilities, advices not only on a scientific field, but also in everyday life, cause admiration and sincere gratitude. And wards or sponsored (as she spoke) it gave much of the students a start in life.

Despite of the respectable age, V. Zhuk actively participated in public life of the city. The scientist met teachers of higher educational institutions, teachers of schools, students, pupils, imparted with them the long-term experience in branch of archive science, historical study of local lore and history of Ukraine. V. Zhuk was the active participant of conferences which were held in Poltava and other regions of Ukraine. That was her contribution to development of Ukrainian and world historical science.

On November 3, 2008 after a serious illness V. Zhuk died. Buried the scientist in Poltava, the city she loved very much and devoted a considerable part of her life to research of its history. In October 2010 on V. Zhuk's grave was established a monument. Funds were raised by the scientist's relatives, and also by pupils, colleagues, friends, scientists, other people.

Therefore, it is difficult to overestimate a contribution of V. Zhuk in development of Ukrainian and world historical science. Her scientific heritage is a huge contribution to development of Ukrainian historical science. Scientific interests of Vera Zhuk were different: an ancient history, the Cossack era, the period of the Great Patriotic War, ethnic minorities in Ukraine, religious, educational, cultural, art traditions of Ukraine and Poltava region. The studios devoted to an ancient history of Ukraine (the period before creation of the state and the period of Kievan Rus), gave the chance to liquidate many "white spots" in national history, besides, now they are perspective from the point of view of their subsequent theoretical development. The works devoted to relationship between Ukrainian, Bulgarian, German states don't lose the relevance, and promote understanding, the tolerant relations and adjustment of cultural ties between them.

Nowadays the talent and discoveries of Vera Zhuk aren't absolutely recognized by Ukrainian academic science, but abroad her researches and hypotheses meet approval and admiration. Really, there is no prophet in the Fatherland. Probably, the present Ukrainian science isn't ready to recognize Vera Zhuk and to approve her researches. I am sure that the scientist will be recognized and adequately estimated. There are so perspicacious scientists that they could glance forward, go quicker, than conservative official history, after all they are progress engines.

VERA ZHUK (1928–2008) – SŁYNNNA HISTORYCZKA UKRAIŃSKA

Streszczenie. Artykuł przedstawia wkład Very Zhuk do badań historycznych na Ukrainie. Autorka pisze o zainteresowaniach naukowych Very Zhuk: historii starożytnej, okresie kozackim, mniejszościach etnicznych, religii, kulturze, edukacji, ludziach znanych na Ukrainie i w regionie Połtawy. Iryna Petrenko zauważa, że Vera Zhuk była kontynuatorką tradycji badań nad regionem Połtawy. W okresie sowieckim Vera Zhuk była prześladowana przez władze, przeprowadzono też kilka zamachów na jej życie. Nie była ona wierna reżimowi sowieckiemu i odchodziła od oficjalnie przyjętej polityki historycznej ZSRR. Autorka artykułu rozważa istotne kwestie: relacje kobieta – władza, kobieta – państwo, kobieta – ideologia.

Słowa kluczowe: Vera Zhuk, nauka, historia, władza, ideologia, społeczeństwo, dziedzictwo

Translated by Hubert Kowalewski