

## РЕЦЕНЗИИ

### REVIEW OF IHOR NEMCHYNOV'S MONOGRAPH "МАЛИНИНЪ/MALININ: RECONSTRUCTION OF THE "LOST BIOGRAPHY" OF KYIV PROFESSOR" – VINNYTSIA: BARANOVSKA T. P., 2019, 194 P.

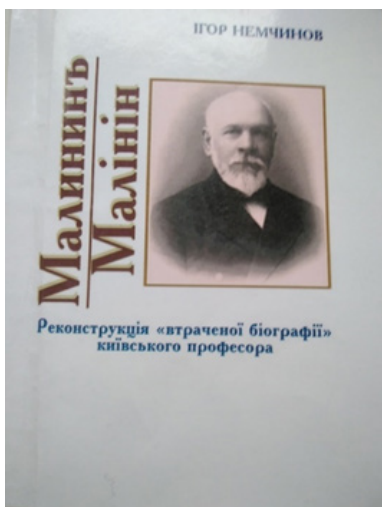
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Ihor Nemchynov's monograph is the first attempt to bring back, after more than a hundred years of absolute oblivion, the name of professor Vasyl Mykolayovych Malinin (1849-1927), author of literary treatise on Elder Philophey, to the wide public and scientific community. To me, as a researcher of such a unique cultural and educational center of Kyiv of the XIX century. as the Kyiv Theological Academy (KTA), it is especially pleasing to note that the work of the author stands out for a careful, caring and respectful attitude both to the study of the professor's personal life and to the reconstruction of the wide panorama of socio-political and cultural-educational processes that took place in the middle of the XIXth century both in the territory of the Russian Empire in general and in Kyiv in particular.

The content of I. Nemchynov's work is extremely interesting and valuable. The book contains a unique layer of information about the life of the clergy, the academic corporation, the history of the development of science and educational life within the walls of the KTA. The author managed to describe colorfully and vividly the professor's family, student and scientific life, avoiding a schematic representation of the course of the events of the second half of the XIX – the first quarter of XIX century. It is entirely understandable, that the researcher clearly lacked direct documents and archival materials to reproduce in particular the family and intellectual environment in which Malinin's scientific outlook was growing and developing, but the depth of scientific thought combined with the author's historical sense made it possible to achieve brilliant management of diverse documents of the era in terms of their adjusting to the personal life of a particular "little man". And as the author remarked himself, "it is at the points where the" micronarrative "of a person intersects with the" great narratives "of the era that there is a certain tension that leads to the emergence of a new quality of human biography" (p. 8).

It is quite understandable that some biographical events in the life of the personality under investigation can neither be given documentary evidence, nor given documentary rejection nowadays, because the information about them either has not been retained or this kind of information has been permanently lost. For a representative of the historical sphere of knowledge, the fact that

is not documented is at best only a working hypothesis, and at worst, a fiction. I have repeatedly had to cooperate with museum staff who did not take into account unconfirmed facts at all. And this is quite understandable and justified in terms of the methodology of classical historical science, which considers biography "with accounting accuracy, where the main milestones of human life – birth, study, marriage, professional achievements, death, are recorded" (p. 7). Our author is guided by a completely different methodology, because for him the biography of the main personality is, first and foremost, "an adventure that unfolds before the eyes of the researcher and involves him in there him as well no less firmly than the person who is the object of his research" (p. 7). In this case, the story of a particular person's life is constituted as narratology, that is, a reflection on the past in the form of a narrative, externally organized with the help of the story inserted by the narrator. It is already a postmodern methodology, when the narrative is not so much a description of ontological reality, but rather that the researcher brings meaning to the chaos of events through knowledge of the historical finale. Within the postmodern conception of history, the idea of the principal meaning of the finale becomes fundamental, in other words, when all the characters are long dead. Therefore, the narrative only makes sense retrospectively, since the dominant position of the researcher as a connoisseur of the finale provides him with a sense of meaning, unlike the character of the story, who only "flounders" in the chaos of events, without knowing their finale, and therefore unable to understand their underlying meaning, not to mention that these meanings can be multiple, for narrative is a story that can be interpreted by the reader quite differently than by the author (the so-called "author's death"). In general, the postmodern rejects any meta-narratives and any systems of explanation of the world, replacing them with a pluralistic fragmentary experience.

But let us be back to the subject of our conversation. The vast array of archival documents, applied by the author, memoirs and letters of contemporaries, newspaper notes, and fragments of the professor's scientific works in scientific journals of those stormy times is striking. Although the author notes that in writing his work he used only the open sources available on the Internet, the reconstruction of the "lost biography" as a whole was accomplished and came true... In the future it is possible to extend and deepen the layer of study of the target of research in synchronous and diachronic aspects to infinity, attracting the increasing number of archival developments. Note that working in archives, that is, working directly with flavescent sheets and faded ink, where you physically feel the breath of gray antiquity, emotionally inspires the researcher to a much greater extent than the monitor screen. But this is by no means a reproach to the researcher, but a bare reality that the author of these lines had to face with, since 20-25 years ago archives were not digitized and the hard work in the archives took not even years, but tens of years of life.

Particularly noteworthy, for me, is the section "Recent Years" (p. 147-167), where the author gives a wide panorama of those horrific stormy events that took place in Kyiv and took place at the final stage of the professor's path of life. The time was very difficult: the authorities in Kyiv were constantly changing, property and housing were requisitioned, cold and hunger were exasperating. All 18, 14, or 12 upheavals in Kyiv Malinin had to endure himself... In this context, the researcher made the most of the memories and correspondence of such contemporaries of those horrible times as V. Antonov-Ovseenko, V. Bogdashevskiy, D. Bahaliy, M. Bulhakov, K. Vasylenko, V. Vernadskiy, D. Humenna, D. Dontsov, S. Yefremov, Y. Klen (Oswald Burgardt), P. Kudryavtsev, N. Lynka, M. Poletik, V. Rybinskiy, and others. According to I. Nemchynov's deep conviction, "in the reconstruction of Malinin's biography, the author himself should be as little as possible and contemporaries – as much as possible" (p. 11). This methodological technique enabled the reader to fully immerse themselves in the events of those times and to feel the whole tragedy of the inhabitants of Kyiv in the 1920s.

It should be emphasized that the monograph has a clear structural composition, its sections and conclusions are perceived as content-balanced materials. Of particular interest to the reader are the chronological milestones of life (p. 168-169) and the bibliography of the professor's works (p.

170-172), as well as the literature (p. 173-185), which presents little-known archival documents on the scientific and educational activities of V. M. Malinin. The author also did not fail to make a name index (p. 186-193), which is a rarity for modern scholars and today causes unexpected surprise for interested readers.

The study is designed for historians as well as a wide range of scholars, professors, graduate students, students and anyone interested in antiquity. On this basis, it can be predicted that the monograph will certainly find and have already found, and not only in the person of the reviewer, its passionate and interested readers. Personally, I am very much pleased and it is precious for me that, in the author's opinion, I also took a little hand in this book, "standing at the origins of its writing".

Noting the high scientific level of this monograph, I would like to wish the author to keep on successfully exploring the creative legacy of the representatives of the Academy's glorious intellectual cohort, since the publication of this book is, first of all, a tribute to the memory of its worthy representative - Vasyl Mykhaylovych Malinin and a worthy testimony to the grandeur of the old Kyiv Theological Academy.

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