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East European Historical Society (2015–2020): Foundation and Development

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Abstract

This paper examines the diverse activity of the East European Historical Society, in conjunction with the institution's fifth anniversary. A special focus is given to the Society's life in the period from 2015 to 2020.

The work's materials are grounded in some specialized literature and a body of research literature, as well as certain resources available on the Center's website. In working on this paper, the authors made wide use of the descriptive, statistical, and problem-historical methods, which helped put together a comprehensive picture of the relevant events in their historical sequence.

Drawing a conclusion, the authors point out that over the first five years of the Society's existence, its founders formulated regulatory documents, designed symbols, developed the organizational structure and identified key items on the agenda. The agenda primarily covers the following areas: supporting research projects on relevant topics (including organization of funded research competitions); ensuring wide publicity for the findings brought by studies in the history of Eastern Europe (engaging an information agency) and facilitating member publication activities (which is reflected in the Web of Science scientometric database).

Keywords: East European Historical Society (2015–2020), history, foundation, key areas of development.

1. Introduction

The East European Historical Society will celebrate 5 years of operation on September 6, 2020. Of course, the 5th anniversary is a trifling landmark comparing to the record of some of the historical societies in the world. For example, the American Historical Association (US) was established in 1884, the Royal Historical Society (UK) emerged even earlier – in 1868. Nevertheless, in this half-decade, the East European Historical Society has made considerable steps to define its place among international historical organizations and outlined its essential focus areas. The work is intended to highlight major milestones in the development of the East European Historical Society in the first 5 years of activity.

2. Materials and methods

The work's materials are grounded in the company's business documentation, certain resources available on its website (<http://www.easteuropeanhistory.org>), a set of international scientometric

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databases, a set of journals run by Academic Publishing House Researcher s.r.o., some specialized literature, and a body of research literature.

In working on this paper, the authors made wide use of the descriptive, statistical, and problem-historical methods, which helped put together a comprehensive picture of the relevant events in their historical sequence.

3. Results

History and mission of the organization. The East European Historical Society was founded on September 6, 2015. The organization's website is <http://www.easteuropeanhistory.org/> The mission of the East European Historical Society is to promote the comprehensive study of the histories of the peoples of Eastern Europe, including Russia, as well as to further the development of effective contacts and collaboration between scholars specializing in the region.

Our objective is to support research of the highest quality in the East European historical field and related areas, with special emphasis given to the publication of archival materials, private documentary sources, and historiographical reviews.

The society membership criteria set forth that applicants should have at least 5 publications in academic journals indexed by Scopus and the Web of Science, as well as at least one recommendation from full members of the East European Historical Society. The minimum criterion of 5 Scopus and Web of Science publications represents quite a challenge for researchers in the humanities. The first constituent meeting, convened on September 6, 2015, elected¹ Aleksandr A. Cherkasov, Doctor of Historical Sciences and Director of the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research, as President of the Society. The criterion was introduced by the President of the East European Historical Society.

Structure and symbols of the Society. The Society is managed by a small staff that comprises functions such as Chairman, General Editor, Treasurer, Secretary, as well as Committee Members.

Three problematic groups have been set up in the Society since it was created. These are the Archeology, Modern History and Contemporary History Groups. The Society members currently include researchers from Russia, Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Great Britain.



Fig. 1. The Society's symbols (a – logo, b – banner)

Focus areas of the Society. After it was established, the Society has played an active role in reviewing scholarly works for various academic periodicals. One example is Bylye Gody, a Russian historical journal. The corresponding information was announced on the international edition's home page: <http://ejournal52.com/en/index.html>

The East European Historical Society also set up its dedicated official bulletin in 2015 – the East European History journal. The journal's website can be visited at: <http://ejournal49.com/en/index.html> Artyom Peretyatko, PhD (History), of the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research, is the journal's editor-in-chief.

The Society is now organizing and carrying out various events, including funded research competitions for the best scholarly publication on a wide range of relevant subjects of study.

For example, it announced a competition for the best scholarly publication on the occasion of the East European Historical Society's 5th anniversary. The purpose of the competition is to raise the level of discussion around research in the history of Eastern Europe. In addition, the Society established the 1st annual competition for the best research work on the issues related to slavery – Slavery in the Past and Present. The prize value in the Slavery in the Past and Present competition of \$ 2,250 has been provided by

¹ More information on the Center's projects is available here: (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019).

Academic Publishing House Researcher s.r.o., Bratislava, Slovakia. Details of the current competitions is available on the official website of the East European Historical Society: <http://www.easteuropeanhistory.org/our-competitions.html>

The Society is also a participant in another project – Eastern European Scientific Information Agency. Its website can be visited at: <https://eesiag.com/>

With English as a working language, the project is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Scientific Information of the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research and seeks to raise awareness of scholars and academia of the works accomplished by researchers in the Eastern European history. The Center releases about 20 news items each month about the most remarkable studies on the history of Eastern Europe.

Publication activity of the Society. As the Society was created in the autumn of 2015, its first papers came out in the Web of Science indexed journals only in 2016. [Figure 1](#) shows data on the publication activity of society members from 2016 to 2020. It is important to note that the 2020 data is incomplete because as of the time of this piece, the year 2020 has not been over yet, and publication of several articles for this year is still pending. As of August 2020, the Society has 40 publications in the Web of Science, and its h-index in the resource is 5.

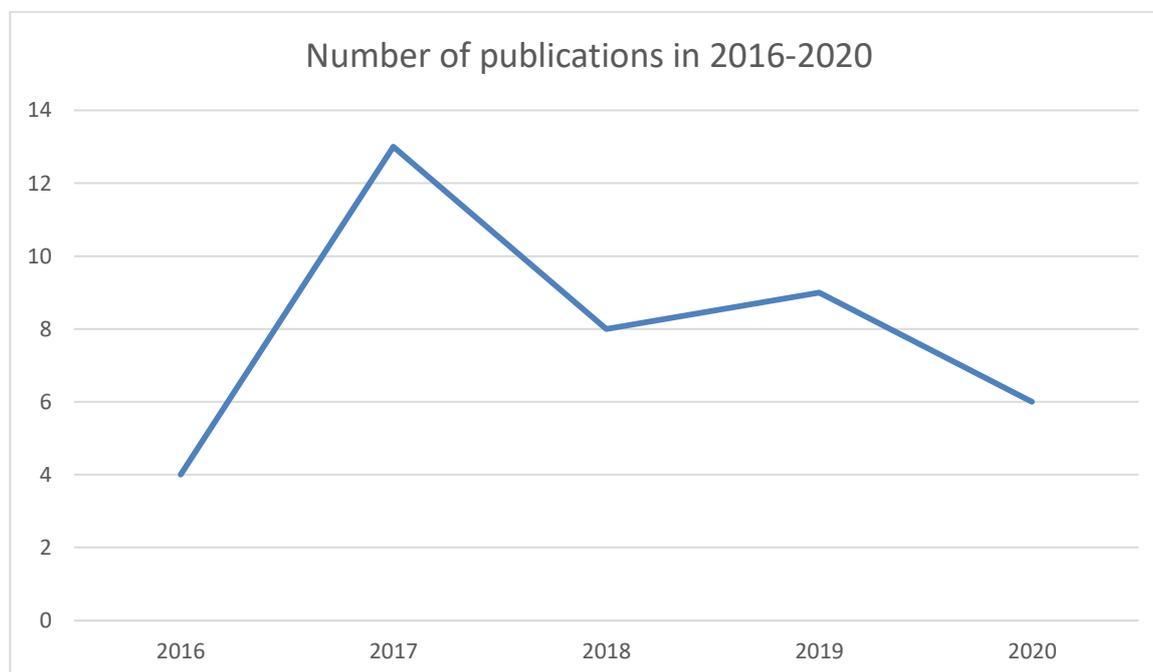


Fig. 1. Society's publications in the Web of Science in 2016–2020

Main lines of research interest, reflected in members' publication activity, include various aspects of the history of the Caucasus and the Caucasian War (1801-1864) ([Cherkasov et al., 2016](#); [Natolochnaya, 2017](#); [Cherkasov et al., 2017](#); [Peretyatko, 2019](#); [Cherkasov et al., 2017a](#); [Karataev et al., 2017](#); [Vodyasov, Zaitceva, 2018](#)), the history of the bureaucratic organization and government bodies in the Russian Empire ([Peretyatko, 2017](#); [Peretyatko, 2017a](#); [Degtyarev et al., 2018](#); [Degtyarev et al., 2018a](#); [Degtyarev, Polyakova, 2019](#); [Degtyarev et al., 2019](#)), specific facets of the history of minor peoples ([Shaidurov, 2017](#)), regional public education systems in the modern era ([Magsumov, Nizamova, 2016](#); [Natolochnaya et al., 2018](#); [Zavhorodnia et al., 2019](#)), as well as the issues of the revolution and wars between the 19th and early 20th centuries ([Taran et al., 2017](#); [Trut et al., 2017](#); [Cherkasov et al., 2017](#)).

It is also essential to point out that in writing their papers for publication, members of the East European Historical Society made extensive use of academic collaborations, and as a result, most of the publications were co-authored with representatives of various European universities.

4. Conclusion

Thus, over the first five years of the Society's existence, its founders formulated regulatory documents, designed symbols, developed the organizational structure and identified key items on the agenda. The agenda primarily covers the following areas: supporting research projects on relevant topics (including organization of funded research competitions); ensuring wide publicity for the findings brought by studies in the history of Eastern Europe (engaging an information agency) and facilitating member publication activities (which is reflected in the Web of Science scientometric database).

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