

UNIQUE PUBLICATION ON THE METHODOLOGY OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH¹

In modern conditions, when Ukraine is established as an independent state and gradually integrates into the European and world community, when national traditions are restored and enriched, the declining names of the spiritual lights of the Ukrainian people are returned, the social role of historical science and all its sections, including historiography, is increasing steadily. It is intended to assimilate the values of the Maidan, to deconstruct finally, to re-think the process of the origin of historical knowledge of events and phenomena of the past truthfully and objectively, scientifically and impartially, taking into account previously inaccessible or distorted sources and new methodological approaches, a decisive break with the ideological postulates of totalitarianism. We must remember that the history of Ukrainian historical thought, the development of national historical writing is an integral part of world historical science, it is filled with enormous intellectual material, experience and lessons, valuable methodological tools, which are taken together, have an irreplaceable significance not only for comprehension of the past, but also a better understanding of the process of creating historical knowledge in modern, postmodern conditions.

World historical thought integrates the achievements of historians of all nations, regardless of their number and size of ethnic territory. It is impossible to find out and reproduce objectively and not interact the history of Ukraine or any other country without knowledge of the trends of world historical science, its scientific instruments, without mastering the methodology of historical and historiographical research.

Professor Ya.S. Kalakura is convinced, that further enhancement of the role of historical science, all of its segments, including historiography, is not possible in the structure of humanitarian knowledge without in-depth study of the theoretical and methodological foundations of historical and historiographical knowledge. Historiography becomes able to respond to the challenges of modern social processes and give constructive answers to questions, connected with the past, present and future of historical science by relying on a general theory only, that is based on a

holistic system of scientific research, on the theory of knowledge and progress, on the historiography of existence, adhering to the principles of research developed by science, using advanced research methods. Ya.S. Kalakura proves that the theory of historiography, its methodological foundations need constant development and updating, more and more complete coverage of the literature, since there are many controversial issues, including the interpretation of the nature and characteristics of the industry knowledge of its subject, object, structure, notable is the significant gaps in the interpretation of the methodological tools of historiography and its conceptual terminology apparatus.

According to Ya.S. Kalakura, modern methods of historiographic studies requires new approaches as a component of the methodology, as well as its modernization on the basis of the latest information technologies, analysis of acquired experience and research laboratories of historiographers, in particular methods of searching, identifying and processing sources, establishing their authenticity, obtaining true information, transforming knowledge in the scientific and ideological system.

Assessing the current state of development of outlined problem, the scientist argues that the development of historiography, as a branch of history, science and educational discipline has come a long and difficult path: from the first information about the authors and the content of historical works, about the centers of science and its representatives to the thematic and systematic outline of the history of historical thought, scientific schools and leading currents. Theoretical and methodological studios unfolded in the field of historiography in parallel.

Questions raised by the author were the subject of discussion of a number of international congresses and conferences of historiographers. «The Ukrainian Historical Journal», «The Ukrainian Historian», «The Magazine of Ukrainian History», interdisciplinary and university collections, which published numerous articles of historiographical and methodological nature, have paid close attention

¹ Kalakura Ya.S. Methodology of historiographical research: scientific and methodical manual / Ya.S. Kalakura. – K. : CUP «Kyiv University», 2016. – 319 p.

to the development of the methodological tools of the historian. As Ya.S. Kalakura emphasizes, the increased interest in the methodology of historiographical research is taking place against the backdrop of growing attention to the general problems of science education. Over the last fifteen years, a number of works on the theory, philosophy and methodology of science in general, and historical in particular, including foreign authors, have been published, as well as numerous teaching aids devoted to the basics and methods of research, which contain important provisions concerning historiographical studies. The scientist-historiographer took for the object of research the historical and philosophical, theoretical and methodological foundations of historiographical knowledge, its terminology apparatus and methodological tools, scientific-organizational, historiographical and source-historical support of all stages of the research project, starting from the idea, defining the purpose, problem and themes, drawing up a plan for writing a work and implementing the results.

The author has set an important goal: to find out the essence of the theoretical and methodological foundations of historiographical research, as a higher level of historical knowledge, its features and systemic character in the context of civilization understanding of human history, to reveal a modern understanding of the content of the concepts of «methodology» and «methodological tools» and to consider the main stages and the components of the cognitive process, first of all, the principles, methods and tools of working with sources and the creation of the text of scientific work, as well as modern technology of research work, generalize the experience and identify the leading trends in producing knowledge about the development of historical knowledge. And he managed to realize it fully.

Professor Ya.S. Kalakura managed to solve complex tasks, in particular: to investigate the objective precondition of historiography, as a special branch of historical science on

the history of its development, to consider its modern concept, to reveal the specifics of historiographical research; to find out the content of the concepts of the theory and methodology of historiographical knowledge, to reveal its features in the context of civilization, systemic, interdisciplinary and integrative approach; characterize the theoretical and practical dimensions of the main components of the methodology: principles, methods and tools of cognition; to highlight the essence of the scientific problem of historiographical studies, the methodology of its production, the definition of the topic and the choice of the genre of research; to reveal the features of the object and the subject of historiographical research, their interconnection and interdependence; to determine the most effective methods and tools of scientific knowledge and its specificities in historiography; outline the modern approaches to bibliographic, historiographical and source-study support, to determine the state of coverage of the topic, the methodology for the search, the identification and classification of historiographical sources, etc.

The scientist managed to distinguish clearly the place and role of Ukrainian historiography, as a national component of world historical thought, a number of methodological peculiarities of its development. The scientific and methodical manual will be a contribution to the structure of Ukrainian national historiography and to the training of specialists in historiography.

According to the plan, goals and objectives, the book consists of an introduction, 8 chapters, 45 divisions, conclusions, bibliography, thematic and name indexes, a number of applications.

The book is intended for young researchers, masters, postgraduates and doctoral students, who work in various spheres of historiography: general, regional, branch, problem, personal, etc., as well as students of historical and other faculties.

© *Halyna Kotsur*

До редакції надійшла 2.10.2017.