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**ІГОР ЛИЛЬО, Греки на території Руського воєводства у XV–XVIII ст.  
Монографія [Ihor Lylo, *Greeks in the Territory of the Ruthenian  
Voivodeship in the 15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Monograph*]  
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Anyone interested in the history of the Greeks in the Ruthenian lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth should take note of the new monograph by Ihor Lylo, *Greeks in the Territory of the Ruthenian Voivodeship in the 15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries*. Although the publication language is Ukrainian, a short summary in English is included. The book cannot leave anyone indifferent due to the research question it considers. The author has made what is overall the best choice of the period of Greek activity in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's Ruthenian Voivodeship. The 15<sup>th</sup> century saw the decline and eventual collapse of the Byzantine Empire, an event that led to intensified migration of Greek merchants and craftsmen to this area. One of Dr Ihor Lylo's main objectives was to provide the fullest possible explanation of the reasons why Greek diasporas appeared in the Ruthenian Voivodeship between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The author has succeeded in outlining their everyday life and their activity in Lviv, Brody and Zamość. The research encompasses the causes and motives behind the migration of Greek merchants and craftsmen, their economic situation, community activity, degree of integration with local communities and the political-legal and cultural consequences of their activity. Dr Lylo's intention was to investigate and systematize these relations. The author also tasked himself with describing and analysing the Greeks' daily lives.

The period under consideration, i.e. from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was a time of the Greeks' strongest economic and communal activity in the Ruthenian Voivodeship. The time

considered in the work, however, is not detached from earlier Greek activity in the area. One of the chapters discusses contacts between the Galicia-Volhynia State and the Byzantine Empire between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is an extremely important issue because it shows the history of the relationships between Greek and Ruthenian political elites and church communities, as well as relationships in the arts community. The author points out that these political and economic contacts were also important after the area in question became part of the Kingdom of Poland in 1387. The time frame covered by the work ends in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the latter half of which was a time of gradual waning of Greek activity in the Commonwealth's Ruthenian Voivodeship. The reasons for this were many. Those Greeks who found themselves under the Austrian rule after the partitions of Poland became assimilated and, over time, became part of the local elite.

The geographical area of the activity of the Greeks which is described in the book more or less corresponds to the Ruthenian Voivodeship, although there is also a section describing the Greeks' contacts with their compatriots living in Podolia, especially with the Greek diaspora in Kamieniec Podolski (Kamianets-Podilskyi). Contacts with Greeks living in Constantinople and in Bari, Italy, are also mentioned. Another important question concerns the origins of the Greeks living in the Ruthenian Voivodeship. The author underlines that most of them had been citizens of the Venetian Republic. This fact was not highlighted properly in historiography before.

It needs to be mentioned that this is the first time that Ukrainian historiography has fully explained the reasons behind the Greek migration. Dr Lylo has shown that Greek immigration was not random and that Greek entrepreneurs, including merchants and craftsmen, had intentionally chosen this part of Europe as a place where they wanted to operate and live. Until recently, historiography had focused on the Greeks in the context of ecclesiastical relations and issues. The author points out that the activity of the Greeks living in the area in question was part of contemporary economic processes and of the political developments in the lands between Moscow, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Principality of Moldavia, the Venetian Republic and the Ottoman State.

Dr Lylo is the first scholar to explain the economic phenomenon of the "wine boom", i.e. the growing demand for sweet wine varieties from the Mediterranean region on the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's market. After analysing this phenomenon, the author argues that it had a significant impact on a sudden increase in the number of Greek merchants in towns in the Ruthenian Voivodeship. The growth of the Greek diaspora in towns did in fact occur in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. One such town was Lviv, which in the aforementioned period became a very important site on the trade route between Central-Eastern Europe on the one hand and Western Europe and the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin on the other.

The author also discusses the question of the self-identification of the Greeks living in the Ruthenian Voivodeship. Above all, it was based on the membership in the Orthodox Church and on a language community: for example, for decades, the Greeks signed all kinds of documents in Greek. As for confessional matters, one important place for the Greeks' activity and their collaboration with local Ukrainians was the Stauropegion Brotherhood, which was active at the Dormition Church in Lviv. It is worth noting that the author has devoted a chapter to the existence of another municipal centre in the region where the Greeks were active, namely Zamość. The Greeks set up their own centre there, which went on to become an integral part of the

town and played a major role in its history. The Greeks in Zamość were the only diaspora in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland that was to an extent legalized. At the same time, this diaspora provided support to Greek diasporas in other towns of the region. The author underlines the special role of Crown Chancellor Jan Zamoyski in the formation of the Greek diaspora in Zamość. Chancellor Zamoyski wanted to accelerate his town's economic development, which exacerbated the rivalry with Lviv. Zamoyski's activity influenced the character of the Greek diaspora in Zamość. The chancellor gave permission to settle on his land only to those Greeks who had once been subjects of Venice or Genoa. Dr Lylo's research enables the comparison between the respective features of the Zamość and Lviv diasporas and their multifaceted activity.

The book's description of Greek activity in the town of Brody deserves special attention. Greek craftsmen settled there in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, under the guardianship of Crown Hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski. Despite the brief time of their activity in the town, they had worthy successors among local craftsmen, who continued their craft of embellishing fabrics with gold and silver.

Dr Lylo has used a number of previously unpublished research materials on the Greeks' contribution to the Ruthenian Voivodeship's material culture. One extremely important question presented in the book is the research on the genealogy of nine Lviv families boasting Greek origins. The author describes their activity from the time when they settled in the Ruthenian Voivodeship until they were assimilated into the population of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The aforementioned issues are divided into ten chapters, which are preceded by a list of abbreviations and an introduction. The book also includes a summary and a dictionary of metrological and numismatic terms. The list of sources and references is impressive. The readers will find the index of personal and geographic names at the end of the book very useful. The work also features a brief summary in English and a list of the illustrations and maps included in the volume.

The methodological aspect of the work deserves attention. Besides Polish, English and other language skills, the author also knows Greek, which means that he reviewed the source texts “at first hand”. While the command of Greek would not seem an unusual skill in the case of someone studying the history of the Greeks in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, similar credentials were not always obvious. Dr Lylo is also a great admirer of and expert on the history of Lviv. Consequently, it is evident that the book was written by someone very well prepared for researching the history of the Greeks in the historical Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. To conclude, the book is the first work in Ukrainian historiography offering a comprehensive approach to the history of the Greek diaspora in the Ruthenian Voivodeship

between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is based on extensive source materials obtained from archives in Poland and Ukraine. This is a very valuable work of a very high academic standard, and at the same time an interesting study resource for a wide audience, especially in Ukraine but also in Poland. Ihor Lylo’s book is a compendium of knowledge about the role of the Greeks in the history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth’s Ruthenian Voivodeship. This is a must-have title for anyone interested in the history of the Greeks in the Commonwealth.



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