

Recording and Studying of Museum Collections and Historical Monuments in Bukovina during the First World War: Materials of the Russian scientific expedition in 1916–1917

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During the First World War, the Russian Academy of Sciences organized a Commission for observing the state of preservation of historical sites and scientific collections in the zones of war activities. Special authorized representatives were appointed to the Western, Caucasian and Turkish fronts (BASARGINA 2008, 488–489). In 1914–1918, a number of expeditions were organized within the framework of this project, but their results have been only partly published for the scientific community (BASARGINA 1991; KOLPAKOVA, BAZHENOVA 2012; STAROSTIN 2014; TSYPKINA 2021). In 1916–1917 works were conducted in the regions of Galicia and Bukovina occupied during offensive operations on the southwestern front of the Russian army under the command of General Aleksey Brusilov in the summer of 1916. The inspection of architectural monuments and church antiquities was led by Peotr Pokryshkin, a member of the Archaeological Commission (MEDVEDEVA, MUSIN 2009, 239, 242). Alongside architectural sites, researchers registered and described antiquities from archive, museum and library depositories and collected ethnographic evidence. The materials they accumulated are preserved at the Saint Petersburg Branch of the Archives of RAS, the Library of RAS and other scientific institutions. The archive collection of the Institute for the History of Material Culture (IHMC) RAS contains detailed documents concerning the Bukovina expedition, which took place from December of 1916 to January of 1917, led by Peotr Pokryshkin¹, as well as photos and separate information on the voyage to the region in summer of 1917.

The manuscript archives of the Imperial Archaeological Commission (IAC) contains two files of official documents concerning the organization of the expedition and correspondence with scientific societies for collection of information from all the provinces on historic sites ravaged by military activity². The personal archives of Peotr Pokryshkin preserved official correspondence, letters written by participants, photographs, both a handwritten and typed version of a scientific report, maps of Galicia-Bukovina railways with routes marked, travel documents, diaries, certificates, letters to different offices with requests for authorizing scientific investigations in the region of war activities, financial accounts etc.³. The photographic collection of IHMC RAS preserved over 500 glass and film negatives and imprints related to the Bukovina expedition of 1916–1917. The photos depict features of historic architecture, icon paintings, and different objects from museum collections. The pictures were taken by Peotr Pokryshkin and Vladimir Leontovich.⁴ In addition to their own photos, the participants of the expedition revealed a

¹ Peotr Pokryshkin (1870–1922) – architect, restorer, academician of architecture (1909). He led the architectural research direction of the IAC from 1902. He was one of the founders of the Russian scientific school of architectural restoration and archaeological method in the study of architectural monuments.

² MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 1. in. 1, 1915. fo. 29; 1916, fo. 104.

³ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 46–51, 72, 110, 339, 360, 1611.

⁴ Vladimir Leontovich (1881–1968) — engineer, architect and restorer. In the 1910s he was occupied with restoration and preservation of architectural sites of Volhynia and as a diocesan architect took part in the activities of Peotr Pokryshkin. Afterwards he was a professor of the Kievan Construction Engineering Institute and the Kievan University.

considerable collection of magnificent photographs in Chernovtsy (about 400 negatives) of monasteries with painted murals in Bukovina taken in 1912 by Jan Kshanovski, a photographer from Chernovtsy, under the direction of Vladimir Milkovich, a professor of the Chernovtsy University.⁵ In 1917, by order of Peotr Pokryshkin, imprints were made from some of them which now are kept in the Archives of IHMC RAS — two albums of large size photos of the Sucevița Monastery (126 photos; PD SA IHMC RAS. Albums Q 713–714). The fate of the negatives themselves is unknown.

In the 1960s, the documentary assemblage in the archives of IHMC RAS concerned with scientific work in war zones in 1916–1917, was supplemented with documents from one of the participants of the expedition, Vladimir Leontovich, who was already a professor of the Construction Engineering Institute in Kiev. Judging by his notes, he assisted in indexing some of the diaries of the expedition as early as 1948. It is not by chance, that in those years Vladimir Leontovich was concerned with documents from the personal archives of Peotr Pokryshkin. The two architects were acquainted since the early 1910s. They were connected not only through the business but also through friendly relations. As the correspondence of the late 1940s demonstrated, Vladimir Leontovich attempted to collect memoirs about Peotr Pokryshkin and to find his portrait photographs which were quite unique. The architect was planning to organize a small exposition in the church of the Saviour at Berestovo in Kiev with the studies and restoration of which Peotr Pokryshkin was occupied in 1909–1914. Owing to this circumstance, and exchange of letters with the historian of art Nikolay Sychev were discovered. These documents containing valuable information about the personality of the scholar and about his family were found in the archives (PLATONOVA 2015, 2017). In 1961, Vladimir Leontovich submitted part of his personal archives concerned with activities of Pokryshkin by the orders of IAC to the Archives of the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Archaeology (now IHMC) with annotations and comments. These were appended to Peotr Pokryshkin's archive collection in the Manuscript Department. The most valuable specimen was the personal correspondence between the architects where the unofficial aspect of the organization and carrying out of the Bukovina expedition was discussed. Vladimir Leontovich, in addition, submitted his photographic collection to the Photoarchive of the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Archaeology. These negatives constituted a separate photographic archive group of the architect⁶. The photographs include several photographic stereo pairs derived from images taken during the trips of 1916–1917. This technology, which allowed producing three-dimensional images, was proposed by Vladimir Leontovich himself. He sent an example of a glass plate for a polyscope (as he called a camera for making stereo shots — author's note) to the director of the expedition Peotr Pokryshkin in advance, and requested to buy as many such plates as possible⁷. After the expedition, Peotr Pokryshkin ordered the photographer of the Archaeological Commission to make slides from photos by Vladimir Leontovich. These were submitted to the collection of the archives. Unfortunately, all this collection (224 units of storage) was discarded in 1974 and the fate of the originals is so far unknown.

The scientific and organizational documents, diaries, drawings, photographs and letters, provide us a detailed notion about how the Bukovina expedition occurred, what tasks were set before the researchers, as well as important information on the state of preservation of monuments and museum collections in the investigated area of Bukovina during that period. The interdisciplinary investigations

⁵ Vladimir Mil'kovich (1857–1916) — historian, an expert in the history of Eastern European countries, professor of the Chernovtsy University, one of the founders of the local archives in Chernovtsy.

⁶ PD SA IHMC RAS. f. 51.

⁷ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 26r.

were carried out from December of 1916 until July of 1917. Two of the longest trips under the immediate direction of Peotr Pokryshkin took place from December 18 of 1916 to January 9 of 1917 and from May 20 to June 10 of 1917.

The preparation of the first expedition began following the application by the brothers Feodor Trepov⁸ and Aleksandr Trepov⁹ submitted to the Imperial Archaeological Commission. This took place in late July 1916 when Russian forces succeeded in occupying territories in Bukovina, where subsequent investigations were conducted. Aleksandr Trepov wrote to the president of IAC Aleksey Bobrinskiy: “<...> during the trip I just made to the roads of the front on this July 23, I had the possibility to visit the town of Kimpolung in Bukovina. The Galician Governor-General and Ternopol Governor who accompanied me explained, that a large collection of old icons, church utensils, domestic objects etc. is kept in the local agricultural school in Kimpolung, and therefore worries were expressed concerning the possible of plundering this entire collection in absence of its proper guarding”¹⁰. Feodor Trepov charged the local governors “with taking measures for protecting historic monuments, libraries, scientific and artistic collections, etc.” and he inquired “whether possibly the Imperial Archaeological Commission would deem it necessary to send some of its members on a mission to Galicia and Bukovina for acquaintance with the antiquities and art objects survived there”¹¹. Immediately after receiving these letters, three members of IAC were appointed to investigate the state of preservation of historical sites in the zone of war activities. Academician Peotr Pokryshkin became the head of the expedition; on his recommendations, the Volhynian diocesan architect Vladimir Leontovich and the artist Anikita Khotulev¹² from Moscow were included in the staff of the expedition. In the report to the Minister of the Imperial Court, the president of the Archaeological Commission Aleksey Bobrinskiy wrote: “The Minister of Communication Lines and the Acting Military Governor-General of the regions of Austria–Hungary occupied by the right of war, simultaneously informed me by their messages of July 27 of this year about the necessity to carry out immediate inspection and description of the monuments of old times in those districts of Bukovina and Galicia that are occupied by our forces. In my opinion, recording the artistic treasures and antiquities in the named localities for academic purposes will found a solid basis for taking further measures for their preservation, I would consider it desirable to send on a mission to Bukovina and Galicia academician P. P. Pokryshkin, a member of the Imperial Archaeological Commission entrusted to me, and engineer V. G. Leontovich <...>”¹³. Peotr Pokryshkin with great ardour was preparing to the future trip as he described it in his letter of August 16, 1916, to Vladimir Leontovich, with whom he had been acquainted still from the time of restoration of the Ostrog castle: “The Count (the president of IAC Aleksey Bobrinskiy – the author’s comment), as a counterattack, showed me two letters from the two Trepovs <...>. In these letters the Count was prompted to take measures for description and protection of monuments of old times in these districts. It seems that, indeed, your admirer and your most humble servant will have to go both to Volhynia and to Bukovina and to all those districts which with the God’s help we will take from

⁸ Feodor Trepov (1854–1938) in 1916 was Military Governor-General of the districts of Austria-Hungary occupied by the right of war.

⁹ Aleksandr Trepov (1862–1928) in 1916 was the Secretary of State for Means of Communication.

¹⁰ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 1. in. 1, 1916, fo. 104, p. 1.

¹¹ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 1. in. 1, 1916, fo. 104, p. 2.

¹² Anikita Khotulev (1871–1941) was an artist, pupil of Ilya Repin. He graduated from the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture attached to the Imperial Academy of Art.

¹³ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 1. in. 1, 1916, fo. 104, p. 3-3r.

Austria–Hungary. But when will this occur? It is unknown <...>. Yesterday telegrams already appeared about Romania acting in union with us. I congratulate you with this considerable success of Russia!”¹⁴.

Simultaneously, in the beginning of August, the Academy of Sciences received a petition from the Petrograd Branch of the Warsaw Society for Protection of Antiquities about the necessity to guard the monuments, museum collections and libraries which turned to be in the zone of war activities: “<...> in relation with the events now taking place, many monuments of Polish past found in the region of war activities have again been subjected to annihilation while other are endangered with damage and destruction.

Bearing in mind that protection of the remains of the Polish past survived until now, which are pitifully few and therefore ever more valuable, is an extremely important and urgent task of the Branch, the Board of Administration ventures to address the Imperial Academy of Sciences with an urgent and most respectful application for the following:

Whether the Academy of Sciences will recognize as useful and possible 1/ to organize under the Headquarters of the Commanders in Chief of the armies, primarily at the Southwestern Front, permanent commissions constituted by special authorized representatives of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and the Archaeological Commission, as well as by representatives of the Branch, who would undertake the care about the protection of the monuments of old times situated in the sphere of the war operations. Furthermore, it would be very desirable that the military authorities, in case of need, would provide the commissions with a military escort for protection of the valuable objects of old times and art against damages and plundering;

2/ in view of the extreme urgency of this matter, as a temporary measure before the organization of these commissions, to send on a mission to Galicia your authorized representative together with a representative of the Branch <...>”¹⁵.

Although the resolution on organizing the expedition was adopted immediately in the summer of 1916, the question of its financing was protracted for a long time. In the early October of 1916, Peotr Pokryshkin wrote to Vladimir Leontovich: “Guilty! But recommended for mercy. Day by day, I awaited the order to go to Volhynia and Bukovina, but there are no news! Our chairman forgot us completely; for me it is a great trial under present circumstances when energetic actions are needed. Were it not a matter of finances, I would act unauthorized according to ‘practice’, but... no funds are given, although they are not denied. Despite everything, I will depart even in winter if only the means will be paid”¹⁶. Shortly afterwards, the advance of 500 roubles was at last allotted from the total assigned sum of 3,000 roubles. At the same time, a conference of the Academy of Sciences asked Pokryshkin to additionally take over a commission, becoming an authorized representative of the Academy for the protection of antiquities and scientific collections in the zone of war activities at the Southwestern Front along with the obligations to the Archaeological Commission concerned with this project¹⁷. In connection with the expansion of the tasks of the expedition, a reinforcement of its staff became necessary. Therefore in November, the young

¹⁴ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 12-12r.

¹⁵ MD SA IHMC RAS. f.1, in. 1, 1915, fo. 29, p. 80-81r; f. 21. in. 1, fo. 360, p. 9-10.

¹⁶ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 15.

¹⁷ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 1. in. 1, 1916, fo. 104, p. 20.

architect Aleksandr Udalenkov,¹⁸ then a pupil of the Supreme Art School attached to the Academy of Art and, later, a representative of the Warsaw Society Sigismund Boravskiy was added to the list of the workers.¹⁹

The composition of the personnel of the expedition was communicated to the Trepovs and to the Commander in Chief at the Southwestern Front General Aleksey Brusilov to issue all necessary permits, since the armies on the Southwestern Front were banned from photography and filming of any kinds without a special permit from the Headquarters, excluding noone of any rank in the areas of railways, highways, rivers and country roads. Photographing “was allowed only in case of service needs: with scientific goals (photos with historic or technical importance) and for submitting the reports if these requirements were prescribed by the supreme direct authorities (above the level of corps commander or officials of equal authority)”²⁰. For the participants of the expedition, certificates, passes and business cards were issued from the Academy of Sciences, from the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the armies of the Southwestern Front and from the Chernovtsy administration. These documents granted them the right to be in the zone of war activities, to photograph, to sketch, to measure and to describe antiquities. The certificates also specified, that the military should render all sorts of assistance in providing the transportation²¹. At the same time, researchers received tickets of the 1st class from the railway office service for a free passage. Contemporary regulations concerning architectural and archaeological research were also observed: the Imperial Archaeological Commission issued the Research Certificate on December 6, 1916, which attested “that its member, academician of architecture P. P. Pokryshkin is sent on a mission to the area of war activities of southwestern armies, namely to Bukovina, Galicia, Volhynia and Podolia for studies of monuments of architecture and of art in general, observation and direction of their amendment”.

The start of the trip was delayed several times for different reasons in the autumn of 1916. Imminent winter worried participants considerably. Possibly, Vladimir Leontovich even proposed to postpone the trip to spring but Peotr Pokryshkin did not consent to that: “I cannot fulfil your request due to the following very strong reasons: 1) in May you will not be released because the construction will be in full swing, 2) we will be able to begin the inspection starting from Volhynia so dear to your heart, 3) it is impossible for me to travel there in any other period, 4) our task does not suffer any delay, 5) in spring I have to visit the Olonets Province, 6) the long evenings we will use for writing detailed reports and perhaps for developing photos, 7) Udalenkov, justifying his family name, would be very useful to double the speed of our work, and thank God, everything will be all right, 8) concerning the weather and the road we should trust ourselves to God because this matter is solely in His hands”²². The situation cleared up only in the beginning of the December, when the members of the expedition started the journey. On December 18, 1916, they arrived via Kiev to Kamenets-Podolsky where the headquarters of the Commander

¹⁸ Aleksandr Udalenkov (1887–1975) was an architect, a restorer, a staff assistant of the Academy of the History of Material Culture. He participated in the restoration of sites in Moscow, Novgorod, Petrograd/Leningrad, Samarkand etc.

¹⁹ Sigismund Boravskiy (1888–1956) was a lawyer and a man of letters, son of the restorer artist and staff assistant of the Emperor Alexander III Russian Museum (1896–1910s), Alexander Boravskiy. Being a warrant officer of the Railway Troops, Sigismund Boravskiy was sent by the Academy of Sciences as a representative of the Petrograd Branch of the Warsaw Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and as a ‘connoisseur of Polish antiquities’.

²⁰ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1612, p. 20.

²¹ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 360, p. 11–28.

²² MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 24r.



• **Fig. 1.** • Members of the Bukovina Expedition at the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the Southwestern Front, December 1916. From left to right: Alexei Udalenkov, Vladimir Leontovich, Peotr Pokryshkin, Anikita Hotulev, Peotr Neznamov. MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 106, p. 8.

of 90 versts could be covered only in two days, which were mostly wasted as almost no reading or writing was possible in a jolty coach with an unmercifully jerking engine <...>. Provided with a car, the expedition would have been able to inspect in one month all the sites in winter, while in summer only two weeks would be needed for the same task, because in summer it is possible to describe and photograph from 4 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock of the evening, whereas in winter, only from 9 to 3 o'clock"²³.

The entire first week Peotr Pokryshkin was occupied with organizational questions and only seldom did he join other researchers who were actively examining sites in the surroundings of Chernovtsy. Firstly they visited the Chernovtsy church museum at the residence of the metropolitan. Objects from the museum were found in a complete disorder, the curator of the museum hinted, that the havoc was caused by the Russian soldiers, who stole the keys to the cabi-

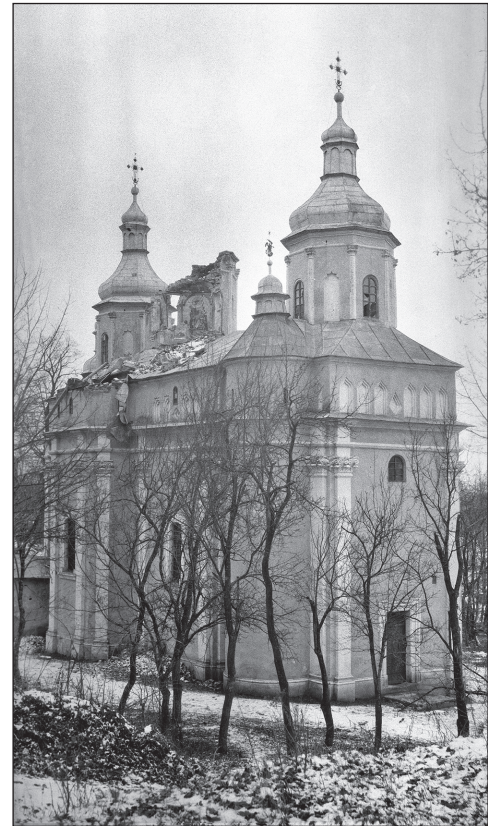
• **Fig. 2.** • Chernivtsi. Church museum in the residence of the metropolitan, December 1916. Peotr Pokryshkin at work on the description and fixation of the museum collection. PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. II 37614



in Chief of the armies of the Southwestern Front was situated (**Fig. 1**). From there, they left for Chernovtsy where they met Feodor Trepov. It proved to be impossible to get a car, therefore the researchers were provided with a special service railway coach (No. 31) for their transportation. In his report Peotr Pokryshkin wrote that, from the very beginning, "insurmountable obstacles arose against them: 1) the impossibility to get a car and, which as a consequence, doomed the expedition to a turtle's pace and 2) the frosts which finally destroyed our wishes. Each one among the participants of the expedition, being utterly occupied with his service duties, naturally tried to make use of that month the best they could, but there was nothing to be done, when a distance

²³ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 58r, 59.

nets. Old books and icons from the Cathedral of St. George in Lvov and from different churches of Bukovina, a wooden tabernacle in the form of a three-domed church, church furniture – all this was described in detail and drawn by the participants of the Bukovina expedition (Fig. 2). Among museum pieces, the abovementioned magnificent collection of photographic shots of monasteries with paintings taken in 1912 were found. After the museum, the members of the expedition examined churches in the surroundings of Chernovtsy and recorded the state of preservation of wooden churches in the villages of Rosh, Klokuchka, Kalichanka, Gorecha and the stone church in Ludi-Gorecha. The church of the Nativity of the Virgin in Ludi-Gorecha was the most damaged one amongst inspected churches: the central cupola drum was destroyed by a large shell, “in the middle of the church, a heap of brick debris lay”, because “the trenches of the Austrians were close to the eastern and northern sides of the church, and even here a battery of heavy artillery in reinforced concrete defences was set up”²⁴ (Fig. 3).



• **Fig. 3.** • Ludi-Gorecha.
Church of the Nativity of the Virgin
with the destroyed middle dome.
Photo by Peotr Pokryshkin,
December 1916. PD SA IHMC RAS.
neg. II 37648

• **Fig. 4.** • Suceava. The monastery of John the
New Suceava, December 1916. PD
SA IHMC RAS. imp. O. 475–1861

From Chernovtsy, the participants of the expedition departed for Kimpolung where the main goal of their trip was situated – the museum pieces, state of preservation of which so worried the brothers Trepovs. They departed on the evening of December 25, 1916, at 10 o'clock, but on their way one of the axes of their coach caught fire. It had to be uncoupled and sent to repair, therefore the researchers decided to examine sites situated not far from Suchava (Fig. 4) since they planned to do it anyway. “We had to walk about 4 versts afoot – wrote Peotr Pokryshkin, – and only at the sunset on December 26 did we arrive to the former Sucevița Monastery where we found shelter and immediately started drawing, documenting and photographing the interesting St. George cathedral”²⁵. In his report, Peotr Pokryshkin admired the restoration of the wall painting in the church. “There is much for Russians to learn at this church. In this church, I found that the ideal aspirations of artists are executed; in Russia, because of the false ‘grandeur’, we are yet to succeed in restoring wall paintings without a renovating them,

²⁴ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 62r, 63.

²⁵ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 63.

without ‘fixing’ compositions, without strongly distorting original tones, without an additionally gilding or re-gilding them anew that renders a vulgar view to the wall painting. Here in the Suchava St George Church, merely the soot was cleaned, whereas the damages, even in the very conspicuous places <...> are screened only with a gentle mauve dark deep tone, which was surprisingly well chosen. The worn parts were left without amendments <...>. The result is a truly artistic, extremely noble, and veritably magnificent impression. <...> The mystery of this beauty, perhaps, lies precisely in the absence of ‘restoration’ which, notwithstanding its perfection, always carries with it an imprint of being fake”²⁶. In the following days, the participants of the expedition inspected some other churches of Suchava and visited the wall paintings of the monastery of Dragomirna. After the coach had been repaired, the researchers continued their route to Kimpolung. However, they scarcely started when another axis of the coach caught fire and they stopped again for repairs. Making the most of the delay, they examined additionally the nearby monasteries of Gura-Humora and Voronets (Fig. 5). Along with architectural monuments and the mural painting, the icons and objects of church utensils were described in detail.



• Fig. 5. • Monastery of Gura Gumora. Peotr Pokryshkin and Alexei Udalenkov for photographing the Assumption Church. Photo by Vladimir Leontovich, December 1916. PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. I 84507

1916, at last they arrived to Kimpolung. “Here the head of the uyezd gave us his warmest welcome – wrote Peotr Pokryshkin in the report, – we were provided for lavishly, for there is abundance of provisions in Bukovina in general, so that relatives and acquaintances of soldiers and officials in service here come to purchases as much as possible to take it back to Russia as hand luggage, because neither luggage nor private cargo is allowed on the coaches”²⁷. In Kimpolung the members of the expedition at once proceeded to examine the museum collection and the library at the School of Woodworking. At that time, the building housed the



• Fig. 6. • Museum in Kimpolung, December 1916. PHO NA IMK RAN. Otp. O. 475–1867

²⁶ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 64r.

²⁷ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 74r.

military headquarters and the museum objects were found in disorder, yet the doors were sealed. “The museum is situated on the 3rd floor in two rooms. Antiquities and ethnographic materials occupied the larger one, while the smaller one served as storage for recent works of pupils, most of which were pitifully decadent, and a library”²⁸. The researchers compiled a list of the antiquities: icons, church utensils, and an ethnographic collection dominated by wooden objects (**Fig. 6**). By that time, some of the antique clothes had already been transferred to Poltava Zemstvo and museums in the city of Kiev. After the examination, the rooms of the museum were sealed anew and the corps commander and the head of the uyezd promised to take care in the future, to preserve museum pieces.

In the first January days of 1917, the members of the expedition inspected the churches of Kim-polung and visited Fundul-Moldova, Vatra-Moldavica, Vama and described the churches situated there. In Vatra-Moldavica they discovered, that a scaffolding was constructed around the temple of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. In 1914, restoration works were conducted there, but workers fled from advancing Russian troops, leaving their trowels with unused mortar on them which “had hardened to stone” by the time Peotr Pokryshkin and his assistants arrived²⁹. After inspecting the church in Vama, several participants had to return from their leave to their offices, therefore they took a common photograph there (**Fig. 7**).

• **Fig. 7.**
Wama. Church of the Ascension. From left to right: Alexei Udalenkov, Anikita Hotulev, S. Dyakonovich, Vladimir Leontovich. January 3, 1917. PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. II 37693



Subsequent inspections were conducted solely by Peotr Pokryshkin, Vladimir Leontovich and Anikita Khotulev. They examined the Radovets church and then visited the Sucevița monastery. The visit to the Sucevița Monastery is highlighted in Peotr Pokryshkin’s report: “we arrived to the monastery on January 6 during the Theophany procession. We were bestowed a great honour: archimandrite Optisiy Popescul (**Fig. 8**) took my hand and arranged me to stand near himself; the Russians among the monks dared to sing before us in Russian the troparion and kontakion of the fest, and the next day, on Sunday, I was allowed to read in the church in Russian the Six Psalms, the kathismae, ‘Credo’ and the ‘Lord’s Prayer’, and moreover I stood near the archimandrite; he was a remarkable, affable and cordial person, under his patronage we had successfully fulfilled rather a great deal <...>. The condition would have

²⁸ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 75.

²⁹ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 79.



• **Fig. 8.** • Suchavits monastery. Expedition members visiting Archimandrite Ortisy. Third left – Anikita Hotulev, fourth left – Peotr Pokryshkin. Photo by Vladimir Leontovich, January 1917. PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. I 84509

been ideal for the work had the frosts not strengthened further still: on January 7 the temperature was -20°C , on January 8 -25°C , and on the 9th -27°C ³⁰.

Firstly, the researchers studied the architectural monuments in the Sucevița Monastery itself, described in detail the internal and exterior painting of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ, the iconostasis, interior objects, and the ‘embroidered portraits’. From the Sucevița Monastery the expedition departed for the monastery in Putna, which was founded in the 15th century. “We arrived to Putna on January 9, already by 10 o’clock, and were very chilly. It was impossible to see the Archimandrite because he was gravely ill, in fact dying. We were received by some outside archpriest, who gave the impression of being an educated person who

at once correctly evaluated our visit, whereas the monks were terror-stricken; we were aided in calming the excessively shy monks by Archimandrite Ortisy who arrived immediately after us. Unfortunately we had to hurry³¹. In addition to the characterisation of the main church of the monastery, the members of the expedition described the magnificent specimens of embroideries made in the 15th century, which had been preserved there. Putna became the last stage of the winter trip to Bukovina.

Each participant of the expedition kept a diary. In several cases, a single diary was kept by different hands in turn³². For instance, in one of the notebooks, the first sheet was signed by Aleksandr Udalenkov, several pages below were filled by Peotr Pokryshkin and then by Vladimir Leontovich. The records were written with a pencil and did not repeat each other. The researchers were simultaneously keeping their own diaries, each focused on the study of different objects recovered from the same site. One described icons, another described fresco paintings or church utensils. Notebooks were rarely composed thematically and kept by different participants who dealt with different sites at the same time. The diaries contain textual itineraries complete with dates, description of studied edifices, their interiors, their state of preservation, drawings of the details, recommendations for the restoration and preservation, data on the transference of museum and historic book collections within the territory of Bukovina. The diaries also contained information on the general political and historical character of the region for Moscow. After the winter trip, Peotr Pokryshkin summarized all data and compiled a general scientific report based on all the diaries.

³⁰ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 85–85r.

³¹ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 94.

³² MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 46, 47, 49.

On February 22, 1917, the head of the expedition delivered a lecture at IAC about the examination of the Bukovina sites (IZVESTIYA 1918, 108). The full text of this report is present in the personal archive of Peotr Pokryshkin in two typed copies and a single handwritten one³³. In his conclusion, he listed the most urgent minimal measures for preservation and repairs of the examined architectural monuments and museums. Peotr Pokryshkin approved the system of protection of wooden churches in Bukovina and the previous restorations carried out by the Austrian architect Karl Romstorfer,³⁴ he admired the outstanding attitude of Bukovina priesthood towards church antiquities: “the clergy is generally more civilized than here; the priests, all without exception, finished a gymnasium and furthermore, most of them graduated from the Department of Divinity at the Chernovtsy University; all the priests whom we met were firm in their knowledge, that antiquity is sacred and inviolable”³⁵. At the same time, Peotr Pokryshkin noted, that not even half of the tasks of the expedition were fulfilled, and over hundred churches still needed inspection.

During the spring and summer of 1917, the architects, ethnographers and archaeologists authorized by the Academy of Sciences, mostly living and working in the territory of Ukraine, continued the project and made another series of trips with the goals of inspecting of the state of preservation of historic monuments (BAGRII 1918). The archives of IHMC RAS preserved practically no information on that period.

As early as spring, signs of the approaching catastrophe appeared in letters by Peotr Pokryshkin to Vladimir Leontovich. In February he wrote concerning the expedition photos: “be patient, don’t get excited, sometime the prices must fall or the credits will rise. Send me the bills for printing and magnification, making the slides, etc. I am staying so far without any means, awaiting the return of the overdrafts produced from my own pocket. Now I am quite afraid of such overdrafts having gone through a lot of troubles <...>. The office is now working terribly slowly ...”³⁶. In spring of 1917, the word “Imperial” already disappeared from the letterheads of the representative of the Academy of Sciences, and other forms displayed “Former Cabinet of his Majesty”. Congratulating Vladimir Leontovich on Easter (April 7, 1917), Peotr Pokryshkin informed: “I received your postcard of April 2 and I am waiting for the promised letter where I hope to read about your intentions and the possibility to make a trip with the expedition of the Academy of Sciences. The Archaeological Commission so far retains the same rights and duties”³⁷. In the postcard of May 2, 1917, certain hope is felt: “Vladimir Grigoryevich, Darling! My fellow-traveller, a lieutenant-colonel from the Romanian front calmed me very much concerning the conduct of the soldiers at the front. He told me a great deal and, thank God, I am generally heartened!”³⁸.

In May and July of 1917, another multidisciplinary expedition to Bukovina took place with more specialists led by Peotr Pokryshkin, an academician of architecture (**Fig. 9**). Alongside the director,

³³ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48.

³⁴ Karl Adam Romstorfer (1854–1916) — an Austrian architect; he was professionally educated in the Vienna High Technical School. From 1884 to 1904 he worked and lived in Bukovina where he was actively occupied with preservation and restoration of architectural monuments (GRIABAN, CHUCHKO 2008).

³⁵ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 48, p. 100.

³⁶ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 28r.

³⁷ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 32r.

³⁸ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 33r.



• **Fig. 9.** • Participants in the Bukovina trip in the summer of 1917. From left to right: Alexander Bagriy, Anikita Hotulev, Peotr Pokryshkin, Sergei Maslov, and Fyodor Korallov. PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. II 37193

expedition staff included artist Anikita Khotulev, privat-docent of the Kiev University Sergey Maslov,³⁹ Aleksandr Bagriy⁴⁰ and Feodor Korallov.⁴¹ Unfortunately no integral report concerning the expedition is present in the archives of IHMC RAS, however there are brief diary records, separate official documents, notes in the letters, budget expenses for meals and transport written by hand by Peotr Pokryshkin in separate sheets and notebooks. The photographic collection contains a series from this trip. The inventory did not include their dates, yet Pokryshkin's notes and seasonal features in the images themselves reveal, that they were shot in the summer of 1917 (**Fig. 10**). The researchers visited Suchava, Dragomirna, Mamaevcy-Luzhany, Seret. They photographed anew monuments of the ecclesiastic architecture and described them in detail.

The loss of the conquered territories and political shifts in Russia resulted in curtailing the Bukovina expedition in the end of summer of 1917. Feodor Korallov described the return from their last trip to Bu-

kovina in July of 1917 in the following manner: "I left Chernovtsy because of evacuation on the 14th of July at 2 o'clock of the day. I travelled to Kiev from July 14 to July 23 in an evacuation train, at first in a heated goods carriage, then in a third-class coach with the speed of 5 versts per day from Novoselitsy. On the road from Chernovtsy to Novoselitsy, over 70 trains amassed, bound to a single direction, thus one often needed to stay on the train in the middle of some field for up to 5, 8, or 12 hours without any movement. I did not expect having to spend so much time on the road, so naturally I had not provided myself with a sufficient store of victuals, like many others amongst the 912 passengers who were in that train. On the second day, it was discovered, that some in the train had not eaten the entire day. The bars at the stations did not have any food, nor any water for boiling: boilers did not have enough time to boil water between the arrival of one train and the next. However, Colonel Smirnov had his family in the train, and he ordered a field kitchen to be brought to the train, with soup at the ready, and July 16 passed well in terms of meals. Later on a nutrition committee was established on the train, which provided passengers

³⁹ Sergey Maslov (1880–1957) bibliographer, literary critic, expert in books and pedagogue, professor (1935), corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (1939), doctor of philosophy (1943). Peotr Pokryshkin involved him in the project as a manuscripts expert.

⁴⁰ Aleksandr Bagriy (1891–1949) literary critic, historian, bibliographer. Peotr Pokryshkin called him 'bibliophile'; he was included in expedition staff as an expert for the study and description of library collections.

⁴¹ Feodor Korallov (1865–?) head of the Kholm educational directorate; he was one of the organizers of the museum of ecclesiastical and archaeological antiquities in Kholm, who could fluently read Old Slavic manuscripts. Peotr Pokryshkin was acquainted with him from the time of his architectural and archaeological works in Kholm in 1909–1912.

with tinned food, sugar and bread so we reached Kiev relatively happy and without extreme hunger⁴². These pitiful July days were also described by Alexander Bagriy who, at the request of Peotr Pokryshkin, performed the duties of the authorized representative of the Academy of Sciences for protection of historic sites in Bukovina in the spring and summer of 1917. On July 20, himself, the Province Commissar and his assistant “were bound for Kimpolung, but before reaching it, learned the sad news in Vama about its surrender to the Germans and the utter devastation during the surrender; moreover they were informed, that the house where the remains of the museum were located was destroyed. <...> On July 22, heavy with bitterness after endured hardships and grievance over the loss of Bukovina, we departed from Suchava” (BAGRII 1918, 12).

• **Fig. 10.**

Suceava. Armenian church, May-June 1917.
PD SA IHMC RAS. neg. II
39194



The last letter by Vladimir Leontovich from Peotr Pokryshkin which touched upon the subject of Bukovina was dated to July 27, 1918. “Dear Vladimir Grigoryevich! Newspapers attest the borders are open for posts, thus I attempt to bring you news. Me, my father and sister live as before albeit undernourished. It is seldom, that we think of you <...>. I am informed that you survived and are in good health. I miss news from you and having had to cancel our Bukovina travel bothers me <...>. Inform me briefly about Bukovina sometime, send what you have completed before postponing scientific treaties until more favourable time. I intend to write you a great deal⁴³.”

The valuable evidence from the expedition still remains little known and unpublished. A century after the expedition, a group of Russian and Ukrainian researchers made a trip to Bukovina and attempted to follow the itinerary of Peotr Pokryshkin and his assistants (MEDVEDEVA, MUSIN, ALEKSANDROVICH 2017). As a result, it became even more evident, that the documentary heritage of the Bukovina expedition needs to be introduced to the scientific community, as it is one of the most significant examples of Russian practical science concerning the study and preservation of historic monuments in amidst the turmoils of war. At the same time, expedition documents attest the fairly successful execution of an international interdisciplinary academic project during a period of political tensions, which can serve as an example for present-day researchers.

The archives of the expedition are important sources both for the study and the restoration of architectural monuments in Bukovina, as well as for investigations aimed at the contemporary political

⁴² MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 188, p. 6-6r.

⁴³ MD SA IHMC RAS. f. 21. in. 1, fo. 1611, p. 40r.

shifts in Russia and the events of World War I, which are reflected in 1917 in the documents, letters and diaries of expedition participants. Further research and comprehensive publication of this material (including reports, diaries and photographs) shall clarify the location of library collections, antiquities and pieces of art, which were brought to the Russian Empire to spare them from annihilation and plunder.

The unique photograph collection enables seeing the remarkable architectural sites of Bukovina, many of which are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List, through the eyes of the researchers working during the beginning of the 20th century.

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List of abbreviations

IAC/ИАК	– Imperial Archaeological Commission/Императорская археологическая комиссия
IHMCRAS	– Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences/ Институт истории материальной культуры Российской академии наук
MD	– Manuscript Department/Рукописный отдел
PD	– Photo Department/Фотоотдел научного архива
SA	– Scientific Archive/Научный архив
in.	– inventory
imp.	– imprint
f.	– fond
fo.	– folder
neg.	– negative