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ARCHITECTURE OF GERMAN COLONIES IN VOLYN ON THE MATERIALS OF THE “WOLHYNISCHE HEFTE” NEWSLETTER

The origin, evolution and architecture of the German settlements in the Volyn region is understudied while the available literary sources offer a partial view of this issue, omitting the architectural aspects of the constructions in German colonies in Volyn. Therefore, the “Volyn” Historical Society which was established in Wiesentheid (Germany) in 1980 plays an important role in the study of the origins of the Volynian Germans. “Volyn” has published fourteen volumes of the collection entitled “Wolhynische Hefte” (“Volyn Notebooks”) since 1982. Memories of the former colonists, their poems and stories about Volyn are of great interest. Maps indicating the location of German colonies in provinces and districts as well as maps of individual colonies are published here. Research articles on various aspects of history of the Volynian Germans are based on the documents from the archives of Germany and Zhytomyr regional archives. These materials deal with the lives of nearly 300,000 Germans who lived in Volyn in the period of 1940-1943. They were mostly farmers and craftsmen whose ancestors came to the region in the 19th century. A considerable number of articles in the “Volyn Notebooks” are devoted to the issues describing planning and composition of settlements and architecture of the Volynian Germans.

The article by Nikolaus Arndt “Colony of Koryst. The origin, development and disappearance of a rural settlement in the center of Volyn which existed from 1867 to 1940” [1, p. 5-41] from the first collection of the “Volyn Notebooks” contains interesting information in terms of architecture and urban planning. It was one of the youngest and the richest German settlements in Volyn. The author describes the religious situation in the settlement. The church-house was combined with the school here. The settlers were engaged in flour milling and hop cultivation, building air and water mills. The first air mill in the colony was built in 1875.

The article by Walter Kuhn “The origin of Volynian Germans” [2, p. 19-29] from the second collection allows the reader to understand the overall picture of migration of the Germans to Volyn, their origin and establishment of the first settlements.

The article by Josef Weiss “Temporary Motherland - the school community of Julianiv-Boryatyn, 1875-1940.” [3, p. 34-65]. The author uncovers the origin of the names of colonies that were formed near Torchyn. The German colony named Julianiv appeared in 1875. The community of Yulianiv built a church-house with a bell tower nearby. A new school combined with an apartment for a cantor was built in 1909. Moreover, most old houses were replaced by new ones and brick houses with tin roofs also appeared. After World War I almost all buildings were destroyed, neither the school, nor the bell tower, nor the church-house was preserved.

The article by Friedrich Ritz “Old Motherland of Milashiv of the Lutsk district; including a list of residents and the area plan” [4, p. 76-79]. Milashiv is a German colony founded in 1882. The church-house was built in 1930; its location can be seen on the

map. The other articles of the second collection of the “Volyn Notebooks” contain some interesting information about the history of the Germans in Volyn.

The article by Reinhold Jungton “My native colony of Apanovchyzna near Volodymyr” [5, p. 174-180] from the third collection. The settlement was located 25 kilometers east of Volodymyr. It was a linear composition colony where the households were situated along the sides of the street. The author also attaches his own plan of the area. The plans of such colonies as Oleshkovychi, Topcha, Apanovchyzna and Koryst from the appendixes to the third collection of the “Volyn Notebooks” cannot be underestimated in the study of town development [6].

The article by Robert Jans “German settlement Brysche I” (with an area plan by Arnold Jans) from the fourth collection [7, p. 170-178]. The linear colony was founded about 1875 and in 1900 it housed 45 families. The German community built a school with a prayer hall. This publication provides a schematic map by Nikolaus Arndt on transmigration of the Volynian Germans into Russia during the World War I [8] and the general plan of eight colonies which was developed by Augustus Scheps [9, p. 231]. These colonies are Romaniv I, II, Novi and Stari Verhy, Olshaniv, Mykhailivka, Zapust, Boryatyn, Marianivka and Eleniv.

The fifth collection of the “Volyn Notebooks” is rich in plans of German settlements. [10] It includes the general plan of colonies near Volodymyr which existed from 1760 to 1939 and a separate plan of Lyudmirpol colony. Plans of areas with lists of residents and brief chronicles of individual colonies: Vandavolya, Barbariv, Bozhavolya, Svichov, Vladyslavivka, Jadvihov, Prehalivka, Evin, Antonivka of Vlodymyr-Volyn district. The plan of such colonies as Hlynysche, Uzhova, Karolynivka, Novi and Stari Verhy with a brief description of the German resettlement and a list of residents. The plan of Alexandrivka colony which indicated the location of an Evangelical church, a cemetery and a school. All the plans let us imagine the overall picture of development and planning of German settlements as well as location of the main elements in the structure of a settlement.

The article by Gertrud Sirkvits “My childhood in Lutsk” [11, p. 104-123] from the sixth collection discloses the overall picture of schooling, types of schools that existed at the time. The author mentions the German school, which was located in the yard of an Evangelical church near pastor’s house and the church itself, which was a beautiful dominant in the texture of the city. The life and customs of the Evangelical community in Lutsk which consisted of 2,000 people are described and the main reasons for the eviction of the Germans in 1939 are disclosed. In this collection there are plans of many colonies. [12] The plan of the colony named Zelena together with a brief description and a list of residents. Plans of the colonies named Jamky and Meczyslaviv of the Torchyn curacy of the Lutsk district, Yaniv, Karolinovka, Neudorf and Olyka supplied by the lists of residents. The plan of Schytnik colony of the Kovel district with a church which wasn’t preserved. The general plan of the colonies Dombrowa, Olshaniv, Zadombrova and Zaostriv of the Lutsk district with a list of residents.

The article by Bogdan Kolosok “Evangelical church in Lutsk - the origins and reconstruction” [13, p. 63-65] from the seventh collection deals with the history of a German church in Lutsk which was opened on September 19, 1907. A vicarage was built nearby. The entire architectural ensemble was constructed in Neo-Gothic style with a bell tower of the church as its central element and an integral part of the city silhouette. Like most religious buildings the church was closed in Soviet times.

The seventh collection [14] contains plans, short chronicles and lists of residents of the following colonies: Dombrowa of the Volodymyr district, Machulky of the Rivne

district, Milashiv of the Lutsk district, Kryvuli, Mykhailivka of the Lutsk district, Marianivka, Eleniv, Stari Verhy, Zhychynek, Karlinkov, Bronyslav and Subilno.

The article "Fasova Rudnia" by Leonard Kremring [15, p. 27-56] from the eighth collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" is a short chronicle of a German village in the Volodarsk-Volyn area of the Zhytomyr district. Fasova Rudnia was founded in 1875 as a colony with German management.

The article by Albert Mueller "Kadysche colony - chronicles, residents and area plan" [16, p. 32-40] is prominent in the ninth collection [17]. A large number of articles concerns travels of German colonists to Volyn in 1985-1993 to visit the settlements that were their homes in the past. The authors of the articles compare current settlements with those existing prior to their eviction from Volyn before World War II, they identify the buildings which survived until present time and those which disappeared and convey their emotions and feelings.

The tenth collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" [18] contains three articles devoted to memories of Rivne from 1860 to 1939. These are short memories of Volodymyr Korolenko about his meetings with the Germans and people of German origin, a story by Peter Zinner about the life of a Volga German journalist and teacher in Rivne, and a description by Nikolaus Arndt about German timber merchants.

The story by Elfriede Ebius "My father was a traveling pastor in Volyn. Memories of his youth in Tuchyn and Rivne" [19, p. 44-57]. The author recalls the years in a small Jewish town of Tuchyn, namely in its German suburb called "On the Sands". Special attention should be granted to the description of the church-house, an oblong construction with a prayer hall in one half of it and a classroom with a teacher's flat in the other. The article also describes the modest interior of pastor's house and gives a general idea of basic elements of the furniture.

In the eleventh collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" the article by Andriy Bandura "Brief history of a church in Oleshkivtsi near Lutsk" [20, p. 79-80] is important in terms of architectural history. This collection [21] contains several articles on the history of several German colonies: the story by Ronald Neumann about the German settlement Rohivka near Zhitomir; Reinhard Shedler's article about Kolovert colony near Tuchyn with an area plan and a list of residents. The article by Johan Kruger "A church building in Velyke Pole colony" [22, p. 156-160] describes a new wooden church opened on October 10, 1936.

In the twelfth collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" the article by Leonard Kremring "Scientific and social life of the Germans in eastern Volyn. Memories and impressions." [23, p. 73-98] contains interesting information about farming and agriculture of the Volyn Germans, including some specific features of their household buildings, metal workshops and separate households involved in leather processing. The yards of settlers had no stated planning. The author focuses on the description of traditional German dwelling and gives detailed description of the premises, their size, etc. He concludes that German houses contained much more rooms compared to Ukrainian houses. The author emphasizes the religious aspect of life of the Volyn Germans. In every new colony there was a place for the future church and school. They could be two separate buildings or a church-house with a school and an apartment for a custos.

This collection [24] contains brief chronicles with descriptions and plans of colonies Mykhailivka near Derazhno and Neudorf (with a brick Baptist church).

The article by Hubert Zerbe "Kostopil and its German Evangelical community" [25, p. 37-49] from the thirteenth collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" deserves special attention. It describes the formation of an Evangelical community in Kostopil and the construction of a church which was completed in 1926. In 1937 the construction of

pastor's house began and it was completed before the World War II. Kostopil Church was the largest wooden German church on the territory of Volyn. Some articles from this collection [26] are devoted to stories about the colonies: short chronicles of Solodyri colony and the villages surrounding it; an area plan with a list of residents of Antoniev colony of the Rivne district; a plan of Antoniev colony of the Volodymyr-Volyn district; a plan and a list of residents of the settlement of Kamianka.

Only some materials from the fourteenth collection of the "Volyn Notebooks" [27] relate to architectural issues. These are individual plans and brief descriptions of the colonies.

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