

Olha VOVK

**Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin – prominent scientist and enlightener:
a 21st century vision (to the 250th birth anniversary)**

<https://doi.org/10.52603/rec.2023.34.08>

Rezumat

Om de știință și iluminator proeminent

**Vasily Nazarovici Karazin: o viziune din secolul XXI
(la 250 de ani de la naștere)**

Articolul analizează moștenirea creativă a remarcabilului om de știință, iluminator și personalitate publică Vasily Nazarovici Karazin (1773–1842) din perspectiva teoriei dezvoltării durabile. Se notează principalele repere ale biografiei sale, sunt descrise și caracterizate cele mai importante inițiative științifice, teoretice, organizatorice, de raționalizare și manageriale. Până în prezent, în literatură a fost apreciat destul de detaliat rolul său fundamental la înființarea Universității din Harkov, care a devenit unul dintre cele mai vechi și de frunte centre de educație științifică și culturală nu numai în Ucraina, ci și în întreaga regiune a Europei de Est. În același timp, restul ideilor și rezultate- lor activităților primului enciclopedist ucrainean sunt mai puțin cunoscute și pe deplin apreciate. Între timp, corela- rea acestor rezultate cu tendințele globale ale dezvoltării umane moderne demonstrează concordanța lor. În articol se demonstrează că din 17 obiective de dezvoltare durabilă, doar 14 corespund activității lui Vasily Karazin. Se denotă că memoria despre această persoană remarcabilă trebuie păstrată nu numai în țările cu care a fost legată viața sa, ci și la nivel internațional.

Cuvinte-cheie: Vasily Karazin, istoria Europei de Est, istoria științei, biografie, dezvoltare durabilă.

Резюме

Выдающийся ученый и просветитель

**Василий Назарович Каразин: взгляд из XXI в.
(к 250-летию со дня рождения)**

В статье проанализировано творческое наследие выдающегося ученого, просветителя и общественного деятеля Василия Назаровича Каразина (1773–1842) с позиций теории устойчивого развития. Отмечены основные вехи его биографии, описаны и охарактеризованы главнейшие научно-теоретические, рационализаторские и организационно-управленческие инициативы. Показано, что к настоящему моменту в литературе достаточно подробно освещена его основополагающая роль в создании Харьковского университета, ставшего одним из старейших и ведущих центров образования, науки и культуры не только в Украине, но и во всем регионе Восточной Европы. В то же время остальные идеи и результаты деятельности первого украинского ученого-энциклопедиста остаются не столь известными и не до конца оцененными. А между тем соотнесение этих результатов с глобальными тенденциями современного развития человечества демонстрируют их созвучие. В частности, в статье показано, что из 17 целей устойчивого развития деятельность Василия Каразина соотносится с 14-ю.

Отмечено, что память об этом выдающемся человеке должна быть увековечена не только в странах, с которыми непосредственно была связана его жизнь, но и на международном уровне.

Ключевые слова: Василий Каразин, история Восточной Европы, история науки, биография, устойчивое развитие.

Summary

**Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin – prominent scientist and
enlightener: a 21st century vision
(to the 250th birth anniversary)**

In the paper, the creative heritage of the prominent scientist, enlightener and public figure Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin (1773–1842) is analyzed from the viewpoint of the sustainable development theory. The main events of his biography are marked, his most important theoretical-scientific, inventing and managing initiatives are described and characterized. His fundamental role in the foundation of Kharkiv University, which has become one of the oldest and leading centers of education, science and culture not only in Ukraine but also in entire Eastern-European region, is represented in literature in sufficient detail by now. At the same time, other ideas and activity results of the first Ukrainian scientist-encyclopedist remain not so well known and fully appreciated. Meanwhile, the correlation of these results with global trends of the development of contemporary mankind demonstrates their consonance. In particular, it is demonstrated that out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Vasyl Karazin's activity correlates to 14 of them. It is noted that the memory about this prominent person has to be immortalized not only in countries with which his life was directly connected but also at international level.

Key words: Vasyl Karazin, history of Eastern Europe, history of science, biography, sustainable development.

Introduction

February 10, 2023 (NS) marks the 250th anniversary since the birth of Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin (1773–1842), a prominent scientist, enlightener and public figure. This jubilee was included in the list of anniversaries to be marked on the state level by the Decree of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine No. 1982-IX of December 17, 2021 “On the celebration of anniversaries and jubilees in 2022–2023” (Про відзначення 2021). This is not surprising, because Vasyl Karazin is mostly famous in Ukraine, where he spent almost all his life. He fruitfully worked for the development of Ukraine's culture. It is worth

mentioning, among other things, the leading role he played in the process of founding Kharkiv University, the first modern Ukrainian university and one of the oldest universities in Eastern Europe.

At the same time, it is important to note that the fate connected him not only with Ukraine (his ancestors on his mother's side belonged to the old family of the Cossack elders), but also with the Balkans, where his ancestors on her father's side came from. According to the Karazin's family legend, their bloodline had Bulgarian, Serb, and Greek roots (Вовк, Куделко 2015: 208). The results of modern scientific research allow us to identify them with the Bulgarian ethnic group (Станчев, Вовк, Красько 2018: 110). In addition, it should be noted that several researchers claim that Karazin's ancestors were immigrants from the Moldavian principality, and some of them include Vasyl Karazin into a circle of famous Romanians (Bezviconi 1943: 29).

Thus, the 250th anniversary of Vasyl Karazin is a significant historical event of international scale. That is why we consider it important to remind about this historical figure by the present publication.

The statement of the problem, materials and methods of the research

Vasyl Karazin is the first Ukrainian scientist-encyclopedist. He contributed to the development of different areas of science, arts and humanities, and created many innovative ideas in these spheres. Some of his contemporaries and descendants called him a person who was ahead of his time (Абрамов 1891: 75).

The hypothesis of the present research is that Vasyl Karazin's ideas that have been articulated more than two centuries ago covered the main part of the global problems of development of mankind, and in many ways have not lost their relevance today.

The extraordinary personality of Vasyl Karazin invariably attracted the attention of his contemporaries and descendants. Therefore, in 180 years that have passed since his death, a powerful bulk of publications was formed, highlighting the events of his life and the results of his work. The number of publications about Vasyl Karazin is over 1.500. They are very varied thematically and geographically. Specialists from 19 countries from Europe, Asia and America studied Vasyl Karazin's life story. This led to the formation in historiography of specific images of this person, which changed under the influence of specific historical, socio-political and socio-economic conditions. There is even the

term "Karazin studies" in the specialized literature, denoting the process of studying his life, creativity and social activities (Вовк 2016: 7).

It is remarkable that the most important and largest number of researches about Vasyl Karazin were published in Ukraine, first of all in Kharkiv. It is no coincidence, that in the memory of Kharkiv citizens, Vasyl Karazin still remains one of the most famous and respected figures in the history of the city. For instance, he is one of the very few people in the history of Kharkiv, whose name in city tour guides from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century, was certainly marked as the most respected person of local history (Посохов 2021: 307-309).

There are a number of known studies that were dedicated to the contribution of Vasyl Karazin in educational, scientific and cultural sphere; the authors of many of them not only described Karazin's merits, but also tried to evaluate his ideas from contemporary positions (Болебрух, Куделко, Хрідочкін 2005: 119-134; Куделко, Вовк 2013: 190-192). Nevertheless, no attempt has yet been made to evaluate his ideas from the point of view of the sustainable development theory that determines the scientific novelty of the present study.

The source base of the present research includes Vasyl Karazin's leading articles and letters. These documents allow us to trace the evolution of his scientific ideas and socio-political thoughts, to study them in the retrospective and perspective context. The famous Ukrainian historian Dmytro Bahalii published the main corpus of these ego-documents in 1910 (Каразин 1910). In addition, over time, many new, previously unknown sources were found. Some of them were published in special articles or books (Болебрух, Куделко, Хрідочкін 2005: 153-333), while other are still unpublished (Manuscript Department, F. 61, inv. 1, c. 1, sh. 2-3 turn).

The aim of the paper is to evaluate the ideas and achievements of Vasyl Karazin from the viewpoint of sustainable development theory. To realize the set goal and verify the author's hypothesis, the following tasks were formulated: to clarify the main events of Vasyl Karazin's biography; to characterize theoretical-scientific, inventing and managing initiatives of Vasyl Karazin in historical context; to correlate them with contemporary global trends of the development of mankind; to detect existing and map out perspective practices of perpetuating Vasyl Karazin's memory.

The methodological ground of the present paper based on the sustainable development theory as a fundamental strategy to guide the social and economic transformation in the present-day world. It is thought that sustainable development is a universal idea that can be applied by international organizations and governments, as well as communities, local businesses, private individuals, etc. Thinkers voiced the idea about rational use of natural resources in harmony with people's interests for a long time. However, these postulates were institutionalized on macro level by UN in the last quarter of the 20th century. The understanding of the term "sustainable development" gradually expanded. Initially it described overcoming the anthropogenic influence on the biosphere and by the beginning of the 21st century there was a considerate view on the importance of such vectors as economic, social, environmental, and governance (Shi, Han, Yang, Gao 2019). In 2015 at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, "Transforming our World – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was adopted in which 17 Sustainable Development Goals as fundamental markers of the development of human civilization were presented (General Assembly 2015).

This research is based on the principles of historicism, systematicity, and interdisciplinarity. Their achievement became possible thanks to the application of a complex of general scientific and special historical methods. Therefore, the historical-genetic method made it possible to trace the history of the life and activity of Vasyl Karazin, as well as the spread of commemorative activity devoted to him. The historical-comparative method allowed us to compare Vasyl Karazin's ideas with the inventions of his contemporaries and descendants. The historical-systemic method made it possible to look at the totality of Vasyl Karazin's ideas as an integral system. Thus, the applied principles and methods of research allowed the author to achieve the goals and objectives set, ensured the reliability of the analysis and of the representative results.

Research results

Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin was born in 1773 in the village of Kruchykh, Bohodukhiv district, Sloboda-Ukrainian province (now it is Kharkiv region, Ukraine). His father, Nazar Oleksandrovykh, was a military-man, who distinguished himself during the Russian-Turkish war (1768–1774). His mother, Varvara Yakivna, was a clever and well-educated woman, who had a significant impact on the for-

mation of his personality and worldview. Vasyl Karazin's parents were familiar with the prominent philosopher, poet, theologian and pedagogue Hryhorii Savych Skovoroda (1722–1794), whose the 300th anniversary was included into UNESCO List of Commemorations and Anniversaries in 2022. Some biographers considered that Hryhorii Skovoroda could have been a home teacher of the Karazin family. Anyway, Hryhorii Skovoroda's activities largely influenced the worldview of Vasyl Karazin (Болебрух, Куделко, Хридоchкін 2005: 50-52).

The future founder of the Kharkiv University received his education in private boarding houses in Kremenchuk (now a city in Poltava region, Ukraine) and Kharkiv. From the age of ten, he was enrolled in the Cuirassier Regiment, and in 1791, he was included in the list of the Life Guards of the Semenov Regiment. A little later, Vasyl Karazin attended lectures at the Mining Building in St. Petersburg, where he studied mathematics, physics, chemistry, political economy, and mastered Latin, German, and French. However, he never received a systematic formal education. The first Ukrainian scientist-encyclopedist was self-taught, but he embodied the principle of education continuity throughout his life, by saying: "We all learn and study until death. Unfortunate is he, who imagines that there is nothing left for him to know" (Каразин 1910: 129). At the same time, he tried to spread education among the widest possible strata of the population.

As noted above, the main historical merit of Vasyl Karazin was the foundation of Kharkiv University in 1804 – the fourth in the Russian Empire, the largest continental monarchy of the New Age. In early 19th century, Kharkiv was a small provincial town with practically undeveloped infrastructure, although it was the center of the Sloboda-Ukrainian province. Therefore, it was not in the list of contenders for the status of one of the first university centers. After all, thoughts about the need to create a university on Ukrainian lands (in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Baturyn and other cities) were already voiced in the 18th century.

Of course, Kharkiv had its advantages: a favorable location at the crossroads; large capacities of trade turnover, a favorable intellectual potential prepared by the activities of Kharkiv Collegium. It should be noted that one of the Kharkiv Collegium's teachers had been the aforementioned philosopher Hryhorii Skovoroda. Thus, the above objective circumstances made a significant contribution into the process of acquiring the status of a university cen-

ter by Kharkiv. However, undoubtedly, one of the key factors in this series was the activity of Vasyl Karazin, who had a great dream to turn Kharkiv, dear to him, into a “Ukrainian Athens” (Болебрух, Куделко, Хрідочкін 2005: 138-151).

Vasyl Karazin managed to convince the Sloboda-Ukrainian nobility of the expediency of opening a university (an idea that was hardly obvious to everyone at that time), and Emperor Alexander I of the local society’s readiness to donate money for an ambitious educational project. In the end, in 1803, a Decree was signed on the creation of Kharkiv educational district, and in 1804, – an affirmative letter on the creation of Kharkiv University (Бакиров та ін. 2004: 35-44).

Vasyl Karazin himself saw the striking transformations that took place in Kharkiv already 20–30 years after the opening of the university: population growth, construction of large stone houses, improvement of streets, opening of printing houses, bookstores, theaters... It is no coincidence that in 1811, the university Council elected him as honorary member. In addition, they noted: “This man was elected by the public meeting because, in addition to his incredible desire for knowledge (no doubt, this is his dignity), he also had an ardent soul, consumed by a thirst for activity; in gratitude for the fact that thanks only to his efforts and care, the foundation of the university in Kharkiv became possible” (Вовк, Куделко 2015: 55). In the memory of grateful Kharkiv citizens, Vasyl Karazin still remains one of the most famous and respected figures in the history of the city (Посохов 2021: 307-309).

In addition to the university project, Vasyl Karazin also had the honor of opening the first school for peasant children on the territory of Sloboda Ukraine in 1806. Moreover, in 1842, he was one of the first to justify the need to educate girls from the class of serfs – representatives of the poorest and most vulnerable social stratum. The progressive desire of V. N. Karazin to overcome social, gender, age inequality (at least in the field of education) is vividly illustrated by the phrase from his letter to Dr. Osyp Reman: “Pronouncing the word *public education*, I imagine a branch of state, paternal government, embracing everything that can only relate to the education of good citizens, no matter what class they belong to, no matter what sex and age they are” (Каразин 1910: 546).

In general, Vasyl Karazin sensitively responded to the problems of contemporary society, striving to solve them to the best of his understanding and

strength. Such were, for example, his attempts to regulate the activities of the rural community (in which he saw the state in miniature) through the establishment of the Rural Duma, which included representatives of the peasants on an elected basis. He did not leave his feudal positions and did not seek to dismantle the obsolete feudal system, but he advocated the expansion of the personal and social freedom of the peasants and restriction of landowner arbitrariness (O’Meara 2015: 331-332).

In his letters and notes, Vasyl Karazin paid great attention to the establishment of a strict legal order in society, which would limit the abuse of power by officials of all ranks and even of the monarch if not completely, then, at least, significantly. In his opinion, both public life and the financial system needed strict regulation, which would be a guarantee of the stability and prosperity of the state. For example, in 1816, V. N. Karazin, in a letter to Olexii Arakcheev, noted: “The people are not burdened by taxes known in departments, but by *unknown* taxes that accompany them <...>. There is a means, if not completely to destroy, then at least to reduce abuses: to make the people happy and the treasury abundant. Moreover, this means does not *consist* in an arbitrary increase in taxes, but in a firm, mathematically calculated system of finance, and in a joint increase in salaries and maintenance to such a degree that they are quite sufficient in terms of the degrees of places and difficulty of positions” (Manuscript Department, F. 61, inv. 1, c. 1, sh. 2 turn). In other words, the addressee wrote about the need to smooth the income inequality and fight corruption – problems whose solution remains urgent today.

Another thing, in which Vasyl Karazin saw a guarantee of public well-being, was careful preservation and study of the material and intangible historical and cultural heritage. He personally collected memories of old-timers about the past, collected and published valuable historical sources of national and regional history, repeatedly petitioned the provincial leadership for the need to finance the work of protecting archaeological sites, exclaiming: “How many treasures for the mind have disappeared and are still disappearing if proper actions are not taken!” (Каразин 1910: 586-587).

In general, Vasyl Karazin, as a representative of the Enlightenment, had the desire to comprehensively understand and describe the world around him. He was interested in the past and the present, nature and society, technical devices and biological organisms. The scientist carried out numerous

experiments and observations, based on which he made interesting conclusions.

For example, in 1820, Vasyl Karazin conducted a comprehensive physical-geographical and statistical-demographic survey of the Sloboda-Ukrainian province. Among other things, he drew attention to the fact that there was a direct relationship between the levels of childbirths and deaths in some villages. He concluded that this “indisputably proves the extreme ignorance of our people to preserve the health of children and their neglect of this; therefore, the government must take care of it; and whether by increasing the number of physicians, or by other measures, it must contribute to the salvage of poor babies” (Каразин 1910: 740). By the way, pharmacology was among the numerous hobbies of Vasyl Karazin: he made medicinal essences on a plant basis and successfully applied them in practice.

The scientist studied not only the medicinal, but also the nutritional properties of plants. For example, in 1830, famine began in Sloboda-Ukrainian and a number of adjacent provinces suffered from crop failure. Vasyl Karazin proposed original technologies for baking bread from oak acorns and obtaining gelling substances from Icelandic moss. However, he paid more attention to the processing of “traditional” foodstuffs. In particular, he improved the methods for drying fruits and potatoes, the production of starch, cereals and canned meat, and invented a method for preserving butter. The processing methods, proposed by him, made it possible to increase the shelf life of products, while maintaining their taste and nutritional qualities (Баличева, Юрченко 2019: 223-227). It is symbolic that Vasyl Karazin paid attention to these problems until the last days of his life. In autumn 1842, he decided to visit Crimea to study the newest methods of viticulture and winemaking. On the way, he caught a cold and died in city Mykolaiv on November 16, 1842 (NS).

Vasyl Karazin consistently reported on the results of engineering and technology developments at the meetings of the Philotechnical Society, founded and headed by him – the first scientific and technical society in Ukraine and the Russian Empire, which operated in Kharkiv in 1811–1818. For example, he managed to improve the technology of distillation, which consumed 90% less fuel to produce ethyl alcohol from wheat. He also developed an accelerated method for obtaining saltpeter from the alcohol industry waste. In modern terms, Vasyl Karazin introduced the principles of energy saving

and waste-free production in his developments. Moreover, the use of nitrogen fertilizers today remains one of the most important factors in maintaining the fertility of agricultural land, which, in turn, allows us to feed the ever-increasing population of the Earth (Зеленіна 2023).

It is impossible not to note the consistency and complexity with which Vasyl Karazin approached the solution to various scientific problems. Thus, speaking about the need to save firewood when distilling alcohol, he wrote about the importance of forest conservation to maintain the balance of the ecosystem, accumulation and conservation of fresh water reserves and protection of soils from water and wind erosion. The scientist became one of the pioneers of steppe afforestation, and his method of land use, in which agricultural fields are combined with the planting of trees or shrubs, which is now known as agroforestry. It is widely used because it allows to increase yields, improve soil structure and biodiversity (Гладун 2005: 33).

Vasyl Karazin urged to take care of natural resources. He wrote: “Nature, in order to serve the needs of man, requires the harmony of all its elements; but man himself, out of the ignorance inherent in his wild state, or in the carelessness inherent in the present half-enlightened [age], upsets this harmony. <...> If we are not touched by the future distant fate that we are preparing for our descendants, then let us think, at least, about the near future” (Каразин 1910: 468).

The scientist was confident that the laws of nature should be studied in detail in order to put them at the service of man. In particular, Vasyl Karazin thought a lot about the influence of weather factors on agriculture development and concluded that it was necessary to develop weather forecasting methods. The researcher noted that weather changes should be systematically monitored for this reason. Therefore, in his estate Kruchyk, he founded the first meteorological observatory in Ukraine. In 1810, he was the first in the world to put forward the idea of the need to create an extensive network of such stations (Thomas 1991: 111).

Another innovative idea of Vasyl Karazin was the world's first attempt to synthesize an artificial diamond, which he made in 1823 (5 years before a similar experiment was carried out in France and 130 years before the first industrial samples were obtained) (Elwell 1973: 73).

Finally, one of Vasyl Karazin's most ambitious projects was experiments with electricity. His

dream was to create a powerful installation capable of producing significant amounts of electricity: “Water, air, fire, animal muscles, the heaviness of all bodies and the elasticity of some, are still the six forces that we control, acting in our machines. Through the appropriation of the vast mass of electricity <...> the seventh force will arrive, almost surpassing all others in power. A man armed with it will produce, if not all, then at least a great part of all the miracles that nature has so far left to itself alone” (КАРАЗИН 1910: 712). In search of “a new tool that man does not have yet”, he developed a project for an installation to accumulate electrical energy from the upper atmosphere. In 1818, Vasyl Karazin submitted his project for consideration by a special commission at St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences, but it was rejected as inappropriate. Nevertheless, similar studies are still being conducted in many countries to this day, which is a promising direction. The publicist Yurii Bartenev suggested back in 1892 that someday this “forgotten, rejected project will bring its author more fame than even the founding of Kharkiv University” (БОВК 2016: 105).

Thus, Vasyl Karazin put forward and contributed to the implementation of a number of non-trivial, innovative ideas for his time, many of which have not lost their relevance to this day. Moreover, if we compare the initiatives of Vasyl Karazin described above with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 as a general plan for achieving peace and prosperity, we see that they coincide. Out of the 17 Goals, Vasyl Karazin’s activity correlates with 14 of them, namely: “Quality Education”, “Reducing Inequality”, “Gender Equality”, “No Poverty”, “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, “Good Health and Well-Being”, “Responsible Consumption and Production”, “Life on Land”, “Clean Water and Sanitation”, “Climate Action”, “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”, “Affordable and Clean Energy”.

The memory of Vasyl Karazin is sacredly preserved and honored in Ukraine, first of all in Kharkiv. For the first time, already a quarter of a century after the death of this figure, an opinion was expressed about the need to erect a monument to him, which could be the first in the city. Funds for its installation were collected by the whole world, and the names of all benefactors, regardless of the amount paid (even if it was a few kopejks), were published in the local press, and in the end,

in 1907, the monument was opened. Since 1894, one of the streets in the modern center of Kharkiv has been named Karazinska (now Karazin Street). There was a Vasyl Karazin’s scholarship at Kharkiv University, as well as a plan to open a city school to be named after him (this plan was not implemented due to the outbreak of the First World War).

The commemorative process unfolded with renewed vigor at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries. In honor of Vasyl Karazin, people named an asteroid, opened a number of memorial plaques, as well as a monument in his small homeland – in the village of Kruchykh, Bohodukhiv district, Kharkiv region. In 1998, when we celebrated the 225th anniversary of the scientist, Ukrposhta issued a commemorative stamp. The quintessence of this process was in 1999, when the university was granted Vasyl Karazin’s name. Thus, Kharkiv University became the only one in Ukraine and one of the few in Europe named after a person who directly participated in its creation. Moreover, in the first quarter of the 21st century, streets named after Vasyl Karazin appeared in Bohodukhiv, Dnipro and Mykolaiv. We should mention that the grave of the enlightener in Mykolaiv and the monument to him in Kharkiv are included in the all-Ukrainian list of monuments of national importance (БОВК 2016: 204-208).

It is noteworthy that in 1993, when we celebrated the 220th anniversary of Vasyl Karazin’s birth, the idea was put forward to give his name to one of the lyceums with biological and chemical profile in the Republic of Moldova (Нирка 1993). It is possible that over time this idea will also find its embodiment.

The 240th anniversary since Vasyl Karazin’s birth in 2013 was celebrated by the special Decree of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Про відзначення 2013). In addition, his 240th anniversary is included into the All-Ukrainian list of memorable dates and anniversaries to be marked on the state level (Про відзначення 2021).

Conclusions

Thus, Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin is a prominent figure in Ukrainian and East-European history. His public and educational activities had a huge influence on the development of the socio-cultural infrastructure not only of his motherland, but of entire East Europe. The most important example of this statement is the functioning of Kharkiv University, whose alumni and professors became outstanding public, scientific and cultural figures not only

in Ukraine but also in many European and world countries, and their scientific theories and inventions were innovative and recognized worldwide.

Undoubtedly, Vasyl Karazin's contribution as a founder of Kharkiv University is the most famous and described page of his biography. At the same time, the other aspects of his creative activity have not yet been fully studied and properly assessed. Although, as shown above, everyone can admire Vasyl Karazin's range of scientific aspirations and ideas, the results of his practical and social activities, many of which have not lost their relevance to this day. The correlation of Vasyl Karazin's initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals, as global trends of the development of contemporary human civilization, allowed us to confirm the hypothesis of the present research. It should be said with confidence that the thoughts of this outstanding historical figure were ahead of his time. Vasyl Karazin had a global systemic mindset, and most of the issues that he studied and comprehended about two centuries ago remain on the agenda of the present-day world community in the context of the sustainable development theory.

Considering the previously stated, it should be emphasized that the figure of Vasyl Karazin deserves to be immortalized not only in Ukraine but also in some other countries with which his life was connected. We are convinced that his achievements are worth to be noted at international level. Thereby, it could be believed that over time this will be realized.

Abbreviation

NS – New Style (dating system according to the Gregorian calendar)

References

Bezviconi G. 1943. *Profiluri de ieri și de azi*. Articole. București: Editura Librăriei Universale I. Carabaș.

Elwell D. 1979. *Man-Made gemstones*. Chichester [England]: E. Horwood; New York: Halsted Press.

General Assembly. 2015. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. 70/1. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development*. In: United Nations development programme. <https://www.undp.org/uk/ukraine/publications/перетворення-нашого-світу-порядок-денний-у-сфері-сталого-розвитку-до-2030-року> (vized 07.09.2023).

Manuscript Department of Institute of Russian Literature of Russian Academy of Sciences, F. 61, inv. 1, c. 1, sh. 2–3 turn.

O'Meara P. 2015. The opinion of one Ukrainian landowner: V. N. Karazin, Alexander I, and changing Russia. In: *Word and image in Russian history: essays in honor of Gary Marker*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, p. 315-335.

Shi L., Han L., Yang F., Gao L. 2019. The evolution of sustainable development theory: types, goals, and research prospects. In: *Sustainability*. Vol. 11, issue 24. <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/24/7158> (vized 16.10.2023).

Thomas M. K. 1991. *The Beginning of Canadian Meteorology*. Toronto: ECW Press.

Абрамов Я. В. 1891. В. Н. Каразин (основатель Харьковского университета). Его жизнь и общественная деятельность. Санкт-Петербург: Типография «Общественная польза». / Abramov Ya. V. 1891. V. N. Karazin (osnovatel Harkovskogo universiteta). Ego zhizn i obschestvennaya deyatelnost. Sankt-Peterburg: Tipografiya "Obschestvennaya polza".

Бакіров В. С. та ін. 2004. Харківський національний університет ім. В. Н. Каразіна за 200 років. Харків: Фоліо. / Bakirov V. S. ta in. 2004. Kharkivskiy natsionalnyi universytet im. V. N. Karazina za 200 rokov. Kharkiv: Folio.

Баличева Л. В., Юрченко Л. І. 2019. Василь Назарович Каразин – невизнаний новатор-винахідник. In: *Вісник аграрної історії*, № 27–28, с. 223-228. / Balycheva L. V., Yurchenko L. I. 2019. Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin – nevyznanyi novator-vynakhidnyk. In: *Visnyk ahrarnoi istorii*, no. 27–28, s. 223-228.

Вовк О. І., Куделко С. М. 2015. В. Н. Каразин. Діалоги у часі й просторі: дослідження і матеріали. Харків: ХНУ імені В. Н. Каразіна. / Vovk O. I., Kudelko S. M. 2015. V. N. Karazin. Dialohy u chasi y prostori: doslidzhennia i materialy. Kharkiv: KnNU imeni V. N. Karazina.

Вовк О. І. 2016. Постаť Василя Каразіна в історіографії. Харків: ХНУ імені В. Н. Каразіна. / Vovk O. I. 2016. Postat Vasyliya Karazina v istoriohrafii. Kharkiv: KnNU imeni V. N. Karazina.

Гладун Г. Б. 2005. Погляд у минуле: історія степового і захисного лісорозведення. In: *Лісовий і мисливський журнал*, № 4, с. 32-33. / Hladun H. B. 2005. Pohliad u mynule: istoriia stepovoho i zakhysnoho lisorozvedennia. In: *Lisovy i myslyvskiy zhurnal*, no. 4, s. 32-33.

Зеленіна О. 2023. Василь Назарович Каразин

– уроки генія на тлі війни. In: Gromada Group. / Zelenina O. 2023. Vasyl Nazarovych Karazin – uroky heniiia na tli viiny. In: Gromada Group. <https://gromada.group/news/statti/22766-vasil-nazarovich-karazin-uroki-geniya-na-tli-vijni> (vized 07.09.2023).

Каразин В. Н. 1910. Сочинения, письма и бумаги В. Н. Каразина, собранные и редактированные проф. Д. И. Багалеем. Харьков: Университетская типография. / Karazin V. N. 1910. Sochineniya, pisma i bumagi V. N. Karazina, sobrannyye i redaktirovannyye prof. D. I. Bagaleem. Kharkov: Universitetskaya tipografiya.

Куделко С., Вовк О. 2013. Василь Каразин біля витоків формування української науково-технічної інтелігенції. In: Українознавчий альманах, вип. 14, с. 190-193. / Kudelko S., Vovk O. 2013. Vasyl Karazin bilia vytyokiv formuvannia ukrainskoi naukovo-tekhnichnoi intelihentsii. In: Ukrainoznavchyi almanakh, vyp. 14, s. 190-193.

Нирка Е. 1993. В. Н. Каража – основатель Харьковского университета. In: Сфатул цэрий, 30 января. / Nirka E. 1993. V. N. Karazhya – osnovatel Harkovskogo universiteta. In: Sfatul tseriy, 30 yanvara.

Посохов С. І. 2021. ТОП-особи харківського локусу (на матеріалах путівників по місту). In: У пошуках обличчя міста: Практики саморепрезентації міст України в індустріальну та постіндустріальну добу. Заг. ред. В. Кравченка та С. Посохова. Харків: Точка, с. 293-312. / Posokhov S. I. 2021. TOP-osoby kharkivskoho lokusu (na materialakh putivnykiv po mistu). In: U poshukakh oblychchia mista: Praktyky samoreprezentatsii mist Ukrainy v industrialnu ta postindustrialnu dobu. Zah. red. V. Kravchenka ta S. Posokhova. Kharkiv: Tochka, s. 293-312.

Про відзначення 240-річчя з дня народження Василя Каразіна: Постанова Верховної Ради України. 2013. In: Верховна Рада України. / Pro vidznachennia 240-richchia z dnia narodzhennia Vasyliia Karazina: Postanova Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy. 2013. In: Verkhovna Rada Ukrainy. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/260-18#Text> (vized 18.10.2023).

Про відзначення пам'ятних дат і ювілеїв у 2022–2023 роках: Постанова Верховної Ради України. 2021. In: Верховна Рада України. / Pro vidznachennia pamiatnykh dat i yuvileiv u 2022–2023 rokakh: Postanova Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy. 2021. In: Verkhovna Rada Ukrainy. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1982-IX#-Text> (vized 07.09.2023).

Станчев М., Вовк О., Красько Н. 2018. Назар Александрович Каразин в свете новых документов. In: Журнал этнологии и культурологии, № 24, с. 103-110. / Stanchev M., Vovk O., Krasko N. 2018. Nazar Aleksandrovich Karazin v svete novyih dokumentov. In: Zhurnal etnologii i kulturologii, no. 24, s. 103-110.

Olga Vovk (Harkiv, Ucraina). Doctor în istorie, Universitatea Națională din Harkov „V. N. Karazin”.

Ольга Вовк (Харьков, Украина). Кандидат исторических наук, Харьковский национальный университет им. В. Н. Каразина.

Olha Vovk (Kharkiv, Ukraine). PhD in History, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.

E-mail: o.vovk.88@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-1991-4385