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**PERSONALITIES IN THE HISTORY OF PRIVATE CHARITY  
IN UKRAINE: GALSHKA OSTROZKA**

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Private charity as a social phenomenon is considered one of the ancient traditions, which are based on deep socio-cultural and spiritual and moral values [4, p. 160]. Having begun its existence in pre-Christian times, she is begins to spread in the Ukrainian lands after the religious reform of 988–989. During the early Middle Ages and subsequent periods of Ukrainian history, it was the norm for deeply religious people to pay considerable attention to a noble cause – to help the poor, sick and needy, to finance the construction of churches, monasteries, hospitals, educational institutions, shelters, libraries, printing houses, etc. [2, pp. 38–39].

The issue of private charity always remains open, and, accordingly, one that does not lose its relevance. That is why the need to study the history of private philanthropy in Ukraine, and the direct participation of women in this matter, to comprehend the phenomenon of Ukrainian charity, to rethink the considerable experience of charitable practices and became a pretext that caused research activities in the relevant direction. In this context, the author of the scientific work investigated the essence and significance of the charitable activity of the aristocratic benefactor – Galshka Ostrozka (1539–1582) – one of the most enviable brides of Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages. So, in the property of Galshka Ostrozka, even before her birth, after the death of her father Ilya Ostrozhsy, there were many cities, towns, castles, estates and 436 kopecks of money [1].

The aim of the study is to study and represent personalities in the history of private charity in Ukraine through the prism of the activities of the famous aristocrat of the Commonwealth – Galshka Ostrozka.

As a representative of a fairly well-known, wealthy and influential princely family of Ostrozhsyks in the Commonwealth, the male part of which became famous for its socio-political, military and sociocultural activities, Galshka Ostrozka entered the history of private charity in Ukraine as the founder of the Ostrog Academy [5, p. 249].

The creation of the above-mentioned educational institution falls on a rather difficult and contradictory period in the history of Ukraine, which is distinguished by deep structural shifts in the sociopolitical, socioeconomic and spiritual spheres of life of the Ukrainians. This period was primarily associated with the struggle of the Ukrainian people for their national rights and traditions [1].

In the 16th century, private charity became widespread, when many, including Princess Galshka Ostrozka, demonstrated their devotion and love for the Orthodox faith and the Motherland by their active civic position. So, according to the will of Galshka Ostrozhska, drawn up in 1579, most of the amount of her fortune went «... to the hospital and the Academy of Ostroh». That is, the development of the first higher educational institution in Eastern Europe – the Ostroh Academy [3, p. 543].

Today, the corresponding educational institution, like five centuries ago, is considered one of the leading educational, scientific and cultural centers for teaching and upbringing of young people. The memory of its founder, Princess Galshka of Ostroh, does not fade away in it. So, starting from the first years of independence of Ukraine, during the celebration of the Day of the National University «Academy of Ostroh», within the walls of a higher educational institution of the IV level of accreditation, the competition «Galshka of the Year» is held. The main leitmotif of this cultural and

entertainment event is the presentation by the contestants of their own talents [6, p. 388].

Summarizing the above, it can be argued that private charity in the Ukrainian lands during the late Middle Ages was an important and integral part of public life. It was determined by the norm of Christian morality and the virtue of its representatives. In the 16th century, charity depended on personal initiative and acquired a church-social character. A striking example of this is the legacy of the Ukrainian benefactor – Galshka Ostrozka, who was distinguished by a high patriotic feeling and her desire to protect the Orthodox faith, Ukrainian traditions and culture. Her charitable activities were promising, because they were aimed at the development of national educational affairs, in particular, the organization and material support of the then new type of educational institution for the Ukrainian lands – a higher school (academy) [4, p. 162].

Today the Ostroh Academy functions and develops, preserving the previous cultural and educational traditions and remembering its founder. In our opinion, such highly moral and spiritual principles of philanthropists of the past can become a worthy example for the founders of modern charitable foundations, associations and organizations.

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