

Generations in Historical Science: The Hvostovs Dynasty

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Abstract

The thematic justification of the researched problem comes from the need to identify a family basis, linking generations from parents to children transmitting not only traditions and eternal values, but also scientific knowledge, particularly when this knowledge is not simply accepted and perceived, but also implemented professionally, including as a continuation of the life of older generations. The purpose of the article is to examine and catalogue the materials about the Hvostovs Russian dynasty of historians. They are: a leading historian of antiquity at the beginning of the 20th century Mikhail Mikhailovich Hvostov (1872-1920), his son, a prominent Soviet historian of international relations and foreign policy of Russia, academician Vladimir Mikhailovich Hvostov (1905-1972) and his daughter, the doctor of historical sciences, a leading scientific employee of the Institute of world history, Russian Academy of Sciences, the head of the "Problems of historical cognition" center Ksenia Vladimirovna Hvostova. The main method of investigation is a widely spread historical-comparative method that provides historical comparisons, contrasts, and setting parallels. This method realizes an opportunity to study the historical facts as in close connection with the historic setting where they were originated and are still valid, so in qualitative changes at different stages of development. An important role in the direction of the analysis on the nature of the problem realization requires using the elements of system-structural analysis. This article presents the results indicating conservation and development of scientific traditions in four generations of the Hvostovs dynasty of historians showing the sustained development of historical knowledge in Russia in the XIX-the XX-XXI centuries. The results and materials of the article may be useful in studying and popularisation of scientific contribution of the historians dynasties to the development of the world and national historical science.

Keywords: Dynasty, historiography, methodology, antiquity, international relations, foreign policy, civilization

1. Introduction

In modern historical science researchers are increasingly interested in the generations' representatives of scientific culture, accordingly, their biographies, and therefore derive interest in creative personality, interpersonal relations and consequently the genre of intellectual biographies of historians appears (Repin, 2001). In the national science study, there is an experience of exploring the generational dynasties of chemists, mathematicians, physicists, writers, educators (Watermelons, 1971; Chukovskaya, 2007; Baksht, 2014), but obviously, there are not enough researches about the dynasties of historians. In this regard, national the Hvostovs dynasty of historians, whose scientific activity lasts for more than 170 years, is rather significant. It starts with Mikhail Nikiforovich Hvostov (1818-1874), father of the future historian of antiquity M.M. Hvostov. M.N. Hvostov graduated from law faculty of the Moscow State University, worked as a teacher of history and geography in Kazan, and then worked as an Assistant Prosecutor in Sevastopol. Law and historical spirit hovered in the Hvostovs' home, so it is not accidentally that a scientific dynasty of this family became the dynasty of historians of three generations. According to paradigm proposed by L. P. Repina talking about reconciling traditions of socio-intellectual and personal history in a particular subject field that the scientist defines as "the history of historiography in the human dimension» (Repina, 2001). The Study of scientific dynasties is associated with chronology and archival science, including the public, private or home archive. In connection with the subject of this study, it becomes a major task to accomplish the goal. Because the personal archive of M.M. Hvostov at the national archives of the Republic of Tatarstan (TATARSTAN) is researched quite well (Shofman, 1979; Matveeva, 1970), but the personal archive of V.M. Hvostov (the most representative in chronological aspect), which is in the archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) is still poorly studied and slightly put into scientific circulation.

His daughter K.V. Hvostova formed this archive in 1973. It composes 542 cases of 1901-1975. Most of the

materials available in the Fund, relate to his activities in the Commission of historians of the SOVIET UNION and the GDR. A significant place in the records of the fund took V.M. Hvostov's reviews on writings and research activities of various researchers, doctoral and candidate dissertations as well as book reviews. The papers about V.M. Hvostov's participating in the international congresses, conferences and scientific organizations are of particular interest. Ksenia Vladimirovna Hvostova, the daughter of V.M. Hvostov still continues productive scientific activity. She is a prominent modern Russian specialist on methodological problems of historical science, such as Postmodernism and Synergetic, the ratio of historical and natural-scientific knowledge, and mathematical methods in historical research, truth and objectivity in history, problems of Byzantine philosophy of history.

2. Methodological Framework

The object of the research is scientific and pedagogical activity of the Hvostovs dynasty of historians. The subject matter consists of biographical information about the professional scientific and pedagogical activity of the historians, the results of intellectual labor of the dynasty representatives. The Objectives: to find out the origins of the professional continuity in the dynasty of historians; to search the documents and relevant materials on the topic; to work with the archives of the Khvostovs dynasty; to compile biographical data about the directions of scientific work of scientists. Archived documentary sources and numerous scientific papers of M.M. Hvostov (1907, 1908, 1913, 1914), V.M. Hvostov (1943, 1945, 1955, 1963, 1970, 1976), K.V. Hvostova (1980, 2009) and a special historical literature devoted to the work of scientists became the basis of the study. The general scientific methods of the article are theoretical analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction, analogy, comparison and synthesis, as well as special empirical methods: typology and classification, historical - genetic and historical-comparative method.

The proposed study is one of the components of a holistic view of the identification of external factors influencing the formation of historians dynasty, their attitude to the authorities, demonstrating changes in social status of the historians, the study of the role of the academic tradition in making the historians dynasties, identifying characteristics of scientific communication and behavioral patterns, cultivated in the scientific life, contribution of scientific dynasty of the historians to the teaching methods and scientific-organizational work of higher education, studying the scientific heritage of the representatives of the dynasty and the practicality of their research for modern science.

Research hypothesis: the choice of a historian profession by the representatives of the Hvostovs dynasty was conscious and logical, and it was influenced by family traditions and values, education, a family library, the knowledge of foreign languages, the environment, etc. We believe that the representatives of the Hvostovs dynasty made a significant contribution to the development of historical science, education and social life of the country.

3. Results

In the modern humanities, the problems directly related to the study of the scientific heritage of scientists, with the disclosure of their views and ideological considerations as part of the development of science in general become actual ones.

Undoubtedly, historical science cannot progress without studying and rethinking the experience of the previous generations. In this context, it is important to research the heritage of Russian historians, who contributed to the historical studies.

The Hvostovs dynasty is a dynasty, which has a history of over 170 years. Kazan period of this generation in the history dates back to Mikhail Nikiforovitch Hvostov – the father of Mikhail Mikhailovich. In 1862, M.N. Hvostov graduated from the Faculty of the Moscow University, for the first two years he worked as a teacher of history and geography at the Mariinsky Academy in Kazan, then as the deputy prosecutor of the Simferopol district court. In 1874, he died when the future historian was only two years. Mariya Kirillovna had to bring up the children alone.

In 1883, he received his early education at home; Mikhail Hvostov entered the Kerch Alexander grammar school, which he finished with a gold medal in 1891 (Shofman, 1979).

The same year Mikhail Hvostov entered the historical-philological faculty of the Moscow University. He studied very well; showing excellent knowledge, he got a nominal grant. After a brilliant graduation from the University on the proposal of Pavel Gavrilovich Vinogradov M.M.Hvostov stayed at the Department of General History at the Moscow University to prepare for professorship. In 1895, Mikhail Hvostov started teaching at the Konstantinovsky Mezhevoy Institute, and later in a girls' grammar school of Arsenyeva S.A. and A.F. Grossman. In 1900 after passing master examinations successfully, Mikhail Mikhaylovich got the title of Assistant Professor,

and the same year he was invited to the Kazan University. Professor Fedor Gerasimovich Mishenko who received the recommendation letter from Professor Pavel Gavrilovich Vinogradov was the initiator of the M. M. Hvostov's invitation to Kazan. On October 7, 1900, Mikhail Mikhaylovich sent the application for the work to the dean of historical and philological faculty of the Kazan University. Why the young scientist made up his mind to live and work in Kazan is precisely unknown. However, it is possible to assume that he was aware of the strong antiquity study traditions at the Kazan University that were widely spread in the scientific world. Besides, his father started his teaching activity in this city (Matveyeva, 2005). On January 12, 1901 M. M. Hvostov arrived in Kazan where his vigorous, very productive scientific and pedagogical activity began. Besides the work at the Kazan University, Mikhail Mikhaylovich participated in the opening of the high female courses in 1906 in Kazan. (Starkova, 2005).

Among outstanding representatives of a national historiography of the twentieth century it is necessary to mention the historian Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov (1905-1972), the son of Mikhail Hvostov, whose personality and his scientific activity are still of great importance.

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov – the prominent national historian of the second half of the XX century. His research and organizing work is an example of uncommon activity, working capacity, creativity and responsibility. Vladimir Hvostov was a great expert in modern history and international relations of the second half of the XIX – the first half of the XX centuries, the corresponding member of Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the department of historical sciences (general history). It should be noted that V. M. Hvostov was also an academician and the first president of Academy of pedagogical sciences of the USSR. He investigated relationship of the leading world powers, military collisions, and diplomatic history. Nevertheless, the creative contribution of this scientist to historical science is not still the subject of special historiographic research.

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov was born on June 24, 1905 in Kazan; he studied in the 2nd man's gymnasium, then, till 1922, at school of the 2nd step. Vladimir Mikhaylovich got higher education in Kazan. In 1926, he finished studying at East teacher training institute. On June 29 in a public meeting of the State qualification commission at East teacher training institute (the chairman – the rector of VPI, the prof. Sergey Platonovich Singalevich). V.M. Hvostov defended a graduation thesis successfully on the subject "History and the Present in a School Course of Social Science" (the research supervisor – the prof. Sergey Platonovich Singalevich, the reviewer – the prof. Valentin Tikhonovich Dityakin). It should be noted that East teacher training institute in the 20-30th was the only institute of the Volga region that trained historians. Being a student, V. M. Hvostov worked as the laboratory assistant at an office of social science of the workers' faculty of VPI (from October 1, 1925 till February 1, 1926), then since January 15, 1926 he was accepted as an assistant to the department of history of revolutionary movements in the west of the Tatar communistic university (Nigmatullin, 2007).

After moving to Moscow in 1926, Vladimir Mikhaylovich became a postgraduate student at the Institute of history of the Russian association of research institutes of social sciences (RANION) and in 1929 he successfully graduated from it. Being a postgraduate student V. M. Hvostov started his teaching activity: he read lectures and conducted seminar classes on modern and contemporary history at the workers' faculty. When he finished his studies, from 1929 until 1930 the historian worked as a researcher of the Central Archives. From 1927 to 1930 V. M. Hvostov taught modern and contemporary history at the Moscow industrial teacher training institute of K. Libknekht, then he continued teaching activity in Smolensk teacher training institute. In 1933-1935 Vladimir Mikhaylovich taught at the Moscow institute of history, philosophy and literature of N. G. Chernyshevsky (MIFLI), and then at the Moscow State University. In 1936 after foundation of Institute of history of Academy of Sciences of the USSR V. M. Hvostov became its research associate. (Poletika, 1978).

In 1930, V. M. Hvostov became one of the leading scientists-historians of the USSR: he was the editor and the leading author of the first textbook on a modern history for higher education institutions. Then he became one of the main participants of the group of the authors who prepared the first edition of "History of Diplomacy". In 1942 for participation in the edition of the first volume, he was awarded the State award of the first degree.

In 1941-1944 V. M. Hvostov was on political work in The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. He was at the staff of the Head political department of the National commissariat of the USSR defense in a rank of the lieutenant colonel and he was sent to field army, made reports in combats and services. During this period, Vladimir Mikhaylovich continued his research activity as well. He wrote the most part of the second volume «History of Diplomacy» published in 1945. Moreover, in 1946 for participation in the edition of the second volume V. M. Hvostov was again awarded the State award of the first degree. Soon after the end of the war V. M. Hvostov was involved in diplomatic work. In 1944, he was appointed the director of the USSR Higher diplomatic school People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs (the Diplomatic MFA of Russia academy today). In 1946-1957

Vladimir Hvostov worked as the chief of Archival management and the member of Board of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Dunayevsky, 1974).

V. M. Hvostov was also engaged in scientific-organizational and teaching activity: from 1946 to 1954, he directed the department of the USSR foreign policy and the international relations in the Academy of social sciences at the Central Committee of CPSU. He repeatedly participated as the adviser, as the member of delegations of the USSR in sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, had a rank of the Plenipotentiary Envoy of the first class; he was the corresponding member since October 23, 1953, the foreign member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences, the foreign member of GDR Academy of Sciences.

Vladimir Mikhaylovich was the Winner of the State awards, two Orders of Lenin, the award of the Labour Red Banner, the award of the Red Star, the award "Honour Sign" and medals. Thus, his contribution to the development of national historical science, a perspective of the international relations history, the organizational leading activities are very considerable and cause national and international recognition and respect.

Scientific and pedagogical and political activity of V. M. Hvostov was the reflection of social and economic features of the USSR development in 1930-1970. He began his carrier in Kazan, continued in Moscow: MSU, MIFLI, Ministry of the USSR Foreign Affairs, the Higher diplomatic school, the Department of history of the USSR Academy of Sciences. V. M. Hvostov was one of the founder members and the first president of the Academy of pedagogical sciences of the USSR, the member of Board of the Ministry of the USSR Public Education.

Scientific interests of V. M. Hvostov were concentrated on history of modern times, the USSR foreign policy and international relations. A special place in his scientific heritage is given to "History of Diplomacy" (vol. 1-3), "Documents and materials of the World War II eve", the textbook "Modern history". His experience, scientific qualification were highly appreciated in the Soviet Union and abroad. He took an active part in various international conferences, the International congresses of historical sciences as the speaker, sessions of the United Nations General Assembly as the adviser or the deputy head of the Soviet delegations. Therefore, it is quite logical that Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov is considered to be the leading Soviet expert on history of the international relations.

It should also be noted the importance of the activity of Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov's daughter – Doctor of Historical Sciences Kseniya Vladimirovna. She is a leading expert of the general history Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the head of the "Problems of Historical Knowledge" center. Now the main directions of her scientific activity are the following: logical problems of historical knowledge; general historical laws and existential historical tendencies; cognitive historical analysis; explanation in the history.

The Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov's Kazan period of life remains insufficiently studied. In historical literature, there is no information about Vladimir's life and his destiny when his father turned out to be in Tomsk where he died.

In our opinion, a further development of this subject should continue through a detailed studying of V. M. Hvostov's personal fund archive that is in the Russian Academy of Sciences.

V. M. Hvostov (1945, 1963) made a significant contribution to the science of History of diplomacy, the development of a number of actual problems of the international relations and a modern history in general. His great works and productive pedagogical activity made him one of the outstanding Russian scientists and teachers of his time.

4. Discussions

Generally, Kazan scientists A. S. Shofman (1979), I. N. Matveyeva (2005) were engaged in studying scientific and pedagogical activity of the Hvostovs, mostly, it concerns Mikhail Mikhaylovich Hvostov as a historian of antiquity and methodologist. V. A. Dunayevsky(1974), S. L. Tikhvinsky (2005), R. Sh. Nigmatullin (2007) characterized a creative biography of V. M. Hvostov. However, at the present stage of a national historiographical development the history of historians' scientific communities has not been analyzed from the point of view of a dynasty was not a subject of special studies. There are no special researches in science of a national historiography about the Hvostovs dynasty of historians in the aspect of generations. In this regard, dissertation research about scientific and pedagogical activity of the academician, doctor of historical sciences, Professor Vladimir Mikhaylovich Hvostov is scientifically significant.

5. Conclusion

The Hvostovs scientific dynasty of historians is an example of a quantitative and qualitative contribution of its

representatives to intellectual life of scientific community, development of knowledge of the humanities. The major component is not only knowledge intensity of the Hvostovs dynasty, but also a variety of scope of their scientific researches, despite the isolation of historical sciences. Characteristic "brands" of this scientific dynasty is that all of them were doctors of historical sciences, professors, taught at the leading universities of the country – Moscow, Kazan, Tomsk. The phenomenon of the Hvostovs scientific dynasty deserves a separate detailed research of each of the mentioned personalities of the dynasty, and its complex studying in a vertical analysis in the context of the development of national historical science and genesis of world science in general.

6. Recommendations

The materials of the article can be used in preparation of collective and author's monographs on the history of national historical science, history of the Moscow University, Kazan University, Kazan teacher-training institute, East teacher training institute, in writing a biographic and reference media. The results can be used in teaching courses of national and foreign history and historiography, history of science, in creating the generalizing researches on scientific dynasties and generations in science, preparing textbooks and manuals, developing special courses, and social and educational work on preservation of historical memory in generations of the modern studying youth.

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