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**SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT
AMATEUR PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS
ON THE TERRITORY OF THE ORYOL PROVINCE. 1778-1917**

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION

for the degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences

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Relevance of the research topic. In the New Age, amateur public organizations became a very common form of self-organization of the human community. This term refers to societies and unions created by people on a voluntary basis and meeting not only the needs of their members, but also public ones on the basis of self-financing and self-sufficiency. Similar organizations were created in the Russian Empire. Some of them, such as the Russian Geographical Society, the Russian Red Cross Society, the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, are still active. Others ceased to exist. However, the study of the experience of the existence of pre-revolutionary amateur public organizations is of particular relevance in the modern period, since until 1917 processes similar to modern ones took place in the public life of the Russian Empire.

Currently, Russia is facing unprecedented challenges of the time. The coronavirus pandemic, gigantic changes in the geopolitical sphere, increased security threats, a special military operation, the refugee problem have shown how important it is to unite Russian citizens in the name of the country. The answer to these challenges was the volunteer movement. There is no such sphere of public life in which volunteers would not act: medicine and health care, ecology, culture and education, assistance to soldiers and families of military personnel, assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, organization of sports events - this is an incomplete list of cases that volunteers are working on. But similar work has already been carried out in the past, in pre-revolutionary Russia. The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, the famine of 1891-1892, the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, the country's entry into the First World War were accompanied by the rise of the social movement and the creation of public organizations that took on volunteer functions.

Without understanding the specifics of the formation of the system of amateur public organizations in the Russian Empire, which began to form from the end of the 18th century, and acquired a complete look at the beginning of the 20th century, it is difficult to understand the mechanisms of activity of modern civil society. Meanwhile, the historical experience of the emergence and formation of

this system remains insufficiently studied, and, above all, at the level of regional history. Although the legislation of the Russian Empire did not prohibit the creation of public associations operating on an all-Russian scale (an example of which is the activities of the Free Economic Society, the Russian Red Cross Society) or coordinating the work of local organizations (as did the Guardianship of Industrious Houses and Workhouses), most of the created "private" societies operated within their region. This predetermined the specifics of the system of amateur public organizations in each of the provinces of the Russian Empire. These regional features also require in-depth and comprehensive study.

Despite the active interest in the problem under study, the formation of the system of public organizations in the Oryol province is still poorly studied, since the historiography of the problem, the source base, the methodological and theoretical issues of classifying amateur public organizations and the periodization of the formation of the system of public organizations, as well as the role of public organizations in the life of the region.

The study of more than a century of experience in the origin and development of the system of public organizations, the relationship of "private" societies with authorities, the study of the motives and incentives of the founders of public organizations is relevant not only from the point of view of historical science, but also to modern problems of the development of civil society.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the totality of historical sources to reveal the process of formation and activities of public organizations and institutions in the Oryol province, to determine their place and role in the socio-economic, socio-political and cultural life of the region.

Achieving this goal involves solving the following research **tasks**:

- distinguish amateur public organizations from estate, economic associations and state institutions of public charity in the region on the basis of the definition established in the scientific literature;

- systematize and classify the identified public organizations, while characterizing the areas of activity of public organizations, their goals and social composition;

- to reveal the role and functions of the identified groups of amateur public organizations in the socio-political and cultural life of the region;

- establish the number of public organizations by groups of the proposed classification;

- to identify the presence of signs of consistency, connectivity in the aggregate of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province;

- analyze changes in the regulatory framework and policy of the state in the order of approval of new public organizations;

- to determine the stages of the formation of the system of amateur public organizations in the territory of the Oryol province in the period from 1778 to 1917;

- to study the dynamics of the emergence of new public organizations at various stages of the existence of the system of amateur public organizations.

The object of the study is amateur public organizations that arose and operated on the territory of the Oryol province in the period 1778-1917.

The subject of the study is the evolution of the system of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province, the social composition of public organizations, their classification, place and role in the public life of the region.

Timeframes of the study. The lower border of the study is determined by the creation in 1778 of the Oryol province as an administrative-territorial entity within the Russian Empire. The establishment of the new province was accompanied by a serious transformation of the administrative apparatus on the one hand, and the system of noble self-government in the form of district noble assemblies and district leaders of the nobility, on the other hand. This also led to the emergence of the first public organizations on this territory, which are the object of the presented study.

The upper limit of the study is determined by the events of the February Revolution of 1917, after which the system of amateur public organizations created in the country begins to disintegrate.

Geographical scope of the study. Oryol province in the XVIII - early XX centuries. included the territories of the modern Oryol and Bryansk regions, as well as part of the Lipetsk region. Administratively, it was divided into twelve counties: Bolkhovsky, Bryansky, Dmitrovsky, Yeletsky, Kromskoy, Karachevsky, Livensky, Maloarkhangel'sky, Mtsensky, Orlovsky, Sevsky and Trubchevsky.

The specificity of the Oryol province consisted in the fact that according to the typology proposed by academician I.D. Kovalchenko and professor L.D. Borodkin, it belonged to the middle-earth type of agricultural production. In addition to the Oryol province, Ryazan, Tula, Kursk, Tambov and Penza provinces were assigned to this type. This type of economy is characterized by high development of agriculture and the lowest level of productive animal husbandry. Middle-earth provinces are also characterized by the lowest size of peasant plots and the highest prices for land, as well as rent for it. As for the type of land relations, I.D. Kovalchenko and L.D. Borodkin attributed the Oryol province to an internal farming type based on a mixed, landowner-peasant farm. Accordingly, the population of the province mainly consisted of representatives of two estates: peasants and nobles. The nobles had class self-government and created their own few public organizations. The social activity of the common people was expressed in the spread of religious sects.

In the middle of the XIX century. Oryol province gradually joined the process of capitalist modernization. A network of railways is being laid that connected Oryol with Moscow, Kursk, Riga and Voronezh. Large industrial enterprises appear in the Bryansk district. New social groups are emerging: industrial workers, railway workers, employees, intelligentsia. The administrative apparatus is expanding. All large segments of the population are involved in active public life, trying to self-determine in a rapidly changing world. One of the results of this increasing activity was the emergence of numerous amateur public

organizations. Which, in turn, began to direct the public initiative of various groups of the population to "useful goals."

An important point is that public organizations arise not only in the provincial center, but also in district cities: first in Bryansk and Yelets, then in Mtsensk, Bolkhov, Livny, Karachev, gradually covering the entire territory of the province. That is, the study is carried out on the basis of materials from three modern regions of the Russian Federation.

Methodological basis of the study. The choice of research methodology is determined, firstly, by the concrete historical nature of the work presented, and, secondly, by the interdisciplinary nature of the problem posed, which requires the involvement of sociological and statistical methods in the prevalence of historical research methods for its solution. This led to the need to apply in the submitted dissertation study the principles of the "new social history" of the methodological approach, which began to develop in the second half of the twentieth century. These principles provide for the integration of research approaches, in which certain methods are involved in the study of the object of research in those proportions that allow solving the tasks.

The dissertation also addressed the issue of the genesis and institutionalization of local political organizations. This led to the need to apply the principles of the interdisciplinary direction of "new political history," the modern direction of historical science, developing since the 1990s. "The new political history provides for the combination of historical research with the methods of political science, sociology and cultural anthropology.

The methodological basis of the presented research is the principles of historicism, reliability, objectivity and methodological pluralism. The principle of historicism involves the study of social processes in specific time conditions. Credibility lies in attracting all available historical sources using a set of forms, methods and methods for studying them. Objectivity presupposes the complexity of approaches and assessments to the historical processes and phenomena under consideration. Methodological pluralism, developed by the "new social history"

and "new political history," involves the selection of specific methods necessary for this study.

The historical and comparative method made it possible to trace the change in state policy in the establishment of public organizations. The historical genetic method made it possible to determine the causal relationships and patterns of these changes. To analyze the legislation regulating the life of public organizations, historical-comparative and formal-legal methods were used. The statistical method made it possible to trace the dynamics of the emergence of new public organizations, the development of a system of amateur public organizations in different historical periods.

The use of a systematic approach was due to the complex structure of the system of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province identified during the study. Leading specific methods of systems research were structural analysis and functional analysis, which exist in organic unity. The first was aimed at revealing the structure of the system of public organizations, the second - at identifying the functions that various groups of public organizations perform in society. Sociological analysis revealed the social composition of societies. All this made it possible to classify amateur public organizations identified during the study.

Thus, a whole complex of general historical and special research methods was applied in the dissertation: historical-comparative, historical-genetic, formal-legal, systemic analysis, statistical analysis.

Scientific novelty. The presented work is the first comprehensive historical study of the process of formation of the system of amateur public organizations in the Oryol province. This problem has previously been addressed either within a narrow framework of a separate group of public organizations (political organizations are best studied), or a separate county town at a certain historical stage.

On the basis of changes in state approaches to the approval of public organizations and the conditions for their activities, the stages of the formation of the system of amateur public organizations in the Oryol province were highlighted.

The field of historical research included social phenomena that had not previously been studied or characterized purely descriptively (informal, not state-registered public associations), institutions of private-state (parastatal) organizations, as well as trade unions and religious organizations whose activities were studied, as a rule, isolated and not included by other authors in the system of public organizations.

The study tested the original author's classification of public organizations, in which typologization of research objects is carried out on the basis of the principles of structural and functional analysis and the staffing system. It is assumed that they can be divided into organizations dealing with social problems; political organizations; public associations providing opportunities for organizing leisure, cultural and educational activities, moral and moral consolation.

The stages of the formation of the system of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province are described, the dynamics of the emergence of public organizations in various historical periods according to the groups of the proposed classification is traced.

An attempt was made to comprehend the development of the system of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province in the context of all-Russian trends in the formation of civil society.

The study is based on a wide range of sources, many of which were first introduced into scientific circulation. In this case, unpublished archival materials of GARF, GAOO are used. This made it possible to collect information about most of the organizations previously unknown to researchers described in the work.

In addition, reference and encyclopedic publications, both pre-revolutionary and Soviet, were involved in the study. Published memoirs and unpublished personal memoirs of public and political figures about illegal circles and organizations that existed in the Oryol province were also used. All this made it possible to analyze both the typical features and specifics of the organizations of the Oryol province in the 19th - early 20th centuries.

Provisions submitted for protection:

1. the distinction was made between amateur public organizations with estate, economic associations and state institutions of public charity in the territory of the Oryol province. In the proposed dissertation study, amateur public organizations themselves were considered that satisfy the definition established in scientific literature, as well as trustee societies, branches of metropolitan organizations, professional societies and unions, groups and committees of political parties, and some religious organizations. All of them correspond to the following signs adopted in the scientific literature: 1) permanent associations of citizens; 2) created on the basis of the principles of initiative and self-government; 3) independently financing their activities, but without deriving commercial benefits; 4) working to achieve goals useful for the whole society.

2. The systematization of the identified public organizations was carried out and on the basis of the classification systems existing in the scientific literature, the author's classification of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province was developed. The criteria for their classification were the scope of activity (goals and objectives) and the social composition of the members. Three large groups of public organizations were identified: 1) organizations engaged in solving the social problems of the region; 2) political organizations; 3) organizations in the field of leisure (sports and hedonistic pastime), cultural and educational activities and solutions to spiritual and moral problems. In turn, these groups were divided into different subgroups.

3. The role and functions of various groups of amateur organizations in the socio-political and cultural life of the province are disclosed. The development of charity played a huge role in the formation of the system of amateur public organizations. Social protection organizations - charity in the broadest sense of the word - have been leading throughout almost the entire history of the development of the system of public organizations in the Oryol province. The noble-landowner elite considered charity a status occupation and actively developed. The remaining groups of public organizations were inferior to charitable societies by one or two orders of magnitude.

4. The number of public organizations by groups of the proposed classification has been established. All segments of the population of the province created a variety of public organizations that pursued various "useful goals" and differed in their social composition. These organizations operated in all areas of public life, solving various problems. The nobility and wealthy merchants focused on charitable activities, the intelligentsia created scientific and educational organizations, wide layers of the urban and rural population created fire societies and squads. In total, 566 amateur public associations were identified.

5. The presence of signs of consistency, connectivity in the aggregate of amateur public organizations of the Oryol province was revealed. This manifested itself in the interaction of different societies. Cases of their competition have been established, when one company ousted another from the sphere of activity, and subordination, when one company acted as the founder of another organization. Cases of interaction between political and non-political organizations have been identified, when revolutionaries took control or created professional, educational and leisure organizations in order to legalize their work. Some of the local organisations (Red Cross, Industrious Houses, fire societies) were part of a wider system covering the whole country. But in general, it must be recognized that this system developed spontaneously without any plan.

6. Four stages of the formation of the system of amateur public organizations have been identified: the first from 1778 to 1860; the second from 1861 to 1891; the third from 1892 to 1904; the fourth from 1905 to 1917. It was concluded that the identified stages are correlated, on the one hand, with the most important milestones of Russian history (the abolition of serfdom, the social upsurge of the 1890s, the First Russian Revolution), on the other, with a change in the procedure for approving public organizations.

7. Changes in the regulatory framework governing the life of public organizations during the transition from one historical stage to another were analyzed. There was a gradual transition from the practice of "highest" approval of the charter of societies to control over public organizations by ministries and

departments, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs played a leading role. This was followed by the approval of approximate ("normal") charters for various groups of public organizations and the Rules of April 29, 1897, which greatly facilitated the approval process of new organizations. Finally, the "Provisional Rules on Societies and Unions" appeared, bringing under the activities of public organizations a legal framework that did not exist before.

8. The dynamics of the emergence of new public organizations in different periods of the existence of the system, as well as by groups of the proposed classification, was studied. The activity of the founders has its own ups and downs, the dynamics of which was traced at all stages of building a system of amateur public organizations. The peaks of constituent activity identified during the study were determined by a number of factors, among which the socio-economic development of the region can be put in the first place. Significant socio-political events (revolutions, wars, increased social activity) had a significant impact. The development of the system of educational institutions and an increase in the level of literacy, the dynamics of the creation of public associations in St. Petersburg and Moscow, with the subsequent development of branches in the province, played a role. That is, the system of amateur public organizations in a single region of the Russian Empire was formed in the context of the socio-political life of the country.

The theoretical significance of the study is determined by the fact that the material of this study can be applied when writing monographs, textbooks, textbooks on the socio-political history of the Russian Empire; courses of lectures, seminars and special courses on the history of the system of public organizations; development and teaching of some topics of the course "History of Russia."

This study can also be used when writing generalizing works on the history of the development of the system of amateur public organizations in Russia and when conducting comparative studies on the history of the formation of the system of public organizations in various regions of Russia.

Individual conclusions of the study can be concretized and deepened, becoming the basis of independent research in the process of developing the designated issues.

The practical significance of the study is due to the value of the experience of establishing a system of amateur public organizations in Russia and is determined by the need to study the socio-political situation in the formation of civil society in the Russian Federation in order to improve state policy in this area of socio-political life.

It is possible to make recommendations to state structures to optimize interaction with public organizations for use by state authorities and management; recommendations for the activities of public chambers; development of programs and instructions for organizing public interaction in the field of civil society; methodological manuals and recommendations of an advisory nature for the activities of modern public organizations.

Approbation of study results. On the topic of the dissertation, the author published 2 monographs with a total volume of 23.88 printed sheets, 1 reference publication with a volume of 31.1 printed sheets, 32 articles with a total volume of 31.4 printed sheets, including in publications recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation 16 articles with a total volume of 18.8 printed sheets.

The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation research are presented in speeches at scientific and scientific-practical conferences of various levels:

1. "Grishaev readings." V international scientific conference dedicated to the memory of Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Honored Worker of Higher School V.V. Grishaev (Krasnoyarsk, November 24-25, 2022);

2. The latest research in the field of history and pedagogy. IV International Scientific Conference (Eagle, April 18, 2024);

3. Russia in world wars: power, society and man in conditions of hostilities (to the 110th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I) (Orehovo-Zuevo, 2024);

4. Science and education: experience, problems, development prospects. International Scientific and Practical Conference (Krasnoyarsk, April 16-18, 2024);

5. Science: experience, problems, development prospects. Materials of the international scientific-practical conference. (Krasnoyarsk, April 9-11, 2025);

6. The Romanov dynasty and the Russian province (Oryol, 2013); 2. Social and cultural potential of the region: uniqueness, priorities, innovations" (Oryol, October 3, 2017);

7. XXI annual All-Russian historical readings "Pea, 2." Political terror and terrorism in Russia. XIX-XX centuries. (St. Petersburg, April 20-21, 2023);

8. Actual problems of social history, philosophy and social work. Twenty-fifth All-Russian scientific readings (Novocherkassk, April 18-19, 2024);

9. Traditions of patronage, volunteering and charity in Russia (to the 180th anniversary of the birth of Savva Mamontov) (Oryol, October 14, 2021);

10. The historical code of Russia: iron and faith (to the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory) (Orel, April 17, 2025).

The structure of dissertation. The work consists of an Introduction, 6 chapters, including 18 paragraphs, an Opinion, a List of sources and literature, three Appendices. The first and second chapters are devoted to methodological problems of research, the third and fourth chapters describe the development of the system of public organizations within the established chronological framework, the fifth and sixth chapters are devoted to the analysis of the place and role of amateur organizations in the socio-political life of the province. The text of the dissertation is 459 pages. The list of sources and literature includes 444 items.