

## REGIMENTAL AND COMPANY-LEVEL ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICAL DOCUMENTS IN THE SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION OF THE HETMANATE

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This study focuses on regimental and company-level accounting and statistical records as an essential component of the system of official communication within the Hetmanate during the second half of the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. **The primary aim** of the research is to determine their functional purpose, informational capacity, and role in maintaining administrative interaction between the governing institutions of the Cossack state. A detailed examination of this group of documents makes it possible to identify specific features of their formal structure and to highlight the mechanisms of information exchange between interdependent branches of authority in the Hetmanate period. **Methods.** The research is based on a combination of general scholarly and specialized methods, including historical-typological, structural-functional, comparative, and source-critical analysis. The application of document studies methodology allowed for the clarification of the internal structure of document forms, their content organization, and the communicative functions performed by accounting and statistical records produced by regimental and company chanceries. **Results.** It has been established that accounting and statistical documents – such as registers, lists, computational records, oath and record books, census books, and revisions – served not only statistical and fiscal purposes but also fulfilled an important communicative function by facilitating information flows between different levels of authority. Their significance for the personalization of Cossack company units and for the reconstruction of the social structure of the population has been analyzed. The study demonstrates that these documents constitute a unique source base that enables the tracing of transformations in administrative practices under the influence of the imperial policies of the Russian state. **Conclusions.** Regimental and company-level accounting and statistical documents represent a valuable source for the study of official communication, administrative traditions, and the socio-economic development of the Hetmanate. Owing to their multifunctional nature, these texts inform, regulate, identify, and contribute to the formation of historical memory. Their analysis provides deeper insight into the functioning of the Ukrainian administrative system and its transformation under colonial Russian influence, particularly given that the subsequent development of record-keeping practices in Ukraine occurred within the framework of their unification with the administrative standards of the Russian Empire.

**Keywords:** record-keeping, company chanceries, administrative documentation, historical document studies, registers, revisions.

## ПОЛКОВО-СОТЕННІ ОБЛІКОВО-СТАТИСТИЧНІ ДОКУМЕНТИ В СИСТЕМІ ДІЛОВОЇ КОМУНІКАЦІЇ ГЕТЬМАНЩИНИ

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Розвідку присвячено дослідженню полково-сотенних обліково-статистичних документів як важливої складової системи ділової комунікації Гетьманщини другої половини XVII – XVIII століть. **Метою** роботи є визначення їх функціонального призначення, інформаційного потенціалу та ролі в забезпеченні управлінської взаємодії між адміністративними структурами козацької держави. Адже такий опис документів дозволяє показати особливості їх оформлення, наголосити на специфіці технології



обміну інформацією між взаємозалежними гілками влади періоду Гетьманщини. **Методи.** У дослідженні використано комплекс загальнонаукових і спеціальних методів, зокрема історико-типологічний, структурно-функціональний, порівняльний та джерелознавчий аналіз. Застосування методів документознавчого аналізу дало змогу з'ясувати особливості побудови формуляру, змісту та комунікативних функцій обліково-статистичних документів полково-сотенних канцелярій. **Результати.** Установлено, що обліково-статистичні документи (реєстри, списки, компути, присяжні або записні, переписні книги, ревізії) виконували не лише обліково-статистичну, а й комунікативну функцію, забезпечуючи обмін інформацією між різними рівнями влади. Проаналізовано їх значення для персоналізації козацьких сотенних утворень та реконструкції соціальної структури населення. Доведено, що обліково-статистичні документи унікальним джерелом, яке дозволяє простежити трансформацію адміністративних практик у контексті імперської політики Російської держави. **Висновки.** Полково-сотенні обліково-статистичні документи становлять важливе джерело для вивчення ділової комунікації, управлінських традицій та соціально-економічного розвитку Гетьманщини. Вони є багатофункціональними комунікативними текстами, тому що інформують, регулюють, ідентифікують та формують історичну пам'ять на сьогодні. Їх аналіз сприяє глибшому розумінню механізмів функціонування української адміністративної системи та її змін в умовах колоніального російського впливу, адже подальший розвиток діловодства в Україні відбувався в умовах уніфікації з діловодством Російської імперії.

**Ключові слова:** діловодство, сотенні канцелярії, адміністративна документація, історичне документознавство, реєстри, ревізії.

## 1. Introduction

Currently, the relevance of research into the accounting and statistical documentation of administrative institutions of the Hetmanate era is determined by the growing demand for genealogical, historical, records management, and archeographic knowledge. The second half of the 17th century became a period decisive for the state-building development of our country. It was then that a unique Ukrainian system of administrative management, which had its own record-keeping traditions, was formed. These traditions include linguistic features and writing styles that were gradually displaced by the Russian form of record-keeping and the imperial administrative bureaucratic system as a whole, which completely replaced the Hetmanate order by the end of the 18th century (Lemish, 2013: 33). Thus, among the large corpus of documents of the analyzed era, one should mention the accounting and statistical forms through which a formalized exchange of information between company, regimental, and central institutions was implemented. The communicative value of these sources lies in the fixation of social roles, the legal status of persons, and the results of managerial decisions, which allows for tracing the mechanisms of information control, administrative accountability, and the transformation of business communication under conditions of the gradual restriction of the Hetmanate's autonomy. **Problem Statement.** The materials of company chancelleries are unique sources for studying local management in Left-Bank Ukraine during the Hetmanate era. After the liquidation of the company-regimental system (1781), the transformation of Cossack regiments, and the introduction of governorates (1780–1783), the system of state administration of the Russian Empire was gradually established in Ukrainian lands. The development of record-keeping in Ukraine took place under conditions of further unification with the record-keeping of the Russian Empire. **The aim of the work** is a comprehensive study of the species composition, informational potential, and communicative functions of the regimental-company accounting and statistical documentation of the Hetmanate of the

second half of the 17th – 18th centuries, as well as the clarification of the role of these documents in ensuring managerial interaction and the transformation of administrative practices under conditions of imperial unification. **The source base** of the research consists of three groups of sources: accounting and statistical documents that have been preserved, identified, and researched – *komputy*, registers, oath or record books, census books, revisions; archival documents that have been published from the 19th century to the present. It should be noted that such types of documents have been preserved only partially, so currently the publication of such archival sources is very valuable for further research. An important place is occupied by source-study research (works of P. Klymenko, O. Lazarevskyi, V. Romanovskiy), which in the context of this study are considered as secondary sources. They not only introduce unique archival data into scientific circulation but also act as an object of analysis as results of scientific communication and interpretation of the administrative heritage of the Hetmanate.

A special role in the system of scientific communication is played by archeographic publications and analytical studies prepared at the M. S. Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Source Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. It is this institution that provides the modern methodological base for processing arrays of Cossack documentation. The informational potential of such sources, and the problems of using accounting and statistical materials in genealogical research, are characterized in the scientific work of N. V. Lobko (Lobko, 2008). V. V. Kryvosheia investigates the personal composition of the officers (*starshyna*) of the Cossack state on the basis of revisions and registers (Kryvosheia, 2008: 9). P. Klymenko researched 76 archival originals of regimental registers for 1712–1764 (Klymenko, 1930). The researcher was one of the first to propose considering *komputy* and revisions not as static lists, but as dynamic objects, analyzing the conditions of their creation, movement in the process of communication between chancelleries, and methods of preservation. His approach allows for interpreting

the document as a product of the functioning of a state institution (Klymenko, 1930: 12). S. Horobets found and published, while maintaining the rules of text transmission of Cyrillic documents of the 16th – 18th centuries by a popular science method, new revisions of the first half of the 18th century, emphasizing the evolution of the informativeness of sources: from dry lists to meaningful revisions of the middle of the 18th century, which already contained expanded data on various strata of the population and social infrastructure (Horobets: 2008).

## 2. Typological Analysis of Accounting and Statistical Documents

The regimental-company system combined military, administrative, and judicial power and was the key foundation of the Hetmanate's statehood. Researchers emphasize that the understanding of its functioning relies primarily on a diverse complex of documents from the regimental, company, and General Military Chancelleries. In the second half of the 17th century, regiments and companies became not only military but also administrative-territorial units that ensured Cossack self-government with elected regimental and company administrations (Dankevych, 2022). For the effective management of expenses, material, and human resources during the Hetmanate era, typical forms of accounting and statistical documents were developed, among which were “oath books” (*prysyazhni knyhy*), “census books” (*perepysni knyhy*), “komputy”, “revisions”, “registers” (*reiestry*), etc. The purpose of creating these documents was to ensure systematic accounting and control over the companies – the administrative units of the Hetmanate. These accounting and statistical documents helped the imperial authorities exercise control over land distribution, tax collection, record-keeping, the study of socio-economic indicators, etc.

The studied documents provide grounds to suggest that unified forms and procedures for creating such documents did not exist until the first half of the 18th century; their unification occurred primarily at the level of chancellery practice rather than through codified rules. As S. Horobets notes, the informativeness of these types changed by the middle of the 18th century. For example, each subsequent revision became increasingly substantive: information was added about sub-neighbors (*pidsusidky*) and craftsmen; from 1739, registers of residential, visiting, and tavern yards of the Cossack officers (*starshyna*), priestly yards, schools, and hospitals are known (Horobets, 2008: 12–13).

It should be noted that initially, the term “komput” was used to denote the census of Cossack households and Cossacks as military men. *Komputy* were nominal registers of the Cossacks of a regiment, which were always the primary documents that enabled state structures to know the size of the Cossack army and,

accordingly, count on its participation in any events. According to this document, pay was issued to Cossacks for service, and certain estate privileges were granted (Klymenko, 1930).

Of scientific interest is the study by P. Klymenko on the professional-estate variability of the Ukrainian people during the time of the Hetman government. The researcher developed a plan for studying *komputy* as a specific type of accounting and statistical documentation. In his concept, he emphasized the necessity of the comprehensive involvement of registers, revisions, census and oath books, and also analyzed the conditions of their creation, movement in the process of communication, and methods of preservation (Klymenko, 1930). The author, for example, provides information that the Konotop company of the Nizhyn regiment was included in the revision of 1723, where parish records were entered for the first time (Klymenko, 1930).

Gradually, from 1726, the term *komputy* was displaced by the more general Russified term “revision” (from Lat. *revisio* – review). However, the system of All-Russian documents was officially established in Left-Bank Ukraine from 1781 – the time of the introduction of governorates (On the establishment of the Chernihiv governorate, 1830: 247). Revisions were compiled in company chancelleries, which were headed by clerks (*pysari*). Regimental and company clerks, company ensigns (*khорunzhi*), clerks of city courts, and children of priests became company clerks. In the second half of the 17th century, a category of employees – company clerks – was introduced in some large companies. The company chancelleries, like the entire regimental system, were liquidated starting from 1781 (On the establishment of the Chernihiv governorate, 1830: 247). The consistent displacement of the Ukrainian language from official record-keeping and the final introduction of the administrative-territorial management of the Russian Empire with governorates on Ukrainian lands undoubtedly affected the design of business documentation as early as the middle of the 18th century.

“Forms” (for revisions, reports, registers, etc.) were often sent from the Little Russian Collegium or the Chancellery of Ministerial Rule, although some were compiled in the Hetman-officer chancelleries. These documents have survived only partially. Currently, the largest number of them is stored in the Russian Central State Archive in Moscow and the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kyiv (Butych, 2007).

Let us focus on the analysis of the specified types of accounting and statistical documentation of the Hetmanate era – oath and census books, registers, revisions. Compared to other sources of this orientation, “registers” are distinguished by the greatest completeness and high reliability (Kryvosheia, 1999: 12). “The Register of the Zaporozhian Host (The Zboriv

Register of 1649) is a unique monument of Ukrainian accounting and statistical documentation of the mid-17th century (Register of the Zaporozhian Host of 1649, 1995). The document was compiled in 1649 by the government of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi. Currently, the original of the register is inaccessible for direct scientific research, as it is kept in the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts in the form of a manuscript book. This document was first discovered by O. Bodianskyi in Warsaw in the private collection of a Russian general, privy councilor, and senator of the Warsaw Department, A. Storozhenko (a Ukrainian from the Poltava region by origin). The scientific processing and the first publication of the monument were carried out by O. Bodianskyi in 1874 (Register of the entire Zaporozhian Host after the Zboriv Treaty with the Polish King John Casimir..., 1875: 1). A second academic edition of this "Register..." was published in 1995 through the efforts of the M. S. Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Source Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The monument was published based on the original with a foreword by F. Shevchenko and an introduction by the compilers O. Todiychuk and V. Strashko (Register of the Zaporozhian Host of 1649, 1995). The publication contains, in particular, nominal lists of Cossacks in the "column" (*stovbtseva*) form traditional for the chancellery practice of that time.

"Oath or record books of 1654" have also come down to our time (Oath books of 1654. Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, 2003), the creation of which was directly related to the decision of the Pereiaslav Council on the conclusion of a Russian-Ukrainian military-political alliance. According to these decisions, the Cossacks and burghers of the Hetmanate were to swear allegiance to Tsar Alexei I. Of the 18 oath books, only two have survived – those of the Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, the originals of which are kept in Russian archival institutions. A modern scientific reprint of these sources was carried out in 2003 under the editorship of Yu. Mytskyk and M. Kravets (Oath books of 1654. Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, 2003). The "Oath Book of the Nizhyn Regiment" is a significant document in terms of volume (687 sheets, format 21 × 15.3 cm), compiled by the "stolnik" Dmitriev and the clerk Fedorov. When using this source in records management studies, it is necessary to take into account the specifics of its creation: the materials were recorded by representatives of the Moscow government, who, in accordance with established practice, changed Ukrainian surnames, "Russifying" them. Numerous examples of such transformations are recorded in the text: "Ivanenko" (Ivanovych, Ivaniuk, Ivanchenko, etc.) became "Ivanov"; "Petrenko" (Petrovych, Petrychenko, etc.) – "Petrov" (Oath books of 1654. Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, 2003: 27). Other distortions caused by the Moscow scribes' lack of understanding of the Ukrainian

language were also permitted, in particular "Dutka" instead of "Dudka" (Oath books of 1654. Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, 2003: 131); the name of the village Vyryvka was recorded as "Verevka" (Oath books of 1654. Bila Tserkva and Nizhyn regiments, 2003: 10). These materials organically belong to a broader complex of statistical and accounting sources used for the reconstruction of social history and the identification of communication methods of the administrative institutions of the Hetmanate era.

A significant source for researching the methods of business communication between the administrative institutions of the Ukrainian and Moscow governments is the "Census Book of 1666," compiled and published in Kyiv in 1900 by O. Lazarevskyi (Little Russian Census Books of 1666, 1900). Census books also began to be compiled after the arrival of Moscow census-takers in Ukrainian lands in 1665 with government orders to register the entire commoner (*pospolyta*) population. The Cossacks (*tovarystvo*) remained outside the census, which testifies to the initial stage of the formation of fiscal-accounting practices of the Russian administration (Little Russian Census Books of 1666, 1900: 104). The mentioned sources vividly reflect the level of material well-being of the local population as of the mid-17th century. At the same time, the documents consistently maintain the record-keeping tradition of the "column" form.

The work on organizing and publishing the "Census Books of 1666" was continued by V. Romanovskyi, who in 1933 began publishing materials of the Kyiv, Nizhyn, and Baturyn regiments (Census Books of 1666, 1933). The "Starodub Census Book," according to his testimony, remained unprocessed and was to be published later together with a full archeographic description of all the census books of 1666; however, this plan was not realized. Explaining the reasons for the publication of these books, the researcher noted: "the publication is intended for those who would like to shed light on the social history of Ukraine. Based on this material, one can study the direction of Moscow's colonial policy toward Ukraine" (Census Books of 1666, 1933: 10). After the works of V. Romanovskyi, no source-study research of a similar thematic focus and scale appeared during the Soviet period. Only in 1995, thanks to the activities of the M. S. Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Source Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, was a reprint of the "Register of the Zaporozhian Host of 1649" published, continuing the scientific tradition initiated by O. Bodianskyi (Register of the Zaporozhian Host of 1649, 1995).

Thus, oath and census books, registers, and revisions were of decisive importance for the functioning of the Cossack state. For the Hetmanate itself, these documents were an instrument for legitimizing the company-regimental system and a means of ensuring defense capability, as they recorded the mobilization

resource and the estate status of the Cossacks. Revisions acted as a guarantor of preserving the socio-legal space of Ukrainian autonomy, as land ownership rights and exemption from all-imperial duties were confirmed through accounting mechanisms.

### 3. Communicative Functions of Accounting and Statistical Documents

Accounting and statistical documents of the Hetmanate (registers, *komputy*, revisions, descriptions) performed not only an applied administrative role but also represented in writing a complex system of communicative functions aimed at interaction between the authorities, society, and territorial structures, while also serving as a valuable source for genealogical reconstruction. In practice, such a communicative link had a vertical form: from the General Military Chancellery to the regimental and company chancelleries. The duties of creating accounting and statistical documents were assigned to the regimental chancelleries and regimental clerks (*pysari*). For example, Cossack *komputy*, which held the significance of legal acts, were managed in the regiments by the adjutants (*osavuly*) (Business Documentation of the Hetmanate of the 18th Century, 1993: 11). At the interstate level, relations between the Tsarist government and Left-Bank Ukraine were carried out through the Ambassadorial Office (*Posolsky Prikaz*), which formally left Ukrainian institutions within the control of the Moscow government. From 1662, with the creation of the Little Russian Office (*Malorossiyskiy Prikaz*), there was an intensification of direct administrative dependence, as communication between the Hetmanate and the Tsarist authority began to be conducted through a specialized imperial body. The final establishment of subordination occurred in 1722 with the founding of the Little Russian Collegium under the reform of Peter I, which effectively institutionalized the loss of autonomy of Ukrainian administrative institutions and moved them into a regime of centralized imperial control (Business Documentation of the Hetmanate of the 18th Century, 1993: 14). Indicative in this context is the turn at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century to the practice of publishing and scientifically comprehending the registers of the Hetmanate era.

One of the first to publish registers of the Hetmanate era was O. Lazarevskyi, who in 1892 published the oldest preserved census of Cossacks – “Description of the Konotop Company of 1711” in 1892: “General Investigation of the Estates of the Chernihiv Regiment” and “Description of the Konotop Company of 1711” (*Chernigovskiya Gubernskiya Vedomosti*) (Description of the Konotop Company of 1711, 1892: 5). The author analyzes the upper and middle strata of the Ukrainian “population in the first quarter of the 18th century” (Description of the Konotop Company of 1711, 1892: 4). Lazarevskyi published the second volume of “Description of Old Little Russia,” dedicated

to the Nizhyn regiment, in Kyiv in 1893 (Description of Old Little Russia, 1888–1893). The sources and methods of analysis were the same as in the first volume, only instead of the data from the 1723 revision, the data from the 1736 revision were presented. Relying on the material of this description-register, O. Lazarevskyi published the work “Information on the Oldest Members of the Lazarevskyi Family” (Lazarevskyi, 1927). In this work, the author analyzes his genealogy over 200 years. The researcher begins the description of the family with the surname Lazarenko (Vasyl'ii and Yusko) from the 1711 register, and further relies on information from the 1736 register, which was not published by anyone during O. Lazarevskyi's lifetime. We thus see that the author was also familiar with another register of the Konotop company from 1736. Currently, at the end of 2022, this register was published and supplemented with revisions from subsequent years with a foreword by O. Tryhub – “Revisions of the Konotop Company of the 30s–40s of the 18th Century” (Revisions of the Konotop Company of the 30s–40s of the 18th Century, 2022). Using the 1711 register and the register of 1736, which was unpublished at that time, the researcher reconstructs his own genealogy over two centuries. O. Lazarevskyi mentions Levko Lazarenko in his study “Information on the Oldest Members of the Lazarevskyi Family”; however, in the 2022 edition of “Revisions...”, he and his relatives have the surname Lazorenko, which provides grounds to assert that the correct form is still Lazarenko, as the author himself notes (Revisions of the Konotop Company of the 30s–40s of the 18th Century, 2022: 451). However, O. Lazarevskyi's information about Levko is limited to 1736, whereas according to the modern edition of the registers, we clearly trace Levko as a “destitute” (*nishchetnyi*) Cossack, burgher, and commoner (*pospolytyi*) further – in 1737, 1738, 1745, and 1747. Information about the family after 1736 in Lazarevskyi's work continues only from 1861 (Lazarevskyi, 1927). In this case, the register goes beyond the limits of an administrative document and transforms into a means of personal and familial communication with the past, where statistical data acquire biographical and symbolic dimensions. We can assume that at the time of writing the work on his genealogy, O. Lazarevskyi did not have the opportunity to familiarize himself with these registers; otherwise, he would have noted this time period and, possibly, published these registers as well. The very fact of the publication of the registers testifies to O. Lazarevskyi's understanding of their communicative value: the register acts not only as a source of quantitative information but also as a text through which it is possible to reconstruct the social roles, hierarchies, and mechanisms of self-identification of the Ukrainian population.

Thus, the communicative nature of these documents manifests at three levels: the state (managerial

vertical), the scientific (source-study heritage and its interpretation by researchers), and the personal (genealogical memory). This confirms the status of accounting and statistical materials as multifunctional communicative texts that retain their relevance beyond the historical era of their creation.

#### 4. Conclusions

The study of accounting and statistical documentation of the Hetmanate era makes it possible to reconstruct the social structure, population size, property status, and dynamics of changes within the Cossack and commoner (*pospolytyi*) milieus, as well as to trace the features of business communications between military-administrative institutions. It has been established that registers, *komputy*, and revisions functioned as complex communicative channels that ensured not only statistical accounting but also the stability of managerial links between the General Military Chancellery and local administrative structures. At the same time, the introduction of the norms and forms of record-keeping of the Russian imperial authorities had a negative impact on the process of compiling registers and *komputy*: local traditions of chancellery writing were gradually leveled, the structure of documents was unified, and the Ukrainian language was

displaced from official use, which affected the content, terminology, and representativeness of accounting and statistical materials. It is proved that the process of imperial unification of record-keeping led to the transformation of accounting and statistical forms from instruments of Cossack self-government into means of centralized control of the Russian state. For the Hetmanate itself, these documents were a means of survival and self-government (army, taxes, rights), whereas for the empire, they became a means of control and the liquidation of autonomy. The analysis of the corpus of registers used and published by O. Lazarevskyi and supplemented by modern archeographic editions allows for the consideration of the accounting and statistical documents of the Hetmanate as multi-level communicative texts. These act not only as a source of quantitative data but also as a specific space of personal and familial communication, where a statistical record acquires an identification and memorial dimension, allowing for the reconstruction of individual fates against the backdrop of global administrative changes. They simultaneously perform informational, identificational, memorial, and scholarly-interpretative functions, which makes them extremely promising for further linguistic-stylistic and discursive research.

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