

# Traditions in the formation of historical manor parks of the Poltava Region (Ukraine)

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**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the historical manor parks of one of the picturesque regions of Ukraine – Poltava Region. The focus of the study is on traditions and peculiarities of their formation, which developed historically in the period of the 18th-19th centuries. Historical-factual, monographic, stylistic, and comparative-historical methods were used during the research. The methods of theoretical analysis, visual inspection and graphic reconstruction were also applied. The article presents a brief history of the emergence of manor and park complexes in the region. Foreign and local specialists, who were involved in their formation, including park areas, are presented. Manor parks were distinguished by the nature of landscape design and planning composition. The article proves that the functional and planning composition of manor parks of the Poltava Region was based on the following structural elements: park (landscape), economic and production, greenhouse, and orchard zones. The main features of the solution of the Poltava Region historical manor parks were revealed. They consisted in the harmonious combination of a natural massif of greenery with created landscape groups, existing water sources with artificial ponds, and architectural buildings of estates. Traditionally, life in Poltava manors was mainly focused on calm rest and the development of agricultural (or industrial) productions' branches. The landscape and hydrological characteristics of the area and the dendrological composition of the vegetation were the basis for the landscape-planning solution of manor parks. Local gardeners and gardening experts involved in the work tried to preserve and emphasize them. Manor parks continue to interest researchers as examples of garden and park art. Exquisite stylistic solutions, interesting landscape and dendrological compositions were tested on these private territories. Unique views and landscapes were created here.

**Keywords:** manor park, structural elements, landscape organization, features, historical traditions

## Introduction

This topic lies in the context of studying the cultural and historical heritage of Ukraine and its regional traditions. It is closely related to the reproduction of the lost and preservation of the existing monuments of history, architecture and culture of the country. The gradual transition of the wealthy part of the state's population to family life in the estate may encourage owners to follow the traditions laid down in historical objects. Our Poltava region is no exception. Poltava Region has always been a significant centre of Ukrainian national culture. Therefore, it is appropriate to return to family roots, to the origins of the architectural and landscape organization of manor parks.

A number of studies related to manor and park complexes have been conducted in Ukraine. Currently, valuable material has been collected from various regions of the country - Kharkiv Region, Kyiv Region, Poltava Region, Volyn, Galicia and this continues. This research complement the extensive work on the in-depth study of the architectural and urban planning heritage of our country. Its main goal is to preserve national and regional traditions and replenish the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine with discovered objects.

The relevance of the study of manor and park

complexes in Poltava Region is determined by a number of reasons. The first is the need to deepen historical, architectural and landscape knowledge in matters of manor park construction. This will help increase the aesthetic consciousness of our people, their spirituality, general culture and spatial and landscape thinking. The second reason is related to the danger of destruction of the remains of historical manor complexes. The time for study and research of these objects is shortened. The results of the search will make it possible to use the experience of architects of the past centuries as a methodical rationale for designing similar objects today. The third reason is a continuation of the previous one. It consists in the reconstruction of the preserved manor complexes, their organic inclusion in the modern urban structure. This determines the economic feasibility of this research. After all, these objects can be potential magnets of attraction for visitors. And therefore they will help the development of today's tourism sphere.

## Materials and Methods

The purpose of this work is to highlight the traditions in the creation of manor parks that have historically developed in the Poltava Region. The research objects were established in the 18th-19th centuries in manor and park complexes

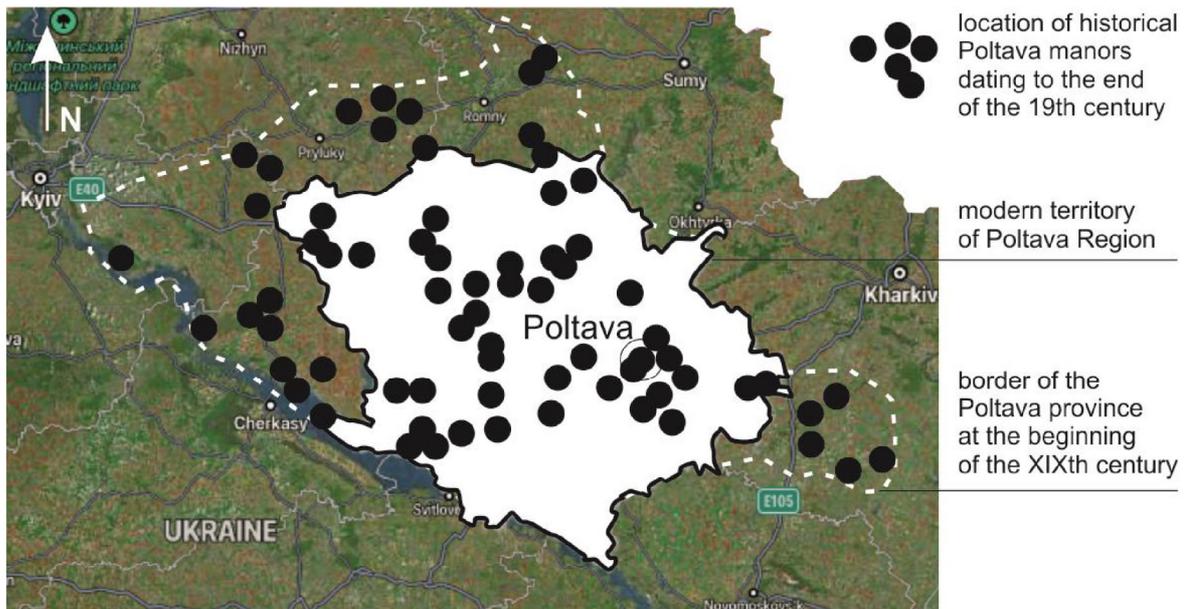


Fig. 1. The location of manor and park complexes on the map of Poltava province [from L. Shevchenko scheme]

of the region. Therefore, the boundaries of the study are determined by the chronologically defined period and geographically by the territory of Poltava Region from 1802 to 1925. Poltava Region was the Poltava province and had different territorial boundaries during this period. At that time, it partially included territories that on the modern map of Ukraine are part of the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Cherkasy and Kharkiv regions.

The object of the research is historical manor parks. The subject of research is the traditions and peculiarities of their architectural and landscape organization. Manor parks in Khomutets, Berezova Rudka, and Dykanka impressed the beauty of more than one generation of residents of these settlements. Some methods of their organization and architectural and landscape elements were adopted in famous royal residences (Fig. 1). This is evidence of the high skill of the park builders of that time. They created unique landscapes in manor parks.

The study of estate and park construction is generally conducted at two levels - theoretical and empirical. The historical and factual method was used to identify these objects in the region, to find any information about them in various historiographical sources. Thanks to this method, both historical and modern sources have been discovered, which in one way or another affect this study. Archaeological materials, descriptive data, notes of travelers of that time, architectural and literary sources, scientific works, architectural and design materials make up a significant share of these sources. This made it possible to collect an important information base, to select factual material for further thorough analysis. In addition, it also helped to create and constantly replenish the base of manor and park construction objects. The detection of preserved objects is especially valuable at this

stage. Their existing condition was recorded using the method of visual inspection and serial vision. For this, graphic drawings, watercolors and photographs were made, including those presented in this article. The latter more accurately reproduce the real state of the research objects. This method was also used to clarify the state of research of manor parks in previous scientific works. Objects of homestead and park construction in Ukraine were covered in scientific publications by V. Timofienko [22], V. Vecherskyi [3], I. Ignatkin [9], L. Vaingort [8], and Yu. Nelgovskyi [16]. Manor parks of the country were of interest to such Ukrainian researchers as I. Kosarevskyi [12; 13; 14], I. Rodychkin, and O. Rodychkina [19]. Works of local historians V. Hanko [24] and V. Kishik [10; 11] are also significant. Scientists O. Bayrak, V. Samorodov and T. Panasenko [1] highlighted the botanical and dendrological issues of Poltava Region parks, including historical ones. The authors' previous articles were devoted to the study of landscape objects [2; 17; 23]. Among the authors' works are articles devoted to the historiographical and cultural aspects of the estate and park construction of the region, the prerequisites for the emergence of complexes, the main urban planning factors of their formation [25; 26; 27].

The method of theoretical analysis made it possible to identify issues that have already been researched by scientists. In addition, issues that were left out of their attention have been also revealed. In particular, it was found that only the most significant manor complexes of the Poltava region were among the research objects in the field of view of scientists. They were considered in the context of estate and park construction in Ukraine in general, so they were revealed only superficially. The same applies to several manor parks. The use of this method

contributed to the identification of methods of organizing manor parks and their structural components. The compositional connection between them was also traced. For this, topographical materials, preserved descriptions, historical photographs, as well as the results of empirical studies were used.

The use of the monographic method enabled to in-depth study specific manor parks, their evolution, compositional, landscape and, if possible, dendrological characteristics. A comparative and historical method of research was used to identify features in the creation of manor parks and their regional specificity. Manor parks of Poltava Region were compared with analogues from neighboring regions - Kharkiv Region, Kyiv Region, as well as western Ukrainian (objects of the right-bank part of Ukraine).

The stylistic method was used in the study of stylistic directions and compositional techniques in the organization of manor parks. The method of graphic reconstruction and architectural computer modeling enabled the authors to theoretically recreate the lost research object and its fragments in the project proposal. In particular, it became possible to compare the results of theoretical data with old topographic data, to visualize park views, etc.

#### **A brief history of the appearance of manor and park complexes in the Poltava region**

Historically, Poltava Region had the conditions for the development of free territories by significant statesmen. The origin and formation of manor construction took place here in parallel with the process of the emergence of land ownership of the Cossack leaders in the region. That is why the first palace-park and manor complexes here were based on the hetman's residences and the estates of the Cossack leaders. Thus, a palace and park complex of hetman D. Apostol appeared in the village of Khomutets, hetman K. Razumovskyi in the village of Zgurivka, and hetman I. Skoropadskyi in the village of Berezova Rudka. The famous estates of the Cossack elders of the Galagan family were in Sokyryntsi and Digtyari.

Settlement of the region was connected with the processes of colonization of the region – by Cossacks, Cossack leaders, and by the state. Chronological rapid development of lands began at the beginning of the 18th century, after the Battle of Poltava. In the middle of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, the social, political and economic situation changed. The region turned into an ordinary Russian province with the introduction of appropriate institutions and procedures. O. Subtelnyi wrote, "the main issue of the political life of Ukraine in the 18th century is the long and

persistent struggle between the Russia imperial centralism and the Ukrainian desire for autonomy" [21]. The main land concentrations for that period were the grants of Poltava lands by the Russian government. The lands of the region were given for significant public and military services to the state, and personal sympathies. There was also the purchase of estates and free land in the region. Some estates were inherited, and lands were arbitrarily appropriated. Monastery lands were often selected or purchased. Consequently, these processes contributed to the emergence of significant land holdings, estates, various types of manor formations, including palace and park ensembles among the nobility in Poltava Region.

At first, these estates were arranged according to Ukrainian traditions. And then - according to the "elite" position of their owners at that time and new trends that came from Western Europe to St. Petersburg and Moscow. An elite ruling class of the population on the Russian model was created. These are the nobility, landowners who were granted land in the Poltava Region to arrange their estates. Most of the owners spent a significant part of their lives in luxurious capital palaces. They absorbed new cultural and political trends and then tried to implement all this in their Poltava estates. Their high official position also contributed to a wide choice of architects and gardeners for their Poltava estates not only from the capital, but also from abroad. It also contributed to the worldview reorientation of estate owners. They began to introduce foreign and capital cultural and ethical norms into their lives. This was manifested in the external and internal arrangement of the complexes, their vital and functional processes.

Of course, estates had a long life and belonged to more than one generation of their owners. Their prosperity or decline depended, among other things, on the owners. The most exquisite objects were the princely palace and park complexes in Dykanka (Prince V. Kochubey) and Yagotyń (Prince M. Repnin). In terms of their grandeur and scale, they were similar to well-known capital estates and even foreign estates. As M. Bashkirtseva wrote once, after visiting the palace and park ensemble in Dykanka, "in terms of the beauty of the garden, park, buildings, Dykanka can compete with the Borghese and Doria villas in Rome. Excluding the inimitable and irreplaceable ruins, Dykanka is perhaps even richer: it is almost a small town. I don't count peasant huts, but I'm talking only about the house and services" [7]. Such data are also confirmed by travel notes of witnesses of these grandiose constructions. In particular, Otto von-Hoon, traveling through Ukrainian lands, witnessed the formation of a palace and park complex in Yagotyń. He noted that "a whole world is being

created here, and everything is in the latest trend according to the G. Menelas' plans. The local architect Godegart produces buildings. In no more than three years Godegart has almost already brought to the end" [18].

Well-known capital architects and specialists from abroad were involved in the creation of Poltava palace and park complexes and estates. Among them are Giacomo Quarenghi, Rastrelli, Mykola Lvov, and Luigi Ruska. Local architects, construction specialists and gardeners supervised the construction process. Among them are Ferrare, Tamante, Reed, Richter, Pelts, Omelyanskyi, Ya. Kryvytskyi, and others. As for the park areas, the main idea was generated by the landscape architects involved in the work. And local gardeners implemented what they had planned. Thanks to this, ideas were often adjusted according to the topography of the area, existing vegetation, and available material resources. Therefore, manor parks had some differences among themselves, regardless of the prevailing styles, fashion trends and tastes of the nobility at that time.

#### **Traditional structural elements of historical manor parks of Poltava Region in the 18th and 19th centuries**

The basis for the development of the architectural and landscape layout of manor and park complexes of the Poltava Region in the 18th – middle 19th centuries was the personification of territories with recreation and management. In most estates of the region, the development of these functional components took place in parallel. The territory for recreation in all estates was decided as a park. It synthesized the main trends in the development of the park areas of European and capital palace and park complexes and the planning structure of Poltava manors of the Cossack leaders of Poltava Region at the end of the 17th - beginning of the 18th centuries. According to the level of planning and compositional organization of the park territories of significant manor complexes of the Poltava Region, zones of intensive intervention and forest park zones are distinguished. Zones of intensive intervention were directly adjacent to the central part of the complexes. In the vast majority of estates, forest park zones are areas behind lakes and reservoirs. These territories were most often a forest massif transformed into a forest park. Here, closed (arrays and groups of trees) and open areas (lawns, meadows) alternated with each other with wide curved roads.

The main attention during the planning of the territory was paid to the part that is much smaller in area, but which dominated the lakeside part. This is the territory from the entrance zone of the estate to the water body. The landscape and planning composition of this manor parks part also based on a

combination of open and closed spaces. The functional and planning composition of manor parks in such complexes was based on the following structural elements:

- 1) park (landscape) zone;
- 2) greenhouse farming zone;
- 3) orchard area;
- 4) economic and industrial zone.

The park or landscape zone reached considerable dimensions. It became a bright expression of new realizations in the field of landscape architecture of that time. The massive nature of the establishment of manor parks at that time testifies to the high culture of landscape development. Approaches to the formation of the park part depended on the topographical and landscape situation. The basis for its development was the traditional use of local flora and rationalism in choosing a location. For manor parks, lands that were not very profitable for agriculture were used forest areas, river valleys, ravines, etc. Often, manor complexes were founded on the territory of long-existing green areas, near rivers and ponds. For example, the estate in the village of Khomutets arose on the site of a natural forest on a small rise of a flat plateau. From the northeast, the territory of the historical park was washed by the Rudka River, and from the south by the Khorol River. And the manor complex in the village Dykanka began in the then "dense forest" with wild boars, which surrounded the village from all sides [11]. In addition, ponds were created in the lowlands. Manor in the village Yagotyń was founded on a picturesque territory of more than 4 km along the Supoi River. Therefore, in each case, the landscape composition of the vast majority of the manor parks territory was decided individually.

As for the front part of the park, it had common features in the central (representative) part of the vast majority of estates. This is the section of the park from the main entrance of the manor complex to its main building. As a rule, it was solved by regular compositional techniques. They were followed from the transformed Italian and French canons of park construction. Characteristical features of this zone are a straight main alley, a parterre with a clear geometric shape, bosquets, and trimmed forms of plants. Already from the first steps along the alley, the grandeur of the manor and the importance of the manor owners were felt. As a rule, in most estates, the alley was homogeneous and single-row. Local species of plants were used for its creation – chestnuts, lindens, birches, maples, poplars, oaks, and pines. For example, the main alley of the Dykanka's estate was chestnut and stood out from the others due to its length. Until now, ancient oaks from the former oak alleys of this estate have been preserved (Fig. 2). Walnut, linden and

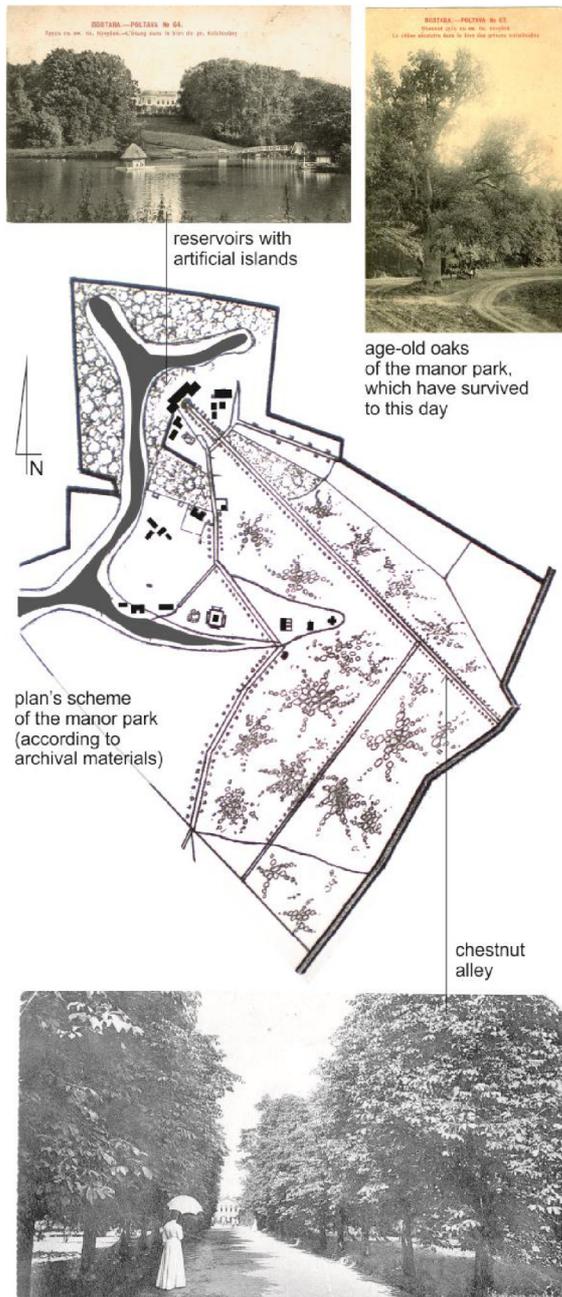
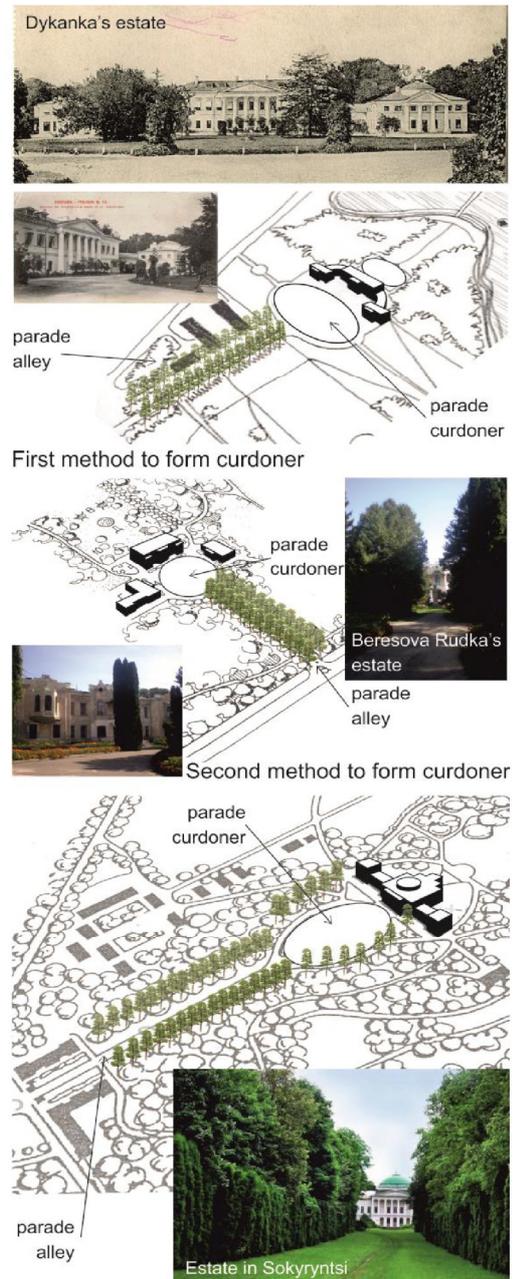


Fig. 2. Manor park in Dykanka

[photo of the beginning of the XXth century from the stock of L. Shevchenko]

chestnut alleys were created in the Khomutets's manor. And the estate in the village Berezova Rudka was famous for its alleys made of linden, oak, walnut, pine and bitter chestnut [20].

The parade through the alley always ended with an open space in front of the main building of the manor - the palace, the house of the state owners, etc. And in this, too, a sophisticated plan was implemented. The slenderness and straightness of the alley clearly indicated the path that must be taken in the semi-shade and get out into the "light of God" - the bright, open area of the manor. I think it is not necessary to talk about the impressions that filled the visitors of the manors at the same time.



Third method to form curdoner

Fig. 3. The formation of a parade curdoner in front of the main house of the estate

[photo from the stock of L. Shevchenko]

The main building was illuminated and partially visible even at the beginning of traffic in the alley. But it was revealed to the maximum extent only when exiting the alley onto the lawn in front of the palace. The composition of the main buildings played a major role in the formation of this open part of the manor park. In the vast majority of estates, the main buildings were located in such a way as to form a curdoner (from the French cour d'honneur - "court of honor"). This is a semi-open courtyard in front of the main entrance to the palace. In the Poltava estates, this was solved in three ways (Fig. 3). The first way is the so-called "Palladian type" of the composition, when the main building

was connected to the outbuildings due to curvilinear galleries. Such a composition was implemented in estates in the village of Khomutets, the village of Dykanka, the village of Digtyari, and the village of Krutyi Bereg. The second way is when the main building is located perpendicular to the alley, and all the others are separately next to it, moved forward. Thus, an open area of the park was formed. Such a composition was implemented in estates in the village of Berezov Rudka, the village of Vyshnyaki, and the village of Yagotyn. The third way was characterized by a linear arrangement of the main buildings of the manor, but perpendicular to the main alley. The boundaries of the open space in this case were helped to form the surrounding vegetation. Such decisions are characteristic of estates in the village of Sokyryntsi and the town of Reshetylivka. The first two methods were the most used in Poltava estates. Such compositional techniques made it possible to reveal the space in front of the main building of the estate, thus emphasizing its significance. This space was decided in the form of a circle or semicircle, oval or semioval. In most estates, this area was covered with a lawn, with low bushes. Sometimes trees were included in the composition, as in the estate in Dykanka.

The area behind the main building, on the side of its courtyard facade, was similarly decided. The building was opened to nature due to the arrangement of open terraces, porches with elegant stairs to the open area of the park. In this way, distant perspectives on meadows, plant groups, rivers, reservoirs with islands, etc. opened up from the terraces. These parts of manor parks were similar in most manors. The open area behind the owner's house was mostly landscaped. As an exception, regular flower gardens in estates in the town of Reshetylivka and the village of Dykanka (Fig. 4). As already mentioned above, a heraldic flower garden was created in the village of Dykanka. Its composition includes trimmed forms of plants, decorative trees and shrubs (including those not typical for this region: palm trees, etc.), the arrangement of sculptures around the perimeter of the rectangle. We assume that a similar technique was used in the estate and park complex in Reshetylivka. This is evidenced by archival materials [6], which focus on the flower garden behind the palace (Fig. 5).

All the rest of the landscape zone was decided exclusively by landscape techniques. It personified the traditions of the English and Eastern schools of park construction, at the same time, preserving and emphasizing the existing natural components as much as possible - winding paths, free placement of plant groups, natural outlines of water bodies, etc (Fig. 6). A kind of natural action was created, in

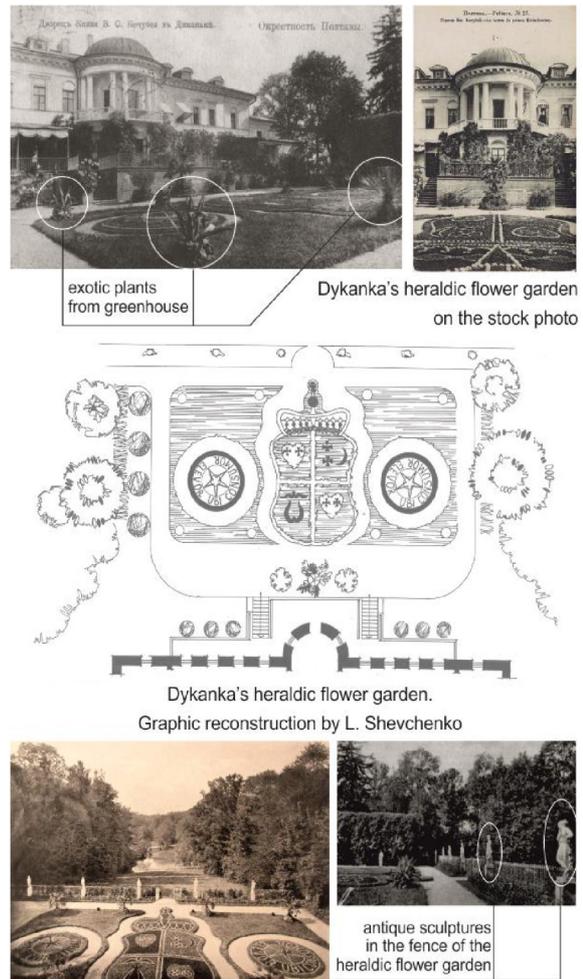


Fig. 4. Regular flower garden in the manor park of Dykanka [photo from the stock of L. Shevchenko]

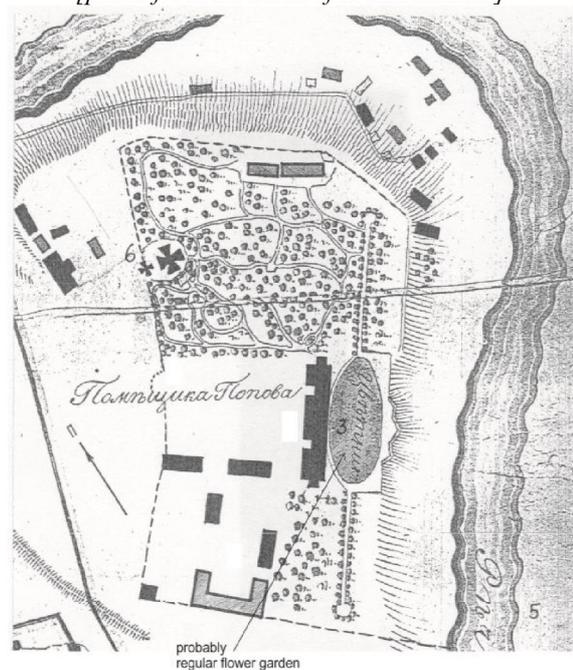


Fig. 5. Location of the flower garden in the manor park of Reshetylivka [photo from archival sources]



*Fig. 6. View of the manor park of Berzova Rudka [photo by L. Shevchenko, 2015]*



*Fig. 7. View of the manor park of Khomutets [photo by L. Shevchenko, 2012]*



*Fig. 8. View of the manor park of Berzova Rudka [photo by L. Shevchenko, 2015]*

which the pictures of living nature changed, unfolding from the appropriate viewing points (Fig. 7). The main role was played by natural components that varied in color and shape of the crown. The nature of the relief and the compositional scheme of the entire park territory led to the localization of rest places in the most attractive and quiet places, closing the best perspectives of the landscapes with small

architectural forms - gazebos, bridges, grottoes, benches (Fig. 8). As Kosarevsky noted, "the park builders of this period, forming park landscapes, borrowed the brevity of the past and at the same time showed great skill in the detailing of significant forms. And what is no less important, they managed to demonstrate the beautiful in the most effective coloristic and three-dimensional combination of plants" [12].

The zone of greenhouse farming was a new phenomenon in that period. The emergence and formation of this zone in the large estates of the Poltava Region was determined both by utilitarian needs and the necessity to follow metropolitan trends. The territory of the greenhouse farm consisted of the actual building of the greenhouse, a greenhouse, and various flower, shrub, and tree nurseries, rose gardens, and lilac gardens (Dykanka). The development of greenhouse farming gave the estate owners the opportunity to use various types of plants (including exotic ones) on the walking area of the estate. Some noblemen of the region were personally involved in the acclimatization of exotic plants on their territory, breeding their own species of plants [5]. This contributed to the expansion of the species composition of vegetation and the possibility of diversifying landscape groups on the territory of the estates of significant landowners of the Poltava Region. The level of plant acclimatization was high enough. This is evidenced by the fact that Russian noblemen borrowed plants from Poltava estates for their St. Petersburg and Moscow palace and park ensembles. As evidenced by a letter from the manager of the Dykanka's estate Andriy Kryzhanovsky to the owner Prince Viktor Kochubey dated November 5, 1824, "Empress Maria Fedorivna, having visited the greenhouses in August, marveled at the elegance and richness of the plants and from one greenhouse took a plan for the construction of the same one in Pavlovsk" [4].

The orchard area gave the manor parks a local flavor. This was the observance of the traditions of the organization of the Poltava Region Cossack leaders' estates. In most estates, orchards were located behind the palace (such as in Dykanka, Berzova Rudka, etc.). And in the Khomutets's estate there was an orchard in front of the palace. Regardless of the localization in the park territory, the architectural and planning organization of the plots of orchards was decided by purely regular compositional methods: planting trees in a square (manor parks in Khomutets, Berzova Rudka) or along alleys at the same distance (manor park in Dykanka). Orchards included apple, pear, plum, apricot, dogwood, and other fruit trees. In his travel notes, the German scientist and naturalist A. Hildenstedt mentions the Khomutets estate, which was owned by the Muravyov-Apostol family.

In particular, he singles out the garden with greenhouses, which are worth special attention. Grapes, mulberries, walnuts, peaches, apricots, bergamots, varieties of pears, apples, plums and cherries were grown in the garden [20].

In some manor complexes, artificial and natural reforestation was carried out on designated areas. There were nurseries of fruit trees, plots for growing hops (the manor in the village of Dykanka).

The economic and industrial zone was mainly in large manor complexes. The appearance of this zone was due to the development of capitalism and reforms in the second half of the 19th century. Farming in estates did not always provide stable income. The owners of manors tried to get profits from the factories that were located on their estates. The result of these processes was a significant increase in economic zones in large estates of the Poltava Region. And later this led to the formation of large economic and production zones in estates with their location in the settlement. It is not by accident that most of the large estates of the Poltava Region were exemplary in the household and economic sense (such as the manor complexes in Dykanka, Yagotyn, Kruglyk).

The progressive economic activity of the estates' owners also influenced their long-term functioning. For example, the Dykanka manor successfully operated factories for breeding thoroughbred English horses, fine-wool sheep, dairy Simmental cows mixed with local, Berkshire and Temvor pigs. A brewery, brick and pottery factories, and a mechanical workshop worked successfully here. The owners of estates not only provided for their family and manor, but also solved the food issues of entire districts of Poltava Oblast.

## Conclusions

So, the general regularities of solving the historical manor parks of the Poltava Region consisted in the harmonious combination of the natural massif of greenery with the created landscape groups, existing water sources with artificial ponds, and the main architectural buildings of the estates. The main attention was paid to the front park part, starting from the entrance area through the front alley to the open space in front of the owner's house with the possibility of visual perception of the territory behind the house. Such techniques were characteristic not only of Poltava estates, but also of many manors from other regions of Ukraine.

But manor parks of the Poltava Region inherited the traditions of organizing the life of the Cossack leaders, which perfectly coexisted with the "new trends" of the time. The research revealed regional

features in the historical manor park construction, which consisted of:

- 1) formation of four main structural zones of the parks - landscape, economic and production, greenhouse and orchard zones;
- 2) the functional purpose of estates, focused mainly on calm recreation and the development of agricultural production (in some cases – industrial), which resulted in large areas of the estates' economic territories;
- 3) the landscape-planning decision of the estates park territories, the basis for which were the landscape-hydrological characteristics of the area and the dendrological composition of the vegetation;
- 4) the compositional and spatial organization of the territory of the estates, which was manifested in the formation of landscape zones based on natural relief forms and the absence of artificially created natural structural elements such as grottoes, caves, etc. in the vast majority of estates;
- 5) involvement of local gardeners and park builders in the work, who tried to preserve the existing natural fund as much as possible and emphasize and highlight its best features throughout the territory of the manor parks.

Historical manor parks of the Poltava Region were the decoration of the estates of more than one generation of their owners. They are interesting from different points of view. On the one hand, as historical objects they are connected with important historical events of the region, with the life of famous people. On the other hand, manor parks are examples of characteristic architecture of the corresponding period. These objects are of no less interest to researchers as works of garden and park art. They became a canvas for interesting stylistic solutions, exquisite landscape and dendrological compositions, platforms for the adaptation of a number of introduced plants. That is why manor parks of the Poltava Region will continue to remain in the field of view of scientists and researchers.

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**Kopsavilkums.** Raksts ir veltīts vienam no gleznainajiem Ukrainas reģioniem: Poltavas apgabala vēsturiskajiem muižu parkiem. Pētījuma uzmanības centrā ir tradīcijas un to veidošanās īpatnības, kas vēsturiski veidojušās 18.–19. gadsimta periodā. Pētījuma gaitā tika izmantotas vēsturiskās, monogrāfiskās, stilistiskās un salīdzinošās metodes. Tika izmantotas arī teorētiskās analīzes, vizuālās apskates un grafiskās rekonstrukcijas metodes. Rakstā sniegta īsa muižu un parku kompleksu rašanās vēsture reģionā. Tiek prezentēti ārvalstu un vietējie speciālisti, kas bijuši iesaistīti to veidošanā, tostarp parku teritorijās. Muižas parki izcēlās ar ainavu dizaina un plānošanas kompozīcijas raksturu.

Rakstā pierādīts, ka Poltavas novada muižu parku funkcionālā un plānojuma kompozīcija balstījās uz sekojošiem strukturālajiem elementiem: parku (ainavu), saimniecisko un ražošanas, siltumnīcu un augļu dārzu zonas. Tika atklātas Poltavas novada vēsturisko muižu parku risinājuma galvenās iezīmes. Tie sastāvēja harmoniskā dabiskā apstādījumu masīva apvienojumā ar izveidotām ainavu grupām, esošiem ūdens avotiem ar mākslīgiem dīķiem un muižu arhitektoniskām ēkām. Tradicionāli dzīve Poltavas muižās galvenokārt bija vērsta uz mierīgu atpūtu un lauksaimniecības (vai rūpnieciskās) ražošanas nozaru attīstību. Teritorijas ainaviskās un hidroloģiskās īpašības un veģetācijas dendroloģiskais sastāvs bija par pamatu muižu parku ainaviski plānošanas risinājumam. Darbā iesaistītie vietējie dārznieki un dārzkopības eksperti centās tos saglabāt un uzsvērt. Teritorijās tika izmēģināti izsmalcināti stilistiskie risinājumi, interesantas ainavas un dendroloģiskās kompozīcijas, kā arī tika radīti unikāli skati.