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MATERIAL FOLK CULTURE AS A COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL UKRAINIAN CULTURE

Material folk culture is one of the components of national culture, which covers the entirety of material values created by the people in the course of their historical development [1, 2]. This term includes household items, crafts, examples of folk art, construction, and other material objects that reflect the specifics of life, socio-economic, historical, and cultural features of the people.

Folk material culture is an extremely complex phenomenon formed in a system of various factors that collectively determined both the ethnic outlines of material culture and its regional peculiarity – separate types, subtypes, and variants that correspond to the objective conditions that have developed in certain regions of Ukraine.

This property of material culture is explained by the fact that it not only performs pragmatic functions but also constitutes an integral component of spiritual culture, in particular ritual and ceremonial culture. Folk material culture was one of the most important channels for transmitting intergenerational ethno-cultural information, primarily through a system of traditions. After all, they materialized in everyday things: clothing, housing, cooking, household utensils, and means of transportation.

Many objects of the material world served more than one generation, thus reproducing ancient ethno-cultural stereotypes and traditions and preserving intergenerational folk experience. It is no coincidence that it was in the sphere of material culture that most archaic features inherent in different historical periods were preserved. However, each of them had its own ethnic image and ethnic traditions that recorded the stages of their historical development.

The ethnic image and temporal phasing were especially evident in such a

stable component of folk material culture as housing and settlements. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, housing types and settlement types that can be called Ukrainian were formed on the territory of Ukraine. They were based on an ancient East Slavic foundation and were created in the ethnic traditions of Ukrainians and in the system of Ukraine's peculiar socioeconomic and natural conditions.

Within these ethnic traditions, three main types of settlements and three typological zones of their existence were formed: northern, central, and southern. All of them had an ancient Slavic basis, but were strongly marked by the peculiarity of the natural (geographical) environment [3,4].

For the northern zone, which included two historical and ethnographic regions – Polissya and Sivershchyna – the most characteristic was the Old Slavic cultural layer of multi-yard buildings of street (Polissya) or street-disorderly type[4].

For the central zone of Ukraine, the traditional type of buildings was disorderly (haphazard), due to the peculiarities of the region's settlement [4]. Almost until the end of the eighteenth century, peasants had the opportunity to occupy land here according to the custom of tenancy, which was the acquisition of land ownership on the basis of the right of first refusal to occupy free land. It was based on the traditional idea of peasants that their labor, invested in land in any form, gave them the right to own and dispose of it. Tenancy was especially widespread in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries among cossacks and peasants who migrated from different regions of Ukraine to the Zaporizhzhia Sich, the Livoberezhzhia, Sloboda Ukraine, and the southeastern steppe part of the Pravoberezhzhia. With the transformation of folk colonization into systematic resettlement, settlements of street, row, radial, and corded construction began to emerge in the late eighteenth century.

Regular settlements became most typical for the southern regions of Ukraine (Nova Sich, Novoserbia, Donshchyna, Tavria), where targeted colonization was underway since the second half of the eighteenth century [4].

Settlements were formed on the basis of administrative orders, quarterly and nested planning.

Thus, the identity of a people can be realized not only in folk art but also in material folk culture. So, a striking example of regional differences in ethnic traditions is the typology of their settlements and areas of residence. Three such unique zones can be found in Ukraine: northern, central, and southern.

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