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Book review:

Vasili Nazarovici Karazin: Biobibliografie / Institutul Patrimoniului Cultural; alcătuitori: Esfir Berkovici [et al.]; colegiul de redacție: Sergiy Posohov (redactor-șef) [et al.]; redactor bibliografic: Svitlana Glibițka; traducători: Nadia Cerkașina [et al.]. Chișinău: Lexon-Prim, 2023. 275 p.

This book is a bio-bibliographic index of V. N. Karazin, an outstanding Ukrainian educator, one of the founders of Kharkiv University, an encyclopedist scientist, an extraordinary person, essentially a genius, who devoted his entire life to serving in the field of education and cultural activities.

One of the advantages of the work is a thorough introductory article, which details the main milestones of V. N. Karazin's activities and notes his contribution to the development of education.

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The range of V. N. Karazin's interests is amazing. Thus, from the introductory article we learn some interesting information that in 1820 he conducted a comprehensive physical-geographical and statistical-demographic survey of the Sloboda-Ukrainian province. The scientist studied not only the medicinal but also the nutritional properties of plants. V. N. Karazin reported on his work on developing various issues of techniques and technologies at the meetings of the Philotechnical Society, which he founded and headed — the first scientific and technical society in Ukraine and the Russian Empire, operating in Kharkiv in 1811–1818. His extensive correspondence evidences this. Another V. N. Karazin's innovative idea was his attempt to synthesize artificial diamond. This was the first such attempt in the world, which he undertook in 1823 (5 years before France carried out a similar experiment and 130 years before the first industrial samples were obtained).

The authors and compilers divided the second part, the bibliographic one, into several sections. The first section, compiled according to the chronological principle, contains information about the works of V. N. Karazin on various issues of education, science and technology, social and political problems, as well as his literary works. The second section contains the correspondence of V. N. Karazin (“Letters of V. N. Karazin” and “Letters to V. N. Karazin”). The third section covers publications about V. N. Karazin published starting from 1842 (the year of his death) and until 2022 inclusive. At the end of the book, there is a name index, which includes the names of authors, editors and compilers of published works, senders and receivers of letters, as well as persons mentioned in the titles of the works or in their comments.

The authors and editors have done a great job, providing researchers in various fields of humanitarian knowledge with interesting information about such an outstanding person as V. N. Karazin.

Publications of this kind make finding the necessary information much easier for scientists and all those interested in the history of their native land.

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