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Yazar: Yekaterina MASKEVICH\*

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### Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky: Çocukluęu, Gençlięi, Seyahatleri

**Öz:** Bu makale Rus izcilik hareketinin kurucularından biri olan, St. Petersburg'daki 1. Klasik Erkek Gymnasium'undaki ilk İzci Lejyonu'nun organizatörü ve izcilik hareketi tarihi içerisinde çok az bahsi geçen Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky'in biyografisini ele almaktadır. Yanchevetsky çok yönlü, doğaya tutkun, kelimen tam anlamı ile çocukluęundan beri etrafını çevreleyen dünyayla ilgili birisiydi. Hakkındaki biyografi çalışması onun entelektüel, hoş sohbet, yetenekli bir öğretmen, yazar, çevirmen, hevesli bir gezgin ve bir dizi roman ve hikaye meydana getirmesine imkan sağlayan inanılmaz hayal gücüne sahip bir kişi olduğunu kanıtıyor. Yayınlanan makale St. Petersburg'daki izcilik hareketi üzerine yazılan yüksek lisans tezinin devamı niteliğinde olup, çalışma Yanchevetsky'in gymnasiumdaki hayatının Latince öğretmenlięi safhalarını da kapsamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky, izcilięin kurucusunun biyografisi, Vasily Yan, Revel gymnasium, Yanchevetsky'nin seyahatleri.

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### Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky: Childhood, Youth, Travels

**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the biography of one of the founders of the Russian scout movement, the first organizer of the Scouting Legion in St. Petersburg at the 1st male classical gymnasium Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky, which is little covered in historiography of the Scout movement. Yanchevetsky was a diversified man, keen on nature, from childhood he was interested in literally everything that surrounded him. The study of his biography just proves that he was an intelligent and pleasant companion, a talented teacher and writer, a translator, an avid traveler and had an amazing imagination, thanks to which he created a series of historical stories and novels. The published article is an addition to the master's thesis on the history of the scout movement in St. Petersburg, which includes a study of the period of life of Yanchevetsky during his teaching activities as a teacher of Latin at the gymnasium.

**Keywords:** Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky, Biography of the founder of scouting, Vasily Yan, Revel gymnasium, Yanchevetsky's travels.

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## Introduction

*"Thirty years studied, thirty years traveled,  
thirty years I would like to write ..."<sup>1</sup>*

Vasily Yanchevetsky gained fame in the late 1930s – early 1940s, primarily as a Moscow writer, author of the famous historical trilogy «The Invasion of the Mongols»: «Genghis Khan»<sup>2</sup>, «Baty»<sup>3</sup>, «The Path to the Last Sea»<sup>4</sup>, however his personality was very bright and extraordinary. He was fascinated not only by literature and the history of Asia, he traveled extensively in Russia, England and the Central Asian deserts. Vasily Grigorievich was also interested in modern pedagogical methods of raising children, being one of the first to use the scout system as a method of training children, thus organizing the first squad at the St. Petersburg first men's classical gymnasium<sup>5</sup>, he became the founder of the scout movement in St. Petersburg in 1910.

### Yanchevetsky family

Vasily Grigorievich was born in Kiev the 4th of January, 1875 [or 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1874 on old style] in a large family of teacher of Greek and Latin languages Grigory Andreyevich Yanchevetsky and his wife Varvara Pompeevna Magerovskaya. At first, the young family occupied a government apartment provided by the gymnasium in which his father served, and with the birth of Vasily, they moved to a house on Khreshchatyk, donated by his grandmother. According to the memoirs of Vasily Grigorievich, relatives often stayed in their house, both in the line of the father and the mother. The father of Vasily Grigorievich, Grigoriy Andreevich Yanchevetsky, was born in Kremenets, in an extended family of a priest, a small village Oparipsa of the Volyn province, he entered the Volyn Theological Seminary in Pochaev. Vasily Grigorievich said that his father often recalled the upbringing in the seminary, which was imbued with the Ukrainian national spirit. The family of Yanchevetsky kept a lot of legends about their belligerent ancestors, who

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<sup>1</sup> Quote Persian poet of the XIII century Abu Muhammad Muslih ad-Din ibn Abd Allah Saadi Shirazi, written in the diary of V. G. Yanchevetsky.

<sup>2</sup> V. G. Yancheveczkij, Chingisxan (Moscow: 1939).

<sup>3</sup> V. G. Yancheveczkij, Baty'j (Moscow: 1942).

<sup>4</sup> V. G. Yancheveczkij, Put' k poslednemu moryu (Moscow: 1955).

<sup>5</sup> Located on Ivanovskaya street, 7. Today Socialisticheskaya street, 7.

fought with the “anathema” Uniates and served as scribes of the Zaporozhian Army, who went “to Turechina” and “to the lords”<sup>6</sup>, are preserved.

Despite on the fact that the Yanchevetsky family came from the clergy, in 1867 Grigory Andreyevich became the first to leave the seminary and entered Kiev University in the history and philology department. During his studies at the university, he first worked as a tutor for children from wealthy families, then he taught Greek and Latin languages in a closed secondary school – Pavel Galagan College in Kiev, and also translated ancient Greek poets. Father of Vasily Grigorievich, as well as himself, loved to travel. Thus, during the holidays, he repeatedly visited Greece and Germany, where he studied the history and methods of teaching and raising children in schools.<sup>7</sup>

In 1871 he graduated from it with the degree of candidate of philological sciences and entered the service in a private gymnasium as a teacher of ancient languages. Until the end of his life he remained a teacher and researcher of the works of ancient poets and philosophers<sup>8</sup>. In the same year he met his future wife, Varvara Pompeyevna Magerovskaya. She was from the famous kind of Zaporozhian Cossack Ostap Magro, who distinguished himself in the Battle of Kunersdorf during the Seven Years War and 12th of August, 1759 he was awarded a Medal for Valor, a farm in the possession and use, as well as the nobility, as a reward, thereby changing the name Magro on sonorous Magerovskiy<sup>9</sup>. Varvara Pompeevna’s parents were categorically against marrying their youngest daughter for a poor teacher. However, this did not stop the two lovers, and one night Grigory Andreyevich and Varvara Pompeyevna fled and a few days later they got married in Orel, and after that they returned to Kiev, where he continued to teach the ancient languages.

### **Early childhood of Vasily Yanchevetsky and moving to Revel**

In 1873 in the family of Grigori Andreevich and Varvara Pompeevna was born the eldest son Dmitri, and a year later the youngest Vasily. According to the recollections of relatives and close people, the younger son of the Yanchevetsky was “a restless mischievous, indefatigable visionary and inventor”<sup>10</sup>. From early childhood, he dreamed of visiting different countries of the world, and he carried this desire for movement, new places, travels

<sup>6</sup> M. V. Yancheveczki, *O moem otce.* (Tallin: 1988), 9.

<sup>7</sup> M. V. Yancheveczki, *O moem otce.* (Tallin: 1988), 9.

<sup>8</sup> L. E. Razgon, *V. Yan. Kritiko-biograficheskij ocherk* (Moscow: Sovetskij pisatel', 1969), 7.

<sup>9</sup> Interview with M. V. Yancheveczki in April 2006. Materials provided by former staff instructor of the team “Saint-Petersburg” North-West Department of Russian young scouts (ORUR) A. M. Rusanov during the research cooperation.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

through his life. In 1876, Grigory Andreevich with his family moved to St. Petersburg, where, in addition to teaching, he was active in the publication of one of the most popular artistic literary illustrated magazines "Picturesque Review"<sup>11</sup>. The Yanchevetsky settled in the apartment of a famous literary critic, translator, publisher and editor of the "Picturesque Review", which was located on the corner of Zabalkansky Avenue (today it is Moscow Avenue) and Zagorodny Avenue<sup>12</sup>. Obviously, from a young age, Vasily Grigorievich listened to the stories of his father and his colleagues, who were gathering at their house for dinner, about wandering through the ancient cities of Greece, the medieval streets of Germany or France, and about life in distant overseas countries like Brazil<sup>13</sup>.

In 1882, Grigory Yanchevetsky was appointed to work as an inspector and director of gymnasiums, first in Riga and then from 1886 in Revel (today Tallinn)<sup>14</sup>. With the arrival in the Baltics, where The Yanchevetsky lived for more than twenty years, Grigory Andreevich continued to cooperate with many newspapers. For example, while living in Riga, with "Riga Gazette", and when they moved to Revel, he organized the publication of several Russian-language newspapers and magazines as "Revelskie Izvestia", "Gymnasium" and "Pedagogical Weekly". Over the 21 years of his life in Revel (Tallinn), he published translations of the works of ancient authors like Homer and Xenophon. In 1903, at the age of 57, he passed away<sup>15</sup>.

In the spring of 1892, Vasily Grigorievich graduated from the Nicholas Gymnasium in Revel, whose teachers he recalled with deep gratitude for the "colorful stories from Russian and universal history" thanks to which he "loved this subject forever," and entered the verbal department of the History and Philology Department of St. Petersburg Imperial University<sup>16</sup>. At that time, his elder brother, Dmitry, was already studying at the university, therefore they lived together in a small room of a university student hostel. During his studies, Vasily Grigorievich listened lectures of many famous

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<sup>11</sup> Razgon, V. Yan. *Kritiko-biograficheskij ocherk*, 7.

<sup>12</sup> Today, on the site of the demolished apartment house of N. M. Rulev is the Metro Administration and the lobby of the metro station Technological Institute, built in 1955.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with M. V. Yancheveczki in April 2006. Materials provided by former staff instructor of the team "Saint-Petersburg" North-West Department of Russian young scouts (ORUR) A. M. Rusanov during the research cooperation.

<sup>14</sup> G. Ya. Baue`r, *Starejshaya gimnaziya v Rossii. Ocherki iz proshlogo Revel`skoj gimnazii Imperatora Nikolaya I.* (Revel: 1910), 41.

<sup>15</sup> Yancheveczki, *O moem otce*, 14.

<sup>16</sup> Lichnoe delo V. G. Yancheveczkogo, Central State Historical Archive of Saint Petersburg, F. 114, Op. 1, D. 11586, 51 p.

Russian scientists such as the historian V.I. Lamansky and the Slavist A.K. Sobolevsky, the historian of literature A.N. Veselovsky, the source study man K.N. Bestuzheva-Ryumin, S.F. Platonov, the founder of the methodology of Russian history A. S. Lappo-Danilevsky and etc.<sup>17</sup>

### Student years in St. Petersburg

During his student years, Vasily served as secretary to one of the employees of the newspaper St. Petersburg Vedomosti, and there he met the editor-publisher E. Ukhtomsky. In this period he was actively writes poetry<sup>18</sup>. For the first time with his last name, he subscribes to the "Literary collection of works by students of the Imperial St. Petersburg University," published in 1896. Edited by D. V. Grigorovich, A. N. Maykov and Ya. P. Polonsky. The publication of this collection was accompanied by a noble impulse of several young people-students who wished to come to the aid of their comrades, who had an urgent need for money<sup>19</sup>. The collection, published in favor of the Society for the Aid to Students, was published on luxurious paper and illustrated with drawings of students whose names subsequently became famous: N. K. Roerich, M. V. Dobuzhinsky. In this collection were placed three poems by V. G. Yanchevetsky: "Angel", "Not always to swirl the sky with clouds", "Oh, that you are life"<sup>20</sup>.

In 1898 he received his graduation certificate in the history and philology department of the Imperial St. Petersburg University<sup>21</sup>. However, despite the fact that Vasily Yanchevetsky after graduating from high school, he returned to St. Petersburg, he never forgot the city in which his school years were spent and often came to Revel. Here, in 1901, he published his first book, The Pedestrian Notes, which he dedicated to his father. After graduation, he went to Revel, where he was accepted to serve in the government chamber. However, the monotonous life of an official seemed unbearable to him, and then, he decided on a rare and strange step for a man of his environment and

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<sup>17</sup> Godichny'j akt Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta 8 fevralya 1899 g. Otchet o sostoyanii i deyatel'nosti Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta za 1898 g. (Saint-Petersburg: 1899), 102.

<sup>18</sup> M. V. Yancheveczkij *Pisatel'-istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva* (Moscow: 1977), 18.

<sup>19</sup> *Literaturny'j sbornik proizvedenij Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta / Pod redakciej D. V. Grigorovicha, A. N. Majkova, Ya. N. Polonskogo v pol'zu Obshhestva vspomoshhestvovaniya studentam Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta* (Saint-Petersburg: 1896), 3.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 238, 240, 421.

<sup>21</sup> Godichny'j akt Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta 8 fevralya 1899 g. Otchet o sostoyanii i deyatel'nosti Imperatorskogo Sankt—Peterburgskogo universiteta za 1898 g. (Saint-Petersburg: 1899), 102.

upbringing - he left to wander around Russia, researching folklore, life and language, customs of the people. It is interesting to note that the connection between V. G. Yanchevetsky and St. Petersburg always stayed strong. He used the agreement of E. Ukhomsky, editor-publisher of the "St. Petersburg Vedomosti", to print his future travel notes and essays. His essays were noticed by editors and publishers of the St. Petersburg press.

Passion for travel, love of books, stories and children of Vasily Grigorievich, as you can see, were "in the blood" - they were inherited.

The ancestors of Vasily Grigorievich along both lines of the clan lived in Volyn and in the Poltava region of modern Ukraine. From ancient times, these productive and rich lands, forests, pastures and freeland steppes were swept by invasions of various nomadic and other peoples - Scythians, Huns, Khazars, Mongols, Turks, Germans and Swedes, Poles and Lithuanians, French<sup>22</sup>.

### **Walking in the Russian provinces**

One day in the fall of 1898, on a cloudy and rainy day, he decided to go on a journey. In a sheepskin coat and high oiled boots, with a canvas bag behind his shoulders and a stick in his hand, Vasily Grigorievich went to wander for two years along country roads of Novgorod, Pskov, Vyatka provinces, in Ukraine. He studied the world around him, in life, which for him, as well as for his whole environment, was completely unfamiliar. "I felt a strange and strong feeling when I first put on a fur coat, abandoned all the habits that had accompanied me from childhood, all artistic and scientific interests and got into a crowd of men ..." - later recalled V. Yachevetsky about this journey<sup>23</sup>.

Stopping in hamlets and villages, he watched the daily life of peasants, spent the night in inns, in poor peasant huts, listened to and wrote down stories of simple men about their vagrancy in search of some kind of work, legends and tales of old residents, songs that peasant girls sang . Vasily Grigorievich cordially hosted rural teachers, lumberjacks and hunters in their huts. He noted that everyone under the modest "homely" half-starving appearance saw "big thoughts, generous hearts, perseverance, the desire to break free from the painful grip of need"<sup>24</sup>. The disenfranchised position of the peasants was reflected in all spheres of their life. Observing extremely difficult to be the peasants of that time, deep humiliation, illiteracy, constant malnutrition and disease. Yanchevetsky more than once thought about how

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<sup>22</sup> Yancheveczkij, O moem otce, 8.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel' -istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva*, 18.

enduring and tenacious of life people are. Wherever he had not been: on the shores of Lake Ilmen, in Novgorod, in fishing villages and peasant villages, in deep forests and dusty steppes, by sectarians near Lake Seliger and in the villages of Rzhev and Smolensk, in the "public school" A.S. Rachinsky near the village of Tatev and in the "Sunday Schools" for peasant girls in the Tula Gubernia, in the Iconographic School at the Trinity-Sergius Lavra, where the graduate of Rachinsky, the artist N.P. Bogdanov-Belsky, and in the women's "fraternity", organized by workers of the Great Yaroslavl Manufactory<sup>25</sup>.

From Simbirsk, passing along the Volga to Kazan, he dragged along with barge haulers a heavy barge with "Astrakhan merchandise", and from there a steppe went to the ancient city of Malmyzh, spending the night where it was necessary and talking with wanderers and peasants. He sent records of his observations from the road to Petersburg and Revel and later part of them was published in the "St. Petersburg Vedomosti" and "Revelskiy Izvestia". He also visited Old Multan, in Udmurtia, a town known for its "Multan case", he lived in the village of Kuznerki<sup>26</sup>.

When he traveling to Vologda and Lake Onega along the Mariinsky Canal (later the White Sea-Baltic Canal was built here), to the exile friend, student V. Vetrinsky (Cheshikhin), Vasily Grigorievich in Svir almost fell victim to a gangster gang who lured, robbed and killed the driveways, and was saved by a miracle, sailed on a caravan of barges with the "red goods". There, he met the old retired "sea wolf" - the foreman of the caravan, who told about many of his amazing voyages around the world. These wanderings gave Vasily Grigorievich the opportunity not only to see much, but also to "understand the soul of a simple Russian person, talented, patient, but therefore powerless"<sup>27</sup>.

### **Travel by bicycle in England**

In the fall of 1900, he met in St. Petersburg with the German poet "God-seeker" Rainer Maria Rilke, who also "walked" around Russia and claimed that the truth would come from Russia. They were the same age, they became friends, they agreed to "walk around Russia" together, and their acquaintance continued in correspondence. The essays of a young philologist and future writer on "Walking in Russia" were noticed by editors and publishers of the Petersburg press, and he was offered a "tour of Europe" for comparison with Russia. The end of 1899 and the beginning of 1900, Vasily Yanchevetsky spent

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<sup>25</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel'-istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva*, 19.

<sup>26</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel'-istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva*, 19.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, 20.



on a trip to England as a correspondent for the newspaper *Novoye Vremya* and *Revelskie Izvestia*. There he was met, and in many respects, by a former acquaintance, an Englishman who had previously trained at St. Petersburg University, for example, "Russophile" B. Peers. In England, the era of the zenith of its colonial power, V. Yang watched paintings of chauvinistic intoxication during the Anglo-Boer War, listened to the warlike speeches of young W. Churchill, R. Kipling's song, and spoke with the writer Conan Doyle and many others prominent British political figures of the late Victorian era.

Thus, together with B. Peers, they rode bicycles along many roads, cities and villages of Northern and Southern England, visited the miners of New Kestl and the dockers of Portsmouth, in rural schools, the Cambridge and the Peoples' Universities. Vasily Yanchevetsky worked in the great library of the British Museum in London, where for the first time he was able to familiarize himself with the works of Herzen and another Russian revolutionary press that was forbidden by the tsarist censorship.

### **The wanderings and the service of Yanchevetsky in the East**

In London, Vasily Yanchevetsky received a letter from China from his elder brother Dmitry, who offered to use his recommendation to serve in Central Asia in the office of the new head of the Trans-Caspian region<sup>28</sup>.

Despite the vivid impressions of this trip, they were almost not reflected in his books, except for the biographical novel "Robert Fulton" written by him in the early 30s and published in 1934<sup>29</sup>. The search for a new and passionate desire to know life in all its manifestations is what is characteristic of all the journeys of V. Yanchevetsky. All that 3 years of service "official office" Yanchevetsky were filled with travelling to near and far directions. Having bought a horse, he, together with the American geologist Hatington, on horseback crossed the great salt desert, reached the center of Persia, drove along the Persian-Afghan border, to Baluchistan, to the border of India. That journey during this period (1901-1904), firstly, gave him knowledge of oriental languages, the life of the peoples of the East, and secondly, to a large extent predetermined the range of interests of the future novelist<sup>30</sup>.

Riding alone or together with a guide in the expedition, he traveled along the Persian and Afghan frontiers, traveled across Northern Persia, crossed the Karakum, visited the Khiva khanate, on the oil developments of the Caspian

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<sup>28</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel'-istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva*, 22.

<sup>29</sup> Razgon, *V. Yan. Kritiko-biograficheskij ocherk*, 19.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, 21.

Sea and on the islands of lepers, on the Mangyshlak peninsula. He was several times in Tashkent, Samarkand, Fergana and in the Bukhara emirate.

As a member of the agricultural committee, he surveyed the villages of Kopet-Dagsky and Mervsky (Mary) districts and adjacent provinces of Northern Persia, organizing food aid, seeking funds to improve the lives of the population. He crossed the Karakum with the task of inspecting and correcting wells on the caravan road to Khiva. Visiting the Turkmen nomads, Vasily Grigorievich organized Turkmens for "gatherings" and listened to their complaints and wishes for a report to the head of the region. The Turkmen then lived outside the city, in their own nomads. The few groups of their felt tents sometimes appeared near the outskirts of the city. At that time, the Turkmen people were powerless nomadic people, deprived of the opportunity to govern their country, being under a double yoke: their feudal lords, the khans, and the royal governors<sup>31</sup>.

Travels in Central Asia gave the future author of the historical trilogy the richest material from observations and experiences, which served as a "storehouse of impressions" for his historical works; from here he subsequently drew inspiration for describing the life, culture and art of the peoples of the East, stories about the nature of the shores of the Caspian Sea, the Karakum desert, the ancient cities of Khiva and Bukhara, fortress walls and floodplain fields, cities and villages. Then he recognized and fell in love with horses, becoming their quite good expert<sup>32</sup>.

### **Correspondent service at the St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency**

Already at that time V.G. Yanchevetsky was not been an amateur and a seeker of antiquities who due to the shards of ancient utensils could not see the world around. Most of all he was interested in modernity, and in history he saw the opportunity to understand and explain those features and contradictions in the life of the peoples of the East, which he saw. He always kept a close eye on the development of events in Russia and, when the Russian-Japanese war broke out in the Far East, he immediately went there to witness one of the most dramatic pages of Russian history. When he got there, on the spot, the St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency offered him to become a correspondent<sup>33</sup>.

After the end of the Russian-Japanese war and not a long rest with relatives in Samara, Vasily Yang and his family lived in Tashkent for about a year,

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<sup>31</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel`-istorik V. Yan. Ocherk tvorchestva*, 23.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, 24.

<sup>33</sup> Razgon, *V. Yan. Kritiko-biograficheskij ocherk*, 22.

where he served in the Migration Board statistics of the Syrdarya resettlement party. In the fall of 1907, Vasily Yanchevetsky and his family set off on a long voyage around the Middle East. They visited the ports of Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon, walked along the old streets of Istanbul, Crete, Cairo, Beirut and Jerusalem.

During this period, he often traveled on different assignments of the newspaper "Russia" with which he collaborated. Among the many trips, three are particularly large and important for him. One of these took place in the summer of 1909, when he set off as part of an expedition that explored the Russian Arctic, on the ship "S. Witte. The expedition went from Arkhangelsk to the islands of Kolguyev and Vaigach, then to Novaya Zemlya in the Kara Sea, Yugorsky Shar and to the mouth of the Pechora. Thus, a group of researchers, using the ship, horses and boats, climbed up the Pechora River to the foothills of the Northern Urals<sup>34</sup>. In the summer of 1911, as a part of a delegation of Russian journalists, Vasily Yanchevetsky visited Belgrade, the capital of the-Serbia, at the 10th Congress of Slavic Journalists. In correspondence sent from the congress, Vasily Yanchevetsky wrote about the ideological disorder of its delegates who were deprived of unifying social unity. At the end of this trip in the fall of the same year, Yanchevetsky left for Central Asia in search of the former Shah of Persia Mohammed Ali, overthrown from the throne by the bourgeois revolution of 1908 and once lived in Russia and returned to Persia in the hope of restoring the throne. Being at great risk in the conditions of the Civil war that was raging in Iran, Vasily Grigorievich sought out Mohammed-Ali and received a welcome interview, about which he immediately informed the Petersburg Telegraph Agency<sup>35</sup>. The outbreak of the First World War brought Vasily Grigorievich to Romania, to Bucharest, and when the German troops moved the Entente's allies away from Bucharest, he moved to Iasi, where he was by the time of the Russian revolution in 1917.

### **Homecoming**

For Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky, the collapse of the autocracy in Russia, as it seemed to him, the powerful and vast Russian empire was an unexpected shock. However, unlike many Russian officers, bureaucrats and journalists, who at that time found themselves together with him abroad, Vasily Grigorievich Yanchevetsky could not imagine life outside of Russia, the life of an emigrant. And, although he was offered very favorable terms of

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<sup>34</sup> Yancheveczkij *Pisatel'*-istorik V. Yan. *Ocherk tvorchestva*, 27.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, 28.

cooperation with the largest foreign telegraph agencies, he preferred life in his homeland full of obscurity and hardships<sup>36</sup>. Thus, in 1918, he returned to Russia, where the entire country was already engulfed in a fire of civil war. Due to various circumstances, he was not in Central Russia, but in the Siberian city of Uryanhai (the current Tuva Autonomous Region), and then in Minusinsk, where he lived until 1923<sup>37</sup>. In Siberia, he changed many different professions. He worked as a village clerk, and a teacher, and served as a watchman at the mill, engaged in arable farming. However, with the strengthening of Soviet power in the country, he began work in the newly created newspaper, "Power of the Labor", in Minusinsk.

After the difficult years of the past wars and revolution, in 1924 Yanchevetsky returned to the capital city, but already to Moscow. He came here with great zeal for creativity and literary work. First, he settled to serve in the Financial and Economic Bureau of the State Bank, for which he mastered a completely new profession of economist. However, the free spirit and travel to Vasily Grigorievich in 1926 led him to transfer to Central Asia, to Samarkand, to the same position in the State Bank. This period of the life of Vasily Yanchevetsky ended in 1929 and the next one began as a famous Soviet writer and historian.

### **Conclusion**

In 1930, Vasily Grigorievich decided to leave the service and devote all his time to literature. He led meticulous and long-term work on the study of the historical era, about which he wrote. During these years his travels ended and he expressed all the accumulated experience in his work. During this period, he spent all his days in the halls of Moscow libraries, where he worked on materials of historical novels and stories. In 1942, Vasily Yan was awarded the Stalin Prize I degree for the novel "Genghis Khan." Thus, the study of the biography of Vasily Grigorievich as a teacher, the founder of the scout movement in St. Petersburg, the writer reveals many interesting plots and facts, uncover him as a multifaceted talented person who certainly deserves study and attention from researchers.

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<sup>36</sup> Razgon, V. Yan. *Kritiko-biograficheskiy ocherk*, 22.

<sup>37</sup> *İbid.*

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