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“Bearing in Mind His Past Activities, Save His Life”: Letter to St. Petersburg Workers in Support of G. S. Khrustalev-Nosar, Ex-Head of the Petersburg Soviet: 1905

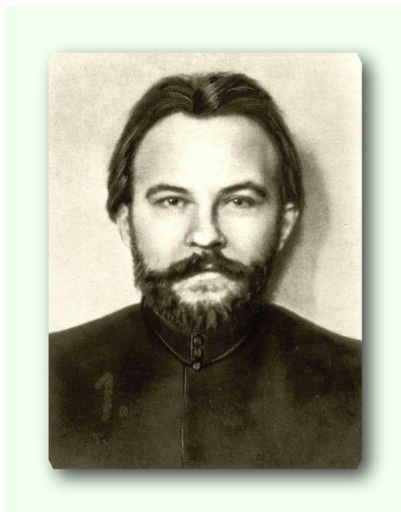
Abstract

The article draws on archival documents to analyze the matter of St. Petersburg workers rendering their financial support to G. S. Khrustalev-Nosar, former chairman of the St. Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies (1905) who fell ill with tuberculosis while in emigration in Paris. The article is to consider archival documents on labor movement in St. Petersburg in 1912 and to provide their comparative analysis in order to assess workers' attitudes towards former chairman of the St. Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies (1905). Comparison of record keeping documents (primarily, of police and court) from the fonds of the State Archive of

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the Russian Federation and materials from periodical press (“Istoricheskii Vestnik”) allows to identify who and when wrote the letter and to verify information stated therein (in particular, the fact of the former chairman’s illness and that of financial support rendered him by workers). The research gives an opportunity to flesh out the existing notions on G.S. Khrustalev-Nosar’s role in the Russian labor movement in the early 20th century: he was respected by St. Petersburg workers, who, as the article proves, remembered both him and the activities of the St. Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies in 1905. This fact proves the importance of the idea of a Soviet in St. Petersburg workers’ minds. The article is of significance as it is necessary to establish the fact that social communications between the intelligentsia and the people took place. It supplements the existing views on the role of intellectuals in the revolutionary events and their interactions with the people in the early 20th century in particular. The author has made a contribution to studying Russian history, as he has added to the knowledge of connections between worker and revolutionary movements in 1905–1917.



Keywords

Historical source, Peterburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies, proletariat, Khrustalev-Nosar, First

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Russian Revolution of 1905–1907, solidarity of workers, Russian worker movement.

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