

Nataliya Kashevarova,
Candidate of Historical Sciences (Ph. D. in History),
Doctoral Candidate in History,
Institute of History of Ukraine
of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
(Kyiv, Ukraine)
ORCID 0000-0003-2426-0440
e-mail: nataliya.kashevarova@gmail.com

**DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE FUEHRER FOR
THE SUPERVISION OF THE ENTIRE INTELLECTUAL
AND IDEOLOGICAL SCHOOLING AND TRAINING
OF THE NSDAP (1934–1945) OF ALFRED ROSENBERG IN THE
FEDERAL ARCHIVES OF GERMANY: A SOURCE STUDY ASPECT**

The purpose of the research is to characterize the composition and content of the documents of the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP (hereinafter – the Rosenberg Office) to determine the place of these documents in the source base of the study of the history of the Third Reich, to analyze their information potential as sources on the history of national socialist ideology and occupation policy. **The research methodology** is based on scientific principles of historicism, objectivity, and systematicity, represented by historical-comparative and historical-archival methods, as well as methods of source analysis. **The scientific novelty.** The documents of the Rosenberg Office as a complete

documentary complex have not yet been the subject of scientific research, although some historians have used these documents as sources for the history of National Socialism, A. Rosenberg's biographical portrait, but they were not considered as sources for the ideological component of the Nazi occupation policy. **Conclusions.** A brief analysis of the documents of the Rosenberg Office allows us to conclude that these documents are valuable sources for studying the history of the development of the National Socialism ideology and its influence through the NSDAP system. Among them, there are plans, orders, instructions, reflecting objectives and structure of the Rosenberg Office, functions of its departments, ideological materials on anti-Semitism, Bolshevism,

religion, as well as reference materials on National Socialist figures in the field of culture. A special place among the documents of the Service is held by materials covering its participation in the ideological training of Wehrmacht officers, as well as biographical sources documents on the activities of the staff of the Rosenberg Office. These documents also reveal its ties with a wide range of

other Nazi agencies that participated in the process of creating Nazi propaganda.

Key words: World War II, National Socialism, ideology, the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP, archival documents, the Federal Archives of Germany.

Relevance of the research topic. For many years, the researchers of the history of World War II and the ideology of Nazism focused on the problems of studying the activities of its authorities and representatives of the elite, who determined the foundations of the ideology and destructive policy of Nazism, the functioning of various administrative and military structures, the system of governance of the occupied territories. But there were other German institutions, less known to researchers outside Germany, whose documents are also sources on the concept of the influence of National Socialist ideology on the policy in the Nazi-occupied territories and its methods. Even the activities of the National Socialist Workers' Party of Germany (German: Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, hereinafter NSDAP) and its subordinate organizations are rarely included by Ukrainian historians in their research, not only within the framework of the occupation policy of the Third Reich but also in studies on various aspects of Nazi ideology and propaganda.

One of such structures of the NSDAP, which participated in the development and dissemination of Nazi ideology, and its inclusion in the occupation policy, was the service of the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP (German: Der Beauftragte des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP, hereinafter the Rosenberg Office¹) headed by Alfred Rosenberg, one of the highest statesmen of the Third Reich.

¹ There are different variants of the abbreviated name in German: Amt Rosenberg and Dienststelle Rosenberg. In German documents of the 1930s and 1940s, both of them were used along with the abbreviation of its full name – DBFU. R. Boll-

Although researchers are more familiar with the activities of two other structures of A. Rosenberg – the Reichsleiter Rosenberg Taskforce (German: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, hereinafter the ERR)² (1940–1945), which dealt with the confiscation of cultural property in some Nazi-occupied European countries and materials for the study of the so-called “enemies of National Socialism” (Bolshevism, Jewry, and Freemasonry), and The Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories (German: Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete)³ (1941–1945), created to administer the Nazi-occupied territories of the USSR, which he headed.

But in the Third Reich, Rosenberg was not only considered one of the ideologues of National Socialism and an expert on the Soviet Union, but was also one of the well-known NSDAP functionaries of the highest rank, therefore he was authorized by A. Hitler to carry out political training and ideological education among members of the NSDAP, which was reflected in the name of the Rosenberg Office.

The existence of this Office in the NSDAP was also the result of the political ambitions of A. Rosenberg himself, who at that time was a well-known ideologist of National Socialism. He was responsible for generalizing the ideological experience of the NSDAP, of which he was a member from the beginning of its foundation, as well as the historical substantiation of the worldview concept of the advantages of the “Nordic” blood, soul, and strength, and the historical rights of the “Nordic” race to dominate the world, with a focus on the future war, which should be waged under the auspices of the struggle against world Jewry, Freemasonry, and Bolshevism. Its

mus used the name “Amt Rosenberg”, but in NSDAP documents “Dienststelle Rosenberg” is more common. We use here the term “Rosenberg Office”. But it should not be confused with the office of Rosenberg or his secretariat as Reichsleiter (or Chancellery, German: Kanzlei Rosenberg).

² Formally, “Reichsleiter Rosenberg Taskforce” was an independent structure in the system of A. Rosenberg’s services, but in fact it was created under the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP, not under Rosenberg’s NSDAP Office of Foreign Affairs or The Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories.

³ Literally, “Imperial Ministry...”, but the part “Imperial” (German: Reich) is omitted by default, because in this case, as well as when mentioning other ministries of the Third Reich, it is clear that it is the highest state authorities of the Reich.

postulates were summarized in 1930 in the publication of the book “The Myth of the Twentieth Century: An Evaluation of the Spiritual-Intellectual Confrontations of Our Age”⁴, which has withstood dozens of reprints and was on the desk of all members of the NSDAP together with the book “My Struggle” by Adolf Hitler⁵.

In this way, A. Rosenberg sought not only to control the sphere of ideology and propaganda in the NSDAP but to extend his influence and control to the sphere of culture (art, publishing, etc.) and humanitarian knowledge (universities and societies), and to some extent – to public administration through political training of administrative personnel through NSDAP’s branched system. With the outbreak of World War II, A. Rosenberg tried to influence the ideological component of the occupation policy, not only as the head of The Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories but also as the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP.

Analysis of research and publications. Most of the documents of the Rosenberg Office are preserved in NS 15 fond (“Der Beauftragte des Führers für die Überwachung der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP”) in the German Federal Archives (German: Bundesarchiv) in Berlin⁶. For decades, various Western European historians partially used the German Federal Archives documents as historical sources, but specialists from the post-Soviet space rarely used these documents in their research. This situation has remained unchanged even after the current composition of the fond was finally formed. In addition, this documentary complex, most of which is concentrated in the fond NS 15, has not yet been the subject of a documentary and archival reconstruction.

⁴ See: Alfred Rosenberg. *Der Mythos des 20. Jahrhunderts: Eine Wertung der seelisch-geistigen Gestaltenkämpfe unserer Zeit*. München: Hoheneichen-Verlag, 1930, 670 S. The last edition of this book (as a historical source) took place in 2018: Alfred Rosenberg. *Der Mythos des 20. Jahrhunderts: Eine Wertung der seelisch-geistigen Gestaltenkämpfe unserer Zeit* / Adrian Preißinger, Leipzig: Verlag Der Schelm, 2018. 711 S. In Russian: *Миф XX века: Оценка духовно-интеллектуальной борьбы нашего времени*. Таллинн, 1998. 512 (527) с.

⁵ See: Hitler A. *Mein Kampf*. München: F. Eher Nachf., 1930. 782 S.

⁶ The contents of the collection can be viewed on the website of the Federal Archive, in the search database section Invenio: <https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/>

At the moment there is only one monograph specific to the documents of the Rosenberg Office, “Rosenberg’s Office and its Opponents” with the subtitle “A Study of the Struggle for Power in the National Socialist System of Dominance” by Reinhard Bollmus [1]⁷. It is devoted to the place of the Rosenberg Office in the NSDAP system and its role in the internal politics of the Third Reich. The monograph was published in 1970 and has already had several reprints since then. Besides R. Bollmus, German researcher Ernst Piper actively used these materials in his publication on the life and work of A. Rosenberg – “Alfred Rosenberg. Hitler’s Chief Ideologue”, which, in our opinion, is the most thorough study of the life of A. Rosenberg that exists today [2].

But even here his activity as the Commissioner is presented mainly in view of its role in domestic policy. Among the latest popular science publications devoted to the figure of A. Rosenberg, we should also mention the book “Alfred Rosenberg: Pioneer of the Holocaust. Biography” by the German journalist and publicist Volker Koop [3]⁸. The book also briefly discusses the activities of the Rosenberg Office, the ERR, and other state agencies, but the author also focused on the person of A. Rosenberg as one of the perpetrators of the Holocaust and his anti-Semitic views.

The documents of the Rosenberg Office were also used as sources by scholars who studied the ideology of National Socialism in general and the services created by A. Rosenberg but to a limited extent. One of the first in the post-Soviet space to use them as a source was the researcher V.A. Bukhanov [4]⁹. He used documents from that part of the archive fond of the

⁷ But it should be emphasized that at the time of writing this work, the author did not have the opportunity to use a number of documents of the Rosenberg Office, since the NS 15 fond known to us in its current form had not yet been formed, and a large part of its documents was kept in the German Democratic Republic

⁸ Among the publications of recent years dedicated to A. Rosenberg, the following can be mentioned: Баринов И. Альфред Розенберг: жизнь как миф. [Москва]: Indie Science Press, 2017. 375 с. (Barinov I. Alfred Rosenberg: life as a myth. [Moscow]: Indie Science Press, 2017. 375 p.). But in our opinion, this publication and V. Koop’s book are inferior to E. Piper’s book.

⁹ The book is a posthumous reprint of the author’s two significant publications during his lifetime, based on the materials of his dissertations. But, for example, the author does not make an in-depth distinction between the Rosenberg Office and the ERR, but probably because he worked with the Rosenberg Office fond at the

Rosenberg Office, which at the time of the author's work with them was still kept in the Central State Archives in Potsdam (this part was transferred to the Federal Archives only in the 2000s). But the subject of his research was the philosophical and ideological basis of war, among other things, exactly how A. Rosenberg involved the works of other like-minded people in the concepts of war planning and ideologues. At the same time, V. Bukhanov considered the activities of the services created by Rosenberg only as an element of the general ideological policy of Nazism, fragmentarily and without source-based analysis.

The functioning of the Rosenberg Office and its role have also been briefly mentioned by various scholars dealing with the problem of displaced cultural property, namely, the activities of the ERR, which was closely connected with the Rosenberg Office. In particular, the problems associated with the functioning of individual units of the Rosenberg Office or related structures of the ERR, such as the so-called Rosenberg Eastern Library (German: Ostbücherei Rosenberg) – a collection of the history of Bolshevism and the people inhabiting the USSR. It was formed of library collections taken by the ERR from the territory of the Soviet Union [5].

The activities of the so-called “special staffs” (from the German “Sonderstab”/ “Sonderstäbe”) – special services that were formed from the employees of individual thematic departments¹⁰ of the Rosenberg Office, such as history, ethnography, and music departments and their actions in the occupied territories at the local stationary units of the ERR – were partially studied. The main objectives of said activities were to review and select cultural and scientific properties for future confiscation in particular areas, including historical and archaeological objects, musical instruments, and printed materials in the field of music, scientific collections, etc.¹¹.

turn of the 1980s – 1990s, which at that time was called “Dienststelle Rosenberg” (that is “Rosenberg Office”, this is exactly the Office of the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP), and as a source he used exactly the documents of the ERR, which were part of this fond.

¹⁰ Or “offices / main offices”.

¹¹ See: Vries, W. de. *Kunstraub im Westen 1940–1945: Alfred Rosenberg und der “Sonderstab Musik”*. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer-Taschenbuch-Verlag, 2000. 380 S.; Haken, B. *Der Einsatzstab Rosenberg und die Erfassung musikalischer*

There are few studies of the Higher School of the NSDAP (or Advanced School of the NSDAP) (German: die Hohe Schule der NSDAP) – the future elite Nazi university, the creation of which was also initiated by A. Rosenberg in the second half of the 1930s [6, 7]. It was supposed to be “*the central place of National Socialist research, education, and training*” [8, Bl. 1]¹². Its system was to include several scientific institutes, for example, the Institute for the Research on the Jewish Question (German: Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage), the Institute for Biology and Racial Theory (German: Institut für Biologie und Rassenlehre), etc., and the Central Library (German: Zentralbibliothek der Hohen Schule), which was also replenished with materials confiscated in the territory of European countries occupied by the Nazis.

The main purpose of the study is to characterize the composition and content of the archival documents of the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP, stored in the Federal Archives of Germany, to determine the peculiarities of the place of these documents and their place in the source base of the study of the history of the Third Reich, to analyze their information potential as sources on the history of national socialist ideology and its influence on the occupation policy, to highlight the links of these documents with the documents of the other Nazi agencies and services.

The scientific novelty of the study is that the documents of the Rosenberg Office as a documentary complex have not yet been the subject of research, although some historians have used them as sources on the history of National Socialism, and propaganda among members of the NSDAP. However, they did not consider them as sources on the ideological component of the Nazi occupation policy, for example, the ideological struggle against Bolshevism.

Kulturgüter in Westeuropa während des Zweiten Weltkrieges. In *Acta Musicologica*. 2019, 91(2), 101–125. About special staffs see: Кашеварова Н. Діяльність Оперативного штабу Розенберга з вивчення нацистами “східного простору” (1940–1945). Ч. 1. К.: Інститут історії України, 2014. 552 с. In general, of all A. Rosenberg’s services in recent decades, the activity of the ERR has been most actively studied, see the publications of P.K. Grimsted, T. Sebta, L. Dubrovina, N. Maloletova, N. Kashevarova, Iu. Genina and others.

¹² Hereinafter, when referring to German archival documents, the sheets are not indicated, if the documents in the archival folder do not have a continuous serial numbering. In this case, only the folder number is given.

Little attention was paid to their place among the documents of other Nazi services working in the field of propaganda. Instead, the involvement of the documents of the Rosenberg Office in their entirety in the study allows us to present various aspects of the ideology of National Socialism more deeply.

Presentation of the main material. The creation of the Rosenberg Office was preceded by the activities of services and organizations founded or supervised by A. Rosenberg. Among them the NSDAP Office of Foreign Affairs (German: das Außenpolitische Amt der NSDAP) and the Union for the Struggle for German Culture (or «Militant League for German Culture») (German: der Kampfbund für deutsche Kultur), which united several German National Socialist figures related to the sphere of culture and others. On January 24, 1934, A. Hitler entrusted A. Rosenberg with the supervision of “*all spiritual and ideological training and education*” in the NSDAP, and for this purpose, a new service with the same name was founded in the NSDAP.

The plans for the scope of activities of the newly created Rosenberg Office are evidenced, for example, by A. Rosenberg’s appeal to the head of the Imperial Treasury, Franz Schwarz, dated April 14, 1934. In this letter, A. Rosenberg outlined the scope of work to be carried out by this structure to obtain as much funding as possible. Rosenberg emphasized this service is founded on the instructions of Hitler: “... *you can already see how extensive and diverse this work will be, and its result must be decisive for the ideological stability of the entire nation.*” Rosenberg also notes that he has been asked by the Minister of Defense to oversee training in the Wehrmacht and that many other organizations can be invited to cooperate. He asked for his support in traveling around Germany, as he would have to speak at party meetings in all party constituencies and participate in the activities of various organizations supervised by the NSDAP. He also planned that his Office would monitor schools, and check reports and printed materials [9, Bl. 200].

The Rosenberg Office initially started its work with the help of the Union for the Struggle for German Culture in Berlin (1928–1934). Its employees were to be transferred to the Rosenberg Office, and this working circle was to be strengthened by personnel from all over Germany. The location of this Office was chosen in the complex of buildings at Margaretenstraße 17 in Berlin, where there was enough space to accommodate the NSDAP Foreign Office and the Rosenberg Office, while other Rosenberg services were already

located elsewhere in Berlin, such as the Office for the Support of German Literature (German: Reichsstelle zur Förderung des Deutschen Schrifttums), responsible for the verification of German literature and was engaged in over-viewing works of German literature for their compliance with the National Socialist ideology, and cooperating with various party services.

Rosenberg emphasized involving about 200 people in the creation of the Office – teachers, scientists, and journalists, who had to work voluntarily. He planned for direct financing by the Imperial Treasury but was financed by the Treasury of the NSDAP. At the same time, Rosenberg outlined the task of the future Cultural and Political Archive in the structure of the Rosenberg Office: to collect information about all German cultural organizations and their activities, party publications, events in the field of science and culture, foreign press, and also attacks against Germany and its National Socialist worldview [9, Bl. 200–201].

The structure of the Rosenberg Office was reorganized several times during the 1930s, and with the outbreak of World War II, its tasks were also expanded. On October 29, 1937, the project on its development and its cooperation with German educational institutions, prepared jointly with R. Ley¹³, with whom Rosenberg initially cooperated, was submitted to SS Reichsführer H. Himmler. The fulfillment of the tasks was noted; on one hand, cooperation of the Rosenberg Office with all educational institutions of the NSDAP was required, on the other hand, there was a clear separation of tasks between the Rosenberg Office and other party structures. The task of ideological supervision envisaged that the Rosenberg Office was to prepare educational materials of ideological content and relevant curricula for training personnel in the NSDAP. The head of the NSDAP Main School Office (German: Hauptschulungsamt der NSDAP), as well as persons responsible for training in other party structures, were to be appointed subject to the approval of the Rosenberg Office [10, Bl. 154–155].

¹³ Robert Ley (1890–1945) – one of the highest state leaders of the Third Reich, the head of the organizational department of the NSDAP, the head of the German Labor Front (Deutsche Arbeitsfront). In the 1930s he developed the idea of organizing NSDAP schools, including the so-called “order castles” for training the young elite of the NSDAP and Adolf Hitler’s schools for the education of the younger generation.

The structure and functions of the Rosenberg Office corresponded with the conceptual views of A. Rosenberg before 1934 is covered in his publications, including some in “The Myth of the Twentieth Century”. They were enshrined in the program provisions of the NSDAP regularly published in the official party collection “Organization of the NSDAP” (German: Organisationsbuch der NSDAP). They corresponded to the directions of training in the sphere of dissemination of worldview information and control over cultural, educational, and scientific organizations, formation of the mentality of the German people in the spirit of the National Socialist ideology. Therefore, it was planned to create about 15 units within the Office, although that number changed due to reorganizations. Among them were units responsible for history, Nazi worldview, literature and publishing, art, party education, its organization and provision, control of educational materials, etc., and the already mentioned Cultural and Political Archive. The materials collected by the Rosenberg Office were also to be transferred to the NSDAP archive [11, p. 391–392].

The main task of the Rosenberg Office, according to Hitler’s order, was to determine a single goal for the ideological position of the party, all its services and organizations, and its implementation. Therefore, education and upbringing in the circle of tasks of the Rosenberg Office also included culture and humanities. Therefore, Rosenberg was also subordinated, in particular to The Reich Working Group for the Education of the Entire Movement (German: Die Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft für die Schulung der gesamten Bewegung), The Working Group for German Folklore (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der deutschen Volkskunde), the Imperial Union for German Prehistory (Der Reichsbund für deutsche Vorgeschichte), and several other societies. It also had to ensure the work of the Imperial Service for The Support of German Literature. The Rosenberg Office was also responsible for several serial party publications, for example, “Die nationalsozialistischen Monatshefte”, “Die Kunst im Dritten Reich”, “Die Bücherkunde”, “Die Musik”, “Germanenerbe”, which were to be prepared by the units of the Rosenberg Office [12, Bl. 2–3]. A. Rosenberg was also in charge of the newspaper “Völkischer Beobachter” – the official organ of the NSDAP.

Since the late 1930s, A. Rosenberg tried to extend the control function of his Office to control scientific publications that were being prepared for

publication in various services of the NSDAP. He also retained control over the publication of dictionaries and reference books on ideological, historical, cultural, political topics [8].

In February 1940, an order by Hitler was prepared to appoint A. Rosenberg as the “Commissioner for the National Socialist Worldview”. This appointment reflected Rosenberg’s desire to exert ideological influence on the Wehrmacht in connection with the deployment of German military operations in Europe. His powers also included the right to issue directives to the highest party and state bodies. At the same time, it was stipulated that Rosenberg retained the position of the head of the Rosenberg Office, which at the same time had to ensure his work as the Commissioner for the National Socialist worldview. Drafts of the order, containing comments from various government services and Rosenberg himself, and relevant correspondence, can be found in the NS 8 (Rosenberg Chancellery) fonds in the Federal Archives of Germany [13, 14, 15], but no information has been found yet on whether this order was approved.

In November 1940, A. Rosenberg, as the Commissioner, reached an agreement with the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht, the text of which was sent to all Reichsleiters, NSDAP Gauleiters, and heads of departments, as “*the current friendly relations between the Wehrmacht and the Party must be ideologically strengthened for the sake of the future*” [9, Bl. 5]. Rosenberg was concerned about the possibility of weakening the ideological beliefs of Wehrmacht soldiers in connection with their stay in the German-occupied territories and, given the plans for further war in Eastern Europe, sought to strengthen ideological training. He explained the need to conclude such an agreement: “*the task of the movement’s educational work is to explain to the German people the deep historical meaning of their fateful struggle, to strengthen and support it. At the same time, it is necessary to demonstrate and constantly justify the need to defend the National Socialist movement as a carrier of a new social and political order of life*” [8].

The Rosenberg Office, and especially the unit for Wehrmacht training, undertook the task to provide the Wehrmacht with instructions for ideological training and the necessary materials, to check and approve training materials on National Socialist ideology, manuals, plans, to organize special courses, to

provide speakers and training materials for this purpose. Also, the Office had to form bibliographic lists of literature for military libraries and provide the military with such materials.

With the beginning of the military campaign in the USSR, the tasks of the Rosenberg Office were expanded, now also to the sphere of the ideological battle against Bolshevism. Besides heading the administrative affairs of the Office, as of 1943, the main subdivisions included departments for education planning, prehistory, science, literature, art, and press [16, S. 312–312b]. Employees of these departments became part of the above-mentioned special staff at the ERR to represent the interests of the Rosenberg Office in the occupied territories.

Information on the staff and budget of the Rosenberg Office varies due to gaps in the source base. R. Bollmus provides data that as of 1938 the number of its employees reached 150, and in 1943 there were already more than 300 of them. The funding of all Rosenberg's services ranged from one to two million Reichsmarks, but this was not truly compared to the tens of millions per year received by J. Goebbels and R. Ley [1, S. 330–331]. More often we can find summary data on all the services created by A. Rosenberg, and related to each other organizationally or financially¹⁴.

Most of the documents of the Rosenberg Office are kept in the Federal Archives of Germany, as part of the NS 15 fond. According to the Federal Archive, its current composition was formed as a result of combining several groups of documents transferred from different archives. In particular, the collection was based on the documents of the Office, which were exported to the USA and returned to the Federal Republic of Germany in 1959, 1962–1963, mainly by the Federal Records Center in Alexandria (Virginia, USA). In 1998, the collection was replenished with documents that were taken to the USSR at the end of the war and transferred by it to the Central State Archives of the German Democratic Republic in Potsdam in the late 1950s. In 2004, another portion of the documents of the Rosenberg Office was trans-

¹⁴ The exceptions are the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, which was the administrative occupation authority, and the ERR, which worked in the occupied territories and had clear tasks outlined by the period of the war and its ideological tasks.

ferred from the so-called “National Socialist Archive” of the Ministry of State Security of the former German Democratic Republic.

The NS 15 fond consist of 790 files from 1920–1945. The documents before 1934 belong mainly to the archives of the Rosenberg Office and were included in the collection before 1945. The fonds is also diverse in its composition, as the Rosenberg Office, although a structure of the NSDAP, extended its influence through the sphere of ideological education to the state structures responsible for writing and printing, culture, history, art, and teaching in schools and universities. Almost the entire fond has been digitized¹⁵. We can view its description and contents on the website of the Federal Archive, through the search engine Invenio. According to the description, the documents in the search engine are not presented in sequential order but are systematized by origin for easy search and use¹⁶. They are structured according to the organizational structure of the Rosenberg Office into several large groups.

The first group is represented by the documents of Rosenberg as Reichsleiter. These are mainly documents representing correspondence on behalf of the Commissioner with state and party services (15 files), speeches, and publications by A. Rosenberg himself, as well as press materials related to A. Rosenberg as a Reichsleiter and the Rosenberg Office (11 files).

The second group of materials consists of the documentation of the administrative office (or the administrative unit, German: Zentralamt), which performed organizational and coordinating functions, and at the same time – the functions of the Chancellery. Among them are official documents, mainly correspondence with various departments and services for 1941, formed in the clerical order (files No. 261–287, 27 in total), for January–April 1941, June–October 1941. Eight files are regarding personnel and administrative issues, for example, the division of responsibilities of units, with the

¹⁵ As of mid-2022, 701 files out of 790 have been digitized. However, several files from a small group of unidentified documents were not found at the time of digitization, which was noted in the description as “Der Band ... ist zum Zeitpunkt der Verfilmung nicht vorhanden” (“The volume (or the file) ... is not available at the time of filming”).

¹⁶ The description of the NS 15 fonds was prepared by Kristin Hartisch in 2009, so she described and systematized the documents of the collection in their present state.

294 distribution of information materials, for 1943–1945. But there are practically no documents for 1942 in this group.

Another ten files of the second group contain documents on the structure of the Rosenberg Office for different years. Among them, there are organizational plans with the structure of departments and agencies of the Rosenberg Office with tasks prescribed, staff lists, documents on the subordination of the Rosenberg Office, priority areas of its work, internal circulars, orders, etc. They are valuable sources on the history of the creation of the Office and its reorganization, reflecting A. Rosenberg's plans to expand the sphere of his influence in the field of training and education in the NSDAP and the Wehrmacht. Another documentary complex in this group is represented by personal documents of the Rosenberg Office staff (files No. 1–18) and files of mixed content, which also contain personal documents (five files). These documents are interesting biographical sources because sometimes the same person held several positions in the different services of A. Rosenberg, for example, is not only in the Office's staff but also in the ERR.

These two groups of documents are interesting not only because they contain speeches and articles by A. Rosenberg, which highlight his views as an ideologist of the NSDAP. They allow us to reconstruct the connections of both A. Rosenberg himself as Reichsleiter and his Office, inside the Third Reich and outside it. Among them are the Office (or Chancellery) of the NSDAP and the branches of the NSDAP in various party districts (Gau), party structures such as the Hitler Youth (German: Hitlerjugend) and the National Socialist Women's League (German: Nationalsozialistische Frauenschaft), the office of Reichsführer SS H. Himmler, the SA (German: Sturmabteilungen, English: Storm Detachment) and SD (German: Sicherheitsdienst, English: Security Service), the Reich Labour Service (German: Reichsarbeitsdienst), the National Socialist German Students' Union (German: Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund), the editorial offices of various German periodicals and serials, and publishing houses. They also allow us not only to characterize their place in the NSDAP system but also to determine what practical impact they had on the field of education, for example, in terms of printing and dissemination of educational materials with ideological content, organization of exhibitions, lectures and seminars, other propaganda work, etc.

The third group of documents in the NS 15 fond is represented by the materials of the “Art” department (German: Amt Kunstpflege¹⁷) of the Rosenberg Office, which are divided into two groups. The first one is the records of the Cultural and Political Archive (137 files), and the second one is the records of the “Music” department (28 files) (German: Amt Musik). The materials of the Cultural and Political Archive contain a large number of reference materials on various persons from the sphere of culture, education, and science. Among them were not only those who promoted National Socialism, but also, for example, musicians, writers, and artists who, from the point of view of Nazi Germany, were of “non-Aryan” origin or held communist views. The documents of the “Music” department contain correspondence of its head Herbert Gerigk, materials on composers and musical societies, organization of musical events, etc. Among them are also materials on the confiscation of literature on the history of music, musical works, and instruments in the Nazi-occupied territories.

The fourth group of documents, the largest, is composed of materials from the department “Worldview Information” (299 files) of the Rosenberg Office. Besides the official documents on the organization of the department and its employees (27 files), this group contains materials on history, philosophy, the history of religion and the church, the international situation in Europe, the ideological battle against Bolshevism, as well as documents with anti-Semitic content (272 files in total). Among them, there are the works of the librarian and theologian Johannes Pohl, a member of the Institute for the Research on the Jewish Question of the Higher School of the NSDAP.

The fifth group is represented by the documents of the department “Science”¹⁸ (108 files) of the Rosenberg Office. They cover the vision of the role of humanities in the spread of National Socialism, the links between German science and Nazi propaganda, the scientific tasks of the Higher School of the NSDAP, the preparation publications of the NSDAP on the importance of science, reference materials on German scientists and research institutions of various profiles, the study of the so-called “German heritage” (German: Germanenerbe) in Europe, etc.

¹⁷ Literally: “Caring for art”, or “Caring for art, objects of art”.

¹⁸ Basically, it’s about the humanities, not about exact and natural sciences.

The sixth and seventh groups of documents are the smallest, each of them is represented by only one file. This is one file from the “Writing” department and one file from the “Training Planning” department. But it should be noted that the documents of these two departments within the Rosenberg Office can be found in the documents of other departments, as well as among the materials of Rosenberg’s chancellery.

The eighth group contains documents covering the preparations for the establishment of the Higher School of the NSDAP and its institutes. For example, documents on the foundation, financing, tasks, and future structure of the Higher School, including its Central Library. Various information materials of propaganda content can also be found here. Besides these eight groups of documents, the NS 15 fonds should contain 23 more files, but they are missing¹⁹.

Since the Rosenberg Office was one of the services of the NSDAP related to ideology and propaganda, its contacts extended not only to the NSDAP but also to public authorities, universities, scientific societies. Therefore, its documents can be found not only among the materials of other services of A. Rosenberg, but also in the fonds of other institutions and structures in the Federal Archives of Germany.

Among the main fonds that contain documents of the Rosenberg Office are fonds NS 8 (Kanzlei Rosenberg), NS 30 (Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg), and NS 43 (Außenpolitisches Amt). Some documents of the Rosenberg Office can be found among the materials of other fonds of the Federal Archives. Among them are fonds NS 1 (Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP, English: Reich Treasurer of the NSDAP), NS 11 (Parteiämtliche Prüfungskommission zum Schutze des NS-Schrifttums, English: Official party examination commission for the protection of Nazi literature), NS 18 (Reichspropagandaleiter der NSDAP, English: Reich propaganda leader of the NSDAP), NS 19 (Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer-SS, English: The Personal Staff Reichsführer-SS), NS 38 (Nationalsozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund, English: The National Socialist German Students’ Union), R 43 (Reichskanzlei, English: The Reich Chancellery), R 55 (Reichsministerium

¹⁹ The description says “Aktenverbleib ungeklärt” (English: “The location of the documents is unknown”).

für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda, English: the Reich Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda), R 58 (Reichssicherheitshauptamt, English: the Reich Security Main Office) and others.

Conclusion. A brief analysis of the complex documents of the Commissioner of the Fuehrer for the Supervision of the Entire Intellectual and Ideological Schooling and Training of the NSDAP allows us to conclude that these documents are valuable sources for studying the history and specifics of the development of the ideology of National Socialism and the mechanism of its influence through the NSDAP system. This process covered all spheres of society, where there were members of the NSDAP and related organizations, educational, cultural, and scientific institutions, publishing houses, etc. The current NS 15 fonds of the Rosenberg Office in the Federal Archives of Germany have only recently been actively involved in scientific use. Among them, there are organizational documents – plans, orders, and instructions reflecting the process of creation of the Rosenberg Office, its principles and objectives, structure, functions of its departments, ideological materials on anti-Semitism, the fight against Bolshevism, religion, as well as reference materials on National Socialist figures in the field of culture and humanities. A special place among the documents of the Rosenberg Office is occupied by materials covering its participation in the ideological training of Wehrmacht officers, as well as several documents that are biographical sources on the activities of the staff of the Rosenberg Office and related services that worked in the Nazi-occupied territories of Europe. The documents of the Rosenberg Office also reveal its ties with a wide range of other Nazi agencies that participated in the process of creating Nazi propaganda, ensuring the ideological component of the war and occupation policy.

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Наталія Григорівна Кашеварова,

кандидат історичних наук, докторант,

Інститут історії України

Національної академії наук України

(Київ, Україна)

ORCID 0000-0003-2426-0440

e-mail: nataliya.kashevarova@gmail.com

**Документи Служби Уповноваженого фюрера у справі нагляду
за загальним духовним і світоглядним навчанням та вихованням
у НСДАП А. Розенберга (1934–1945) у Федеральному архіві Німеччини:
джерелознавчий аспект**

Мета публікації: охарактеризувати в цілому склад і зміст документів Служби Уповноваженого фюрера у справі нагляду за загальним духовним і світоглядним навчанням та вихованням у НСДАП (далі – Служба Уповноваженого), що зберігаються у Федеральному архіві Німеччини, визначити місце цих доку-

ментів у джерельній базі дослідження історії Третього райху, проаналізувати їх інформаційний потенціал як джерел з історії націонал-соціалістичної ідеології й окупаційної політики. **Методологія дослідження** базується на принципах історизму, об'єктивності, системності, представлена історико-порівняльним та історико-архівознавчим методами, а також методами джерелознавчого аналізу. **Наукова новизна.** Документи Служби Уповноваженого як цілісний документальний комплекс ще не були предметом наукового дослідження, хоча деякі дослідники використовували документи Служби як джерела щодо історії націонал-соціалізму та політичної боротьби А. Розенберга з іншими лідерами НСДАП, але вони не розглядалися як джерела щодо ідеологічної складової нацистської окупаційної політики. **Висновки.** Здійснений стислий аналіз комплексу документів Служби Уповноваженого свідчить, що вони є цінними джерелами для вивчення історії та специфіки розвитку ідеології націонал-соціалізму та її впливу через систему НСДАП. Серед них плани, накази, розпорядження, інструкції, які відображають процес створення Служби Уповноваженого, її завдання, структуру, функції її підрозділів, матеріали ідеологічного змісту з питань антисемітизму, більшовизму, релігії, довідкові матеріали щодо націонал-соціалістичних діячів у сфері культури. Окреме місце серед документів Служби посідають матеріали, які висвітлюють її участь в ідеологічній підготовці службовців Вермахту, а також низка документів, що є біографічними джерелами стосовно діяльності співробітників Служби та пов'язаних з нею структур, що працювали на окупованих нацистами територіях. Документи Служби також розкривають її зв'язки з широким колом інших нацистських відомств, які брали участь у забезпеченні ідеологічної складової війни та окупаційної політики.

Ключові слова: Друга світова війна, націонал-соціалізм, ідеологія, Уповноважений фюрера у справі нагляду за загальним духовним і світоглядним навчанням та вихованням у НСДАП, архівні документи, Федеральний архів Німеччини.

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