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**THE BACKGROUND AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE APPEARANCE  
OF WORKERS’ MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BASES AMONG LVIV PRINTERS**

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***Research Methodology****. To solve the problems posed in the article, a number of methods have been used, including the systematic analysis that has provided a study of the interaction between the workers’ mutual assistance bases and civil society as subsystems of the general social system and the structural functionalism used to determine the main characteristics of the workers’ mutual assistance bases and to find out their place, a role in society.*

***Results.*** *The essence of professional organizations, as well as their social role, peculiarities of functioning and the development in a multi-ethnic society have been studied on a theoretical level in the national historical science systematically and conceptually for the first time.*

***Novelty*** *of the research is the first attempt for the national historiography to comprehensively cover the birth and the development of the workers’ mutual assistance bases of the middle of the ХІХth century on the basis of the generalization of the revealed sources.*

***Practical Significance.*** *The conclusions obtained during the theoretical research gi­ve a coherent picture of the experience of establishing, functioning and the development  
of the workers’ mutual assistance bases in the territories of Galicia in conjunction with the processes of creation, organization and activity of one of the components of socie­ty — organized groups of employees***.**