**I`d like to tell you about wooden fortresses. They were the most strong buildings in the Sish. Fortifications with usage of relief, wooden constructions were erected on the Khortytsia island next to “Malokhortytsky Castle”. Those fortifications were surrounded with high fences. There were two poleson both sides at the entrence. Each Sich had features of separated democratic republic. They elected the foremen at the counsel. Cosacks were engaged in fortifications developing their own origin ways of them. Siches as centres of Freedom always were located next to Velyky Luh of Zaporizhia. It was the most favorable place. They changed their location only by moving from one to another ( 5-20 meters). A Polosh chronicler Martin Belsky registred, Cosacks gethered to control ferries, fishing, hunting, fighting with Tatars. Nowadays the Khortytsia island, unique Cosack settlement, has its changed outlook. It`s a national historical park now. There is a big historical museum in the open air, where all the Cosack fests are held every year. On the Eastern part of the island there is an ancient settlement of Germans, who used to grow horses for Cosacks. Now they are great farmers, growing sunflowers and grapes. There are 57 ancient graves of Cosacks on the island, they are historical landmarks. The most famous one is a grave of Cosack Mamay. One more grave of Sirko is a place of meeting with women, because it wasn`t allowed to meet women in the Sich.**

**Khortytsia Sich is the treasure and famous landmark of our region. If you were in Ukraine, you would visit it.**

**Serhiy Tsykunkov**