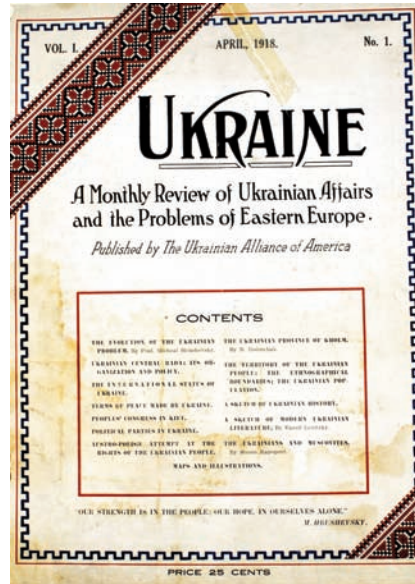


The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

A HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

by Curator Lubow Wolynetz



what were its aims and achievements?

When the United States entered World War I on the side

of the Allies in 1917, Ukrainian-Americans saw in this an opportunity to help their brethren in their former homeland. For this they needed to organize a political body which would speak on behalf of Ukraine and Ukrainians, and inform the American press, various political American organizations, and politicians in Washington.

Thus in 1918 the Ukrainian National Alliance was founded which united various existing Ukrainian-American organizations. The Alliance later changed its name to the Ukrainian National Committee. It was an organization that truly united all Ukrainians in America into one cohesive politically-active body, working towards the support of the Ukrainian National State and its independent status in Europe. Father Peter Poniatyshyn was elected president; Volodymyr Lototskyi, secretary; and Rev. Mykola Pidhoretskyi, treasurer. Father Poniatyshyn, reflecting on this event in his memoirs, claims that the unity and solidarity of purpose among the members of the Alliance was as strong as never before and probably never since. The Alliance began publishing a very valuable and informative journal in English about Ukraine (see photo) entitled: *A Monthly Review of Ukrainian Affairs and the Problems of Eastern*

Europe published in April 1918, and of which only one issue came out.

The photograph in question shows delegates (there were 570 in all) who represented organizations associated with the National Committee. In Myron B. Kuropas's book *The Ukrainian Americans* we find a detailed description as to what took place at the Conference: "The two-day session ended with a political manifestation at Cooper Union Hall led by Dr. Bilyk . . . resolutions passed at the conclave. . . reiterated past demands for Ukrainian self-determination, and condemned the Polish invasion of eastern Galicia". The Committee sent Dr. K. Bilyk to the Paris Peace Conference with the hope of influencing the Powers in favor of a Ukrainian Independent State. The outcome of the Paris Peace Conference brought about great disillusionment to Ukrainians. Nevertheless, the Committee kept up its work and purchased a building on 7th Street and opened there a Ukrainian Information Bureau headed by Milton D. Wright. The committee also managed to raise over \$100,000 for a Ukrainian Defense Fund.

Why was this Conference called and

what were its aims and achievements?



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