

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

An Appeal for Archival Materials

by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



On September 14-16, our Museum hosted the second conference of representatives of Ukrainian Libraries, Museums, and Archives in the Diaspora. The first conference had been held and hosted by the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the concerns discussed at this conference was the preservation of Ukrainian heritage in the Diaspora, especially the gathering and collecting of archival material of organizations and individuals. Many

items of archival value have already been lost because of neglect, indifference, or sheer ignorance on the part of those possessing such material; and who after a time deemed the material to be useless or of no worth, and then not knowing what to do with it or where to send it for preservation, simply discarded it.

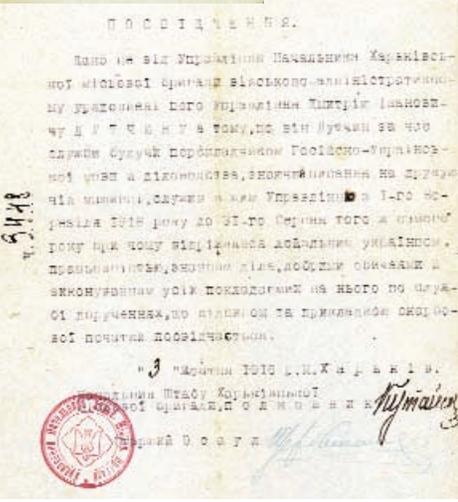
Quite a few times we have been writing about this problem and have appealed to all who have any archival material, photographs, books or artifacts dealing with Ukrainian heritage, or the Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States, to send it to us and let us be the judge as to its value and the need

for its preservation for posterity.

By sheer coincidence, a few weeks before this conference, I received, in the mail, an envelope which contained four documents of an archival nature. The sender explained that her recently-deceased husband had retained these documents for a long time and finally decided to donate them to an institution which would preserve them for posterity; however,

no one was interested in this offer and all declined to accept them. After his death, fortunately for us, his widow decided, as a last resort, to send them to our Museum and promptly did so.

The four documents are certificates and attestations



belonging to one individual who had served in a variety of official military capacities during the Ukrainian struggle for Independence in 1918-1920. Each document presents a fascinating piece of information about the activities, positions, and responsibilities of only one individual, but at the same time each illustrates the manifold undertakings which had to be made during those tumultuous years.

The first certificate, dated October 2, 1918, states that the following individual is a member of the armed security of the railroad administration of the Slobidska (Eastern Ukraine) region and has the right to bear arms in the form

of a saber and a revolver. The certificate was issued by the Ministry of Transportation of the Slobidska region and is signed by the lieutenant, and stamped with the regional seal which has a Tryzub (Trident) in its center and a German seal.

The second document, dated October 3, 1918, is an attestation written, signed and stamped with an official seal (with a Tryzub in the center) by the colonel of the Kharkiv brigade. From this attestation we learn that the person in question had served as an interpreter from the Russian to Ukrainian language and also knew how to type on a typewriter. He had held this position from



September 25, 1938 by the Military Council of the Ukrainian National Republic, certifies that the person in question, for his participation in the struggle for Ukrainian independence, is awarded the Jubilee Cross commemorating the 10th anniversary of the declaration of the independence of Ukraine.

Although these four documents reflect the activities of only one person, at the same time they tell us volumes about the historical aspects of those days.

In conclusion, I appeal to all who have any kinds of relevant documents, no matter how trivial they may seem to be, — do not throw anything away. Send the items to us or any other institution in the Diaspora which collects and preserves historic and archival items.

Thank you,
Lubow Wolynetz

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The Sower
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