

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

WE SHALL SOON CELEBRATE AN 80TH ANNIVERSARY!

Part Five by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

Prior to the founding of our Ukrainian Museum and Library and up to World War II, civic and religious leaders of the Ukrainian community in America were in continuous communication with their brethren in Halychyna, especially with the leaders of various cultural and educational institutions. World War I had brought about physi-



cal, cultural, and political devastation in Halychyna. Revitalizing life and activities was slow and costly, especially because of the impediments which foreign domination had placed upon its development. Ukrainians in America, often with the guidance of their pastors and religious, leaders did their utmost to help by raising necessary funds and financing cultural and educational projects. As an example of this support, let us consider the work of Father Leo Chapelsky. Father Leo, having worked for a few years at the National Museum in Lviv (founded in 1905 by Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsk), was well acquainted with its work, its collections, its director I. Svientsitsky, a co-

worker named Yaroslav Pasternak, etc. In 1915, Father Leo was sent to America to serve as a pastor in various Ukrainian Catholic parishes. Wherever he served, Father Leo tried to instill among his parishioners interest in their cultural heritage and mindfulness of their national identity. He even provided an update of the activities of their brethren in Halychyna. In order to help the National Museum in Lviv in the aftermath of World War I, Father Leo organized fund-raising among his parishioners and encouraged them to join the Museum's circle of friends. (We have many of these applications and donations in our archival collection.) With the founding of our Museum and Library by Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky, Father Leo was obvious best choice to become the first curator of this institution. His interest in and knowledge of museum work, as well as his previous connections with experts in this field in Lviv, served him well and proved to be of utmost importance in laying a solid professional foundation and in assembling a representative collection.

In order to continue the enrichment of our Museum's holdings during its developmental stages, Father Leo contacted one of his former acquaintances, namely Yaroslav Pasternak, 1892-1969, to help him in this endeavor. Yaroslav Pasternak was the director of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Cultural and Historical Museum in Lviv (1928-1939). By profession, Pasternak was an archaeologist.



He had studied at the Lviv and Prague University from which he received his doctoral degree. He conducted over seventy archaeological expeditions in Czechoslovakia, Zakarpattia, and Halychyna. He is best known for his archaeological excavations in the 1930s of the ancient princely city of Halych, founded between the 9th and 10th centuries. It was the capital of the principality of Galicia during the reign of Prince Yaroslav Osmomysl (b.? – 1187) and others from 1141-1241. Pasternak uncovered the remains of the Dormition Cathedral which was built in 1157, the city walls, the sarcophagus of Yaroslav Osmomysl

with his skeleton, a hoard of silver and gold jewelry, numerous metal, glass and ceramic artifacts. When the first news of these findings reached the world, scholars proclaimed that "Galician Troy is discovered".

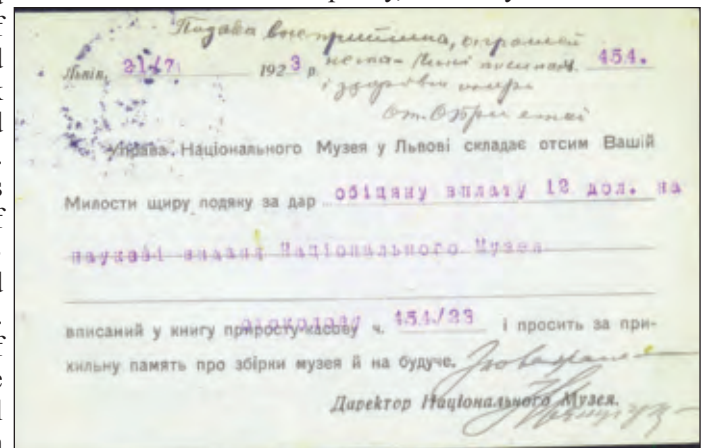
In response to Father Leo's request for help in collecting appropriate artifacts for our Museum, Pasternak was more than happy to oblige. The Cultural and Historical Museum of the Shevchenko

Scientific Society had multiple samples of various artifacts; and director Pasternak willingly donated them to our Museum. He selected 86 items which consisted of folk ceramics, earthenware pottery, and folk metal artifacts. He chose samples of Hutsul pottery by the outstanding Hutsul potter Oleksa Bakhmetiuk, 1820-1882. These samples included tiles, candelabras, plates, pitchers, pottery from the Sokal and Podillia region, a ceramic incense holder from the Poltava region, children's clay figurines and toys and others. Among the folk metal artifacts, we

received Hutsul metal crosses, walking sticks, metal clasps, a gun powder horn keg, boxes decorated with metal inlays, a leather shoulder bag and belt inlaid with metal studs, etc. In gratitude for all these



gifts, Father Leo held fund-raising campaigns among Ukrainians in America and donated the proceeds to Yaroslav Pasternak, thus enabling him to continue his archaeological excavations in the princely city of Halych. Yaroslav Pasternak managed to escape the Soviet occupation of western Ukraine in 1944; he lived in Germany for a while, and later emigrated to Canada. By an irony of fate, when visiting our Museum in Stamford in the 1960s, Pasternak was able to see on exhibit the very artifacts which he was instrumental in donating to enrich our Museum holdings in the 1930s. There is an old saying that what you do in life may come back to haunt you or to bless you. What Yaroslav Pasternak did, through the mediation of Father Leo Chapelsky, certainly benefited our



Museum and indeed was a blessing for all involved. Hence, in this 80th year of our anniversary it behooves us to give credit and thanks to all those who contributed to the development and flourishing of our Museum and Library.

Explore and Experience Our Past

80th Anniversary Guest Speakers feature:

Most Reverend LAWRENCE HUCELAK, OSBM, is the Metropolitan-Archbishop of Winnipeg, Canada since 2006. He was ordained a priest of the Basilian Order in 1977, having completed doctoral studies in Eastern liturgical theology in Rome. He was instrumental in the development of the National Basilian Fathers' Ukrainian Cultural and Heritage Museum in Mundare, Alberta and chaired the building of its new modernized facilities in 1991. He served as the Ordinary of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, Canada from 1997 until his appointment as the leading primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Canada. Metropolitan Lawrence is a prominent benefactor of Saint Volodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Museum in Winnipeg.

JURIJ DOBCZANSKY is the Senior Cataloging Specialist of the German and Slavic Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. He also chairs the Library and Archives Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. Having grown up in the Ukrainian-American community of New Haven, Connecticut, Jurij and his wife Olenka live in Silver Spring, Maryland and are members of the Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine parish of Washington, DC.

Donation for Banquet tickets are one hundred twenty-five dollars per person. Reservations can be made by calling: (203)-323-8866 ; (917)-501-8881.

MARK THIS DATE!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7th, 2017

We will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

Banquet 5:00 PM at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel
700 East Main Street
Stamford Connecticut 06901



For further information – visit our website
www.ukrainianmuseumandlibrary.org
or contact us e-mail: ukmulrec@optonline.net
or call: (203) 323-8866; (917) 501-8881