

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford WE SHALL SOON CELEBRATE AN 80TH ANNIVERSARY!

Part Six

by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Our Lady, Novakivsky

In the fine arts collection of our Museum there is an impressive display of paintings, sculptures, and works on paper numbering over three thousand of items. Most of these assembled works came as gifts, bequests, and purchases. In this, our 80th anniversary year, it is an appropriate time to present a brief overview, highlighting the works of a few of the noted artists.

The first work of art which our Museum received in 1935 was a gift from Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky (pic. 1). It was an oil painting of Our Lady by the outstanding artist and educator Oleksa Novakivsky, 1872-1935. Metropolitan Sheptytsky had commissioned Novakivsky to do a few sketches of Our Lady which would be made into a large behind the altar mural for St. George Cathedral in Lviv. Novakivsky produced a few sketches shortly before he died. One of these sketches Metropolitan Sheptytsky



Sheptytsky, Moroz

chose to give to our Museum when still in its planning stages. This gift from Metropolitan Sheptytsky is especially poignant, because it shows the Metropolitan's genuine interest and support of cultural activities of Ukrainian immigrants in America. We have a few additional works of Oleksa Novakivsky in our collection which were donated as gifts by various individuals.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky was a great patron of the arts. He supported all aspects of cultural development and cultural life in western Ukraine, intending it to reach a higher, more sophisticated level. It was Metropolitan Sheptytsky who convinced Novakivsky to come and live in Lviv, which he did in 1913. When residing in Lviv, he opened the Novakivsky Art School. In 1923. This school became the center of cultural life. Many of its



St. John the Baptist in Hunter, NY, Moroz

students, namely, Mykhailo Moroz, Sviatoslav Hordynsky, Leonid Perfetsky, Edvard Kozak, and a number of others who later became prominent artists in their own right. Metropolitan Sheptytsky was in continual association with Novakivsky and showed a keen interest in the students who had exceptional talent. By helping them financially, he enabled them to go abroad and study in Paris. One of these students was Mykhailo Moroz, 1904-1992. He studied at the Novakivsky Art School and with the help of Metropolitan Sheptytsky was able to study in Paris for two years. Upon his return to Lviv he worked as Novakivsky's assistant and also as a portraitist. In 1937 Moroz did a portrait of Metropolitan Sheptytsky, depicting him in a seated position (since he was then and invalid in a wheelchair). Two years later, in 1939,



Christ the Teacher, de Rosen

Moroz did a similar portrait of the Metropolitan. This work he was able to bring to America and in the late 1980s donated it to our Museum. This portrait of Metropolitan Sheptytsky is on permanent display in the so-called Gold Room of our Museum. Our collection has other works of Moroz, principally landscapes and portraits of notable Ukrainian individuals.

We have two unique tempera paintings in our collection. They are the work of the prominent Polish artist Jan de Rosen, 1891-1982. He is best known for his murals in the

Armenian Cathedral in Lviv which he did in the 1920s. While living and working in Lviv, he had a close association with Metropolitan Sheptytsky, also with the priest and later Bishop and Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky, and with other Ukrainian cultural activists. In 1938 he came to the USA at the invitation of the Polish Ambassador. The War broke out shortly and he was unable to return to his homeland. Then, while living in New York area, he was commissioned by Metropolitan Bohachevsky to paint the chapel in the newly built St. Basil Prep School dormitory in Stamford, CT. He did this in 1943. In Addition to the chapel, he also did two large tempera icon paintings of Christ the Teacher and of Our Lady with the Child Jesus. Both paintings are on display in our Museum. Although the dormitory building is currently closed, the chapel painted by Jan de Rosen is preserved and is



St. George's in Lviv, Moroz

still available for viewing by visitors.

Jan de Rosen is best known for his mosaic of Jesus Christ in Majesty located behind the main altar in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. An examination of the icon of Jesus Christ in our Museum suggests that it served as a prototype for that mosaic of Jesus Christ in Majesty in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Our Museum is indeed fortunate to be the beneficiary of the extraordinary generosity of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky and of the magnificent painting of noted artists Oleksa Novakivsky, Mykhailo Moroz, Jan de Rosen, etc.

To be continued.



Our Lady, de Rosen

Explore and Experience Our Past

Mr. Denys Semenovych, consul at the Ukrainian Consulate in New York, pays a visit to the Ukrainian Museum.



From left to right: Mr. Denys Semenovych, consul at the Ukrainian Consulate in New York, Mrs. Lobow Wolynetz, museum curator, guests from Ukraine.



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Ilynyck, Mr. Semenovych, Very Rev. R. Malyarchuk, Mrs. L. Wolynetz, Mr and Mrs. Komziuk.