

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Art of War

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Leonid Perfecky, Uniform of the "Iron Division", photograph. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

Historical events of many nations are preserved in various significant ways. The most important among these include historical documents, scholarly studies, researches, primary sources, memoirs and more. Based on these materials, one can learn in detail the history of a certain era. Within these specific historical events one may analyze the positive and negative aspects as well as make

deductions as to the aims and results of these various historical endeavors. All of these works, while strictly informative and objective, are relatively dry and detached. They do not examine the deeply emotional aspect of the events nor do they depict the horrors, the inhumanity and the cruelty of given situations.

An important addition to these documented historical events were and still are works of art which, by illustrating significant events, give them a deeper, more emotionally sensitive understanding. Most of these art works commemorate important heroic deeds, courageous exploits and triumphant achievements. Depending on how the artists present their ideas on the canvas, the painting can not only serve as an illustration of an event but may also make an important statement, expressing harsh condemnation of armed conflicts and their consequences. It is left to the artist to represent historical events subjectively. We have world renowned artists who, through their art, expressed strong indictments of brutality and inhumanity of man towards man during armed conflicts. One of the best known paintings on this subject is Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*.

Recently, our museum's fine arts collection was enriched by a painting illustrating a war time event. The painting entitled *The Last Rounds*, a watercolor by the artist Leonid Perfecky was donated by Christine Konashevych Perfecky. The painting depicts a military detachment of Ukrainian National Army ready for an attack. In our museum's fine art collection, we have two addi-

tional works of this artist which portray the battles of the Ukrainian Sharp Shooters (Sichovi Striltsi) with the Moscovites.

Leonid Perfecky (1901-1977) was born in Halychyna. He studied at the Novakivsky Art School, the Cracow Art Academy and in Paris. He participated in numerous group art exhibits in Lviv and Paris. During the fight for Ukrainian Independence (1918-1921), he served in the Ukrainian Army and took part in many campaigns. Perfecky is best known for his historical battle scenes,

although he has received notable acknowledgment for his religious art. His works depicting authentic battle scenes of the Ukrainian army during its struggle for independence are of extreme value for Ukrainian history. The artist, having himself been an eyewitness and participant of numerous battles, recreated them in his paintings with great detail, depicting both heroic and tragic moments. His best known painting is *Krutyy*, which illustrates the tragic battle of 400 Ukrainian military cadet-students trying to stop the advance of a 4000 Bolshevick

army's advance to Kyiv.

Most of Perfecky's works which were in Lviv museums, were destroyed during Stalin's purges. After the war Perfecky emigrated to Canada and lived in Montreal until his death. Leonid Perfecky's battle paintings have exceptional value both artistic and historical. His works are a rich legacy for posterity and serve as an important source of visual documentation of events during the Ukrainian struggle for independence which did take place from 1918-1921 and which Russia tries to deny. ❖



Leonid Perfecky, *Krutyy*. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

For more information about The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, please, visit www.ukrainianmuseumlibrary.org, call 203-324-0499 or 203-323-8866. The Museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment, and is located at: 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902.

Easter Pastoral of His Beatitude continued from PAGE 1

Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' (Gal. 5:1,14). And then he encourages each of us to open up to Divine grace and allow the Holy Spirit to bear His life-giving fruit: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).

Pascha is the feast of the victory of love over hatred, of joy over sorrow, of peace over war, of patience over panic, of kindness over anger, of faithfulness over betrayal, of gentleness over unrest, of self-control over voracity. Pascha is the victory of spirit over flesh, of truth over mendacity, of life over death. Christ rose from the tomb in order to raise up and grant victory to those, who have been swallowed up by death, slavery, and degradation, as once was Jonah by the whale.

And like Jonah from the whale on the third day, You arose from the tomb!

What an irony it is that the enemy planned to celebrate his victory in the capital city of Kyiv in three days! He thought that he would quickly swallow up an entire people, but his insidious

plans were broken by the heroism of our armed forces. In reality, it is Christ, risen on the third day from the tomb, who grants us who believe in His resurrection, faith in victory over hell and death. St. John Chrysostom, in his paschal sermon, notes that the enemy of the human race "took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen." Similarly, our enemy took what he saw, but fell because of what he failed to see—the power of the spirit, faith, and love of our people! Our victory, the victory of Ukraine, flows from the power of the risen Christ, who leads us out of the depths of the horrors of war and death, who breaks the eternal bonds and victoriously leads us to life. To celebrate the Pascha of Christ in a time of war is to already taste our victory. Let us have no doubt!

The one who brings death is destined for defeat because Ukraine is celebrating Pascha! Again, John Chrysostom, echoing the words of the Apostle of the Gentiles (see 1 Cor. 15:55), proclaims: "O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Voskres Khrystos, and the demons are fallen. Anesti Chrystos, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life flows freely." The one who

sought to enslave us by death is already defeated, for his main weapons of colonization and aggression have been destroyed by Christ Himself through His death on the cross and glorious Resurrection.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Today I extend to all of you my fatherly and brotherly embrace, and share with you the joy of Pascha. I embrace all who fight on different fronts—spiritual and physical, especially our unbreakable soldiers, our dedicated pastors, and tireless volunteers. I embrace with paschal joy all who have been forced to leave their home and even their native land, and pray for your speedy return in a time of peace, which will surely arrive. I embrace in prayer all the wounded, so that in your suffering you feel the support, love, and gratitude of an entire nation, but especially—God's grace and constant love. I greet all who all over the world support and assist Ukraine, in efforts both great and small. As a world community we have shown ourselves to be like a beehive, where each of us senses in spirit what he or she must do in the face of danger. I embrace those who are in occupied territories, in areas of military engagement—those who do not have the possibility to prepare an Easter basket and who sing

"Christ is risen!" under the roar of cannons and exploding shells. In the hope of the resurrection, I cry and weep with all who lament their dead, from the ranks of the armed forces, and from the civilian population. May each of us today sense hope in a bright future in peace and harmony, for the Resurrection of Christ is the source of peace. May the rich symbolism of our traditional pysanka remind us that the Risen Lord is the source of heavenly gifts, of joy, goodness, victory, and eternal life.

I embrace with a fatherly love all the clergy, religious, and faithful in Ukraine and throughout the world, and sincerely wish you all a blessed Easter feast, a tasty sharing of our traditional blessed egg, and a Paschal joy that is full of light.

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Christ is risen! – Truly, He is risen!

+Sviatoslav

Given in Kyiv at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, on the Feast of the Annunciation of Most Holy Theotokos

April 7 (March 25), 2022 A.D.