

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

New Acquisitions

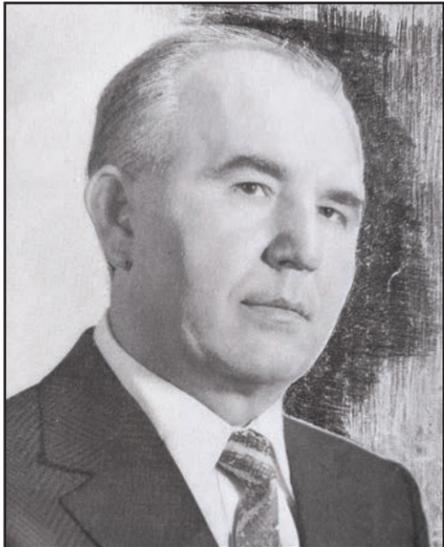
By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

The Ukrainian Museum and Library's is steadily enriched with new acquisitions. The majority of these acquisitions come as gifts from various individual donors, organizations, and estate wills to name just a few. Lately the number of gifts to our museum is constantly increasing especially our book and archival holdings are enriched with significant private collections, works of individual Ukrainian artists, photographic collections, recordings etc. The Ukrainian diaspora recognizes the importance of the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people for future generations, not only in Ukraine but also beyond its lands. For this reason, the Ukrainian diaspora in its many locations around the world has organized cultural centers, museums, and libraries. Their goal was the collection and preservation of various materials and documents which would reflect their activities, creativity and be evidence of their existence. Our cultural institution is an example of such centers where the preservation of Ukrainian culture and historical heritage takes place. Our institution has earned the trust in the community which values our work and enriches our collections with important gifts.

Recently our museum was enriched by three bronze sculptures. They are the work of notable artist-sculptor Petro Kapschutschenko, (1915-2006). The three



John Bruce Schmitt posing next to the three donated statues by Petro Kapschutschenko, Golden Pumpkins, Farewell and Refugees in the Golden Room of the Ukrainian Museum in Stamford. For detailed images of the statues see the Ukrainian section page 10.



Petro Kapschutschenko

items were donated by the artist's son-in-law John Bruce Schmitt. Petro Kapschutschenko was born in Ukraine in the city of Katerynoslav. He studied at the Dnipropetrovsk Art School where he

majoring in theater decorations and sculpture. The Second World War interrupted his studies when he was forced by the Germans to work as a captive laborer. After the war, from 1945-1949 he lived in the Displaced Camp in Regensburg. Later, he emigrated to Argentina working in Buenos Aires. There he achieved recognition for his work and was even made an honorary member of The Free University of Humanity of Buenos Aires "for his high artistry and contribution to Argentinian culture". In 1965, he emigrated to the United States and settled in Philadelphia. He became actively involved in the community and in art life. He participated in numerous group exhibits, as well as one man shows. Most of his sculptures are of small format executed in bronze and terra-cotta. He also received special recognition for his monumental works, – especially the statues of Metropolitan V. Lypkivskyi and Princess Olha at the Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. In his works, Kapschutschenko presents a variety of

types of people – comic, tragic, happy, sad – performing routine daily activities. He also liked to present group scenes, commemorating tragic events or singular historical moments. Each of his compositions conveys a mood, the emotion of the moment, inner feelings and the condition of the soul.

One of the donated sculptures is entitled "Refugees". The artist presents a group of people huddled together, clinging to each other. Some with frightened, and others with sad and hopeless expressions. In this work, the artist managed to convey the emotional and physical state of the refugees allowing us to see their tragic condition in which they find themselves. Similarly tragic scenes are constantly witnessed today, taking place in Ukraine during the present war. The second donated statue is entitled "Farewell". A man and a woman are saying goodbye to one other. He stands slightly behind her while the woman stands looking forward with her hand placed over her beating heart. Why they are parting we do

not know but from the facial expressions we can only guess that their separation is brought about by unfortunate circumstances. The third sculpture is entitled "Golden Pumpkins". A young man is carrying two huge pumpkins. Is he carrying them to the market for sale or were they given to him as a result of unfortunate matchmaking? We do not know. Thus our museum collection was enhanced with these major new art works for which we are very grateful to the donor.

The responsibility of cultural institutions, such as ours, is not only to preserve Ukrainian cultural heritage, but make it available to all interested by organizing special exhibitions, disseminating knowledge about Ukrainian culture among all. During this critical war-time in Ukraine where Russian army unmercifully is killing the Ukrainian populace, destroys, burns and bombs museums, historical monuments – Diasporan cultural institutions, such as ours, are important information centers for the American Press and American people. ❖

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.

'Our angels have wings' Zelenskyy says on Ukrainian Statehood Day

By Catholic News Service

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) -- Ukrainians will fight for their statehood to the last and will not stop until they liberate the last meter of Ukrainian land, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address for Ukrainian Statehood Day July 28.

The day marks the 988 baptism of "Kyivan Rus," the origin of Christianity in the region, but this is the first year Ukrainians marked Statehood Day, reported Religious Information Service of Ukraine.

Zelenskyy stressed that Ukrainians need neither fireworks nor pomp to show the importance of statehood for the

Ukrainian people.

"Today we defend (Ukraine) with weapons in hands. For 155 days in a row," he said, referring to the Feb. 24 Russian invasion. "We can say that for us, Statehood Day is every day. Every day we fight so that everyone on the planet finally understands: We are not a colony, not an enclave, not a protectorate ... not a province, but a free, independent, sovereign, indivisible and independent state."

"Our warriors defend Ukraine on the ground, in the water and in the air. Our ancestors defend it from the skies. And all of them together are our angels. Our

angels have wings. But under them there are weapons. We never take weapons first. But if our home is attacked, we stand to the last. Because, losing its own state, any nation loses primarily not its territory. Not hectares or square kilometers of land or water. When a nation loses its own state, it loses its own face. Its own name. Its originality, identity, memory, and with them its heart and soul. And this is much scarier for us than enemy armies, planes, missiles and tanks."

Zelenskyy outlined the main historic events that laid the basis for Ukraine's statehood and noted: "All stages of the history of

Ukraine's statehood, its defense and struggle for it can be described in one sentence: We existed, exist and will exist. We will exist, because our state has incredible sons and daughters who have stood up for its defense."

The United Nations reported July 25 more than 5,200 civilians had been killed and more than 7,000 injured in Ukraine since the war began.

In a meeting with Canadian government and cultural leaders July 27, Pope Francis spoke about Russia's war on Ukraine and the prevailing discourse in the West of strategizing the best way to

fight the war rather than the best way to stop the war.

"We have no need to divide the world into friends and enemies, to create distances and once again to arm ourselves to the teeth," the pope said. "An arms race and strategies of deterrence will not bring peace and security" and will not prevent "entire peoples from once more being held hostage and in the grip of terrible and protracted cold wars."

"What we need are creative and farsighted policies capable of moving beyond the categories of opposition in order to provide answers to global challenges," Pope Francis said. ❖