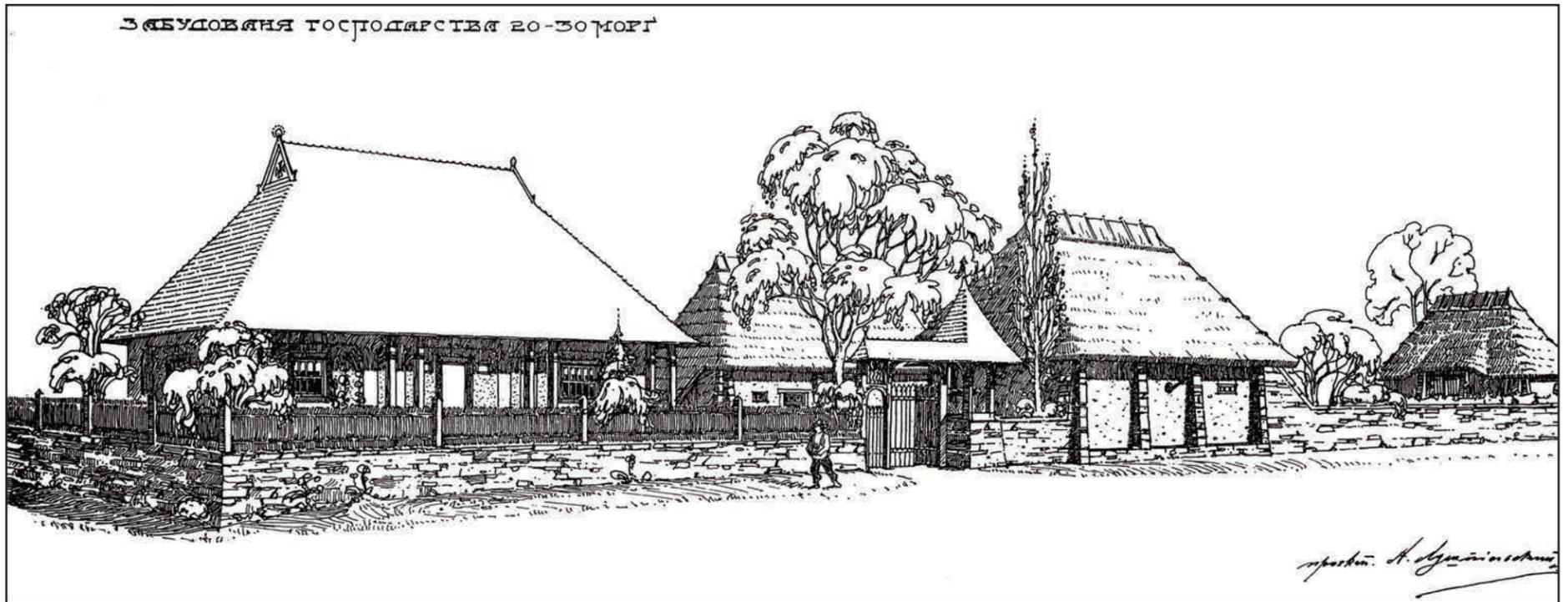


EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Rebuilding

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



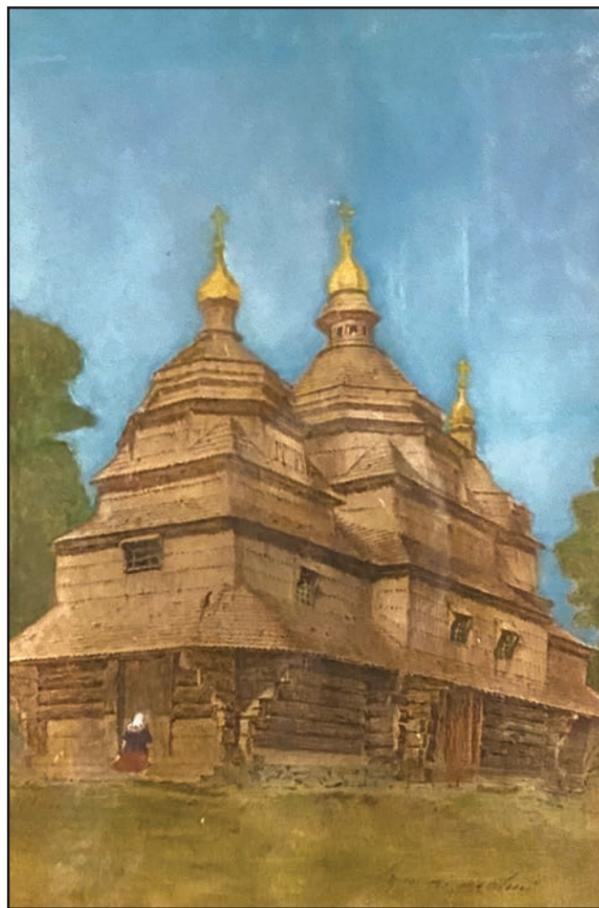
An architectural plan for a homestead. Fragment. *The Rebuilding of Destroyed Villages in Eastern Halychyna* Oleksander Lushpynsky. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

We are living through the fifth month of Putin's aggression against Ukraine, a brutal and systematic destruction of cities, towns and villages and the ferocious, merciless murder of the population.

Ukraine was successfully developing its own society and infrastructure in the thirty years following its independence from the Soviet Union. The cities, towns and villages were flourishing. The basic technological means needed for human livelihood were improving. The enrichment of a unique cultural life expanded in an atmosphere of free development. The population rejoiced in its successes and with a united effort it strived to achieve higher levels of fulfilment. Such imposing successes irritated and incensed the enemies of an independent Ukraine. With the arrogant expectations of a swift victory Russia attacked Ukraine. What happened next was a great shock for Putin's Russia because a united Ukraine did not quickly succumb to the aggressor but instead is bravely and successfully fighting for its freedom, defending its independence, self-determination and its fundamental right to exist. In this war of ruthless violence, Russia is relentlessly decimating the Ukrainian people, destroying historical and cultural monuments in order to destroy even the memory of Ukrainian existence. Notwithstanding the immense devastation caused by these barbaric acts, Ukraine continues to fight and simultaneously make plans for rebuilding and renewal. Just recently, President Zelensky in his address to the Ukrainian people spoke about the rebuilding of the country and underscored the fact that we must begin rebuilding now.

And how did Ukrainians in the past treat problems of post war rebuilding? As an example

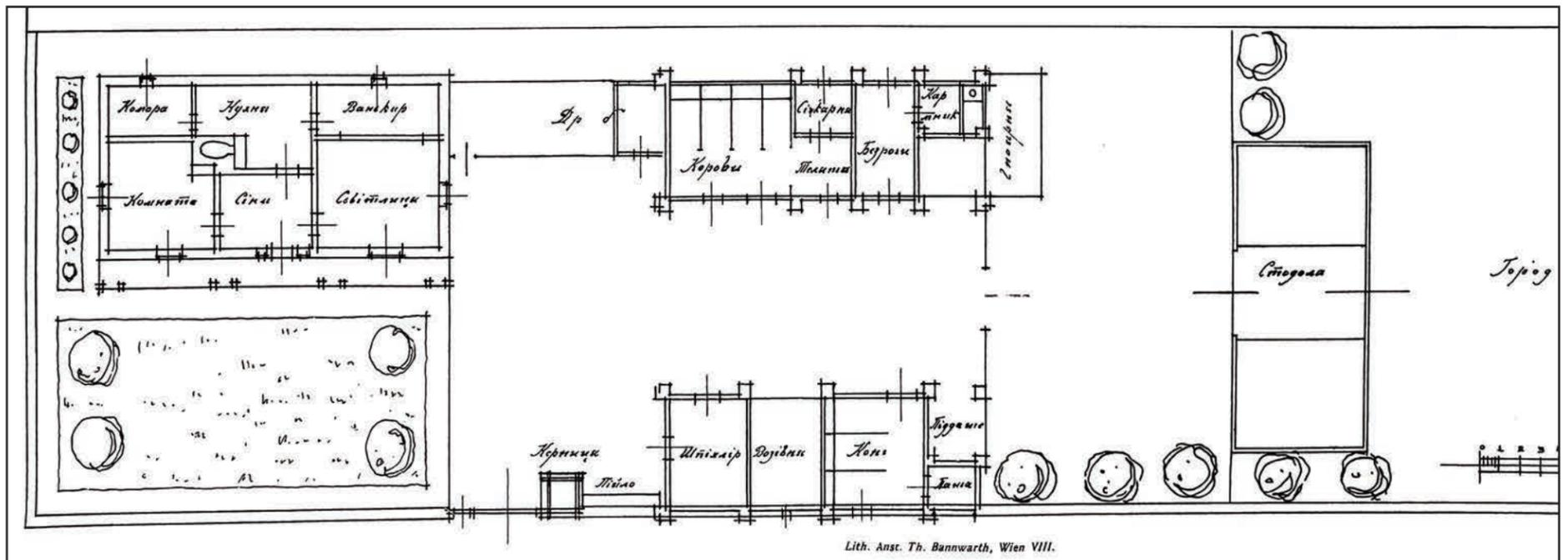
let us look at the attempts made by Ukrainians in Halychyna after world War I. The tsarist-moscovite



Wooden church. Painting. Oleksander Lushpynsky. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

army brought great destruction in Halychyna, especially to towns and villages during the first two years of the war. In Lviv, civic societies disturbed by the tragic situation, began to study possibilities and make plans as well as giving practical advice for the rebuilding of the destroyed areas. Already in 1916 (the war was still ongoing) two albums consisting of architectural plans and projects for the rebuilding of the country were published in Lviv. The author of these works was Oleksander Lushpynsky (1878-1943), an architect. In previous years he had built a number of Churches and civic buildings in Halychyna. Recently a mention of this publication was made on Facebook. One part of this rare publication we have in our library with the Stefanyk library in Lviv also possessing a copy. In this work, Lushpynsky gives accurate architectural plans for different homestead needs, depending on the acres of land the owner has. The publication also includes plans for civic buildings like reading rooms, clubs etc. In the architectural plans, Lushpynsky tried to introduce the Ukrainian style based on the "existing traditions" and "including modern cultural, hygienic and economic demands". It is amazing to see with what foresight and care civic leaders in Halychyna treated the idea and need for the rebuilding of their country for the benefit of their people. The publication *The Rebuilding of Destroyed Villages in Eastern Halychyna* is an exceptionally fascinating and invaluable document of our history. Along with this publication our museum also has two paintings by Oleksander Lushpynsky depicting Boiko and Lemko wooden churches.

The preservation of rare publications is an important responsibility of libraries. Based on such publications we can discover and recreate events which otherwise might have been forgotten. ♦



An architectural plan for a homestead. Fragment. *The Rebuilding of Destroyed Villages in Eastern Halychyna* Oleksander Lushpynsky. 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.