

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

‘Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.’

- George Santayana

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Almanach-Calendar Ukrainian Invalid for the year 1924. Printed in Lviv, 1923. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

The 30th anniversary celebration of Ukrainian independence in August 2021 evoked in the Ukrainian people feelings of tremendous joy, pride and confidence in its own powerful abilities towards a continuous and significant development. But within six months of this anniversary the flourishing and radiantly independent Ukraine once more became the victim of a hostile savage assailant. This destroyer of enlightenment, of civilized life, of humankind is once again attempting to destroy the Ukrainian nation, Ukrainian culture, and eradicate its memory from human existence.

Russia's destructive tactics towards Ukraine have been the same for centuries. The Ukrainian people have struggled and endeavored numerous times to establish its national rights with various degrees of short lived successes and ultimate fail-

ures, often the result of a lack of preparedness, unity and congruity. Only now, after 30 years of living freely in a democratic land have the Ukrainian people internalized the importance and necessity of protecting all that was achieved over the generations by uniting all its strengths into one aim – the preservation of its national existence. The determination, courage and unity of purpose of the present day Ukrainian soldiers is breathtaking and indomitable.

The present war of Russian aggression is no different than the Moscovite (tsarist Russian) invasions during World War I, especially the sacking of Halychyna. The present day combat tactics of the Russian invaders does not differ much from those of a hundred years ago. They ruthlessly employed torture, rape, the burning and destruction of villages and cities in genocidal massacres that are

horrifying the world.

Every war brings about great sacrifices. We pay homage and glorify the heroic deeds of those who have perished. But we also express our gratitude and offer our care to those soldiers who are fighting and risking their lives, the high number of severely wounded who often return limbleless, sightless, and emotionally scared. Taking care of wounded veterans is a great responsibility of state and social institutions and it is interesting to learn how Ukrainian communities cared for their World War I survivors. One of the finest examples of concern and care belongs to the Ukrainian Invalid Aid Society founded in 1921 with headquarters in Lviv and with branches in other cities and towns throughout Halychyna. It encouraged citizens to become members. Donations, membership dues and money raised from fundraising appeals financed the activities of the Society. Needless to say, the Society appealed for financial support to Ukrainians in the United States and Canada, who most generously responded to aid their brethren in need. The Society's work was conducted in a rented building in Lviv. Here

they kept precise lists of registered wounded and their needs. The aim of the Society was to acquire its own building. For this the members began an intensive campaign in the 1920s. The first donation of \$400 dollars came from the Ukrainian Woman's Society in New York. This Society later became the 1st Branch of Ukrainian National Women's League of America. In 1931, the Society purchased an imposing building in Lviv for the management of its work.

From 1935, the Society published the annual *Almanachs-Calendar of the Ukrainian Invalid* where pertinent information about the Society's work, as well as essays dealing with Ukrainian history, war, military news could be found. The Lviv daily *Dilo* published for the Society lists of all donations listing contributors by name. To make it possible for the disabled veterans to have some form of employment, the Society organized food cooperatives where veterans could work and encouraged citizens to support these stores. It also organized a hat making factory where veterans found work. These efforts not only benefited the Society financially, but more

importantly it gave the veterans the dignity of work as well as the opportunity for physical and financial recovery.

Our Museum and Library has a number of the *Almanach-Calendar* as well as an informative booklet entitled *Ukrainian Invalid* published in 1923. We also have a brochure about Ukrainian invalids published in 1922 in Lviv as well as some photographs depicting aid societies.

Aid for Ukrainian war victims of World War I was conducted exclusively by Ukrainians in Halychyna and Ukrainian Diaspora. Then we were an unknown stateless entity and the world did not know us. Today the situation changed. The whole world now knows us and admires the heroic deeds of our soldiers in their fight against the Russian aggressor, even aiding us with military and humanitarian supplies. The Ukrainian Diaspora also responded in unison to the needs of Ukraine and is doing all in its power to help and inform the world about our nation. Ukrainians have a deep understanding of the necessity of defeating the Russian aggressor to preserve not only its own existence but for the survival of the free world. ❖



Ukrainian women's society to aid the wounded soldiers in Vienna. Photo (1910s). 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.

Vatican coins illustrate war against Ukraine

By Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican stamp and coin office has released several commemorative coins, including one promoting the importance of vaccinations and a silver medal for peace in Ukraine; proceeds from sales of the medal will be used to help victims of the war. The Philatelic and Numismatic Office said in a press release in mid-May that issuing an official medal dedicated to peace in Ukraine was "a way to join calls

for a halt to weapons and a return to dialogue." One side of the medal depicts a family fleeing from a city destroyed by bombs with their entire lives in a suitcase; a child cares a soft toy as the family is "guided by a young mother who is walking toward us reminding us of our duty to welcome and show solidarity." At the top, the word, "peace," is written in Latin and Cyrillic, the office said. The other side depicts a dove of peace with

an olive branch above Pope Francis' name and coat of arms, as well as part of a special prayer he recited during his general audience March 16 imploring God to forgive humanity for waging war, especially the war in Ukraine. The excerpt in Italian reads: "Lord Jesus, born under bombs falling on Kyiv, who died in a mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, a 20-year-old sent to the front lines, have mercy on us." ❖