

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

DOES HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF? by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

The year 2014 will definitely go into history as the year of significant upheavals. There were massive peaceful protests for the support of democratic rights, individual freedom, and human dignity; also there were aggressive, belligerent, and offensive actions to which some

its totalitarian government and usurping schemes.

In our Library we have interesting archival material dealing with the activities of Ukrainians in Halychyna (Galicia) in the preparation for and participation in World War I. Halychyna was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Once the War was declared and the Tsarist Russian army began its onslaught into Halychyna, Ukrainian civic leaders in Lviv organized a Supreme Ukrainian Council and similar regional councils in other major cities. These councils informed and instructed the populace as to the situation, advising and urging them to participate in the

our lands which are soaked through with the blood of our ancestors. In a shameless and arrogant way it destroys all international laws, treaties, human rights and culture! "

Remember, the above was written in 1914. The aims and actions of the Tsarist Russian government then can be used to describe the situation today. By substituting Tsarist Russia for Russia, we have a repeat of history. There is, however, a minor difference in name calling. Today's Ukrainian patriots are called Banderites and their activities Banderism. In 1914, the Russians called Ukrainian patriots Mazepists and their activities Mazepism.

In our Library we also have a few photographs of personages who were active during World War I. They were members of the Combat Board of the Ukrainian Sharp Shooters and prior to the

War devoted much time and energy to the education and enlightenment of Ukrainian society. They especially, wanted Ukrainian youth to be responsible, nationally conscious, and patriotic young individuals. One of the most active men

Українська Боева Управа Ukrainian Combat Board
Dr. I. Boberskyi, Dr. T. Tomashivskyi, Dr. T. Kormosh, Dr. V. Starosolskyi, Prof. V. Temnytskyi, Dr. L. Cebelskyi, Dr. K. Trylovskyi, I. Katamai, Dr. I. Boberskyi, Dr. T. Tomashivskyi, Dr. T. Kormosh, Dr. V. Starosolskyi, проф. В. Темницький, Др. Л. Цегельський, Др. К. Триловський, І Катamai



nations resorted to suppress any and all vestiges of human and national rights and freedoms. We have witnessed actions and deeds which for the most part harbor opposing aims – for the good and positive ends of one, but for the destruction and annihilation of the other which has resulted in unimaginable tragedies and probably still more hardships and more tragedies to come. In all of these events Ukraine is in the spotlight. Ukraine as a nation, and Ukrainians as people are finally being given recognition, albeit in a tragic situation. The world is paying attention to what is happening, and why it is happening in Ukraine.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I. As in 1914, so in 2014 Ukrainians have strengthened and united their efforts to achieve a truly free, independent, and democratic country without an insidious, hostile, and self-serving enemy to which Ukraine and its people have been subservient for centuries. Even in the 23 years of Ukraine's independence (1991-2014) since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has not been completely free from a treacherous enemy overseer undermining the stability, unity, and democratic progress of Ukraine. Hence, the goals of Ukrainians in 1914 and 2014 were and are the same, the problems were and are the same, and the enemy was and is the same – Russia with

defense of their country. Our Library has two original World War I posters. One was published by the Ternopil regional council and the other by the Pokuttia region. In the Pokuttia poster we read: "To Arms for the Freedom of Ukraine and our whole Nation!... Tsarist Russia ... is digging a dark grave for our national life and the enslavement of our people. . . Our brothers across the border (meaning Eastern Ukraine) await our help in order to free themselves from centuries of slavery. . . Ukrainians! Join the ranks of the Ukrainian Sharp Shooters (Sichovi Striltsi)! . . . To Action! The time of retribution is at hand to repay for the criminal trampling of the Rights of Ukraine, for the torments of Polubotok, for the penal sufferings of Taras. In the Ternopil poster we read: "Ukrainian People of the Golden Podillia! Tsarist Russia is lashing wild hordes of its soldiers unto

was Dr. Ivan Boberskyi, 1873-1947. His interest was primarily in physical education. His was active in the Ukrainian Sokil Society (founded in 1894) and contributed much to its growth. The aim of this society was through physical education to "propagate national unity, self confidence, and dignity." In 1919 he was sent by the Western Ukrainian National Republic to the United States and Canada. Here he was active in the émigré communities. Another member was Dr. Mykhailo Voloshyn, 1878-1943, a lawyer. He was a defense attorney at the numerous political trials of Ukrainian political prisoners and was very active in the whole Lviv community. Dr. Lonhyn Tschelskyi, 1875-1950, a lawyer, journalist, and political activist was another member. In 1920 he was

sent as a representative by the president of the Western Ukrainian Republic to the United States. He settled in Philadelphia and from 1943 was editor of the daily *Ameryka*. There were a few other notable members of the Combat Board, e.g. Dr. Stepan Tomashivskyi, 1875-1930, historian, journalist, politician; Dr. Volodymyr Starosolskyi, 1878-1942, lawyer, sociologist, civic and political leader; Dr. Kyrylo Trylovskyi, 1864-1941, civic and political leader, journalist, founder of the Sich Society, etc.

The outcome of World War I at the 1918 Peace talks was disastrous for Ukrainians. We did not achieve our freedom and independence and continued to be ruled, dominated, and divided by foreign occupiers. A hundred years later, we are still trying to achieve that which has been eluding us for centuries. Let us hope the outcome this time will fulfill our dreams, desires and show that our struggles, sacrifices, and hardships were not in vain. Let us hope as God said to His people, using the same thoughts from different Biblical editions: "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten", (Joel, 2:25) or "I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts"; "I will restore to you the years that the locust swarms devoured." Let us pray and hope that this will come to pass!



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