

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

FROM OUR ARCHIVES – VARIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS DURING WORLD WAR I

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Wilhelm Lothringen Hapsburg - Among Ukrainians he was known as Vasyl Vyshyvanyi, because under his uniform's jacket he had always worn a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, as shown on the picture.

November is the month when we recall important historical events during World War I in Ukraine and pay tribute to the individuals who participated in these events and who were instrumental in their achievement. These men and women were part of a glorious moment in Ukrainian history. It was their attempt to liberate Ukraine from foreign domination and to make it a free and independent nation. Although these aims were not achieved, nevertheless their devotion to this cause, their attempts, their work, their sacrifices, had a political and cultural impact for generations to come.

In our Museum and Library's photographic collection we have a considerable number of photographs and postcards which depict various individuals who had played major or minor roles in these historic undertakings. Their contributions should not be forgotten; rather, with these contributions we should become well acquainted.

One of the most fascinating persons participating in Ukraine's fight for freedom was a certain Wilhelm Lothringen Hapsburg, an Austrian archduke and prince (1895-1948). Among Ukrainians he was known as

Vasyl Vyshyvanyi, because under his uniform's jacket he had always worn a Ukrainian embroidered shirt. This shirt was presented to him by the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (Sichovi Striltsi), a Ukrainian battalion within the Austro-Hungarian Army of which Vasyl Vyshyvanyi was the commander. Archduke Wilhelm was indeed a great ukrainophile. He was as Timothy Snyder stated in his book *The Red Prince* "obsessed by Ukraine". He had learned Ukrainian and spoke in Ukrainian to his soldiers. He even tried his utmost to influence the Brest-Litovsk Treaty negotiations for the benefit of Ukraine but was not successful. During the years between the Wars he was in constant contact with Ukrainian nationalists and political exiles. He supported them in their efforts to familiarize the western world with the politically dire situation of Ukrainians under foreign domination. While living in Vienna during World War II and afterwards, in 1947 he was abducted by the Soviet Secret Service, imprisoned, tortured, and sentenced to 25 years for his Ukrainian affiliations and activities. However, he died the next year, in 1948, before the sentence could be carried out. During his interro-

gations in prison he always insisted on speaking Ukrainian.

We have a few original photographs in our Museum's collection of Vasyl Vyshyvanyi. The embroidered shirt, which he had worn, is visible in some of them. On one photograph he is seated with Metropolitan Sheptytsky and an Austrian military commander.

Another noteworthy person to become well acquainted with is Mykhailo Havrylko (1882-1920), artist, sculptor, poet, and soldier. He was born in the Poltava region. He studied art in the St. Petersburg Art School, in the Cracow Academy of Arts (with the financial support of Metropolitan Sheptytsky) and also in Paris. Together with Volodymyr Starosolsky, Ivan Chmola, and Olena Stepaniv he united the various "Sich" organizations into one. These members later registered into the Austro-Hungarian Army and formed the Sich Riflemen battalion. He joined the Sichovi Striltsi battalion, and fought in battles in the Carpathian Mountains against the tsarist Russian forces. As a sculptor he created projects for Shevchenko monuments and many sculptures of noted

Ukrainians, e.g., like Markian Shaschkevych, Ivan Franko, as well as for others. He also did many pencil drawings of his friends, and designed some of the Sich Riflemen insignias. When the Sich Riflemen recaptured the Volyn area from the tsarist Russian army, Havrylko was instrumental in organizing the schooling system in that area. Havrylko, although Orthodox in Religion married Olena Hordievska, the daughter of a Ukrainian Catholic priest, in a Ukrainian Catholic Church in 1917. The witnesses were his brothers-in-arms, Nykyfor Hirniak and Mykola Uhryn Bezhrishnyi. In 1918 he joined the Ukrainian Army known as "Grey Coats" and worked mainly in the Poltava area. At this time the Bolshevik army was moving in. The Cheka (the first type of a Soviet Secret Police) encroached into the area and soon began arresting Ukrainian activists. Havrylko managed to elude them for a while, but eventually they did capture him and then threw him live into the burning fire of a locomotive furnace! Most of his art works have been destroyed.

This is just a brief introduction to two fascinating individuals and their contributions to the Ukrainian cause. More articles will follow sporadically. ■



Mykhailo Havrylko and his wife Olena (Hordievska), the daughter of a Ukrainian Catholic priest.

BOOK REVIEW: *Red famine: Stalin's war on Ukraine* / by Anne Applebaum (New York : Doubleday ; October, 2017 – ISBN 978-038-53885-5)

I have been asked by Reverend Taras Charparin, the new English-language editor of *The Sower*, to compose a review for our general readership of this thoroughly researched book on the Holodomor, the Great Famine of Ukraine, 1932-1933. (for a critical assessment, see Timothy Snyder's review which appeared in *The Washington Post* on November 3, 2017).

Ann Applebaum is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for her book on the Soviet gulag system as well as a finalist for the National Book Award on her book about the Iron Curtain. Thus, she has established her credentials as a scholar on Eastern Europe. Her book on the Holodomor is greatly aided by access to Soviet archival resources and history in hindsight.

The book is an interesting read

because it is not just about The Holodomor. Its focus is on the attempt of Stalin to get rid of Ukraine's self-identity during the 1930s. Thus, the author speaks about having to understand this unspeakable tragedy perpetrated under the guise of "collectivization of agriculture" in light of all the other obstacles that Stalin sought to wipe up: the religious and intellectual elite in Ukraine at that time, the very existence of the Ukrainian language. Under his policies, the individual Ukrainian ethos had to be replaced by communal Sovietization, for the betterment of the state.

The book is not an easy one to page through. While it is aided by maps and photographs of the times, it also is filled with descriptions of harrowing personal testimonies of starvation, of the pillaging of cemeteries for any

goods, and of experiences that emotionally describe the slaughter of innocents by a heartless political machine. And yet the book remarkably is filled with a message of hope – a hope that was not wiped out in the memory of civilized world; rather, it was an impetus for the eventual Ukrainization of people by the end of the twentieth century.

This book is not addressed merely to the academic world nor to the library shelf. It is a book circulated by an international publishing company. It is easy to acquire online or in most bookstores. I believe it is meant to be put in thousands of hands of people wanting to know the truth of how terrible man can be to man, for "there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed".

Monsignor John Terlecky, Director, 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 4 p.m., or by appointment, and is located at 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902.