

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Once Again, We are “Our Brother’s Keeper”

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

HERE IS MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

SOME OF MY FAITHFUL CHILDREN,
WHOM YOU, THEIR BENEFACITOR,
AND I, THEIR ARCHBISHOP, WILL
NOT ABANDON

A brochure from 1921, which Metropolitan Sheptytsky distributed during his visitation of the parishes and various Latin Rite charitable institutions. Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

Throughout the ages, mankind has periodically faced and suffered harrowing disasters both natural and man-made. With natural catastrophes such as tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, man has had little or no control and been forced to accept these natural destructive phenomena as inevitable, even predestined, acts of nature. Man-made disasters, that have resulted from hostilities, revolutions, terrorism, civil disorder, and world wars, were brought about by various reasons such as man's greed for power, the need to

dominate and control others, to rob and pillage for enrichment, and retaliate against others for numerous reasons. This has resulted in the vanquishing of whole civilizations, the ruin nations, the bloodiest needless human massacres, and the destruction of mankind's cultural achievements. It is among the most tragic of misfortunes mankind has inflicted upon itself.

Notwithstanding the devastation suffered from these disasters, the innate impulse for survival has always mobilized man to action, and encouraged

him to rebuild, by working together and helping each other in these efforts of recovery and renewal. The support and assistance given to those in need reflects the Biblical concept of being *your brother's keeper*.

The Ukrainian nation has endured many natural and man-made disasters. Just recently we witnessed the devastation of regions in Western Ukraine by floods brought about by torrential rains resulting in the loss of life and livelihood. Almost immediately charitable aid was organized resulting in an overwhelmingly constructive response with large scale support sent to the victims of this catastrophe.

The Ukrainian Diaspora in America has always been in touch with its brethren in Ukraine. It quickly and generously responded to their needs and emergencies, trying to ameliorate their political and eco-

conomic difficulties and support them in every possible way. World War I brought some of the most woeful devastation to the Ukrainian lands. War took the lives of many young men, leaving women to take care of the farm and family. Many children were orphaned. The villages and towns were pillaged and burned, churches destroyed, farms and cultivated land were ransacked. The Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States immediately began a campaign to collect the needed funds to help their brethren in Ukraine.

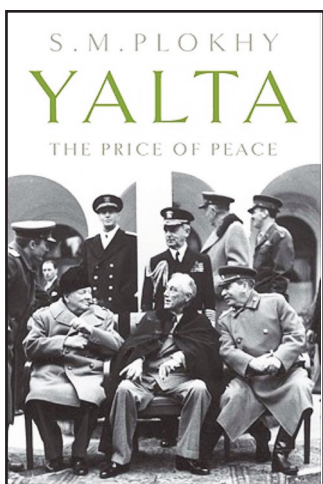
Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, soon after his release from a three-year imprisonment by the tsarist police, returned to Lviv and began to organize help for the war victims. He came to the United States in 1921/22 for an official visit and to collect funds for the war victims, especially

for the numerous orphans. In our archival collection we have a brochure from 1921 which Metropolitan Sheptytsky distributed during his visitation of the parishes and various Latin Rite charitable institutions. The pamphlet was printed and donated by the “Faithful American Friends of the Archbishop”. The illustrations in it depict heartbreaking scenes of a ravaged country and the poverty of the people. It also denotes what the collected funds would be used for. To the sum of money Metropolitan Sheptytsky collected in the United States, he added a large sum of his own and thus began the rebuilding of churches, establishment of orphanages, and aiding the needy.

A small pamphlet which documents a tragic post war situation in Ukraine once more reminds us that we are “our brother's keeper”. ♦



Dinner in Honor of His Excellency Count Andrew Sheptycky, Archbishop of Lviv, Hotel Pennsylvania, NYC, December 13, 1921. Photo. Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.



Yalta: the Price of Peace by Serhii Plokhii (Penguin Books, \$18, Paperback, Amazon).

At the dawn of the new year of 1945, the war against Nazi Germany in Europe was winding down and the leaders of the three major players in the war effort: Churchill of Great Britain,

Book Review

Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM

Roosevelt of the United States, and Stalin of the Soviet Union decided to meet a final time in order to discuss the fate of the dismembered European continent in the war's aftermath.

Many possible sites were considered in the run-up to the meeting, but in the end, Stalin's superstitious fear of travel by sea or air, and his reluctance to leave the Soviet Union narrowed the field to one: Yalta on the Black Sea coast of the Crimean Peninsula.

And so, for eight grey days in early February, 1945 these three men, ensconced along with their foreign ministers and retainers in a spacious former summer residence of the Russian imperial family, sparred and jockeyed for political advantage in a series of meetings whose decisions rever-

berate until today, seventy-five years later.

The distinguished Ukrainian-American historian and Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, Serhii Plokhii, in his book, *Yalta: the Price of Peace*, published in 2010, meticulously documents the proceedings of this, arguably the most significant and consequential international summit meeting of the twentieth century, in vivid and fascinating style, from the days and weeks leading up to the meeting through to its final conclusion. Drawing extensively from official archival sources including declassified Soviet documents as well as personal observations and musings gleaned from letters and diaries of those in the immediate orbit of

the three principals, Plokhii does much to cut through the myth and hearsay that has clothed the Yalta Conference since the signing of its articles.

We learn that the three leaders arrived at their destination by different modes of transport. Roosevelt braved the rough Atlantic crossing holed up in the refurbished captain's quarters of the cruiser USS Quincy, that had fired the first volley in the invasion of Normandy the previous year. Churchill flew over in a cramped and cold British Skymaster, dodging inclement weather and enemy anti-aircraft fire along way. Stalin, meanwhile, elected to travel down from Moscow in style, by rail in a specially armored salon car that had belonged formerly to Tsar

Nicholas.

The different modes of travel was a reflection of the diametrically opposed expectations and political agendas held by the three men as they entered the meeting hall. All three, outwardly cordial, were united only in their distrust of one another and any “hidden agenda” each might harbour.

Roosevelt, who was to live only two months longer, was exhausted and ill and almost nonchalant in his preparation for the summit. His overarching goal was to secure the final defeat of Germany in Europe and Japan in the Pacific for which he would need Stalin's aid. He was also keen

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