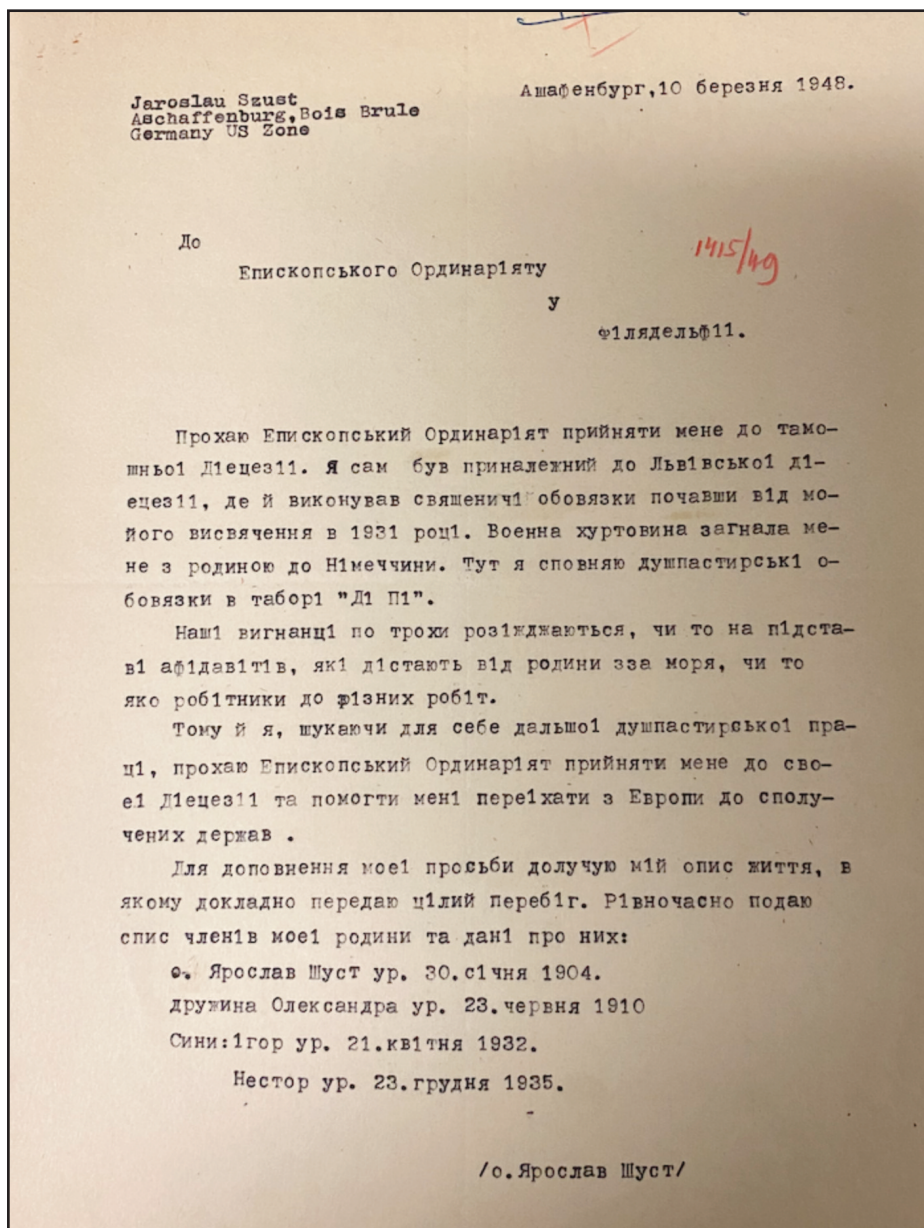


EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

November Is for Thanks, December Is for Gifts (Part II)

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



A letter by Fr. Szust, The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

The number of requests from Ukrainian refugees in Europe to help them with CARE packages of food, clothing, resettlement and emigration to America was extensive. It became an overwhelming job for the Ukrainian Catholic Relief Committee to handle all requests without the support of other aid societies. For this reason, the committee worked with the All-American Aid Organization – Catholic Relief Services, which was under the patronage of the Catholic Church of USA, and non-Catholic societies like the All-Christian Committee for Refugees. Help also came from concerned members of the Ukrainian Diaspora willing to aid their brethren in need. The work of all of these aid societies and individuals may be deemed as one of the finest humanitarian acts.

As mentioned in the first part of the article, the UCR Committee was especially concerned with getting sponsorship for orphans, young students, scholars and intellectuals. Because immigration authorities required proof that such individuals would not be a burden to the state, it was necessary to find sponsors who had the means and would be willing to take care of such individuals or groups for as long as was needed.

In 1947 the UCR Committee succeeded in bringing 57 orphans from the DP camps to USA (51 boys, ages 16-19 and 6 girls). The young men were housed at St. Basil Prep School and College Seminary in Stamford, CT, and the young girls resided at the Mother of God Academy in Stamford, CT. For the young men, a special two-month intensive educational summer course was organized.

They spent two months at the eparchial camp facility in Stratford, NY, learning English and adjusting to life in America. After an analysis of each individual orphan's abilities and interests they were guided and advised as to their future. Eventually each orphan was placed in a home of a sponsor willing to take care of them until they were able to be on their own.

The UCR sub-committee to help scholars and intellectuals emigrate to the USA continued its intensive work in the able hands of Professor Mykola (Nicholas) Chubaty. He worked closely with the then editor of the Ukrainian daily *Amyryka* (official organ of Providence Association) – Bohdan Katamay (1911-2001). Articles appeared about the arrivals of the orphans, as well as the arrivals of individual scholars of note underscoring the importance of their scholarly achievements and their contribution to the Ukrainian national and intellectual development. The UCR Committee was successful in finding sponsors for Prof. Roman Smal-Stockyi (1893-1969) – scholar, specialist in Slavic philology and literature. He was also politically involved in the government of the West Ukrainian National Republic holding the diplomatic position as ambassador to Germany in 1919, etc. Another individual whose resettlement was handled by the UCR committee was Mykhailo Osinchuk (1890-1964) – noted artist specializing in the Byzantine style of icon painting. He decorated over 12 churches in western Ukraine. Once in America, he was commissioned to decorate the interior of a number of Ukrainian Catholic Churches and chapels and paint-

ed many individual icons. Towards the end of his life he donated a substantial number of his works to our museum. Another fascinating individual who received sponsorship to emigrate to America from the American Christian Committee for Refugees was Volodymyr Sichynsky (1898-1962), architect, graphic artist, art specialist, archeologist, author of numerous scholarly works on Ukrainian art and culture. Professor Bohdan Lonchyna (1917-1985, father of Bishop Hlib Lonchyna and Reverend Taras Lonchyna) – pedagogue, Catholic activist, community leader, arrived in America through the sponsorship of Mother Superior of the Missionary Sisters in Stamford, CT. Professor Lonchyna was fluent in six languages (including English) and finding a job in his profession was no problem. Soon after arriving he was offered a teaching position in a college in Ohio and later was a professor of foreign languages at the University of Detroit. Professor Wasyl Lev (1903-1991) – linguist, pedagogue, also came to the USA through the efforts of the UCR Committee. From 1952-1958 he was teaching Church-Slavonic at St. Basil College Seminary and was an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society holding the post as head of the committee for regional research.

A number of priests also came through the efforts of the UCR committee. Every priest who wished to come to the USA and continue his priestly pastoral duties had to be affiliated with a Diocese. By petitioning Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, to be accepted into the Diocese they then had to find sponsors and go through the necessary immigration procedures. Among the priests whose correspondence we have are Reverends Myroslav Charyna (1909-1991); Yaroslav Shust (1904-1999, long time pastor of Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bridgeport); Stepan Sulyk (1924-2020, later Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America); Myroslav Lubachivsky (1918-2000, later Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine), and many others.

The correspondence between Prof. Chubaty and scholars and intellectuals seeking assistance from the UCR

Committee is voluminous. From the letters of the applicants we learn much more than just their biographical data. Most of them, together with Prof. Chubaty express concern about the future of Ukrainians in America, about the necessity to establish a center or institute of Ukrainian culture where objective studies could be produced free from Soviet influence and distortion. We read about these viewpoints and possible projects in the letters of prof. Chubaty with Prof. Oleksander Ohloblyn (1899-1992) – historian, historiographer, archeographer; Zenon Kuzelia (1882-1952) – ethnographer, lexicographer, journalist; Volodymyr Doroshenko (1879-1963), biographer, literary scholar, civic and political leader; Dmytro Doroshenko 1882-1951, historian; Viktor Domanytsky (1893-1962) – economist, pedagogue; Yurii Starosolsky (1907-1991), lawyer, civic and Plast leader and many others.

Through the efforts of the UCR Committee a substantial number of Ukrainian scholars and intellectuals were able to come to America and continue the work in their individual field of specialization. They also helped strengthen the existing institutions and develop and build new cultural centers so that every new generation of Ukrainians in America and every new immigration wave would have a source from which to draw upon their national identity. The accomplishments of these devoted cultural activists may be considered as a special gift for all of us in America and hopefully for future generations. What the third wave of Ukrainians in America did was built a large bonfire of intellectual activity. This flame needs to be maintained and supported both morally and materially with generous gift giving to preserve its existence through financial sustainability. Our Ukrainian Museum and Library is one of the cultural institutions which was created by past generations to serve future Ukrainian generations. Be generous in your support. Let the cultural bonfire glow brightly for many years to come. Help safeguard our rich heritage! Don't let the bright bonfire die, as prof. Chubaty said, and leave behind it only ashes because of our neglect and indifference. ❖

Жертви на Скитальців і Сиріт

Український Католицький Комітет складає сердешну подяку слідуючим особам Організаціям і Церковним Громадам за надіслані жертви:

420.00 ДОЛ. ЦЕРКВА СВ. ЮРА В НЬЮ ЙОРКУ

На зборах Провидіння зложили:

По 5 дол.: І. Бучко, Каласовський, Подольський, о. Олекса Марків, Відділ 32 Провидіння, І. Сорока, Цурковський.

3 дол. зложив Стецяк.

По 2 дол.: П. Задорецький, С. Шиш, Серафим.

По 1 дол.: І. Лабай, Васишин, М. Макар, С. Вабій, М. Ригель, Бурбуляк.

3 церкви Св. Юра:

50 дол.: К. Семенюк.

42 дол.: Апостольство Молитви.

40 дол.: Лібович.

35 дол.: Марія Змага.

По 25 дол.: Марія Кузмяк, Катерина Семенюк.

15 дол.: Марія Кузмяк.

По 10 дол.: Смага, Одна Особа, О. Гуль, М. Стецько, Н. Берків, Олена Кочай, Магдалина Андерська, Н. Лупик, А. Грегусь, А. і М. Сай, Марія Олексин.

По 5 дол.: Микола...

Анна Бурбела, Марія Могила, Евдокія Павлукович, Анна Вовчина, Григ. Райнгардт, Василь Савран, Ксеня Драганчук, Григорій Городильовський, Софія Ганкало, Марія Ончик, Параска Фостик, Марія Пізіо, Меріон Гейгер, Ілько Пасічник, Марія Матіяш, Анна Фамуда.

За жертви щиро дякуємо в імені нещасних скитальців і сиріт. Просимо не забувати про них на будуче.

Ukrainian Catholic Committee for Refugees
161 Glenbrook Rd.
Stamford, Conn.

ПОШУКУЮТЬ СВОІХ
14. Петрончак Іван – пошукує кривних Анну Петрончак ур. в Вислянку на Лемківщині й Юсифа Рудавського ур. в Королику Польським.

Ukrainian Catholic Committee

An ad in *The Way*, The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford