

## EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

## Illustrating Historical Episodes

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Army of Ukrainian People's Republic (Армія Української Народної Республіки), Fragment, Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

Throughout decades and even centuries, certain groups of the Ukrainian population chose to leave their homeland and emigrate to other places and countries, not only for economic reasons, but often times because of political circumstances and upheavals which forced them to emigrate or go into exile to escape persecution and possible annihilation. Whatever was the reason for leaving their homeland, these immigrants, and especially political immigrants, felt incumbent upon themselves to preserve as much as possible and for as long as possible their national identity, and to pass on their historical memory to their offspring, while at the same time acclimatizing to the lifestyle and demands of their adopted country. The leaders of these immigrant groups paid special attention

to their children and tried to imbue in them the cultural and historical heritage of their national origin and their ancestry through various educational means.

After the tragic loss of Ukrainian Independence (1917-1923), and after the Communist takeover, a good number of leaders, active members, supporters, and officials of the Ukrainian National Republic government went in to exile, many of whom made their home in France. There, they established the Ukrainian National Republic Government in Exile, and continued informing the world about the plight of the Ukrainian nation. They published informative materials about Ukraine in many European languages, and also took care to produce educational material for their children, to make them aware and

informed about their national roots, heritage, and history.

In the archival collection of the Ukrainian Museum and Library, we have an interesting example of an informative learning tool for children about the Ukrainian Army of the revolutionary days, in the form of a paper toy. It was a large sheet of paper cutouts depicting soldiers in infantry and cavalry uniforms, including their arms, ammunitions and various positions of attack, etc. It was published in 1929 in Paris by a Ukrainian publishing house, the Trident, and entitled For Ukrainian children – their native Army. The drawings were made by a noted artist, Leonid Perfetsky, 1901-1977. Perfetsky studied at the Novakivsky Art

the Soviets. In our Fine Arts collection, we have two original oil paintings of this artist.

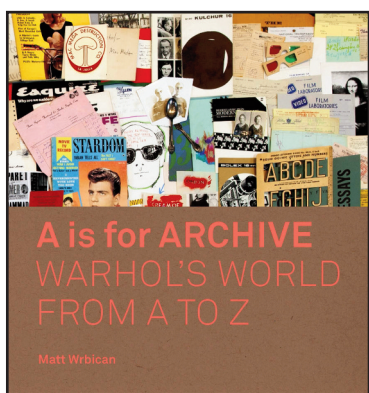
Compared to today's sophisticated battery-operated, electric and now computer-generated toys, the paper cutouts seem so simple and ordinary, and yet they served a valuable educational purpose in those days. Much credit must be given to the community leaders in France, who in their concern for the stimulation and preservation of the national awareness of their children, supplied them with an instructive publication of artistic value. This required that the players had development of manual dexterity, inventing imaginative stories, actions, and even dialogues. Our Museum and Library is fortunate



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School, the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts, and in Paris. He specialized in historical battle scenes, quite a few of which depicted battle scenes of the struggle for Ukrainian independence from Russia and

nate to have an example of this type of work which reflect the valuable contribution of Ukrainian immigrants, wherever they were, and their efforts to propagate and to safeguard Ukrainian heritage. ❖



*A is for Archive: Warhol's world from A to Z* by Matt Wrubican (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press & Pittsburgh: The Andy Warhol Museum, 2019, 45.00).

Andy Warhol is perhaps the most influential yet controversial American artist of the second half of the twentieth century. He turned the world of art upside down and inside out with a movement called Pop Art, a creative visual expression of ordinary

## Book Review by Museum Director

Msgr. John Terlecky

things into a world of color and value. He was a collector of things large and small, ordinary and yet quirky. This book is a wonderful coffee table book for adults. It contains archival materials primarily from The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the author is its longtime archivist.

Why did I choose this new book for the readers of *The Sower*? Years ago, I was stunned to discover that Andy Warhol was a Byzantine Catholic. His parents were Lemko emigrants from the Carpatho-Rusyn region of the old Austria-Hungary, whose land presently falls into parts of Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. They immigrated to the United States shortly after World War One. They had three sons, the

youngest whom they named Andrei (just like his father) with the family surname of Warchola.

Warhol was baptized and chrismated at Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh in 1928. This was the parish church that he attended with his family. His mother Julia was quite pious and instilled a religious character in her children. I wouldn't be surprised if Andrew was an altar boy at the church. Following his death in 1987, his remains returned to Pittsburgh. His funeral liturgy was celebrated at Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittsburgh. He was buried in Saint John's Parish Cemetery next to his parents. The simple monument on his grave does not reflect his fabulous and creative mind.

The only artwork is a three-barred Byzantine Catholic cross and two hands folded simply in prayer. In his extensive biography in Wikipedia, it is noted that Andy Warhol was a practicing Ruthenian Catholic who frequented Roman Catholic Churches in New York City almost daily while he continued to make the sign of the cross in the Byzantine fashion (right to left) that he learned in his childhood.

The book itself consists of materials from the many exhibitions of the works he created. The author has chosen twenty-six themes – thus the A to Z arrangement. My favorite theme is the letter J for Julia, his mother. The chapter contains facsimile copies of documents in her life. Among

them is one called a "Rodny list", her document of sacramental marriage ("vytyah vinchannykh"), her visa from the American Consulate in Prague and a copy of her naturalization in the United States of America. There also is a copy of "Kalendar na rok 1968" published by the Greko-Kattolicheskoho Sojedynennie as well as a few souvenirs of religious devotion in the Byzantine Rite.

This album is an archival gem of memorabilia into the personal life and mindset of Andy Warchol. It is deep in photographs, drawings, documents, and yes pop-art. For lovers of twenty-century art, it is a book that will be appreciated for years to come for its *avant-garde* expression and insight into the life of an American Master. ❖