

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Legacy of Reverend Maksym Kinash (1870-1949)

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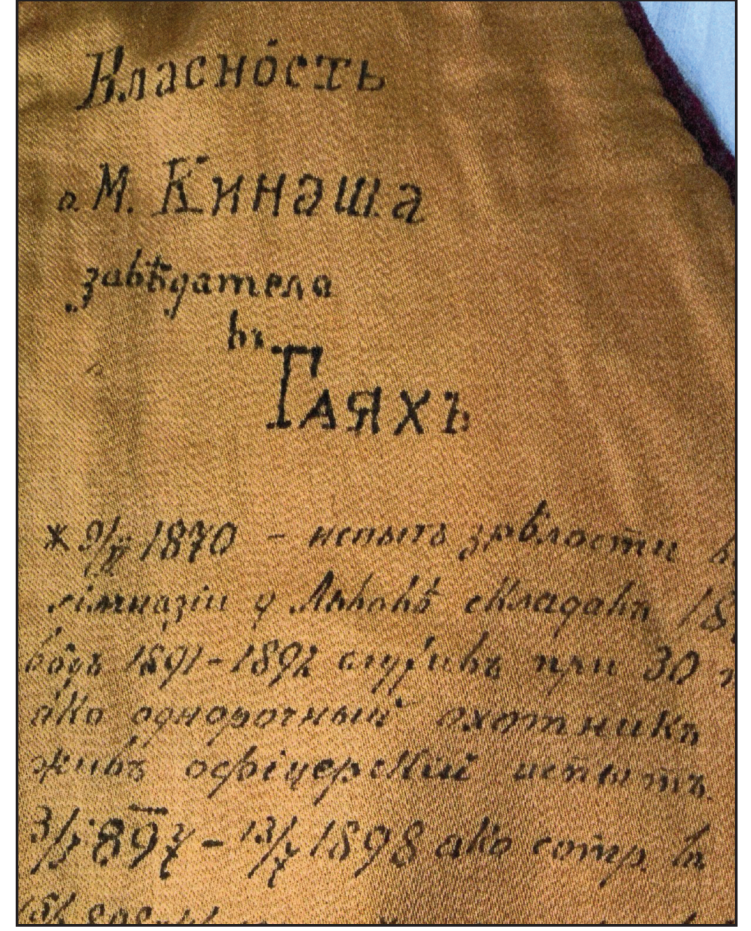
Father Kinash's Epitrakbil, Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

tions in the United States to keep them informed and in touch with their homeland. Another singular artifact which our Museum had received a few years ago was Father Maksym's *Epitrakbil** donated by an acquaintance of his after having preserved it for many years.

Reverend Maksym Kinash was born on September 2, 1870 in the Lviv region of Ukraine. He died July 18, 1949 in Philadelphia, and was buried in Yonkers, NY. Father graduated from the Academic High School in Lviv, and then continued his studies in the Seminary and Lviv University. He also served in the volunteer army for two years and even attained officer's status. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1895 by Metropolitan and Cardinal Sylvester Sembratovych. He served in various parishes in Ukraine, including, as an assistant priest at St. George Cathedral in Lviv. From the very beginning, he became known for his excellent sermons, a collection of which

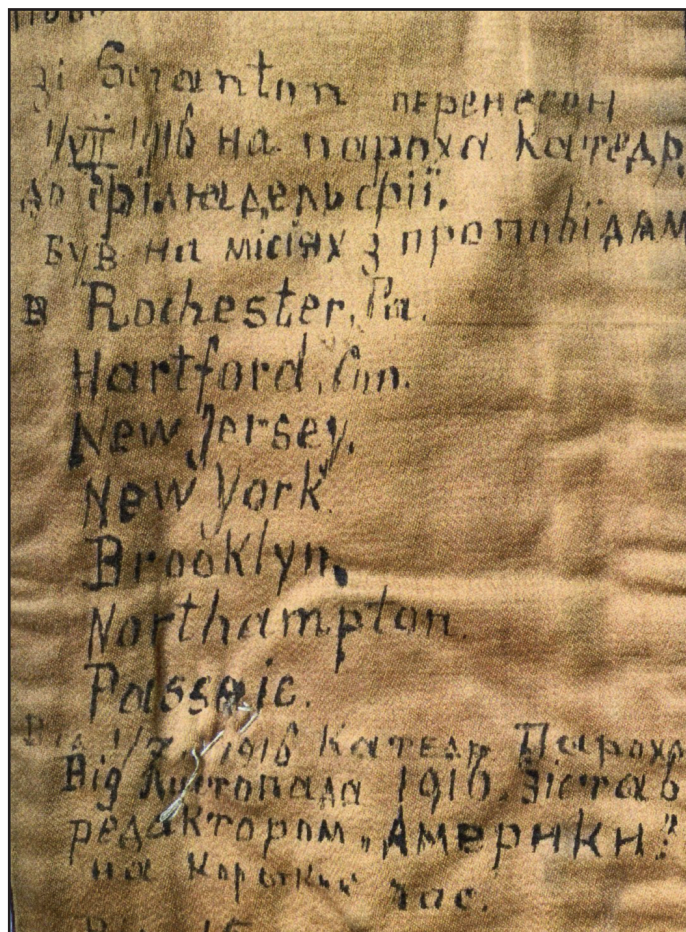
was published in the year 1900 and was quickly sold out. This publication also gained the attention of Metropolitan Sheptytsky.

In 1912 Father Kinash volunteered to do missionary work among the Ukrainian settlers in Canada. That was a difficult and exhausting experience, having to travel thousands of miles, often by horse-drawn wagons, oxcarts and the like, in order to serve the widely scattered settlements of Ukrainian Catholics in Manitoba, as well as in Fort William, Ontario, etc. In 1914, Bishop Soter Ortynsky invited him to the United States, and for ten years he served as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. From 1925 to 1933, he served in the Elizabeth, NJ, Parish and later from 1933 to 1949 he was pastor of St. Michael Church in Yonkers. Throughout the years, he published various educational pamphlets, was editor of the monthly religious magazine *Misionar* published in Philadelphia by the Sisters of



The first entry, "The property of Father Kinash, administrator in Hayi", Fr. Kinash's Epitrakbil, Fragment, Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

The collections of our Ukrainian Museum and Library have had enrichments and still are constantly being enriched by donations, gifts, and bequests. Our institution prides itself on the unique and valuable collections of the late 19th century and early 20th century, (up to 1939) of publications from Western Ukraine. A majority of these, now rare publications, were donated to our Museum and Library by the Reverend Maksym Kinash. Father Kinash, while serving as a priest of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, kept abreast of the social, political, and intellectual life of his brethren in Halychyna. His keen interest in their lives are filled with accomplishments, as well as with predicaments and difficulties, which resulted in him reaching out for information. He did this by subscribing to major journals and by purchasing significant publications from Halychyna. Whatever accounts and intelligence he had gathered, he shared with his parishioners and with various organiza-



The listings of many places where Father served, Fr. Kinash's Epitrakbil, Fragment, Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

St. Basil the Great. He contributed articles to the newspaper *America* (the official publication of Providence Association of which he was chaplain). In 1928, he published a practical and useful book entitled "Introductory Words, Talks for Occasional Events on Secular Topics". William B. Choly, for the 100th anniversary souvenir book of St. Michael Church in Yonkers, speaks of Father Kinash as follows: "A native of Yastibkiv, optimistic by nature and gifted with eloquence, patience and common sense. Father Kinash was recognized early in his priesthood as a preacher of note."

The *Epitrakbil* of Reverend Maksym Kinash which we have in our Museum's religious collection, is a noteworthy document of Father Maksym's assignments as a priest. By careful study, it is possible that this *Epitrakbil* might have been the first one he had received as a young priest and had carried with him throughout his lifetime. On the reverse of the *Epitrakbil*, Father Kinash wrote the name, place, and

year of every parish in which he had served, beginning with the first parish in the village of Hayi. The first entry says, "The property of Father Kinash, administrator in Hayi". Below this, he gives some data of his life, and then lists the many villages and towns, and cities from Ukraine to Canada to America in which he had served. More than half of the entries are still written, using the old orthography which was used in the 19th century up to World War I. The use of this archaic style of Ukrainian orthography helps us to date the artifact, and assume this *Epitrakbil* was used by Father Maksym from the early years of his priesthood. Ultimately, entries that follow are written in contemporary orthography, and end with his assignment in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers.

What an original and unique way to preserve information! This *Epitrakbil* was Father Maksym's record keeper. For scholars that is a priceless document from which much data can be retrieved and perceptions can be made. ❖

* *Epitrakbil*, comes from Greek, ἐπιτραχήλιον, meaning "around the neck", is a liturgical vestment worn by priests and bishops in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, separately, or as part of the full liturgical attire—equivalent of the Roman Catholic "stole".