

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

New Acquisitions

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator



Shirt, Borsbchiv region.
The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford



Shirt, Pokuttia region.
The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

The Museum and Library's collections, in keeping with its mission and purpose, are often enriched and expanded by gifts which come from family bequests, individual donors and sometimes purchases. Throughout the years, our Museum and Library has been fortunate as the recipient of many Ukrainian cultural heritage objects which include fine art, folk art, religious art, thousands of books, journals and various other types of archival material. Lately, donations of this nature have increased. The older generation of Ukrainians in America, especially those of the third immigration wave, who collected, cherished and preserved objects of our cultural heritage are aging, downsizing their living standards or passing away. Some have made adequate provisions for the future of their collections. Some have not often leaving it to their children and grandchildren to deal with. Depending on personal circumstances and their level of awareness, their understanding of the importance of the preservation of all

aspects of our cultural heritage, the inheritors of these heirlooms, invariably influenced the fate of these family and organizational collections. Some were donated or placed with institutions like our museum and library for preservation and posterity, to be used in exhibitions, and for research and study. Unfortunately, many personal collections do not survive because the owners and inheritors of such treasures did not want to be bothered with the problems of proper disposal or had minimal understanding of the value and importance of preserving every possible scrap of material dealing with Ukrainian history and culture.

Lately, our museum and library has been receiving a number of interesting, valuable and unique objects which have enhanced our collections. Periodically I will recount items we have received from various individuals which we deemed to be of unique interest and merit.

A few weeks ago we received a number of museum quality objects and over

ten boxes of Ukrainian books. Each of our collections pertaining to folk and fine art and our library holdings were wonderfully augmented by these gifts.

The folk art collection was enriched with embroidered folk shirts from Borsbchiv and Pokuttia regions. Two sleeveless sheepskin jackets, one from Bukovyna and the other from Pokuttia, as well as a wrap-around skirt from Bukovyna and other woven textiles from Pokuttia. All are in excellent condition and of superb workmanship. For those who might wonder how many shirts and textiles a museum needs to collect, it is necessary to make them understand that each of these items has a unique history, a story to tell about its provenance, workmanship, the creator, the owners etc. Information of this nature enriches our knowledge and understanding of the object and the people who created it.

The fine art collection was enriched with a work entitled "Lviv", done in 1992 by a noted Ukrainian artist Petro Sypniak, (b. 1959) known for his land-

scapes and city scenes. We also received a sculpture by the Ya. Syniupka done from one piece of wood depicting a cossack and his horse drinking water from a river. Our library's collection of Shevchenkiana was enriched with a rare edition of *the Kobzar* printed in Kyiv in 1889. Every and any edition of *the Kobzar* is always a welcome addition. Depending upon where, when and by whom it was published, we can learn about the political conditions and moods of the authorities of the days. By checking which Shevchneko poems were included, which were censored and omitted will help us determine the bureaucratic abuses and censorship of our national heritage.

It is quite commendable and heartwarming that we still have individuals in the Ukrainian community who understand and cherish the preservation of our cultural heritage. Let us hope that more will follow their generous example and preserve every vestige of our past by donating it to institution who preserve for posterity. ❖



Wraparound skirt, Bukovyna region.
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Sheepskin jacket, Bukovyna region.
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