

## EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

## Celebrating Ukrainian Independence

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

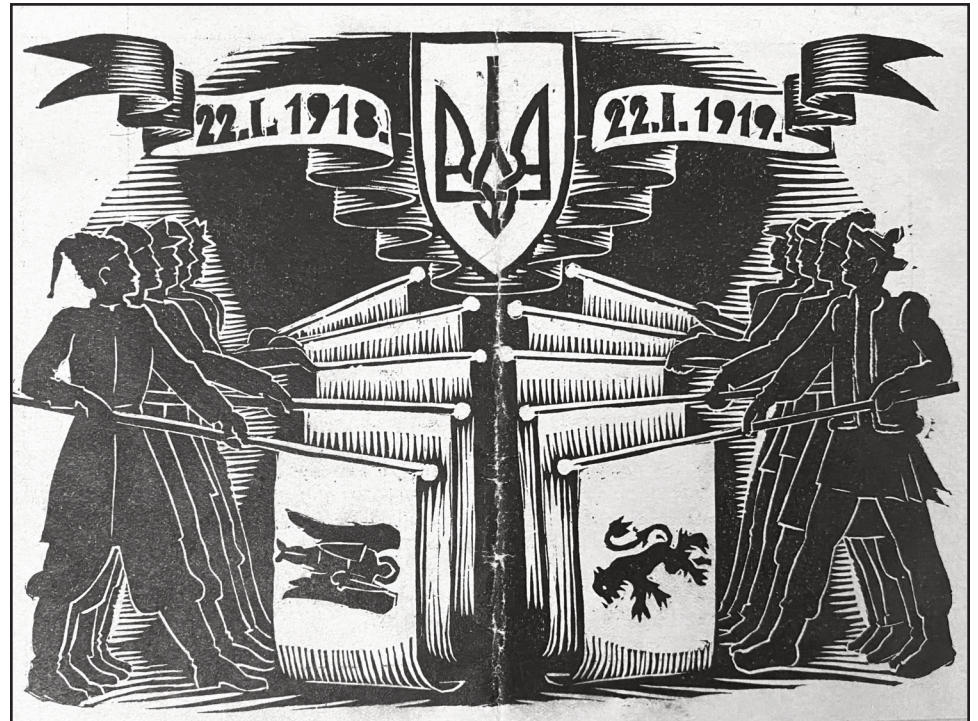
On August 2021, with great jubilation and deep emotional feeling, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the renewed Ukrainian Independence. This independence, came suddenly and unexpectedly, as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union and without the shedding of blood. During these 30 years, many positive achievements were accomplished even though the negative soviet syndromes that remained were not eradicated completely. Throughout this period, however, there lurked a feeling that this independence was fragile because of the continued interference and encroachment on our land from its stronger enemy from the north. This enemy was and is waiting for the right moment to pounce, take over, destroy our independence and make us again an indistinct, an unknown national entity just like we were during our first independence in the years 1918-1921. Presently, already blood has been and continues to be spilled in the defense of our independence.

For many years prior to the August 1991 independence, Ukrainians commemorated the first Independence of Ukraine (1918-1921) which was proclaimed on January 22, 1918 and stated that the Ukrainian National Republic is free and independent. A second proclamation was issued on January 22, 1919 when the National Republic was united with the West National Republic. The loss of this first independence, after a little more than three years of existence, was a great tragedy. The young Republic fighting the armies of three different enemies had little chance of survival. During the Peace Treaty negotiations Ukrainian

demands were ignored. The powerful nations decided the outcome and future of several little known nations. And so Ukraine was again divided between two foreign powers. The western lands went to Poland and the Eastern lands became part of the Soviet Union.

The memory of this first independence was kept alive in peoples' hearts and minds for years. Overt commemorative celebrations honoring this historic event were banned completely in the Soviet occupied Ukraine, and historical facts were falsified, misinterpreted, destroyed and participants in these events were incarcerated in penal camps or even executed. And so it was incumbent upon the Ukrainian Diaspora in the free world to preserve the memory of this historic achievement for posterity so that every new generation of Ukrainians in Ukraine and in the Diaspora would be cognizant of it and inform the world about it.

Ukrainians in America were kept abreast of all the activities in Ukraine and tried to support and help their brethren as much as possible. The post World War II political barrier - the Iron Curtain closed all possible contacts for Ukrainians in the free world with their families in Ukraine and any exchange of information. Ukrainians who left their native land at the end of the war to escape Soviet persecution temporarily ended up in displaced camps in western European countries and later emigrated to North and South America, Australia, etc. By living in the free world, they felt a debt to inform the world about Ukraine, its history, culture and the plight of the Ukrainian nation under



(1) Celebration of Ukrainian Independence, Program. DP Camp, Regensburg, Germany. January 20, 1949. Booklet, 3 pages. Cover by A. Mali. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

ГРОМАДСЬКИЙ КОМІТЕТ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ОСЕЛІ В РЕГЕНСБУРЗІ

## СВЯТО ДЕРЖАВНИЦЬКО-СОБОРНИЦЬКИХ ДНІВ

1918 <sup>22</sup> СІЧНЯ 1919

ПРОГРАМА АКАДЕМІЇ:

- | I.  |   | II.  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. С. Орлюк: «ЧЕТВЕРТИЙ УНІВЕРСАЛ» — деклямація п. Христини Корецької, уч. V. кл. гімн. |   | 1. Павло Тичина: «ДУМА ПРО ТРЬОХ ВІТРИВ» — деклямація пані Е. Шостак |  |
| 2. Доповідь — Доц. Григорій Денисенко   |   | 2. Т. Шевченко: «ГЕТЬМАНИ» муз. М. Лисенка                           | у виконанні оп. співака Т. Терена              |
| 3. «ЛЕТИ — ЛЕТИ ТИ НАША ПІСНЕ» — слова С. Софронів-Левицького, муз. Болєнівського       | у виконанні гімн. міш. хору під батутую проф. Кушніра | П. Куліш: «ПСАЛОМ» муз. М. Лисенка                                   |  |
| «ЗАСЯЛО СОНЦЕ ЗОЛОТЕ» муз. І. Недільського  |   |  | 3. «ВКРАЇНО МАТИ» муз. Стеценка                |
| 4. «ОЙ ЧОГО ВИ ПОЧОРНИЛИ СТЕПИ УКРАЇНИ» музика Гавриленка                               | сольо-спів у виконанні пані Е. Гавриленко             | «ПРОМЕТЕЙ» муз. Стеценка   |  |
| «НАША ПІСНЯ ДЗВЕНИТЬ» муз. Гавриленка   |   |  | «ПО ТО ЗА ПРАПОР ЛОПОТИТЬ» (повстанська пісня) |

(2) Celebration of Ukrainian Independence, Program. DP Camp, Regensburg, Germany. January 20, 1949. Booklet, 3 pages. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

АКТ СОБОРНОСТІ Й САМОСТІЙНОСТІ УКРАЇНИ В СІЧНІ 1918 І 1919 РОКУ ЦЕ ЗВОРОТНІ ДАТИ В НАШІЙ ІСТОРІЇ, СПОВНЕННЯ ШЕВЧЕНКОВОГО ЗАПОВІТУ. ЯК ЗАВЕРШЕННЯ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ РЕВОЛЮЦІЇ, НА РУЇНАХ ЦАРСЬКОЇ ТЮРМИ НАРОДІВ — ПРОГОЛОСИВ УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРІД ЧЕТВЕРТИМ УНІВЕРСАЛОМ 22 СІЧНЯ 1918 РОКУ СВОЄ ПРАВО НА ВІЛЬНЕ САМОСТІЙНЕ І ДЕРЖАВНЕ ЖИТТЯ.

В ОБОРОНІ МОЛОДОЇ ДЕЖАВНОСТІ СТАНУЛА МОЛОДЬ — НАЙКРАЩИЙ ЦВІТ НАЦІЇ І В СПОВНЕННІ НАЙВИЩОГО ОБОВ'ЯЗКУ СУПРОТИ БАТЬКІВЩИНИ ПОЛЯГЛА ГЕРОЙСЬКОЮ СМЕРТЮ ПІД КРУТАМИ 29 СІЧНЯ 1918.

АКТ З'ЄДИНЕННЯ ВСІХ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ЗЕМЕЛЬ НА СОФІЙСЬКІЙ ПЛОЩІ В КИЄВІ 22 СІЧНЯ 1919 РОКУ В ОДНУ СОБОРНУ УКРАЇНСЬКУ ДЕРЖАВУ — БУЛО ЗАВЕРШЕННЯМ ЗАВЗЯТИХ ВІКОВИХ ЗМАГАНЬ МНОГИХ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ПОКОЛІНЬ.

У роковини цих світлих подій — символів і мети наших Визвольних Змагань — уявимо собі:

що Український Нарід ніколи не відступить від здійснення цих найвищих постулатів,

що заповіт Шевченка ще не здійснений,

що найвищим обов'язком кожного Українця причинитися своєю працею, всім своїм життям, а в потребі найвищою жертвою до досягнення цього ІДЕАЛУ.

20.I.1949. - 500. Окладина роботи арт. Малюці. Техн. засобами Вид. С-ки «Українське Слово» - Регенсбург

(3) Celebration of Ukrainian Independence, Program. DP Camp, Regensburg, Germany. January 20, 1949. Booklet, 3 pages. Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

Soviet rule. One aspect of these endeavors was to annually remind the world about the January 22nd Ukrainian Independence. Every year in major cities of America, Canada, Australia and Europe, Ukrainians commemorated this event. Often city mayors or governmental political representatives would issue official proclamations underscoring the achievement of Ukrainian sovereignty on January 22nd, 1918. They also participated in the raising of the Ukrainian flag. In addition concerts, scholarly conferences, marches protesting Soviet atrocities were

taking place.

In the archive collection of our library we have a representative collection of documents and photographs which illustrate and document the work of Ukrainian diaspora in this area. Thanks to this we have preserved factual material about historical events which otherwise we might not have known about. This also is an important part of our history which for centuries our enemies try to destroy and its preservation is of utmost importance. ❖

For more information about The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, please, visit [www.ukrainianmuseumlibrary.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseumlibrary.org), call 203-324-0499 or 203-323-8866. The Museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment, and is located at: 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902.