

## EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

## Ukraine in the News

By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

February 24, 2022, became the most tragic and devastating day for Ukrainians when the barbarous Russian aggressors attacked the independent nation of Ukraine which half a year prior celebrated its 30th anniversary of independence in full splendor and glory. From this dreadful day information about Ukraine and the ruthless, savage conduct of the war has been continuously covered by the press here in the United States and around the world. The world has finally realized that Moscow's threat to destroy Ukraine presents a threat for the whole western democratic world. Ukraine is fighting until it achieves victory, for which it was also fighting for in the past under very difficult and formidable situations.

For hundreds of years the Ukrainian nation was endeavoring to gain victory, to become an independent state and to have the world recognize its existence. Efforts undertaken to achieve this ideal were not easy. A nation divided and subjugated by mighty empires was dominated to living in near anonymity as far as the world was concerned. Whatever such a subdued nation accomplished historically, politically, culturally in the past and tried to attain in the

present, their achievements were altered, negated, falsified, suppressed and even erased by their oppressors. Every time a situation presented itself which made it possible for Ukrainians to shed their shackles and fight for independence, they first had to introduce themselves to the world because for the world they were an "incognita" entity.

When Ukraine became independent in the years 1917-1921, one of the means of acquainting European countries with Ukraine was to utilize "cultural diplomacy". Symon Petlura, president of the Ukrainian National Republic, sent the Ukrainian National Choir under the directorship of Oleksander Koshyts on a concert tour of major capitals of Europe. The success of this choir was resplendent. Everywhere they were received enthusiastically, with high accolades, and the Ukrainian choral music became immensely appreciated. It seemed that finally the world would see Ukraine and its beauty in its distinguished cultural aspects, and would recognize it as a nation on equal footing with other states. Regretfully, this did not happen. During the post war peace treaties, powerful nations determined the fate of known and



The table and box sent to the Pavilion by the Ukrainian Disabled Soldiers Aid Society from Lviv. Photo Archives. (Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford)

strong nations and did not take into account the fate of young, newly formed countries without strong political standing.

Another interesting attempt at disseminating information about Ukraine was accomplished by Ukrainian immigrants in America 90 years ago.

A Worlds Fair "Century of Progress" took place in 1933, in Chicago. The Ukrainian community in the United States determined that it would be an excellent opportunity to acquaint world participants of the fair with Ukrainian cultural achievements. A corporation was founded which proceeded in making plans to build a Ukrainian Pavilion and thus participate in the Fair. Notwithstanding the economic difficulties of the Great Depression, donations of the Ukrainian community funded the stately Ukrainian Pavilion, the only Pavilion of a stateless nation. This was an exceptional item of publicity for the Ukrainian people and Ukrainian culture. The most captivating exhibitions at the pavilion were the sculptures of Alexander Archipenko and a collection of Ukrainian folk art which was purchased by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Press reviews and write-ups expressed great admiration for the exhibits and considered Archipenko's works as one of the most important at the fair. Ukrainian folk art was also lauded, especially the woven kilims and embroidery. As far as the pavilion architecture was concerned the reviewers consid-

ered it to be the second best of all the pavilions at the fair. For the Fair, various Ukrainian societies from Halychyna sent items for sale to the pavilion to help finance their activities. The Ukrainian Disabled Soldiers Aid Society from Lviv sent to the Pavilion a table and box artistically inlaid with straw, beads and colored wood which was made by the disabled soldiers. Proceeds from the raffling of this item were sent to the society and the table and box are now housed in our Museum. The official opening of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the fair took place June 23, 1933. During the opening, there were official ceremonies, parades, concerts, and banquets. Participation in the Fair brought the Ukrainian community great moral satisfaction. Close to two million people visited the Ukrainian Pavilion. With great interest and admiration, they viewed the exhibitions, learned about Ukraine and Ukrainian cultural achievements.

Today, Ukrainian cultural heritage is under a great threat of destruction by the Russian aggressor. Cherish your historical and cultural heritage. Study it and encourage others to cultivate and preserve all what our ancestors left for us. ❖



UKRAINIAN PAVILION. CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR. 1933

A postcard portraying the Ukrainian Pavilion. (Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford)

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.

## PILGRIMAGE 2023

You are invited to join me on a 12 - day Catholic Pilgrimage Tour to Switzerland & Italy.

**May 22 - June 2, 2023**

Including:

Zurich, Lucerne, Basel, Einsiedeln, Bern, Milan Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rome & the Vatican.

We will visit the various shrines associated with these places.

And St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary where I lived and studies for the Priesthood. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the tomb of St. Josaphat celebrating 400 years of His martyrdom.

For more details contact Fr. Paul Luniw:  
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## Pilgrimage to Holy Land

with Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford, and Fr. Olvian Popovici, Pastor of Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church, Lindenhurst, NY.

**May 14 - 25, 2023 (11 days)**

ROUTE: Eilat, Ein Karem, Beit Sahur, Bethlehem, Haifa, Nazareth, Jordan River, Jericho, Dead Sea, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethphage, Jaffa, Tel Aviv.

For more details contact Fr. Olvian Popovici

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