

EXPLORING OUR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Commemorating Historical Events

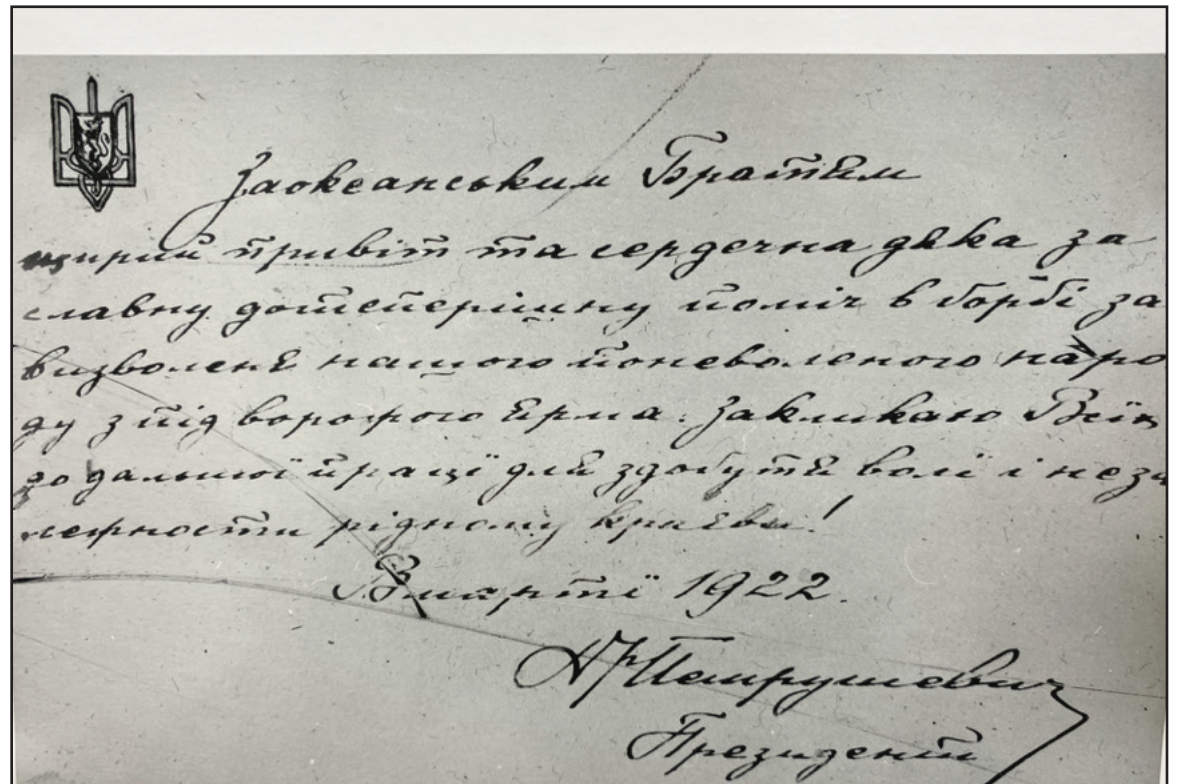
By Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

In re-reading Ukrainian history, we see that for centuries our nation struggled for its freedom, independence, and, most of all, for unity. Throughout centuries there were heroic attempts to realize this elusive aspiration. There were some remarkable achievements – substantial and long lasting, as well as those much too short lived, but symbolically profound. One such important accomplishment was the proclamation of the Union of the Ukrainian National Republic with the Western-Ukrainian National Republic (Halychyna), which took place in Kyiv on the Sofiia Square on January 22, 1919.

The collapse of the Russian tsarist empire in 1917 gave Ukrainians the golden opportunity to fight for and to establish a free and independent Ukraine which was proclaimed in Kyiv on January 22, 1918. Ukrainians in Western Ukraine, at the end of 1918, while the Austro-

wartime realities in those years were too complex and brutal for the existence of the Ukrainian State to be anything but short lived. Nevertheless, the fervent attempt, dedicated work, and heroic feats, were not in vain. The memory of these achievements was passed from generation to generation and served as a stimulus to follow their precursors to work towards independence until its successful achievement which came to pass in 1991.

The Ukrainian diaspora in the free world until 1991 persistently and steadfastly commemorated January 22 as the day of Ukrainian Independence, underscoring the Act of Union of Ukrainian National Republic and Western Ukrainian National Republic. This was specifically done to let the world know that such a State existed—a fact which the soviet regime constantly denied. Ukrainians in America were kept abreast of all



A letter written by President Petrushevych to the Ukrainian diaspora in 1922, “To our brothers beyond the ocean.” (Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford)



A certificate of the fund-raising campaign “Loan for national protection – to gain and retain the independence of the Galician State,” issued by the Western Ukrainian Republic Mission in Washington, DC, 1921. (Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford)

Hungarian Empire was collapsing, proclaimed a free and independent Western Ukrainian National Republic. Thus Ukrainian people and Ukrainian lands, for centuries separated and ruled by different autocratic regimes, were now united into one State. But political and

the wartime and political events in Ukraine and tried to support and help as much as possible. The most important task was to gain international recognition. In order to accomplish this, the President of the Western Ukrainian Republic—Evhen Petrushevych established

Western Ukrainian Republic representative missions in various capitals of the world. One such mission was in Washington, DC. At first, the head of this mission was Lonhyn Tsehelskyi, but from 1921-1923 its head was Luka Myshuha (1887-1955). As its head, he began a fund-raising

campaign “Loan for national protection – to gain and retain the independence of the Galician State.” In the archives of our library we have a number of documents and photographs which illustrate these activities. Among them are two original letters. One letter was written and hand-signed by President Petrushevych in which he recommends the closing of the mission, and thanked all who were instrumental in its work and accomplishments. The second letter was written by Luka Myshuha to the office staff of the mission, instructing them how to proceed with the liquidation of furniture, documents, and archives. An interesting note was that the Ukrainian typewriter which the mission staff had used should be returned to the Ukrainian National Association with gratitude for a two-year free of charge usage. Also, an interesting letter is one written by President Petrushevych to the Ukrainian diaspora: in 1922 – “To our brothers beyond the ocean, sincere greetings and heartfelt gratitude for the present help in the struggle for the freedom of our enslaved people from the enemy’s yoke. I appeal to all to continue the work towards the gaining of freedom and independence for your

country.” This is an example of just a few of the important documents which underscore and confirm historical events and are preserved in our library.

The struggle for the independence of Ukrainian State and coalescence of all Ukrainian territories is continuing. The February 2022 criminal attack on Ukraine by Russia is destroying and ruining the country, brutally murdering its population. But the Ukrainian State recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. It visibly showed its united dynamic national life with its successful development, singular productive accomplishments, and a desire to live its own useful life with dignity. And this is where Ukrainian strength lies and with this it will conquer the enemy. Ukraine is an independent State which is seen, known and admired by the whole world, a world which is aiding it in its fight with the Russian aggressor, with the aggressor’s lies, constant false propaganda, its thievery, its destructive and murderous atrocities.

The Ukrainian diaspora, just like decades before, continues to help its brethren to achieve victory over the enemy. And our museum and library continue to preserve all pertinent documents of these events. ❖

For more information about The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, please, visit 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:
860 922 8088

paul_luniw@yahoo.com

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
(631) 225-1168
popovici@aol.com