

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

Curator Lubow Wolynetz Describes an Interesting Poster from 1937



Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky announced plans for the founding of a Museum and Library in 1933 soon after the purchase of an estate in Stamford, Connecticut. He named Father Leo Chapelsky as the “First Curator of the National Museum of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States of North America” which was later renamed “The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.” The organizational and preparatory work of the Museum and Library lasted several years. The official opening and blessing occurred in September of 1937, along with the blessing of the newly-purchased buildings to be used for the two units of the Minor Seminary. In honor of this occasion an advertisement poster was published which noted that this celebration coincided with the 900th anniversary of Prince Yaroslav Mudryi’s announcement of the Mother of God as Queen of Ukraine, and the 100th anniversary of the publication of Markian Shashkevych’s *Rusalka Dnistrova*. (This was the first Ukrainian literary work published in Galicia. 800 copies of the 1000 printed

were confiscated by the police and its distribution in Galicia was banned, because the official censor did not approve of the language or orthography.)

Members of the committee for this celebration were Father Myron Zalitch, Father Paul Procko, and Father Leo Chapelsky. The text for the poster was written by the members of the committee and sent to Lviv where it was printed. The artist Vasyl Diadyniuk did the graphics. In the poster the artist incorporated visual depictions of the commemorative dates and included a view of the Chateau – the building where the Museum is housed.

Vasyl Diadyniuk (1900-1944) studied at the O. Novakivskyi School of Art. He was commissioned by Metropolitan Sheptytsky to do portraits of Ukrainian church hierarchs of the 17th and 18th centuries. He is best known for a series of historical portraits of the Princely and Cossack eras which he did in 1931-1932.

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