

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

ARCHIVAL TREASURES AT THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF STAMFORD

by Curator Lubow Wolynetz



Toys have been around for centuries. They often reflect the cultural and historical aspects of their creators and users. Toys served many purposes. Beside bringing fascination, joy, and entertainment to children, toys more often than not, were learning and educational tools.

of the Ukrainian National Army of the 1920s. The background history for this is as follows:

The struggle for Ukraine's independence during and after World War I ended in failure when the communists took over in 1920. The fallen government of the Ukrainian National Republic and many of its active members and supporters went into exile. Many of them made their home in France. As with all immigrant groups, attempts were made to slow down the process of assimilation and of making Ukrainian children in France aware and informed of their national roots, heritage, and history.

In 1929 Trident (*Tryzub*), a



Ukrainian publishing house in Paris, printed sheets of paper cutouts depicting soldiers of



the Army of the Ukrainian National Republic entitled "For Ukrainian children - their native Army". The drawings were made by the artist Leonid Perfetsky (1901-1977). He studied at the Novakivsky Art School, the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts and A. Lhote's school in Paris. He specialized in historical battle scenes quite a few of which depicted battle scenes of the struggle for Ukrainian independence from Russia and the Soviets. In our fine arts collection we have two original oil paintings of the artist enti-

Before the advent of battery operated, electric and now computer generated toys, children had much simpler toys. An example of such simple toys were paper cutouts depicting dolls, soldiers, historical figures, royalty, animals and the like. Toys of this nature required the development of manual dexterity, imaginative stories, actions and even dialogues.

In the archival collection of the Ukrainian Museum and Library we have a sheet of paper cutouts of soldiers



tled "Battle with the Moscovites".

The *Trident (Tryzub)*, publishing house in Paris, published a weekly journal of politics, civic affairs, history, and culture from 1925-1940. It was the unofficial organ of the Government-in-exile of the Ukrainian National Republic. In our library we have an incomplete run of the journal.

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