

The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

Ukrainian Independence – January 22nd *by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator*

Until 1991, the Ukrainian Diaspora in the free world annually celebrated January 22nd as Ukrainian Independence Day. This was to commemorate two important historical facts: the issuing in 1918, by the Central Rada in Kyiv, the Fourth Universal which proclaimed that the Ukrainian National Republic was free and independent, and also when on January 22, 1919 the Union of the Ukrainian National Republic with the West Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR) in Galicia was formed.



The National Ukrainian Council at the meeting which resulted in the formation of the West Ukrainian National Republic and which named Evhen Petrushevych as president.

recognition. In order to accomplish this, they established missions in various capitals of the world. One such mission was in Washington, DC. At first, the head of this mission was Lonhyn Tschelskyi, but from 1921-23 its head was Luka Myshuha (1887-1955). As its head Luka Myshuha began a fund-raising campaign: “Loan for national protection – to gain and retain the independence of the Galician State”. This campaign raised almost one hundred fifty thousand dollars for the use of the ZUNR government in exile.

Ukrainians in America kept abreast of all the activities in Ukraine dealing with World War I, the Revolution, the formation of



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a free and independent government of Ukraine, the heroic battles for independence of the Ukrainian Army (The Sich Riflemen and the Ukrainian Galician Army), etc. In turn, the Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States tried to support and help as much as possible. They founded the Ukrainian National Committee and conducted widespread political activities to inform American public opinion about Ukraine and its struggle for independence.

In the archives of our Library we have some interesting documents and photographs of the activities of the West Ukrainian National Republic. Its government, under the leadership of President Evhen Petrushevych, worked intensely on acquiring international

by the mission in Washington, DC. to a donor, as well as an additional certificate issued by the Ukrainian National Committee to a different donor, thanking and acknowledging their contributions.

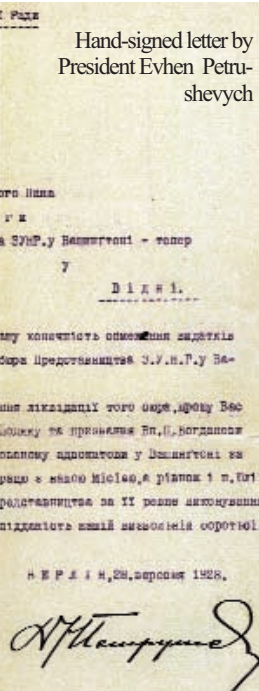
Among the photographs we have one of the National Ukrainian Council at the meeting which resulted in the formation of the West Ukrainian National Republic and which named Evhen Petrushevych as president. Another photograph shows President Petrushevych reviewing the troops of the Ukrainian Galician Army.



Luka Myshuha

The political outcome after peace talks in the 1920s had tragic results for Ukraine, and so the ZUNR mission in Washington had to close. In

regard to this, our archives have two original letters. One letter was written and hand-signed by President Petrushevych in which he recommended the closing of the mission, and thanked all who were instrumental in its work and accomplishment. 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



Hand-signed letter by President Evhen Petrushevych

returned to the Ukrainian National Association with gratitude for a two-year free of charge usage. (I wonder if UNA saved this typewriter – probably not, since Ukrainians, on the whole, have no understanding or respect for the preservation of materials which might reflect some aspect of their history.)

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The Sower
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