

## The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

### POST SCRIPTUM to The Article on Father Markian Shashkevych

by *Lubow Wolynetz, Curator*

It is quite gratifying to learn that the articles I have written about the treasures and unique archival material at our Ukrainian Museum and Library are being read. Not only are they being read, but a few of the readers also write to me or to the editor expressing their comments, criticism, appreciation, and even personal information. Such was the case with the article on Father Markian Shashkevych.

One of my readers, who prior to this, has written comments on other articles in the Sower is John Rudan from Ithaca, NY. He grew up in the Point Douglas area of the city of Winnipeg, Canada and writes the following: "Your selection to write about Markian Shashkevych...brought another rush of memories of my younger days. My par-

ents were members of a literary/reading association named after Shashkevych. They had a hall which during the 1940s and 1950s was the hub of social activities, and the teaching and promotion of the Ukrainian language and traditions." Included with his comments are some photographs, depicting the entrance to the Shashkevych hall and a photo taken at the time of the dedication of the Markian Shashkevych monument.

In 1928 the Ukrainian Community of this Point Douglas area had organized a Heritage School (Ridna Shkola) and had chosen Father Markian Shashkevych as the patron of both their cultural society and the Heritage School. As stated in the 50th anniversary publication of St. Andrew's Church, the main concern of the organizers was the preservation for their children in North America of their native

language, which is the key to the cultural treasures of their nation. For this reason they chose as their patron Markian Shashkevych, whose ideas and work reflected the same concerns as in Halychyna. To give a permanent expression to their ideas, the Ukrainian Community of Point Douglas with the full support of the pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Father Panteleimon Bozyk (who also headed the project committee) decided to erect a monument to Shashkevych.

The efforts of the monument committee were slowed down by World War II but not abandoned. The Committee eventually managed to have the City ordinances grant them a triangular plot of land on which the monument would stand - located directly across from St. Andrew's Church. In 1943 the Committee made an appeal to all Canadian-Ukrainians to donate money for this important project. A foundry in Italy created the bust of Shashkevych, which was then placed upon a high marble monument base. The monument was unveiled on September 24th, 1944. The original church is no longer there, but the monument is still standing and well preserved.

The second reader is George W. Drance from Queens, NY. In his comments he gives additional and fascinating information. At first, he chides me for translating "Ruska Tritsia" as "the Galician Triad" and not as "Rusyn Triad", and rightly so.

Apparently in the 1940s, he was a member of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manhattan and was present at the 100th anniversary of the ceremonies commemorating the death of Markian Shashkevych. He goes on to say "I was privileged to have sung at this concert under the

incomparable direction of Prof. Theodore Onufryk who was the choir master and "diak" of St. George's Church on 7th Street."

He adds an additional tidbit of information: "regarding the bust of Fr. Shashkevych, because there was no known image of Shashkevych; it was modeled by Fr. Marian Horishnyi, OSBM, whose slight physique was simi-



lar to descriptions of our frail "probodytel"...

I hope that these comments, photographs, and rare and valuable personal information given by John Rudan and George W. Drance will inspire others to do the same. I'm sure that there are many other persons who could contribute valuable data on the various topics about which I write. So, please write them down, send them in, and thus preserve them for posterity!

**Explore and Experience Our Past**