

## The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford

### FOLKLIFE AND FOLKLORE IMAGES by Lubow Wolynetz, Curator

Photographs or various types of graphic and visual images are important components among the many supplementary materials and documents needed for scholarly research, lectures, museum exhibitions, and presentations. This kind of visual material truly enriches, broadens, enhances, and makes written texts even more interesting by utilizing appropriate illustrations. At times one image may actually offer more information than a lengthy text.



Mykola Senkovsky

classes), as well as among ethnic groups Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian (Polish, Austrian, German). Prominent in this aroused interest were many professional photographers, who were searching for interesting and original material for their artistic photography. One exotic subject to capture on film was the documenting of the still extant folklife in its traditional habitat, which after World War I was slowly disappearing. Thus, professional photographers to a large degree aided in visually preserving and documenting Ukrainian history of the past. Today, this material is priceless and indispensable for research.

Our Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford has a collection of many thousands of photographs, photographic reproductions in the form of postcards on diverse subjects. All of them are visual documents dealing with various aspects of Ukrainian history, culture, Ukrainian life (activities, personalities) both in Ukraine and in the Diaspora. Within this collection we



Mykola Senkovsky

Hutsul residents, their lifestyle, costume, work, etc. During World War II, while escaping from the Soviet Army, he vanished. While conducting a search of his home, the Soviets destroyed many of his glass negatives. His son Yurii, however, did manage

to retrieve some of them. In our collection we have a good number of postcards which Senkovsky printed in Kolomyia in the 1930s. This was a special postcard series devoted to the Hutsul region and its people.

Yulian Dorosh was born in the town of Zhydachiv, lived in the town of Kopychyntsi, and graduated from Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk) high school. From 1927-1932 he studied Law at the Lviv University. While still a



teenager he was fascinated by photography. He became a member of Plast, was given a camera, and from that time on he began his photographic documentation. In the 1930s he was given work as a photographer and translator for the Society of Friends of the Hutsul Region. This Society was collecting ethnographic material on the people and places in the Carpathian Mountains. Based on the material thus collected, the Ukrainian Photographic Association in Lviv organized an exhibit entitled *Our Land (Nasha Batkivshchyna)* in 1935. In addition to taking photographs, Yulian Dorosh made a few documentary films about Plast and Ukrainian folklife. His photographic works in our collection depict the folklife of the Hutsul and Pokuttia region, mainly in the village of Rakovets in Pokuttia.



Yulian Dorosh

Ethnographic material in graphic images is of special value for the study of bygone folklife, especially its lifestyle, traditions, folk dress, and rituals. In these photographs one might discover nuances which researchers have not as yet considered, or even evidence of unsubstantiated facts.



Henryk Gasiorowski

A concentrated attention to and research in earnest of Ukrainian folklife really began in the mid 19th century. Photographic technology which spread widely at the end of the 19th century was quickly utilized by ethnographic researchers, especially during their field trips to study folklife in the various regions of Ukraine.

Scholarly works of ethnographers on the subject of folklife with the addition of graphic images aroused interest among wide circles of society (urban and elite social



Henryk Gasiorowski



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town of Zhabie. Here he opened a photographic studio and continuously roamed through the Carpathian Mountains filming natural scenery,

these precious images. In the May 27, 2012 issue of the Sower, I had written about Henryk Gasiorowski. Recently, we were fortunate to receive a small postcard album of his works under the title *Zabie, wies huculska* (Zhabie, Hutsul village). It was published in 1925 in the town of Grudziadzu, Poland. The album consists of 12 postcards which depict Hutsul landscapes and the Hutsul people.



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