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THE WASHINGTON GROUP



AN ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS

BREAK A LEG!

TWG TRIP TO UKRAINE

Impressions of a Ukrainian village

For those of you who never show up at Tabir TWG because you hate sun, hate sand and hate salt water, here's your chance to prove that you're a good sport after all and sign up for TWG's Ski Trip to Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. This way you can enjoy cold wind, wet snow and lots of ice. And as always, good company. This year's trip will take place over President's Day Weekend, February 16-19 at the Hidden Valley Ski Resort, about a 3 1/2 - 4 hour drive from Washington, DC. Both downhill (day and night) and cross-country skiing is available. For those of you who want to spend only about one hour on the slopes, there is an indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, racquetball courts and a fireside lounge to tempt you. A relaxing weekend, with great company in the middle of glum February. Dress warmly - bring family and friends!

(TWG has reserved suites for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and reservations are being handled by Laryssa Chopivsky, 703/363-3964. See Calendar for further details.)

During TWG's trip to Ukraine last October, many of the thirty-two participants supplemented the scheduled itinerary of Kiev, Odessa, and Lviv with side trips to villages and towns, often to visit relatives. Volodymyr Maruszczak, a TWG member from Michigan, had the unique opportunity to visit relatives outside the city in both eastern and in western Ukraine, in Zhytomyr and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts respectively. Since I also spent a considerable amount of time outside the scheduled itinerary - spending six days and nights in Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts - I was asked to interview Volodymyr and compare experiences with him.

Volodymyr, who is a native of Detroit and a graduate of the University of Michigan, is currently a marketing technical service specialist for Monsanto in their plastics division. In his position he serves as a liaison between Monsanto's research and development personnel and client companies and acts as a trouble-shooter for Monsanto's sales of thermoplastic materials for automobile interiors. Monsanto has markets worldwide, and Volodymyr travels frequently to Mexico, Korea and Japan. This, however, was Volodymyr's first trip to Ukraine.

When the TWG tour arrived in Kiev on Friday evening, October 13, Volodymyr was the first "defection" from the group, disappearing almost immediately and re-appearing three days later, just in time for our flight to Odessa. We can now finally know the full story of what he did and where he went.

Volodymyr, as it turns out, spent three days and two nights in a village in Zhytomyr oblast - approximately 220 kilometers west of Kiev - where his mother and his grandmother were born, and where his mother's extended family still lives. His family drove him from Kiev to Zhytomyr in the October night, over some rugged, unlit roads, in a jeep.

Probably the most intense and emotional part of this trip to the village was Volodymyr's first-time meeting with his maternal relatives, including his first cousins,

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TWG NEWS

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Ads (business cards or similar): \$10 a month for TWG members, or three for \$25; \$15 a month for non-members, or three for \$40. Quotes for larger-size ads given on request.

New in town? For information on the most current happenings, call Pat Filipov, 301/622-0838.

UKRAINIAN TRIVIA

Currently it is the "Bydunok Ychuteliv" (Teacher's Building), located on Vylutsia Lenina 11, Kiev. What was this building in a previous incarnation? (TWG trippers disqualified).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANDREW SOROKOWSKI TO SPEAK IN WASHINGTON

Andrew Sorokowski, currently the Director of the Department of Research and Documentation for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rome, will be in Washington on Friday, January 26 to speak on the topic of the new draft law on religious freedom which is to be adopted this spring in the Soviet Union. For three years (1984-1987) Mr. Sorokowski was researcher on Ukraine at Keston College in England, where he tracked religious developments in Ukraine, in particular, Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant movements for religious rights. See Calendar for details.

SPECIAL THANKS...from the TWG Board of Directors to Roman Terleckyj, Director of the Washington Opera for tickets to see the dress rehearsal of Massenet's "Werther." What a treat!

SPREAD THE WORD

Are there people in your life that you think should know about TWG, but you never get around to giving them your copy of TWG NEWS? Send us their names and addresses and we will send them a complimentary copy to pique their interest. Send your list to TWG NEWS, Attn: Complimentary Copies, PO Box 11248, Washington DC 20008.

CHANGE IN TWG BOARD

There's been a slight change in TWG Board positions and responsibilities. Oksana Dackiw, elected auditor at the last board meeting will be exchanging positions with Special Projects Director Alexandra Ivanchuk-Bibbee. As the new Special Projects Director, Oksana's primary responsibility will be to organize the 1990 TWG Leadership Conference. Laryssa Chopivsky, Special Project Director last year, will assist Oksana on other projects.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!

Spring will soon be in the air, and your new TWG Membership Directory will soon be in the mail. Please take a moment and look at your listing in the 1989 directory and send corrections BY MARCH 15th to: TWG, Attn: Membership Director, PO Box 11248, Washington D.C. 20008.

CHERVONA RUTA — ROCK ON

Last fall, an event took place in Ukraine which went largely unreported in the western, both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian, press. Our newspapers and journals are filled (and rightfully so) with stories about political demonstrations, workers strikes, arrests of political activists, but a cultural event of great magnitude has gone unnoticed. I speak of the Chervona Ruta Music Festival, an all-republic festival of Ukrainian pop music and contemporary song, which took place in Chernivtsi, Ukraine from September 19-23, 1989.

It was a watershed event in the history of contemporary Ukrainian music. Strange as it may seem, never before in the history of Soviet Ukraine has a festival been dedicated exclusively to music performed in Ukrainian. The organizers of the festival, a group of private individuals - musicians, artists, engineers, chemists, with the support of the Ukrainian-Canadian production company Kobza - were concerned with the paucity of high-quality Ukrainian-language pop, rock and other types of music in Ukraine. Such music did exist, they claimed, but only in the underground, with no access to the mass media or to the Moscow-centered Soviet recording industry. The Chervona Ruta festival, named after the popular song by Volodymyr Ivasiuk, was held in the home town of the beloved Ukrainian composer on the ten year anniversary of his death, with the intention of changing this bleak cultural situation.

The program of the festival included competitions in three musical genres: pop music (known as *estrada*), rock music and the music of bards, or poet-singers in the style of Bob Dylan. Approximately 200 bands and individual singers from Ukraine, Eastern Europe and the West took part in the festival, although only Soviet Ukrainian participants were allowed to compete for awards. In addition to the competitions, which were witnessed by hundreds of music lovers, there were two major concerts - one of the festival winners, and one of the non-Soviet guest performers - which were attended by several thousand people each. There were opening and closing festivities as well, held in the Bukovyna Sports Stadium in Chernivtsi, at which close to 30,000 people were present.

The festival proved beyond any doubt that Ukrainian contemporary music not only exists, but does not lag behind in development compared to other nations. The variety and quality of performers was overwhelming.

I was taken aback by the quality and quantity of Ukrainian rock groups. As someone who grew up almost exclusively on American and British rock music, with the occa-

sional plunge into international rock waters, it was initially difficult for me to imagine the Ukrainian language being used for anything other than a lullaby, a folk song, or a simple pop tune about Marichka and Ivan. Although I did not go so far as to say that rock music is alien to Ukrainian culture and inappropriate for the Ukrainian language (as critics of the Chervona Ruta festival would later claim), I was nevertheless skeptical of the viability of the Ukrainian language in the rock world. I emerged from Chervona Ruta a believer, no...more like a convert, a "born-again" Ukrainian rock fan.

I witnessed scores of rock bands, which ran the gamut from art rock to heavy metal to punk, who masterfully interwove ancient Ukrainian melodies with contemporary rhythms, thereby enhancing both genres. Among these were rock bands which could easily compete on a world level, such as *Zymovyy Sad*, *NZ*, *Sestrychka Vika*, and others. They used, for example, the poetry of Taras

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Ukrainian Village

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their spouses and children and their parents. He fondly recalls the warm reception he received. "My feelings became particularly intense," he said, "when I visited the gravesite of my mother's younger sister, who died one and a half years ago, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to come to the United States for a visit."

Volodymyr also had the unique opportunity to attend the second day of a two-day, two-night typical village wedding. Imagine this: because he and his relatives did not want any problems, they decided to try to pass him off as a visiting "local" from nearby. He achieved this effect by donning an old, moth-eaten *kozhuks* (traditional jacket), an old leather cap and by adopting the local hygiene habits (which are necessitated by the lack of running water: no shaving, bathing, or tooth-brushing for several days). It worked. No one suspected that Volodymyr was an American and, when he finally revealed this fact to the bride and groom in the wee hours of the morning, they refused to believe him until Volodymyr's cousin came to vouch for him.

The second day of the wedding was held at the home of the groom's parents (the first day was at the bride's), actually outside in the yard, that held tables, chairs, food and about 150 guests, who were protected by a huge tent. The bride and groom were a very handsome young couple in their early twenties. The bride's dress was a combination of contemporary wedding white with traditional embroidered accents in black thread; the groom wore a white shirt and casual slacks, and a bowtie that came off early in the festivities. Volodymyr noted that while the bride and groom sat very formally and quietly apart from the guests, receiving congratulations and then finally mingling a bit, the guests were very informal, having a great time - talking, singing, eating, drinking and dancing. Food and drink were plentiful, especially the 100-gram shots of *samohonka* (moonshine) that flowed freely from jars and bottles. (In general, during his stay in eastern Ukraine, Volodymyr was surprised at the constant eating and, by our standards, unusually heavy drinking). Three musicians, playing guitar, mandolin, and trumpet - and with excellent voices - entertained the guests with wonderful music - a few songs which Volodymyr recognized, and other older folk songs. In the evening, the guests danced to the music, outside the tent, in an area that was lit by lightbulbs hanging from a string. Unlike in the U.S., the bride and groom did not participate in the dancing.

Volodymyr was really impressed at the wedding, and throughout the rest of his stay in the village, how thor-

oughly people enjoyed themselves and each other's company with only a minimum of outside entertainment. "It's exactly as my father told me," he noted, "the worse-off people are materially, the more close knit and intimate they are with each other - since they can only rely upon and help take care of each other."

Throughout his stay in the village, Volodymyr involved himself as often as possible in a variety of discussions with his family and with the villagers. He found the people to be divided evenly between two divergent attitudes. On one hand there were those who expressed feelings of considerable futility about their past experiences, their present and future. They believed that it was up to them to take care of themselves, their families and their friends, and that whatever happened to Gorbachev or *perestroika* it did not and would not really affect them. On the other hand, there exists an extremely nationalistic group, bound in great deal by their dislike of the Russians and the russification that had been forced on them.

While on the subject of russification, Volodymyr recalled with pain the language that greeted him in the villages of eastern Ukraine - a mixture of Ukrainian and Russian. When he explained to people that this was upsetting to him, they often apologized, explained that this mixture had become a habit, and then usually began to speak fairly good Ukrainian, although not as fluently as in western Ukraine. Volodymyr found himself lecturing people (*deja vu* of Ridna Shkola!) that its easy enough to make simple changes, such as saying "tak" instead of "da..da..".

Volodymyr left with the impression that, in eastern Ukraine, because of all that the Ukrainians have suffered in the last two, three generations alone, the Famine, WWII, Stalin, russification, Chornobyl, and because of eastern Ukraine's isolation from the West, the people are not inclined to discuss politics, or their future. "They are so deeply afraid of a repeat performance that they just avoid these issues and instead focus on getting along the best they can in their day-to-day life." The same reticence held true for discussions about religion, and in fact, in eastern Ukraine, Volodymyr did not recall seeing, and did not hear of any churches being reopened or remodeled.

He was not-so-pleasantly surprised, Volodymyr told me, by the standard of living in the villages. He was taken aback, as were almost all of us on the tour, at how low the standard of living actually is. Homes have electricity, but not running water, only a few have gas heat. Outhouses are the norm. The function and construction of the homes is obsolete. Although many of the homes have nice furniture, the otherwise bleak appearance is in part due to the complete lack of amenities, basic appliances and finishing touches, such as paint, which is unavailable. The roads are

poor. Unlike city-dwellers, the villagers have a greater ability to grow, barter and sell their own food, but the variety and quantity is limited.

Volodymyr noted that in eastern Ukraine staying in the village is generally considered to be a dead-end for young people, consequently most left the village for jobs and education in the cities. He also commented that he "sensed alot of male chauvinism" there. Though women were treated with respect, they stayed mostly in the background; men were clearly the more dominant of the two sexes.

Although the village that Volodymyr visited was only 85 kilometers away from Chornobyl, he found the people to be tight-lipped and unwilling to openly talk about the situation. He got the impression that it was not the case that they were afraid to speak up, rather that this was just one of another one of those tragic situations that had beset eastern Ukraine, one that the people would rather block out. It was as if by not knowing much, or thinking much, there was nothing much with which to be concerned. Given the overwhelmingly frightening implications of the disaster for their health and lives, combined with not much power to change things and with government indifference and secrecy, it really was best to not mention it. Nonetheless, according to Volodymyr, two people did come up to him and told him about seeing clean up vehicles from Chornobyl, which, covered with radioactive material, glowed green going through a decontamination wash.

Volodymyr painted a wonderful verbal portrait of the countryside in eastern Ukraine. He remarked on the clear demarcation in the colors and textures of the fields and forests, as if someone had drawn a line between them. At that time of year, the woods were beautiful - magnificent colors as foliage reached its peak. Often there were forest of nothing but white birches in which there was no underbrush; one could walk for miles in the woods. He very much enjoyed the picnic in the woods he took with his family. They barbecued meat over an open fire beside a stream and talked and sang and joked and drank until 2:00 am. "It seemed to me that people were always singing," Volodymyr noted, "whether while out on a picnic, at a wedding or simply during the noontime meal - somebody would always start to sing." — Daria Stec

To be continued next issue: Volodymyr's experience in western Ukraine and how he outsmarted the local militia.

TREASURES OF UKRAINE

On what was a maiden voyage to Ukraine for many of my fellow TWG travelers last October, we discovered a country of incredible beauty, dressed in gold, the leaves of its renowned *kashtany* (chestnut trees). Not only is it rich in natural resources, which we had learned about from parents and teachers in Ridna Shkola, but rich as well in countless treasures created by a very talented and skilled people over the course of many centuries.

Unfortunately, many of these treasures have been forced to remain hidden for years, secretly protected by individuals who have dedicated their lives to preserving them for future generations of Ukrainians. It is regrettable that throughout history there have been in Ukraine Russians who behaved in much the manner as did pirates in the Caribbean, plundering and taking our treasures for their own. Only these pirates were worse. They added insult to injury by claiming that these treasures were really theirs, created by their people, or, by simply destroying them, belittled and discredited the achievements of Ukrainian people and thereby challenged their very existence.

One man who held on to the mission of preserving the tangible evidence of our unique and incredibly rich heritage is Andrij Novakivsky, director of the Lviv Museum of Ukrainian Art and grandson of the famous artist, Oleksa Novakivsky. When we arrived at the Museum of Ukrainian Art, a very handsome and grand old building in the classical baroque style, albeit badly in need of *remont* (renovation, as are almost all of the wonderful old buildings in Lviv, a renovators dream), we were greeted by Mr. Novakivsky himself. A very articulate and energetic middle-aged man, he graciously accepted the limits of our tight schedule and proceeded to give us a whirlwind tour.

We first viewed an incredible collection of icons, in fact, the largest collection in Ukraine, some which date back to medieval times. We were informed that the museum had in its possession some 10,000 icons and 3,000 *ikonostas* (ornate hand carved and gold leafed gates which separate the sanctuary from the rest of the church), of which only 2% could be displayed due to shortage of space, as well as a shortage of materials and labor for restoration. Most unfortunately, these treasures are stored in far from ideal conditions and are subject to further deterioration from heat, humidity, dust.

We saw a beautiful collection of paintings, including 15th and 16th century realistic masterpieces, influenced by folk art, which even then reflected the Ukrainian peoples seemingly endless struggle for social and national liberation.

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NOTES ON MEMBERS

Long-time TWG members **JULIA** and **DMYTRO ROMANIUK** are the proud, new parents of Katherine Marie, born Thursday, January 11. Both parents and daughter are doing fine and are very, very happy! Congratulations!

The Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych Foundation recently announced the recipients of the 1990 Antonovych Awards. The Antonovych Prize in Ukrainian Studies will be awarded to TWG member **MARTA BOHACHEVSKY-CHOMIAK** for her book *Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life, 1884-1939*. The Antonovych Prize in Ukrainian Literature will be awarded to poet Lina Kostenko for her book *The Orchard of Unwaning Sculptures*. Both recipients will be awarded their prizes at the Antonovych Awards reception on March 25.

One of TWG's new Washington members, **WASYL LEW** was recently named vice president of Public Service Satellite Consortium. He previously served as program manager for NASA and was founding president and chief executive officer of Catholic Telecommunications Network of America in New York.

Another group of Washingtonians is going to Ukraine at the end of this month, this time with a United States Information Agency exhibit - Design USA - to Donetsk for six weeks. TWG members **PETRO SAWCHYN**, **ADRIAN KARMAZYN**, **TANIA CHOMIAK**, **MARTA ZIELYK** will work the exhibit as Ukrainian language guides, while **MARTA PEREYMA** will work behind the scenes as a researcher. The guides will explain exhibits on graphic and industrial design, as well as architecture, and will undoubtedly answer numerous questions about life in America. Going along with the crew of design specialists are Volodymyr Kunko, an industrial designer from Seattle and Ulana Bachynska, an architect from Philadelphia. So guys.. Donetsk in February, eh? Well, make sure you pack plenty of suntan lotion.

Pianist **JULIANA OSINCHUK** will be a guest performer on the cruise ship Vistafjord's "Opus 32" tour - an around-the-world music festival at sea. Ms. Osinchuk, who will be on the ship from New York to Sidney, Australia, will perform 21 different programs - solo and chamber - in 28 days. Giving two recitals between Acapulco and Honolulu will be pianist Alexander Slobodyanik.

MYRON MASLOWSKY, who served as the treasurer for the TWG Leadership Conference last fall, was recently promoted to director of internal audit for Gannett Co., Inc. Gannett, an international news and information company, is most familiar to us as the publisher of USA TODAY.

The **FONTANA** family, Larissa, Don, Danylo, Roman, Tamara and Nina happily welcomed a new addition to their family, **ADRIAN**, born December 15, 1989. Congratulations!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

WHY DOES YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LABEL HAVE A HOT PINK CIRCLE IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER?

- A) I don't know, but it's kinda pretty..
- B) My mailman is really an artist..

C) My TWG Membership Director is reminding me that my TWG membership and subscription to TWG NEWS is about to run out, and that I had better send my renewal form (which is on the back page of this newsletter) and a check to: TWG, Attn: Membership Director, PO Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008.

All correct answers will have their membership extended for one year!

NEW MEMBERS

FULL:

Marta Kaczaj, DMD, Cheltenham, PA
Wasył Lew, Oakton, VA
Yaroslav S. Lischynsky, Rockville, MD
Halia Martin, Alexandria, VA
Alex Tyshovnytsky, Old Greenwich, CT

ASSOCIATE:

Patricia A. Burak, Syracuse, NY
Dr. Paul Shott, Plymouth, NH

STUDENT:

Walter G. Hanchuk, Washington, DC

IMPROVE YOUR VOCABULARY

As a service to those who will be travelling to Ukraine, we offer the following additions to most Ukrainian/English phrase books:

remont - to renovate or rebuild. Remont is tricky - ostensibly a good thing - something will be repaired/fix up - it is in fact the explanation/excuse offered for why something, like buildings, sidewalks, shoes, remain out of commission for months on end. At times, it will appear as if almost everything is undergoing a "remont." A city's construction budget is not determined by how many fix up projects were completed the previous year, or on a projection of how many need to be done in the upcoming year, rather, the allocation is based on how many "remont" projects are actually underway. Therefore the more roads, buildings, sidewalks out of commission, the more a city actually gets. Veeerrry clever.

masiv - massive, huge, ugly, impersonal apartment buildings which nobody likes.

distavaty - "to get" i.e., to obtain on the black market, or through barter of goods, services, favors. The functional alternative to the verb "to buy."

inter-deyvochka - a special kind of ahem...girl, one that exclusively hangs around the hard currency bars in the Intourist hotels and will provide services in exchange for dollars, marks, yens. Ruble-carriers need not apply.

TWG SKI TRIP

Presidents' Day Weekend
February 16-19

JANUARY 1990

Ukrainian Treasures

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This was followed by the emergence and development of Ukrainian portrait painting in the 17th and 18th century. A highlight of the 19th century display of paintings was a collection by Taras Shevchenko, the founder of critical realism in Ukrainian art.

Twentieth century painting was represented by such well-known masters as Ivan Trush, Oleksa Novakivsky and Olena Kulchitska, each depicting nature and life in their native Ukraine, in their own unique and particular style. Most of the collections of the above mentioned artists are displayed in individual memorial galleries, which are branches of the main museum on 42 Drahomanov Street. The Trush memorial gallery is located in the house where he lived. Much of the original furniture is in place and plans to restore its garden, which he depicted in several of his paintings, are underway.

In addition, we saw a wonderful collection of sculpture, including a statue of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, which Mr. Novakivsky, with some apprehension, brought out of hiding for the first time to display for us that day.

Another highlight of our tour of the museum was the collection of decorative applied art. It included examples of incredibly intricate embroidery on heavy linen cloth, primarily from the western regions of Ukraine, displaying a variety of stitching techniques and utilizing black thread intertwined with a wide variety of vibrantly colored threads and beads. Beautiful! This display also included ceramics, inlaid and wood-carved artifacts and decorative kilims.

At the end of our tour, Mr. Novakivsky appealed to us to help the museum publish catalogues in the West, to photograph and make movies and videos of its exhibits, as well as to help organize tours for traveling exhibits so that Ukrainians can share these treasures with the rest of the world. He also expressed a need for cooperation with Ukrainian cultural and educational centers in the West in order to fill in the many "blank spots" in Ukrainian history, art and culture.

We all agreed that it was most important to promote our culture as a means of promoting Ukrainians everywhere, particularly those living in Ukraine who have long been denied recognition and who, in order to survive as a people, so desperately need it at this point in time. We left the museum in awe of what we had just seen and inspired

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TWG SHOP

* *Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy: Imperial Absorption of the Hetmanate, 1760s-1830s*, by TWG Member Zenon Kohut, Ph.D., Harvard U. Press, \$20; \$2.50 handling

* *Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life, 1884-1939*, by TWG Member Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, Ph.D., Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, U. of Alberta, \$30; \$2.50 handling.

* *Ukraine: A History*, by Orest Subtelny, Ph.D., U. of Toronto Press, \$50; \$2.50 handling

* Videotape of 1988 Shevchenko concert at Lviv Opera House—proceeds to Shevchenko monument in Lviv, \$24.95, \$2.50 handling. No TWG member discount.

* Videotape of "Muted Bells," distributed by the Ukrainian Museum in Cleveland; \$25, \$2.50 handling. No TWG member discount.

* *A Thousand Years of Christianity in Ukraine: An Encyclopedic Chronology*, compiled and edited by Osyp Zinkewych and Andrew Sorokowski, et al. It lists Ukrainian metropolitans, bishops and rulers (princes, hetmans, etc.) over 1,000 years. Also features compilations of Ukrainian churches, many destroyed in this century. 312 pp., 428 photos/illustrations, 80 in color. Published by Smolokyp and National Millennium Com., \$50; \$2.50 handling.

* Cassette tape of Oleh Krysa, virtuoso violinist from Ukraine, playing works by Brahms, Lyatoshynsky, Sibelius, Paganini and Schnittke, \$12, no TWG member discount.

* Cassette tape of Alexander Slobodyanik, acclaimed concert pianist from Ukraine, performing Chopin and Lyatoshynsky, \$12, no TWG member discount.

NEW ITEMS:

Cassette tapes - \$9/each; 3/\$24:

* Darka and Slavko - Volume II

* Cherymshyna - Volumes I, II, and III

* Kvitka - "Two Colors"

* Vatra - Volume I and II

* Bortnianski - "For the Child"

Please send checks to TWG P.O. Box. Unless otherwise stated, please add \$1 for handling. Except where noted, TWG Members get a 10% discount.

THE BOOK SHELF

This year, January 21 - 27 has been designated as "National Book Week" by the National Book Foundation and the Center for the Book, a division of the Library of Congress. An annual event, "National Book Week" is authorized by Congress to "promote books and writers, to encourage reading, and advance the cause of literature in the United States."

TWG NEWS supports this initiative by inaugurating THE BOOK SHELF, an occasional column which will focus on books, reading, library resources and the ways in which they can be utilized by the Ukrainian community. With this focus we hope to provide a basis for an informed debate on contemporary Ukrainian issues for the busy, but interested "lay reader," and at the very least, encourage the habit of reading books on Ukrainian topics, of which there have been an increasing number in the past few years. This year's "National Book Week" can also serve as a good starting point in preparation for 1991 — which has been designated by the Library of Congress as the "Year of the Lifetime Reader," to encourage reading as a lifelong habit.

The rapid changes in the Soviet Union during the past two years have shown the need to be informed not only of current events, but of history, in order to stay in touch with new developments in Ukraine. Besides understanding events in Ukraine, a solid historical grounding motivates us to better understand ourselves, where we came from and where we could, or should, be heading. By far the best book to help do this is Orest Subtelny's *Ukraine: A History* (University of Toronto Press, 1988).

At first glance, the book looks formidable - 572 pages of text. However, once you start reading, it is smooth, concise and eminently readable. Geared towards a university-aged audience, it is intended to be a textbook, but reads like a story. However, not only is the book important because Subtelny's writing style makes information accessible, it is valuable because it builds upon, and in a guide at the end of the book summarizes, the tremendous amount of research which has been done and is being done at Ukrainian research centers in the West.

Another positive aspect of this book is the author's approach, which reflects the latest trends of contemporary historiography. He dispassionately presents various interpretations of controversial events, and to some extent, analyzes them — letting the readers glimpse the complexity of history. There is no force-feeding of any particular viewpoint here.

From early childhood, most Ukrainians become familiar with isolated particulars about the life of Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko. *Taras Shevchenko, A Life*, (University of Toronto Press, 1988) however, is a book that pulls it all together in a neatly packaged and very readable 284 pages. Pavlo Zaitsev, the most reputable Shevchenko scholar, wrote this biography in the mid-1930's, but because of the 1939 Soviet annexation of Western Ukraine, the book was not published until 1955, in Munich. Abridged and translated by George S. N. Luckyj, this latest edition is not weighed-down with numerous footnotes. Though it lacks the psychoanalysis characteristic of many current literary biographies, this is not a major drawback. It contains a helpful glossary of terms and for further reading, lists a selection of biographical accounts, collections of Shevchenko's works and critical studies. This handsome volume is printed on acid-free paper and features three color plates, including the painting of "Kateryna", and ten pages of illustrations.

While Subtelny's history of Ukraine is a factual narrative, Shevchenko's life story, in Luckyj's words, "is not only his personal story, but a symbolic history of Ukraine." Teenagers and adults alike will find it fascinating reading. Make it your book selection for March — by tradition, the month of Taras Shevchenko. — Jurij Dobczansky

To order:

Ukraine: A History - \$50, hardcover; \$25, softcover.

- TWG Shop (hardcover only)

- Ukrainiska Knyharnia, 4340 Bernice Street, Warren MI, 48091

Taras Shevchenko, A Life - \$30 hardcover only

- Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Avenue, New York NY, 10003

Both books can be purchased in Washington at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine Library, 4250 Harewood Road, Washington, DC, 20017.

Ukrainian Treasures

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by Mr. Novakivsky's words to do whatever we could to promote a most deserving, and a most dear to us culture.

Another fascinating stop in Lviv was the Institute of Applied and Decorative Arts where the director, Immanuel Myshko, himself a famous sculpture, was our guide. We observed first-hand the old crafts of glass blowing and rug weaving, sculpting, the making of stained glass windows and ceramic utensils, and the design of theatrical costumes, as well as contemporary clothing, all of which are taught at the Institute. It was very easy to imagine these incredibly beautiful articles selling in a fashionable boutique on Madison Avenue. Any interested in starting a new business?


In Kiev, we visited the State Taras Shevchenko Museum on Taras Shevchenko Boulevard. The museum displays were very sophisticated and document Shevchenko's life and work and include exhibits of first printings of his publications, many photographs, documents and personal belongings, as well as a collection of his original paintings, the famous "Kateryna" among them. It was somewhat disheartening and annoying, to say the least that a museum located in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and dedicated to the poet-laureate of Ukraine, used the Russian language exclusively in labeling and describing its exhibits. There was however a glimmer of hope when we passed a group of obviously Soviet schoolchildren being given a tour of the museum by their teacher, who addressed them in exclusively beautiful Ukrainian!

The Museum of Ukrainian Fine Arts, also in Kiev, was a delight - for not only did we see wonderful examples of Ukrainian Icon Painting of the 12th-18th century, which are on permanent display - but we were also extremely lucky to see a visiting exhibit of an outstanding contemporary artist, Opanas Zalyvakha, who is originally from Kiev and presently resides in Ivano-Frankivsk. His work, primarily oils, along with some primitive masks, sculptures and other mixed-media collages, were full of symbolism, including our national emblem, the *tryzub*, and reflected his tremendous versatility, at times conjuring Goya or Picasso, but always in a creative and original way that was uniquely his own. The qualities which made Zalyvakha's work exceptional were his masterful execution and depiction of life and very recent events in Ukraine in a way which at once frightened, overwhelmed and awed the viewer, stirring his blood and giving him pause to reflect on the significance of the message and its many subtle implications. Bold and powerful! It would be wonderful to bring his art to America!

More on "Treasures" next month. — Laryssa Chopivsky



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Chervona Ruta

From *Chervona Ruta*, page 3

Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lina Kostenko, Oleksander Oles for their lyrics. As strange as it might seem, *Zymovij Sad*, who sound like King Crimson and whose lead singer dresses up to look like a Russian Orthodox priest, had a hit with their song set to the Shevchenko poem "Subotiv". In this short poem, Shevchenko describes Ukraine as a church-grave which will one day arise and shine with the light of truth.

One of the unexpected stars of the festival was a newcomer to the field of music, Andriy Mykolaychuk from Uman. His two performances at the festival were his second and third ever before a live audience. Andriy, a kindergarten teacher who sang his own infectious, tuneful compositions, made suicide, a bunch of drug addicts and a bootlegger seem like fun. But there was no doubt that it was his stage presence which appealed to the Soviet audience. He wore army fatigues under black tails, army boots and a blue headband on his shaved head.

However, as thrilling as it was to see and hear evidence of the fact that contemporary Ukrainian music is not stagnating in a pool of Russian-language music, at times it seemed that the music was of secondary nature in Chernivtsi. Secondary that is to the great outpouring of Ukrainian patriotism. Young participants carried numerous blue and yellow Ukrainian flags with the *tryzub*, angrily chanted "*han'ba*" (shame) in response to any transgression of their rights by the militia (which was out in full force), and enthusiastically greeted every patriotic song performed by the competing bands and singers.

The Chervona Ruta festival committee reached and exceeded its goal of presenting first rate Ukrainian-language music, despite the concerted efforts of local party officials and the militia to impede the success of the festival. They tried to hamper the smooth running of the show at every step: the dates of the festival were changed at the last minute; bands were forbidden to play certain songs at the concerts, or banned from performing altogether; certain festival events were not allowed to take place as planned; at crucial moments of the closing festivities, electricity and microphones were turned off; many festival participants were harassed and threatened; spectators who carried blue and yellow flags were beaten.

I can almost guarantee that this was the only music festival in the world where the decision who would perform at the closing ceremonies was decided at a press conference by the local leader of the Komsomol "in coordination with" (rather, in a shouting match with) the competition judges, the competitors themselves, as well as the entire press corps. I had simply taken it for granted that the festival winners would naturally perform at the closing ceremonies. Silly me. I quickly learned that one does not assume anything in the USSR.

All in all, the Chervona Ruta festival was an historic event conceived and created by a few dedicated individuals and organizations who "seized the day" with the hope of bringing about a renaissance in the sphere of Ukrainian contemporary song. — Marta Zielyk

Marta Zielyk, a broadcaster for the Ukrainian service of Radio Liberty, hosts a rock music program, and was one of the few Western correspondents to attend the Chervona Ruta Music Festival.

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January

26 FRIDAY 7:30 pm

Lecture by Andrew Sorokowski: "New Draft Law on Religious Freedom in the Soviet Union: What Does It Mean?"

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Association of Washington St. Sophia's Religious Society

2615 30th Street NW

Mr. Sorokowski is currently the Director of Research and Documentation for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rome.

Contact: Natalie Gawdiak 301/622-2338

31 WEDNESDAY 6:00 pm

Ukrainian Independence Day Reception

Speaker: Dennis Kloske, Undersecretary of Commerce

Rayburn House Office Building B338-339

Independence Ave and South Capitol St SW

(it's the building that has two "main" entrances: one directly on Independence Ave and an entrance off the "horseshoe" driveway on South Capitol Street)

\$10

The fifteenth annual Ukrainian Independence Day commemoration with Members of Congress sponsored by Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Contact: Iryna Chalupa 202/547-0018

February

16 - 19 FRIDAY - MONDAY

TWG SKI TRIP

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania

(3 1/2 - 4 hour drive from D.C.)

Both downhill (day and night skiing) and cross country trails available. Overnight accommodations at the Hidden Valley resort for the weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights) are \$122.00 plus tax/night for one adult, \$144.00 for 2-4 adults per suite.

Children under 15 stay free. Two room suite includes: king sized bed, queen size sofa bed and kitchenette.

Facilities includes indoor swimming pool, whirl pool, sauna, and racquetball courts.

Directions: 270N to 76W to Exit 10 - Somerset, Route 31 West twelve miles to Hidden Valley.

Contact: (for information and to reserve a suite) Laryssa Chopivsky 202/363-3964.

23 FRIDAY 7:30 pm

TWG Friday Night Forum

Health and Population Issues in Ukraine

Murray Feshbach, Research Professor of Demography, Georgetown University and Stephen Rapawy, Demographer, Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of Census

St. Sophia's Religious Society

2615 30th Street NW

Mr. Feshbach will present an interpretation of recent Soviet statistics on health issues, and Mr. Rapawy will focus on statistics dealing with ethnicity, language, population demographics in Ukraine.

Contact: Orysia Pyleshenko 703/671-1452

27 TUESDAY 3:30 pm

Woodrow Wilson Center/Kennan Institute lecture

Vyacheslav Briukhovetsky

"Rukh and Recent Political Developments in Ukraine"

Woodrow Wilson Center

1000 Jefferson Drive (Smithsonian Castle)

Mr. Briukhovetsky, in the United States on an academic exchange with Rutgers University, is a literary critic and is a scholar at the Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences and one of the founders of Rukh.

March

1 THURSDAY 7:30 pm

Oleh Krysa Concert

Kennedy Center, Terrace Theater

The Washington Performing Arts Society and The

Chopivsky Family Foundation present Oleh Krysa,

violinist, in recital at the Kennedy Center. Tickets go on sale February 4th at the Kennedy Center Box

Office or call Instant Charge, 202/467-4600. Ticket price: \$13.50

Contact: Laryssa Chopivsky 202/363-3964

25 SUNDAY 4 pm

Antonovych Awards Reception

Copley Hall Formal Lounge

Georgetown University Campus

Presentation of 1990 Antonovych Awards to Dr. Marta

Bohachevsky-Chomiak and Lina Kostenko.

Contact: Orysia Pyleshenko 703/671-1452

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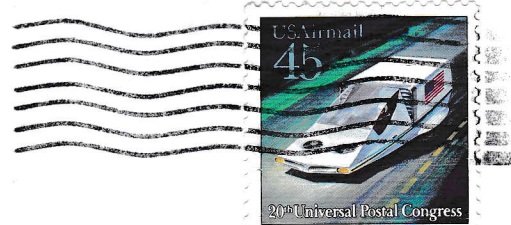
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