

TWG INVOLVEMENT IN THE CELEBRATION OF MILLENNIUM OF CHRISTIANITY IN UKRAINE

Please also see the [Photo album for the year 1985](#)

1. Introduction (March 29, 1985 / TWG NEWS May 1985)

TWG sponsored a presentation by Dr. Bohdan Bociurkiw on the topic of how to best structure the celebration of the Millennium of Christianity in Rus-Ukraine. Dr. Bociurkiw summarized the challenge to the Ukrainian-American community in its effort to organize a celebration of the Millennium of Christianity and suggested a prioritized response in its effort.

The Challenge

"The atheistic regime and the Moscow Patriarchate have ideologically joined in this effort, because of its 'immense symbolic and propaganda value', demonstrating, on the one hand, the unity, as some Soviet sources have used the term, of the Russian peoples. . . in the Russian Church," and on the other, the "unity of the various nationalities in the single Soviet people -- the new historical entity as Soviet propaganda would have it."

"The Millennium celebration has many important aspects: symbolic, political, public relations, and academic. The academic aspect is of special importance because there ought to be something more lasting than an outburst of celebrations, ceremonies, demonstrations – even though all are very necessary and very useful undertakings."

TWG Members were active in all aspects of the preparation of the Millennium celebration of Rus-Ukraine.

2. Washington Branch of the Harvard Millennium Project Committee

TWG member, Marta Mostovych (see TWG NEWS June 1987) was the chairperson of Washington Branch of the Harvard Millennium Project Committee. Her article in the December 1985 issue of TWG NEWS introduced the *Millennium of Christianity: Harvard Project* to the Washington Ukrainian-American Community. The Millennium Project Committee organized several fundraisers. On December 7, 1985 Dr. Andrew Sorokowski on a Fellowship from Harvard to Keston College in England and Dr. Roman Procyk of the Harvard Ukrainian Studies Fund addressed the Washington area Ukrainian-American community. Dr. Sorokowski described Moscow's Millennium messaging strategy and also detailed the religious situation in Ukraine. Dr. Procyk described the aims of the Harvard Millennium Project (TWG NEWS January 1986).

On June 7, 1986, Dr. Lubomyr Hajda of Harvard University and Dr. Roman Procyk provided details of the Harvard Millennium Project:

1. Translating and publishing a series of Ukrainian literary and historical documents
2. Holding an international conference of select scholars on the Millennium
3. Creating a chair of the history of Ukrainian religious thought at Harvard (TWG NEWS July 1986).

3. Washington Chapter of the Committee to Commemorate the Millennium of Christianity (See Spotlight on Eugene Iwanciw in TWG NEWS January 1987)

TWG member Eugene Iwanciw was the chairman of the Washington Chapter of the Committee to Commemorate the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine.

4. Ukrainian Community Network (TWG NEWS July-August 1987)

TWG member Larissa Fontana, organizer of Ukrainian Community Network, urged papal nuncio to include Ukrainian as a language in which scripture was to be read in celebration of the Millennium (TWG NEWS June 1987). Ms Fontana also had a letter published in the *Washington Times* pointing out that it was Kievan Rus that accepted Christianity in 988 AD and not Moscow. She made a similar point to the Washington Cathedral Choral Society.

5. National Religious Broadcasters Convention of the United States

TWG member Andrij Bilyk organized a booth at the National Religious Broadcasters of the United States that showcased the state of religion in Ukraine (TWG NEWS March 1987). The following year the National Committee to Commemorate the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine also sponsored a booth at the event. TWG members contributed many artifacts to both events. (TWG NEWS January 1988)

6. Reception for Scholars (May 25 / TWG NEWS May-June 1988)

TWG hosted a reception for Scholars from a Millennium Conference with Dr. Frank Sysyn from Harvard addressing the gathering.

7. Icon Exhibit (TWG NEWS October 1988)

TWG Vice-President Lydia Chopivsky was involved in the Chopivsky Family Icon exhibit.

8.0 Publications

8.1 National Committee on the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine published “A Thousand Years of Christianity in Ukraine: An Encyclopedic Chronology” June 1, 1988. Book is available on Amazon.com.

Link: https://www.amazon.com/Thousand-Years-Christianity-Ukraine-Encyclopedic/dp/0914834584/ref=sr_1_1?crid=15THU1TPZ9MCE&keywords=A+thousand+years+of+christianity+in+ukraine&qid=1641862238&s=books&sprefix=a+thousand+years+of+christianity+in+ukraine%2Cs+tripbooks%2C48&sr=1-1

8.2 The Harvard Millennium Project Publications are as follows:

The Harvard Library of Early Ukrainian Literature (HLEUL)
<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/collection.php?cpk=1087>

Proceedings of the International Congress Commemorating the Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine, Harvard Ukrainian Studies

[PA Rolland - 1992 - JSTOR](https://www.jstor.org/stable/308373)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/308373>

Proceedings of the International Congress Commemorating the Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine. Harvard Ukrainian Studies. Vol. 12/13 (1988/1989)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/41048985>

(Text is in German)

Harvard Ukrainian Studies. Vol. XII-XIII: 1988-1989

M Giedroyc - The English Historical Review, 1994 - go.gale.com

<https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA15621703&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=00138266&p=AONE&sw=w&userGroupName=anon%7E301b8a07>

The Millennium Series

This is a series of booklets addressing topics relevant to Religion in Ukraine.

Internet Link to the list of booklets:

<https://thewashingtongroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/USF-Millennium-series.pdf>

These booklets are available in the Library of Congress. (The link to search the Library of Congress Catalogue is:

<https://www.loc.gov/z3950/gateway.html>)