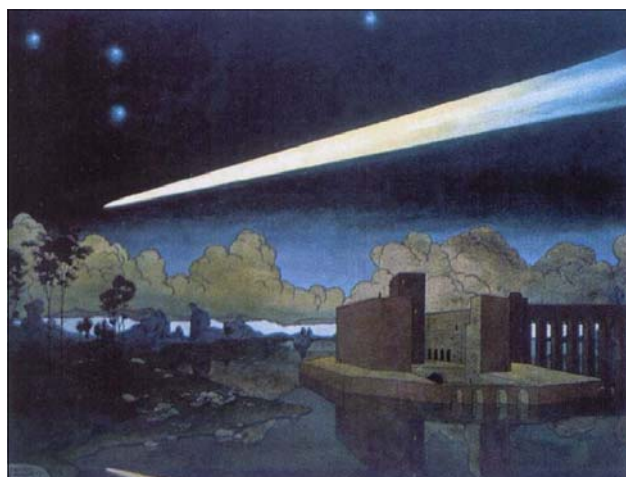
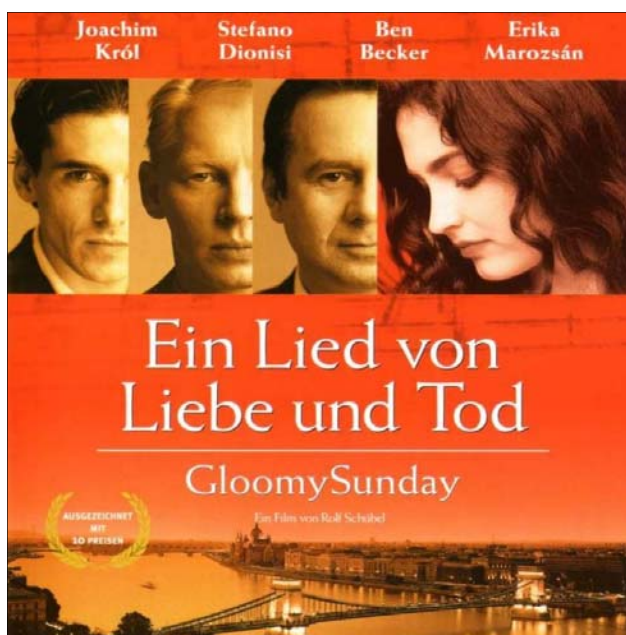


## THE END OF THE WORLD IN SONG, DANCE, AND FILM

The world is going to end December 21, 2012 – yet again. In 1910, Halley's Comet with its glowing, cyanide-laced tail was going to poison Earth's atmosphere and end all life as we know it. There was nothing left to do but go out with a bang. My grandmother, living in the Russian Empire, attended one of these end-of-the-world balls and danced to Katansky's waltz – *Halley's Comet* (1910).

Music in Eastern Europe has always been most expressive and, in the last century, often reflected the end-of-the-world theme. Probably, the most famous piece of music in this genre was the Hungarian song *Vége a világnak* (End of the World, 1933) by Rezső Seress. The version with an alternate text by László Jávör became known worldwide as *Gloomy Sunday*. This simple arpeggiated melody was soon nicknamed the "suicide song." It was sung by Petro Leshchenko in Russian, Paul Robeson in English and Noriko Awaya in Japanese. The BBC banned the song and did not lift the ban until 2002! There is a German film, *Ein Lied von Liebe und Tod* (1999), with a plot centred around this piece of music.



*Halley's Comet, Munich, (1910)*  
by Ukrainian painter Heorhii Narbut.

Another musical form that became associated with death in Eastern Europe was the Argentine tango. Instead of being an expression of passionate love, the tango became an expression of fatalism and tragedy. The dance was introduced into Eastern Europe just before World War I. In the Russian Empire, the tango was popularized by the Yiddish singer Isa Kremer in Odessa. Her performance of Émile Dolloire's *Le Dernier Tango* (1913) inspired filmmaker Viacheslav Viskovsky to make the movie *Poslednee tango* (The Last Tango, 1918) with Ukrainian silent film star Vera Kholodna. Tragically, one year later, she was dead of the Spanish Flu. To express his unrequited love for Vera, singer Alexander Vertynsky dedicated to her his song *Vashi pal'tsy pakhnut ladanom* (Your fingers smell of incense, 1916).

**PETRO JACYK CENTRAL AND EAST  
EUROPEAN RESOURCE CENTRE**

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In Poland, with the rise of cabarets in Warsaw, the tango became one of the most popular dances of the day. One of the most famous tangos was Jerzy Petersburski's *To ostatnia niedziela* (The Last Sunday, 1935). It became known as the "suicide tango" and was regarded as the perfect background music for shooting oneself in the head. In the Soviet Union, this tango was known as *Utomlionnoie solntse* (The Weary Sun). The song has been used in such films as Spielberg's *Schindler's List* (1993), Kieślowski's *Three Colours: White* (1994) and Mikhalkov's *Burnt by the Sun* (1994).

An infinitely more macabre expression of the tango occurred at the Yanovsky concentration camp in Lviv during World War II. There Jewish musicians were forced to play the so-called *Tango of Death* as Nazis exterminated their brethren. Researcher and performer, Lloica Czackis, has done much work in recreating the music of Jewish ghettos and Nazi concentration camps.

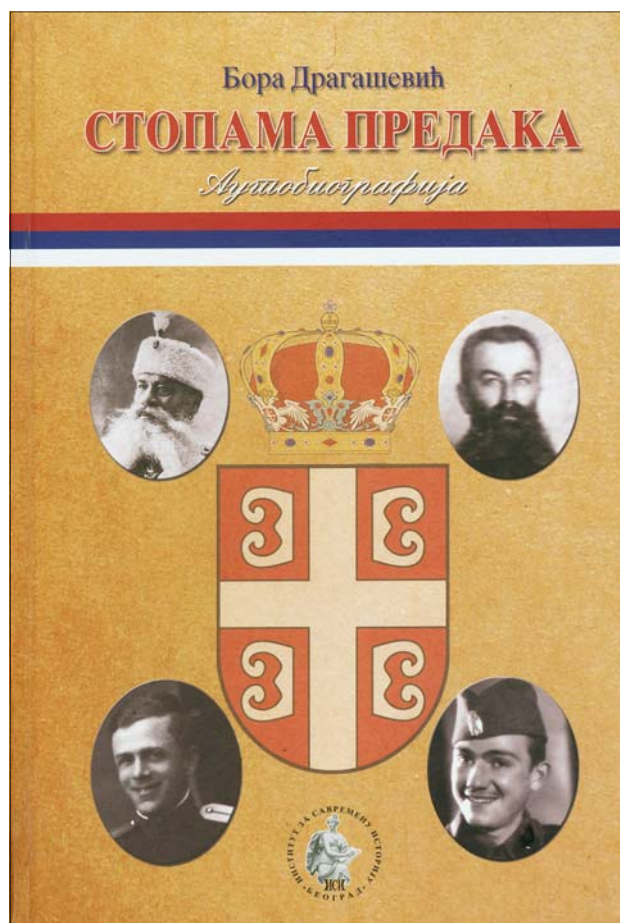
Recently, a long-forgotten Ukrainian tango written in 1944 by two female members of the UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) was discovered. The lyrics are by Ol'ha Il'kiv with music by Marta Pashkivs'ka. Marta was killed in action some time in 1949, but Ol'ha survived to face the reality of Soviet prison camps. Robarts Library has just received a copy of her published poems *U tenetakh dvokh "zakrytok"* (From Inside Two Soviet Special Prison Camps, 2011), which includes a CD of songs based on her texts.

Source materials (videos, sound recordings, scores, biographies, and journal articles) can all be found in Robarts Library, Media Commons, the Music Library, the Fisher Rare Book Library, the East Asian Library, and in PJRC.

The end of the world comes in different shapes and sizes for all of us. It is through song, dance, and film that we try to confront our fears and find solace.

Wasył Sydorenko

## B O R A D R A G A Š E V I Ć



The PJRC would like to thank Bora Dragašević and his wife, the editor, Draga, for the gift of their book. The 755-page autobiography of Dragašević is also a history of the Canadian Serbian community. It documents his life since his immigration to Canada, and recounts his many roles in the activities of the community in Canada and beyond over a period of 60 years. Entitled *Stopama predaka* (In the Footsteps of My Ancestors), the book begins with the story of the Dragašević family in Serbia in the early 1800s. The story then moves from the displaced persons' camps to hydro projects north of Ottawa, to Niagara Falls and, finally, Toronto, where he became the director and producer of the Serbian radio program *Radio Sumadija*, the editor of the newspaper *Glas Kanadskih Srba*, and an active contributor to Canada's multicultural movement.



## THE JAROSLAV REICHL CZECH BOOK COLLECTION

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library holds some of the finest examples of Czech book design and illustration, and has one of the largest collections of Czech modernist and avant-garde imprints in North America. The collection has been built both systematically, through purchases of books thanks to the Josef F. Scheybal Czech Collection Fund, and through the generosity of donors. The collection was greatly enhanced this past year with the donation from Carl Alexandre of his father-in-law's, Jaroslav Reichl's, private library. In all some five hundred volumes were added to the University of Toronto Libraries, with half going to the Fisher Rare Book Library.

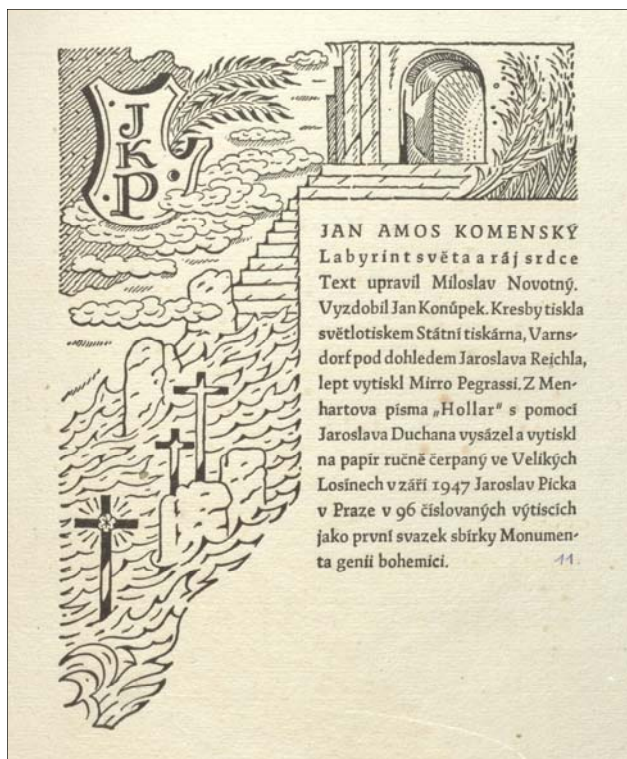
A graphic artist and printer, Jaroslav Reichl was born on 11 September 1898 in Prague. He graduated from the city's State Graphic School. The school was founded in 1920, and was the only school in Czechoslovakia to offer studies in the process of the creation, production, and finishing of print materials, including design, preparation, printing, and finishing. From 1945 to 1948, Reichl served as director of the state printing press in Varndsdorf, a town located today on the Czech-German border, north of Prague and southeast from Dresden. He was active in the underground anti-Nazi movement during World War II, and also participated in the Prague uprising of May 1945. After the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in February 1948, he went into exile, and ended up in a displaced persons' camp in Ludwigsburg, West Germany. There, he worked as a printer for Otto Gráf, editor of the newspaper *Československé noviny*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1950, Reichl emigrated from Germany to Norway, and in 1952 he moved to Canada. He worked as a typographer in Toronto for the printer "Litera". He passed away on 11 February 1978. With his fine

education, training, and work in all aspects of the printing trade, Reichl was recognized as a master in his field and a great connoisseur of the book, and was himself a superb collector of rare and fine Czech imprints.

The Jaroslav Reichl collection in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is particularly strong for the interwar and Second World War periods, with the majority of works published between 1918 and 1945. The books display many of the attributes associated with publishing in the fin-de-siècle, and form part of a continuum of the book beautiful movement that began in the 1890s. Most of them were produced by hand presses and in limited editions, and are beautifully illustrated. The book as artefact was based on the aesthetic principles advanced by graphic artists Zdenka Braunerová (1858-1934) and Vojtech Preissig (1873-1944). Preissig, a graduate of the Prague Academy of Applied Arts, worked on the graphic designs and illustrations for Jan Karafiát's *Broučci* (Beetles, 1903), his own book *Barevný lept a barevná rytina* (Colour etchings and colour engravings, 1909), and Petr Bezruč's *Slezské písně* (Silesian songs, 1909). Other artists involved with book publishing prior to the outbreak of World War I include Jan Konůpek (1883-1950) and František Kobliha (1877-1962). The Reichl collection includes works by all of the above, including Preissig's *Barevný Lepta, Barevna Rytina* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1925), and illustrations by Braunerová for a Czech translation of Anatole France's short story *La Fille de Lilith* (1929); Konůpek for a Czech translation of Balzac's short story *D'ung paouvre qui avoyt nom Le Vieulx-par-Chemins* (1930); and Kobliha for Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic's *Dafnino Hoře* (1926).<sup>2</sup>

In 1925, Preissig was commissioned by the International Exhibition of Decorative



and Industrial Arts in Paris to produce an original Czech printing typeface: *Preissig Roman* (or *Preissig Antikva*). His typeface integrated Czech accents into the Latin character set, and has elements of Art Nouveau and Cubist design. It was produced by the Czech state foundry and used in the State Printing House (or *Státní tiskárna*) publications of fine press books in the 1920s and 1930s under the directorship of Karel Dyrynk (1876-1949). In the earlier decades of the twentieth century, Dyrynk had served as editor of the journal *Typografia*, and had written several books, among them one on the rules of typesetting, *Pavidla sazby typografické* (1908), another on typography, *Typograf o knihách* (1911; note: the 1925 edition is among the Reichl volumes), and a third on book arts, *Krásná kniha* (1909). From 1919 to 1934, Dyrynk supervised the printing of works by Czech writers Karel Čapek, Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic, and Josef Peckař, as well as translations into Czech of Jules Barbey D'Aureville, Boccaccio, Jean Cocteau, and Anatole France, among many others. Dyrynk's work was highly re-

garded across Europe, and he was awarded for producing the most beautiful Czech book of the year a total of twenty-five times, and received top prizes at international book fairs held in Paris (1925), Leipzig (1927), Köln (1928), London (1929), and Barcelona (1930). There are fine examples of Dyrynk's work as editor, translator, and printer in the Reichl collection, as well as that by fellow typographer Method Kaláb (1885-1963). Additionally, there is a wonderful selection of works by Symbolist artists František Kobliha (1877-1962), Josef Váchal (1884-1969), and Jan Konůpek (1883-1950), and of those artists associated with Czech Decorativism, such as Vratislav H. Brunner (1886-1928) and Jaroslav Benda (1882-1970), who incorporated elements of Czech folklore in their designs.

As for Reichl's own handiwork, the collection includes examples of his publishing efforts, as, for instance, Otokar Březina's poems, *Sestá kniha básní: Torso* (Sixth book of poems: Torso, 1947), a richly illustrated volume; and an edition of Jan Amos Komenský's *Labyrint světa a ráj srdce* (Labyrinth of the world and paradise of the heart, 1947), edited by Miloslav Novotný and decorated by Jan Konůpek.

The University of Toronto Libraries are grateful for Carl Alexandre's generous donation, and are pleased to offer a home to this remarkable collection of Czech imprints.

1. *Československé noviny: Nezávislý informační list čs. demokratických uprchlíků v Německu* (Ludwigsburg, Forchheim, 1949-1950).
2. Anatole France's story was first published in 1889, and was translated into Czech as *Dcera Lilitha* (Praha: Karel Dyrynk, 1929). Honoré de Balzac's tale was originally published as part of his *Contes Drôlatiques* (1832-37), and came out in a Czech translation by Jaroslav Zaorál as *O chudasovi, jemuz říkávali Toulavá mosna* (Brno: Non multis, 1930).

Ksenya Kiebusinski

## PETER JACYK'S WESTERN UKRAINIAN SERIALS

Every scholar appreciates the value of periodicals in scholarly research. In particular, historical journals, newspapers, and serials are a priceless primary resource for scholars in the humanities and social sciences. These materials help us not only to learn about facts, places, times, or people, but also to imagine and recreate the life of a bygone era with all its beauty, emotion, controversy, and tragedy.

The University of Toronto Libraries is home to one such invaluable collection of historical periodicals – the Peter Jacyk Collection of Ukrainian Serials. This is a comprehensive research collection of rare newspapers and journals from Western Ukraine published between the years 1848 and 1918. Housed in Media Commons at Robarts Library, this is the finest collection of Western Ukrainian serials of this period in North America.

The collection was acquired in 1983. Its acquisition was facilitated by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, Professor Paul Robert Magocsi, and made possible with the generous financial support of Petro Jacyk, a Canadian businessman and philanthropist. Throughout his career, Professor Magocsi has been a staunch supporter of the University of Toronto Libraries. He is constantly contributing to the library publications both old and new on all subjects within Central and East European studies. Petro Jacyk, a businessman and philanthropist of Ukrainian origin, supported Ukrainian studies not only at the University of Toronto, but also at the University of Alberta, Columbia University, Harvard, and the University of London in England. Throughout his entire life, he fostered the development of the Ukrainian academic community in North America and Ukraine.

The variety of the newspapers and journals in this collection is amazing. It reveals the vibrant life of Ukrainian society and its people in the second half of the

nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The periodicals cover every aspect of life: history, literature, education, politics, economics, religion, law, and agriculture. There are even publications for children and youth.

Consisting of over 400 reels of microfilms, the collection includes the complete or nearly complete runs of 175 newspapers and journals. For the most part, the serials were published in the historical regions of Austro-Hungary – namely Eastern Galicia, Bukovyna, and Transcarpathia. The majority of the periodicals appeared in L'viv (then Lwów or Lemberg), the capital of Eastern Galicia; some of them in Chernivtsi (then Czernowitz) the capital of Bukovyna, and in Uzhhorod (Ungvar), the cultural capital of Transcarpathia. The remaining titles were published in other towns and cities of the historic regions: Ko-







lomyia, Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankiv's'k), Ternopil', Przemyśl, Sanok, Nowy Sącz and others. A few publications in the collection appeared in Vienna and Budapest.

The collection contains the most significant late nineteenth-century journals on Ukrainian public affairs and literature (*Besieda*, *Zoria*, *Pravda*, *Literaturno-naukovy vistnyk*); the scholarly journals of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (*Zapysky Naukovoho Tovarystva imeni Shevchenka*); the first Ukrainian serials (*Zoria halyts'ka*, *Dnewnyk ruskij*). *D'iakôvskî vîdomosty*, *Katolytskyi vskhid*, and *Druh naroda* explored subjects in religion; *Dom i shkola* and *Kameniarî* were devoted to education and schools; *Dzvinok* and *Iskra* were for children; *Ekonomist*, *Ėkonomichnÿi lystok*, and *Holos truda* covered economic issues; and *Hospodar' i promyshlennyk* and *Hospodars'ka chasopys* highlighted issues related to agriculture and cooperative movements. In addition, the collection includes

a nearly complete run of *Czernowitzer Zeitung* (*The Czernowitz News*) published in German in Chernivtsi for 30 years, and *Ukránia*, the only Hungarian journal dedicated to Ukrainian matters. Of course, these are only a few examples of the wide range of subjects of this serials collection.

Many distinguished personalities, who contributed to the national awakening and cultural development of Western Ukraine, were editors or active contributors to these journals and newspapers, as, for example: Ivan Franko, Mykhailo Hrushevs'kyi, Kost' Levyts'kyi, Volodymyr Antonovych, Iakiv Holovats'kyi, Ol'ha Kobylins'ka, Kyrylo Trylovs'kyi, Osyp Makovei, Antin Petrushevych, Bohdan Didyts'kyi to name just a few. Their contributions were vital to the political, economic, and cultural development of Ukrainians in these lands.

These periodicals can be accessed through UTL's online catalogue and are widely used by scholars and students. Recently, all catalogue records for the collection were enhanced. The records were supplemented with more subject headings and holdings information. It is hoped this will help facilitate the use of this collection not only by UTL researchers, but international scholars as well.

To retrieve the complete list of titles in the collection just enter "Peter Jacyk Collection of Ukrainian Serials" in the search field at: <http://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/>

Nadia Zavorotna

## NEW ACQUISITIONS @ PJRC

Every two months the Petro Jacyk Resource Centre (PJRC) displays selected recent publications from Central and Eastern Europe. Please drop by anytime to check out the latest arrivals. PJRC is located in Room 3008, Robarts Library. The Reading Room is open weekdays and weekends during regular Library hours.

[pjrc.library.utoronto.ca/collections/robarts-library-selected-new-acquisitions](http://pjrc.library.utoronto.ca/collections/robarts-library-selected-new-acquisitions)

## BUILDING BOUNDLESS COLLECTIONS: MODELS OF GIVING

In the last issue of the *PJRC Update* (no.4, Fall 2011), we wrote about the passing of two dedicated and generous supporters of the University of Toronto Libraries, Vlasta Scheybal and John Yaremko, who together donated \$500,000 in support of the development, preservation, and improvement to accessibility of our Slavic collections. Here we would like to highlight two other benefactors, who created smaller book funds, but with equally lasting effect on our print collections.

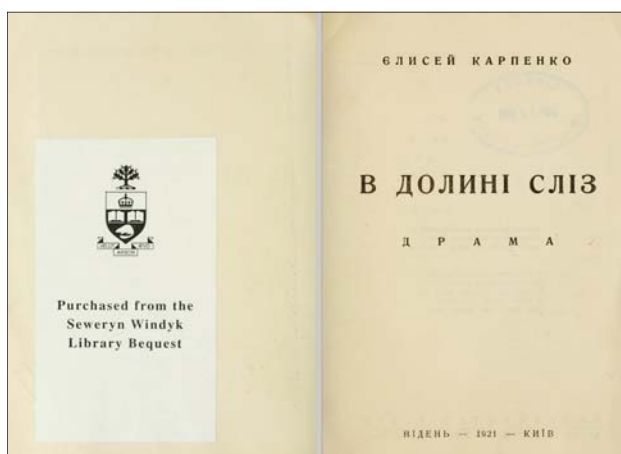
**Seweryn Windyk Library Book Fund**

In 1963, Seweryn Windyk bequeathed \$10,000 to the University to support the studies of Ukrainian language. The bequest was used to create two funds at the University: 1) the Seweryn Windyk Library Book Fund (among the first endowed book funds at the University of Toronto Library) for the purchase of books in Ukrainian language and literature; and 2) the Ivan Franko Scholarship in Ukrainian Language and Literature. The scholarship is given in any year to the student obtaining the highest mark with grade A standing in any undergraduate course in Ukrainian language or literature.

Who was Seweryn Windyk? Seweryn was born on 26 September 1897 in the town Kutu, on the Cheremosh River, located in the Kosiv District, of what was then Eastern Galicia (today Ivano-Frankivsk

Oblast). As a young man he volunteered with the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, and took part in the revolutionary movement until May 1920 in the rank of sub-lieutenant. He was a member of the Ukrainian Military Organization. Windyk immigrated to Canada for political reasons in 1927, and settled in Toronto. Here he was active in the Ukrainian Sich Society (USH, from July 1929), and the local branch of the Ukrainian National Federation. He headed the Ukrainian Freedom Fund, and maintained strong ties with the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. Windyk's philanthropic work included helping finance the publisher *La parole ukrainienne* in Paris, and to modernize its printing equipment. Aside from his political and philanthropic activities, Windyk loved music and collected recordings of various Ukrainian choirs in Canada. He passed away on 30 September 1963 in Toronto.

Since the establishment of the Seweryn Windyk Library Book Fund, the income it generates, between \$1000 to \$2000 yearly, is used to acquire such items for the University of Toronto Libraries as pre-1920 plays by Galician Ukrainian writers like Oles Babii, Danylo Lepkyi, and Hryhorii Hanuliak, or works by contemporary Ukrainian writers like Ievheniia Kononenko and Serhii Zhadan. In 2008, the library acquired the illustrated history of Cossacks edited by Volodymyr Nediak – *Ukraina, kozats'ka derzhava* (2007). This massive volume, weighing in at 9.5 kg, includes scholarly articles with accompanying illustrations (5175 in all) covering everything from history and biography to art and artefact, from book printing to ship building, from warfare to worship, etc. Another important acquisition for the library, with partial support from the Windyk Fund, was the purchase of a vast collection of documents on the 1932-1933 famine in



Ukraine from the Central State Archive of Popular Organizations, Kyiv. The microfilm collection numbering 158 reels includes official Communist Party records, as well as personal appeals and letters. The material provides information about grain procurement policies in Ukraine, the escalation of food shortages, large-scale starvation, mortality among the peasantry, political attitudes and unrest among the peasants, membership of grassroots Party organizations, as well as measures taken by the Central Committee and the People's Commissariat to contain the scale of the disaster.

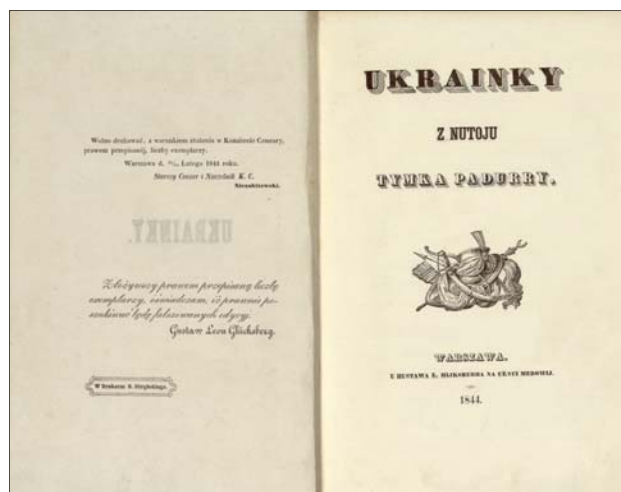
### Joseph and Antonia Medwecki Polish Fund

In 2008, Joseph A. Medwecki established a \$10,000 expendable book fund to pay tribute to his late wife's, Antonia's, memory. The two had been long-time Friends of the Fisher Library, and Joseph, in creating the Joseph and Antonia Medwecki Polish Fund for the purchase of Polonica in the humanities in all languages, with a focus on Polish history, literature, and culture, wished especially to honour Antonia's love of Polish architecture, fine arts, theatre, and classical music.

Antonia "Tosia" Medwecki (née Kajetanowicz) was born on 22 October 1922 in Szczakowa, Poland, northwest of Krakow. She married Joseph in 1953, and they shared their lives together for fifty five years, until her death on 11 November 2008. In Toronto, Joseph worked as an architect, designing among other buildings, the greatly admired modernist apartment building at 190 St. George Street, just north of the Robarts Library, which was recently ranked as one of the top ten residential towers in the city. Tosia was a much beloved dentist, who according to one patient's recollections helped to calm her down for a cavity refilling "with her words and the beautiful Mozart Symphony that played in her office."

It is thus in the spirit of their mutual love for the arts and culture that the Medwecki Polish Fund has been applied to acquire a number of rare and important titles for the Robarts and Thomas Fisher Rare Book Libraries. For example, we have purchased, among many other volumes, an early nineteenth-century bio-bibliographical dictionary of Polish poets; first editions of Polish poets Tomasz Padurra (1801-1871) and Wincenty Pol (1807-1872); an anthology of Polish military songs from World War I; a catalogue of incunabula in the Wrocław University Library; and a graphically and cartographically richly illustrated volume on the reconstruction of Warsaw following World War II. These and other acquisitions from the nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries have helped strengthen what is already Canada's foremost library collection of Polonica.

*Ksenya Kiebusinski*



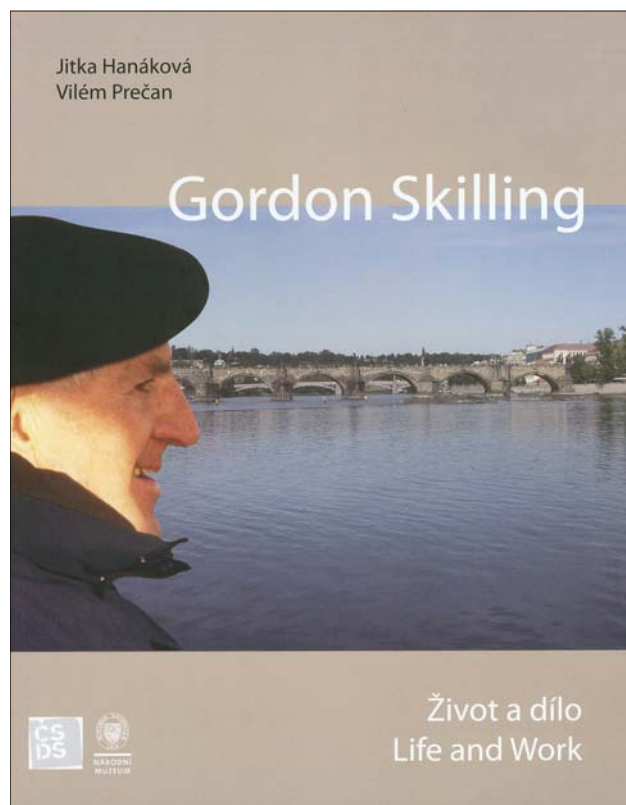


## PJRC INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH – PRAGUE

**H. Gordon Skilling:  
A Bibliography, 1940-2011****Compiled by Ksenya Kiebusinski**

This spring, the PJRC was invited by Vilém Prečan, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Documentation Centre in Prague, to help honour the life and work of H. Gordon Skilling. An international conference and exhibition was held 27-29 May 2012 to mark the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Skilling, an outstanding scholar of Central and Eastern European studies, professor of Political Science, and the first director of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Toronto. Staff of the PJRC compiled a complete bibliography of Skilling's works which was published on the websites of the conference and the PJRC: <http://www.csds.cz/en/2864-DS/version/default/part/AttachmentData/data/skilling2012-Prague-version.pdf?language=cs>

Skilling was not only a leading scholar of Czechoslovak history and politics, but, with his active involvement in the struggle for human rights, democracy and freedom in Czechoslovakia, he also left his mark on its history. In recognition of his work, Skilling was granted an honorary doctorate from Charles University in 1990, and received from President Václav Havel the Order of the White Lion, the highest Czech decoration, in 1992.

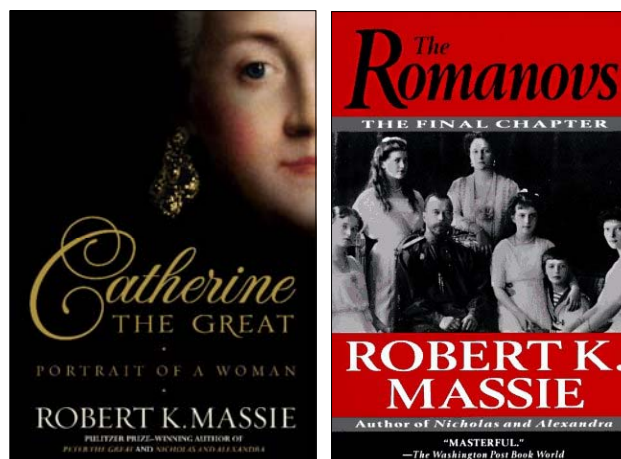


The PJRC would like to thank both the son of Prof. Skilling, David, and the authors of this wonderful biography, Jitka Hanáková and Vilém Prečan, for the gift of this special publication. *Gordon Skilling: Život a dílo: Life and Work* is a 108-page bilingual biography which was published in conjunction with the international conference in Prague in May, 2012. It is well-illustrated and provides an intimate look at the achievements of this great University of Toronto scholar.

## WOMEN IN HISTORY: FEMALE LEADERS

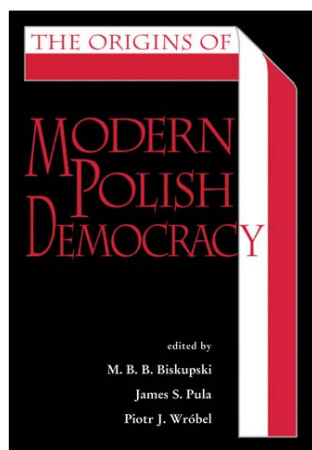
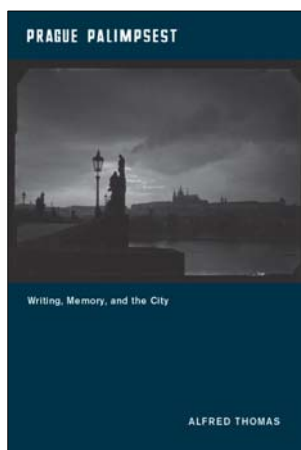
In honour of International Women's Day on the Eighth of March and a general focus on women throughout the month, the Petro Jacyk Resource Centre is pleased to announce its current display – *Women in History: Female Leaders of Central and Eastern Europe*. The exhibit puts a spotlight on women who have held important leadership positions in Central and Eastern European politics throughout history. Our display case, situated just outside the entrance of the PJRC, provides a unique location for raising awareness of the role women have played in the historical development of Europe and has been met with appreciation and interest by both our regular patrons and passersby.

The exhibit will remain on display throughout the summer and fall. If you would like to pursue for further research



Pulitzer Prize winner Robert K. Massie's most recent work, *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman* (New York: Random House, 2011), is an in-depth examination of the Russian empress, who ruled for over 30 years, from 1762 to 1796, and can be seen as the peak of Romanov power.

Massie's earlier work, *The Romanovs: The Final Chapter* (New York: Random House, 1995), investigates the end of the Romanov reign, focusing on the details of Tsar Nicholas II's rule and unearths evidence that confirms the death of the royal family, including the young duchess Anastasia.



In *Prague Palimpsest: Writing, Memory, and the City* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), Alfred Thomas surveys the shifting attitudes toward history that are written about the city of Prague itself. Chapter One deals with the myth of Libuše and the reinterpretation of her role in the foundational legend of Prague throughout time.

Daniel Z. Stone's chapter, "An Introduction to Polish Democratic Thought," in *Modern Polish Democracy* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2010) contextualizes Jadwiga's place in the conception of Polish democratic thought and the development of the Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom.

any items of particular interest in the display, please take a look at our interactive PowerPoint presentation, available online: <http://pjrc.library.utoronto.ca/publications/exhibitions/women-in-history> There you will find all of the information presented in the display, as well as a supplementary bibliography with links to other library materials as well as several online resources. This presentation will remain accessible after the display is removed.

Rough categorical distinctions help guide the reader through the historical material across a broad region of focus. The following categories provide structure to the display: Foundation Myths, Early Leaders, Russian Nobility, Central European Nobility, End of Russian Nobility, Communist Era, Post-Communist Era, and Contemporary Leaders. These categories are not wholly applicable to each specific

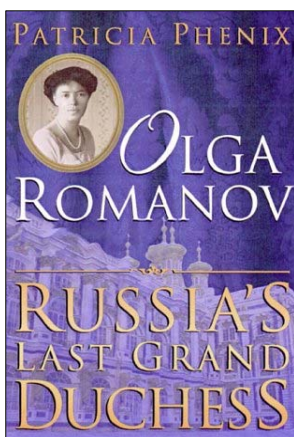


# OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

area covered by the exhibit, but offer a general rubric of classification. For each section, one or two women were selected for increased focus in the display.

Foundation Myths focuses on the foundational stories of the region that feature women in inspirational or prophetic roles. There is little written evidence or documentation for these myths, which in some cases overlap in multiple oral versions told from different regional viewpoints. These oral histories tell of women such as Libuše, Lybid, and Wanda, who provide a strong base for the development of the future Czech, Ukrainian, and Polish nations. Their leadership inspired the building up of great cities that served as iconic markers in the formation of national distinction.

Early Leaders demonstrates the key positions held by women even from the earliest times of Eastern European politics. Despite the predominance of men in the highest active positions of political life, several women attained leadership roles



Patricia Phenix offers an intimate look at Olga Romanov in *Olga Romanov: Russia's Last Grand Duchess* (Toronto: Viking, 1999).

The Fisher Rare Book Library contains the April and May 1960 issues of *Chatelaine Magazine*, containing the feature article, "Grand Duchess Olga: This Is My Story." The article offers a first-hand account of Olga's life as told to Ian Vorres, the editor of her memoirs.



*From Soviet Republics to EU Member States: A Legal and Political Assessment of the Baltic States' Accession to the EU* (Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2008) provides a comprehensive summary of the key issues of intergovernmental cooperation facing the former Soviet republics in Europe. Peter Van Elsuwege focuses in particular on Latvia as a developing Baltic state eager to join the European Union.

*Women in Power in Post-Communist Parliaments* (Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2009) is an essential resource for the study of female participation in the politics of Eastern Europe. The articles edited by Marilyn Rueschemeyer and Sharon L. Wolchik give a comparative treatment to the role of women leaders in the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Poland, and Russia.



from the rules of inheritance and primogeniture. Olga of Kiev served as regent for her son Sviatoslav from 945-964, and proved very successful in asserting the dominance of Rus' against the surrounding tribes of the region. Jadwiga of Poland took the title "King of Poland" at age 10. She created a powerful kingdom with her marriage to Jagiełło, the Grand Duke of Lithuania. These women provide a tradition of assertive rule at a point when their respective nations were just beginning to become forces of repute.

Russian Nobility and Central European Nobility focuses primarily on eighteenth-century courts, where women continued to acquire important leadership positions.



Women played a key formational role, especially in Russia, but also in the other large dynasties of Europe. Catherine II was the longest-ruling Russian empress, from 1762-1796, a period of rapid territorial expansion and cultural development. Maria Theresa held a similarly long forty-year rule over the Hapsburg dominions of Hungary and Croatia, enacting reforms in education, commerce, and agriculture, as well as participating actively in war.

Unlike the Jagiellonian and Hapsburg dynasties of Central Europe, the Romanov dynasty in Russia had a largely continuous rule well into the twentieth century. End of Russian Nobility draws attention to the family of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, and in particular to his daughter Anastasia, whose possible survival became a modern day myth of great worldwide interest. Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Anastasia's aunt, is presented as a final link to the era of nobility. Her story is of special interest to our Toronto patrons, as Olga Alexandrovna emigrated to Toronto later in life and is buried in York Cemetery.

The Communist Era offers insight into changing women's roles in a modern-day political regime. Despite an open inclusion of women in public ideology and promising policies of equality, women held relatively few positions of political power. The examples from Yugoslavia offer a stark contrast between the forces of individual nationalism and state control. Both Croatian by birth, Savka Dabčević-Kučar, provided a liberal leadership that allowed for public signs of Croatian nationalism, while Milka Planinc suppressed individual expression in favour of a unified central government.

The Post-Communist Era saw a proliferation of female leaders, poised to re-establish a strong role for their countries in a modern, increasingly globalized world. These women demonstrate a concern for economic policies, human rights, and inter-

governmental assistance. Tarja Kaarina Halonen held one of the longest-running female presidencies in Europe, as President of Finland from 2000 to 2012. Her popular leadership has served as an important model for female participation in politics throughout the world. In Latvia, Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga provided a supportive voice to the European Union. As an alumna of the University of Toronto, her presidency is of special interest to our Toronto patrons.

Women continue to play an important role as Contemporary Leaders. Those serving most recently as presidents or prime ministers are: Atifete Jahjaga (Kosovo), Dalia Grybauskaitė (Lithuania), and Iveta Radičová (Slovakia). Women have received strong support in many recent elections throughout the Central and Eastern European region. The ever-changing landscape of European politics ensures continual change in the time ahead.

The books presented in the display offer insight into the background of individual figures or further information on their policies. In addition, the library contains many works on women's emancipation, gender equality, and feminist history. Do not hesitate to contact the Petro Jacyk Resource Centre with any questions on how to find or access such material, or with specific research questions.

*Joseph Schlegel*

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