

JACYK FELLOW CATALOGUING LUCZKIW COLLECTION OF UKRAINIAN CANADIANA



ONE HUNDRED YEARS of the cultural and historical record of Ukrainians in Canada is being made available to scholars and researchers. Thanks to the generosity of the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation and the support of its President, Nadia Jacyk, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is benefiting from a new program launched this winter. Ms. Jacyk and the Foundation have established a fellowship that lets librarians from Ukraine spend several months at the University of Toronto Libraries learning new skills and establishing professional contacts, which will be of help to them and their colleagues back home.

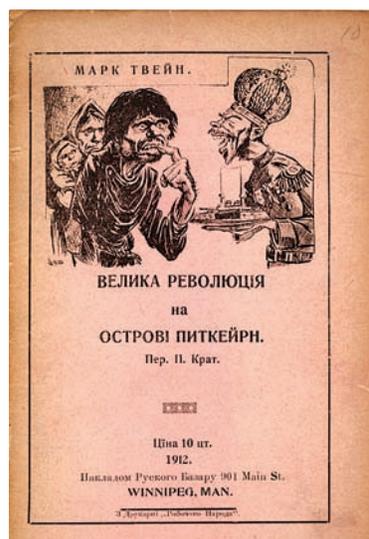
The first Jacyk Library Fellow, Lyuba Pidtserkovna, arrived in Toronto in late January 2009 to catalogue the John Luczkiw Collection of Ukrainian Canadiana. Lyuba is a senior librarian at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv with over ten years of cataloguing responsibilities, and a wide range of academic and international experience. She has participated in annual international conferences on library and information resources in Crimea; interned at the libraries of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Warsaw University, and Louvain University; and studied Italian in Mantua, Italy. The Ukrainian Catholic University, her home institution, was founded in 2002 as the successor to the Greek Catholic Theological Academy created in 1928 by Metropolitan

Andrii Sheptytskyi in Lviv, at the time part of Poland. After its closure by Soviet authorities in 1944, the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, founded in 1963, continued the Academy's functions under the leadership of its former rector, the Metropolitan Iosyf Slipyi. In 1994 the original school was recreated under the name Lviv Theological Academy. It became internationally recognized by the Congregation for Catholic Education in 1998, and was inaugurated as the Ukrainian Catholic University four years later. Today the University is home to the largest theological and one of the best modern humanities library collections in Ukraine.

Lyuba is proficiently applying her language and technical skills, and professional work experience at the Ukrainian Catholic University to the cataloguing of the 2,000 volumes of Luczkiw Ukrainian Canadiana material. The Luczkiw collection contains material on Ukrainians or in Ukrainian and

published in Canada from 1900 to the 1950s. It is in part a record of the life and times of the first two waves of Ukrainian immigrants who with great effort maintained their cultural heritage under adverse conditions far from their homeland. The Ukrainian immigrants faced low wages, exploitation, and ethnic discrimination in Canada. Furthermore the Ukrainian Canadian community experienced internal strife rooted in ideological, political, and religious conflicts, such as nationalists versus socialists or Catholics versus Orthodox. Despite or because of these divisions, the immigrants established many cultural institutions and community organizations, including reading clubs, national homes, institutes, amateur theatrical groups, bookstores, and publishing companies. These organizations in turn provided education and entertainment for generations of Ukrainians in Canada.

The joys and struggles of the early Ukrainian Canadians are documented in the

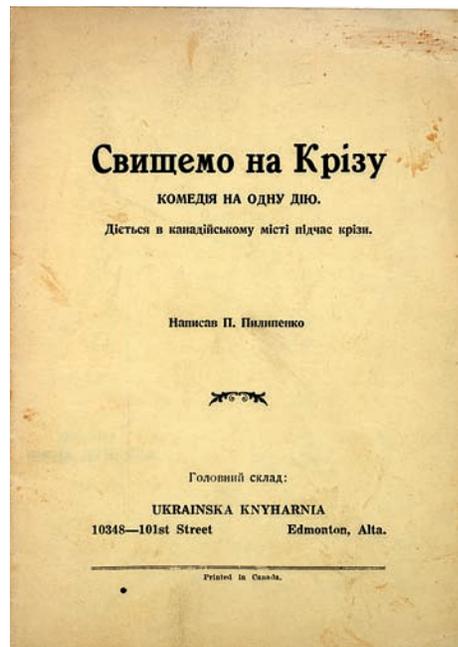


Above: Handbook *Shchob vas lyudy liubyly* (How to Make Friends) by O. Ivakh (Winnipeg, 1944).

Left: Ukrainian translation of *The Great Revolution in Pitcairn* by Mark Twain, translated by P. Krat (Winnipeg, 1912). Right: Children's story *Bohdanchyk-pustunychyk* (Naughty Bohdan) by Oleksa Babii (Winnipeg, 1943).



Historical sketch of the leader of an early 18th-century Cossack uprising: Semen Palii: hero of ukrainian naroda (Semen Palii: Ukrainian National Hero), by I. Nechui-Levytskyi (Winnipeg, 1917).



Comedy Svyshchemo na krizu (What Crisis?) that takes place in a Canadian city during the Great Depression, by P. Pylypenko (Edmonton, 193-?).

Luczkiw collection in national- local- and institutional-level histories. The collection also includes examples of polemical literature by Ukrainian-Canadian socialists, nationalists, and members of vying Christian creeds. Other material is instructional, including: books in Ukrainian informing immigrants about the history, geography, agriculture, and political and social life of Canada; Ukrainian-English phrasebooks and letter-writing handbooks geared for new arrivals to Canada; recipes from English and Ukrainian cuisines with health recommendations; and self-improvement books. Additionally, the collection contains statutes of Ukrainian Canadian organizations; directories of Ukrainian businesses, institutions, and churches throughout Canada; statistical data on Ukrainians in Canada; and newspapers and journals.

Literary works, or *belles lettres*, form the largest part of the Luczkiw collection. The poems and stories by the early Ukrainian immigrants convey their longings and hardships, and love and hatred of the old world, Ukraine, and the new world, Canada. The immigrants' nostalgia for Ukraine resulted in the publication of new editions of traditional folklore and works by classic Ukrainian writ-

ers such as Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, and Ivan Nechui-Levytskyi. However, their reading interests were sometimes broader and included works of world literature, including American. Publishers issued Ukrainian translations of works from Jean de La Fontaine to the Brothers Grimm, and from Leo Tolstoy to Mark Twain and Upton Sinclair. By far the greatest interest, though, was in works by Ukrainians in Canada.

The Luczkiw collection includes many examples of Ukrainian-Canadian literature. *Bezkhvatnyi* (*Homeless*), a novel by Oleksander Luhovyi, who emigrated to Canada in 1929 and worked as an agricultural and industrial labourer, is about the life of Ukrainians on the Canadian prairies. Pavlo Krat, an activist in the Ukrainian Social Democratic party and a Presbyterian minister, wrote the novel, *Koly ziishlo sontse: opovidanie z 2000 roku* (*When the Sun Set: A Story from the Year 2000*). Set on the eve of the 21st century, *Koly ziishlo sontse* tells about the triumph of communism on the planet and the transformation that it brings to Canada and the rest of the world. The anthology *Pisni pro Kanadu i Avstriiu* (*Songs about Canada and Austria*) compiled and co-written by Teodor Fedyk, expresses the

poet's dismay with the new world, writing that "while in Ukraine in the orchards the birds sing, here in Canada like snakes the mosquitos bite and sting." Of the many plays in the Luczkiw collection, those on Canadian themes depict Ukrainian pioneers in their day-to-day life adjusting to their new homeland, and in their plots mirror the attitudes, social concerns, and spiritual values of the times. The plots reflect concerns for personal and social betterment, be it for land or status; the family circle and issues of courtship and marriage; and the consequences of social vices, particularly drinking. For example, the play *Svyshchemo na krizu* (*What Crisis?*) takes place in a Canadian city during the Great Depression, and depicts two unemployed men trying to hide their financial difficulties from their landladies, creditors, and girl friends. Sometimes Ukrainian Canadians were satirized, such as in the cartoons and sketches by Iakiv Maidanyk in *Vuikova knyha* (*Uncle's Book*) featuring the amiable drunk Vuiko Shtif (Uncle Steve), his wife, Evdokia, and the partially assimilated Nasha Meri (Our Mary), whose antics exposed inappropriate behaviour in the New World.

This rich and wide-ranging collection of Ukrainian Canadiana was assembled mostly

by John Luczkiw (1923–1974), a prominent University of Toronto alumnus and former World War II refugee, and donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 1982 by his family—his wife Volodymyra, daughter Professor Maria E. Subtelny, and son Dr. George Luczkiw. John was born in the village Dorozhiv near Sambir, in Eastern Galicia (today Lviv oblast), and undertook his middle school studies in nearby Drohobych. During World War II, he moved to Germany where he completed his gymnasium studies, with the aim of pursuing a higher degree in polytechnics, studies which he had already begun in Lviv, and which he continued at the Technische Hochschule in Darmstadt. Luczkiw immigrated to Toronto in 1950. In Canada, he obtained a B.A. degree in mechanical engineering, and an M.Sc. in applied science (with a specialty in nuclear physics) from the University of Toronto. While still at the University, he joined Viceroy Manufacturing Company and eventually served as the company's vice president. Luczkiw was an active member of Toronto's Ukrainian community, serving for many years on the national executive of Plast, the Ukrainian scouting organization. He was also an avid bibliophile and bibliographer, who amassed close to 10,000 books and periodicals in his unfortunately brief lifetime, and which form the basis of two Fisher Library collections: Ukrainian Canadiana, and Ukrainian D.P. Publications, 1945–1954.

Lyuba's fellowship continues until the end of June by which time the Luczkiw collection of Ukrainian Canadiana should be fully catalogued and searchable in the University of Toronto Libraries' on-line catalogue. Her work involves providing full bibliographic descriptions of each item and assigning, when applicable, personal and corporate name, geographic, and subject headings. A number of the monographs have already been digitized with the support of the Multicultural Canada project and are available on their website (<http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/jl>), or can be linked to electronically through the University of Toronto Libraries' on-line catalogue (<http://search1.library.utoronto.ca/UTL/search.jsp>).

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THE FISHER LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OF SPANISH PLAYS

IN THE MID-SEVENTIES, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library obtained a collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Spanish plays. These books, which were acquired from several Spanish bookstores and a theatre company, remained untouched in the library's backlog for over twenty years. In the summer of 2008, I had the opportunity to catalogue some items in this collection. So far, over 3,300 plays have been catalogued. Some of the texts in this collection are extremely valuable due to the fact that they have government seals, inscriptions from censors, and annotations by directors, all of which can shed light on the way plays were performed in the nineteenth century. In what follows I will mention some items in the collection that have caught my attention in the hope that this will encourage students and scholars to further explore its treasures.

1. *Mariposas blancas* and Gregorio Martínez Sierra

Mariposas blancas is a comedy in two acts, written by Julio Pellicer and José López Silva and published in 1906. I have to confess that I have not read this play, and the authors are unknown to me. I honestly think they belong to the group of writers that were popular only among their family members and friends. In other words, neither López Silva nor Pellicer is a canonical author. But it is interesting to note that the Fisher Library copy of *Mariposas blancas* was given by Pellicer to Gregorio Martínez Sierra, a well-renowned Spanish writer.

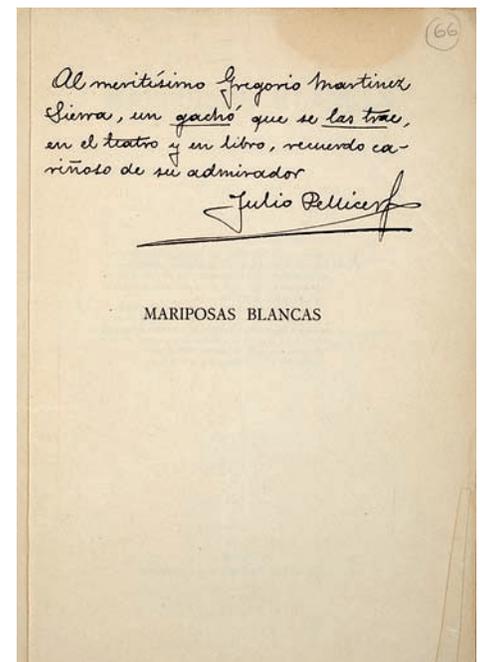
Gregorio Martínez Sierra "wrote" many plays, but in recent years, there have been doubts about the authorship of his works. Literature scholars as well as novelist Rosa Montero argue that his wife María Lejárraja wrote most of his work.¹ But even though Lejárraja wrote much of Martínez Sierra's work, he was the writer with the established reputation and it should not be surprising that a lesser author like Pellicer, who was probably trying to introduce himself into the world of Spanish theatre, presented a copy of his play to him. How did that particular copy make it all the way to the Fisher Library? It seems to be quite common for family members to donate or sell the books of their loved ones after they have passed away. Martínez Sierra's

family members probably donated or sold his books after his death in 1947, and his copy of *Mariposas blancas* found its way into the group of plays the Fisher Library acquired in the seventies.

2. José Echegaray, 1904 Nobel Prize Recipient

In comparison with other letters, there are not that many Spanish last names that start with the letter "E". That was one of the reasons why I was surprised at the large number of boxes labelled with this letter. More than half of those boxes contained books written by José Echegaray.

For some reason, I remembered that there is a street in Madrid with that name. I remembered that street because it is not far from the most important art museums in the city: El Prado, Reina Sofía, and the Thyssen. Furthermore, the Real Academia de la Lengua



The comedy *Mariposas blancas* (Madrid, 1906) by José López Silva and Julio Pellicer contains a dedication to Gregorio Martínez Sierra from one of the authors. Martínez Sierra was a key figure in the revival of the Spanish theatrical avant-garde in the early twentieth century and responsible for introducing European playwrights to Spain.