

In 2010, the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre at the University of Toronto Library launched a research project (directed by Dr. Ksenya Kiebusinski, and executed by Dr. Larysa Holovata) on Ukrainian émigré periodicals that were published in displaced persons' camps between 1945 and the beginning of the 1950s.

Of some 400 to 500 serial titles issued during this period, the most representative collections are found in North America, particularly at the University of Toronto Libraries, in its John Luczkiw Collection of D. P. Publications, 1945-1954.

The publications of the Ukrainian post-war émigrés constitute a strong cultural-historical phenomenon. They are extremely valuable for studying the history of emigration, understanding the émigré community's social image and structure, and its cultural and political standing, and for understanding events in the history of Soviet Ukraine, as well as trends and directions in the development of Ukrainian culture abroad in the second half of the twentieth century.

This material and period of Ukrainian history have not been ignored by current researchers in Ukraine and abroad. On the contrary, the historiography at present is quite strong, and the great many individual publications, articles, dissertation abstracts, and bibliographies, are evidence to an active interest in the various aspects of this history by historians, literary scholars, art historians, and bibliologists, around the world. However, equitable access to the wealth of resources created by different groups—political, civic, and professional—of Ukrainian post-war émigrés remains limited today, primarily because most of these publications and documents are not held by libraries and archives in Ukraine. Analysis of the literature on this issue suggests that researchers often have to refer not to the émigré publications themselves, but to secondary sources about them. This 'acquaintance by correspondence' is not only unfavourable for improving knowledge on the subject, but often multiplies errors, inaccuracies, and distortions, which are contained in the secondary sources from which this information is borrowed, creating false research interpretations of historically significant events and phenomena.

On the other hand, creating a complete picture of émigré book and press publishing will offer current and future scholars more complete and representative information, thus preventing superficial and fragmented use of these sources, and inevitably raising the quality of research on the history of Ukraine's post-war period.

In the summer of 2010, thanks to generous financing by the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation, and under the sponsorship of the University of Toronto Libraries, an ambitious project was initiated to create a fundamental reference and research guide for the numerous researchers of twentieth-century Ukrainian and European history. The project envisions a publication, a kind of encyclopaedia to the Ukrainian émigré post-war press, which will not be strictly limited to the level of a register containing minimal levels of bibliographic description.

Instead, the planned guide will include historical and cultural narratives, with reflections on the social directions of the press, the circumstances of its release, its social significance, the members of its editorial boards, its thematic content, and the nature of cultural and political debates contained within its pages. Also foreseen is the attribution of the authors of the texts as completely as possible, and a chronology, as well as full annotations of the contents,

biographical references, the inclusion of supplementary archival material, brief citations from selected texts, and more. In other words, the research aims to produce a humanitarian or universal handbook of interdisciplinary value.

Given the rarity of émigré periodicals, and their poor physical condition, considerations have been given to the parallel digitization of the most rare and significant titles, thus also allowing for the visual aspects of this material to contribute to our greater understanding of its historical and bibliographical aspects. Thus far, in the first stages of digitization, eighty titles have been selected for scanning, and will be available to scholars and researchers via the library catalogue of the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois.

The three months I spent working at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library of the University of Toronto Libraries (June-August 2010) were very important and productive, and even more, this brief period was a separate stage in my own scholarly life. The complete openness of information, the full access to resources, the ability to reproduce archival documents and illustrative material, working with other local collections (including displaced persons' camp periodicals in St. Vladimir Institute Library), the informational assistance from the staff of the Petro Jacyk Resource Centre and their daily, friendly support, and personal contacts with contemporary immigrants and their children, along with their reminiscences, all these factors contributed to making my fellowship experience extremely rich, meaningful, and productive.

It should be emphasized that the idea to prepare this publication was not mine, but envisioned by its administrator and coordinator, Ksenya Kiebusinski. Dr. Kiebusinski approached the issue systematically, by first having the material bibliographically described in the University Library's on-line catalogue, and then ensuring conditions for its appropriate storage, and eventual digitization. She also created a valuable register of where Ukrainian émigré periodical titles can be found worldwide, such as in the libraries of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and the Harvard College Library, and finally she, through the auspices of the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation, sponsored a fellowship for the scholarly study of postwar émigré press.

Displaced Persons', or DP, periodicals have long interested me, particularly in terms of the reception in émigré publications of cultural movements during the Second World War, as I am a specialist of publishing from this period. Working on this fellowship, I gathered new factual material, which I am using in my current research, and will include in the text of my book on the "Ukrainian legal publishing process in Central and East Europe, 1939-1945."

I have no doubt that the support of the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation will benefit, and has contributed to, national scholarship, for the following reasons: it supports the bringing together of Ukrainian scholars with their professional colleagues in Canada, helps overcome the one-sidedness of disparate humanities research in Ukraine and abroad, and contributes to the development of a confident, synthesized view of the historical processes of the last century.

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