

Gift of Natalka Husar (24 August 2022). Described by Ksenya Kiebusinski and Allison Graham, Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre.

Dates: 1918-1975

Extent: 2 boxes, 8 map case folders (22 photographs; 26 posters; several dozen miscellaneous documents)

Historical Note: In 1910, Ukrainian men living in Toronto founded the Ruthenian National Benevolent Society, which aimed “to unite in brotherly love all Ruthenians” living in Canada by providing “moral and material help” to members, “education in Ruthenian and English,” and care for “social and spiritual wellbeing.”¹ Membership in the society fluctuated, reaching a low of 25 members in 1915 but then expanding to 195 members in 1917. Some of these new members wanted to engage in cultural activities and founded an Amateurs’ Circle in 1916. Building on the activities of the Benevolent Society and Amateurs’ Club, the Taras Shevchenko Prosvita Reading Room was founded in 1917. This educational and cultural organization regularly performed concerts, dances, and plays, held lectures, and had a library. In 1919 it also opened a school with 86 children and four teachers. However, Prosvita did not have its own building, so the society began a fundraising campaign in 1923 and soon purchased three lots at 711-715 Bathurst St. In 1927, Prosvita sold these lots and purchased the Salvation Army Hall, which had been damaged by fire, at 191 Lippincott St. Following some repairs, the building was officially opened on December 15, 1928 as the Ukrainian People’s Home.

The Ukrainian People’s Home had a choir, theatre and dance ensembles, school, and library. During its peak activity in the 1920s-1950s, weekly performances were held at the home, and ensembles regularly performed at other events too. The mixed choir performed for a wide variety of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian audiences, often performing up to twice a week at concerts, churches, clubs, and on the radio. The choir was also a regular performer at the Canadian National Exhibition. By the early 1950s, the choir had 402 members and had performed 445 times in Toronto and throughout southern Ontario. Theatre was another major aspect of the society’s activities, with weekly performances of plays by prominent Ukrainian playwrights. In 1925, the first North American school for Ukrainian dance opened at the Ukrainian People’s Home under the direction of Vasyl Avramenko. Like the choir, the dance ensemble performed for a wide range of audiences, and its performances at the Canadian National Exhibition, with 200 dancers on

¹ Nykoliak, 8.

stage, were particularly popular. From 1930-1936, the society held an annual four-day-long book and press exhibition in its concert hall, where up to 2,200 volumes by Ukrainian authors were displayed, along with maps and artwork. Educational events run by the Ukrainian People's Home included English classes, courses on Ukrainian literature, and talks given by speakers from Ukraine and western Europe.

While the Ruthenian National Benevolent Society had been a men's organization, women were involved in all aspects of the Ukrainian People's Home. Ukrainian women held an embroidery exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition from 1921-1951, and in 1927 a women's group was formed at the Home to organize similar art and embroidery exhibits, as well as parties, teas, and other social events. Children also participated in the Ukrainian People's Home, where they could attend Ukrainian school, receive music lessons, play in the children's orchestra, and join the youth group.

Although focused on culture and education, the Ukrainian People's Home was occasionally involved in political activities. When Queen Maria of Romania was detained in Toronto for a few hours while on a trip to the United States in 1926, members of the society gave her a communique protesting the oppression of Ukrainians by Romanians in Bukovina. Another political protest occurred in January 1934, when Jewish organizations invited Sholom Schwarzbard, who had killed the leader-in-exile of the Ukrainian People's Republic Symon Petliura in 1924, to speak in Toronto. The society said that it would use whatever means necessary, including force, to prevent his public speaking. Schwarzbard did travel to Toronto but did not give any public talks. The society sought to protect the interests of Ukrainians, but it was not a partisan or religious organization, and it allowed members to join any Canadian political party and encouraged religious tolerance.

As the Ukrainian-Canadian community became more prosperous in the second half of the 20th century and Ukrainians moved to other regions of Toronto, the activities of the Ukrainian People's Home decreased. Nonetheless, 191 Lippincott St. continued to house a Ukrainian library, student organizations, and dance and music groups through the early 1980s.

The Ukrainian Canadian Advocates' Society, located at 191 Lippincott St., was incorporated in 1986 and dissolved in 2015.

Sources:

Gregorovich, Andrew. "The Ukrainian Community in Toronto from World War One to 1971."
<https://archives.studentscommission.ca/magic/mt54.html>.

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UKRAINIAN PEOPLE'S HOME Records

Hutzuliak, Vera. "The Ukrainian People's Home: Toronto's Landmark on Lippincott Street." *Student* 15, no. 79 (January 1983), 7.

Marunchak, M. H. *The Ukrainian Canadians: A History*. Winnipeg and Ottawa: Ukrainian Free Academy of Science, 1970.

Nykoliak, Dmytro A. *Korotkyi istorychnyi narys ukrains'koho narodnoho domu v Toronto: z nahody 35-litnoi pratsi tovarystva*. Toronto: Nakl. Ukrains'koho Narodnoho domu, 1953.

Scope and Content:

Contains series: Photographs; posters; documents

The documents include photographs documenting the primary activities of the Ukrainian People's Home, particularly its choir and executive. The posters promoted the various concerts and theatrical performances organized by the community. The miscellaneous documents relate to the Home and to the Prosvita (Enlightenment) and Ridna Shkola societies in Lviv, Ukraine.

Custodial history: Documents were created and/or collected by the Ukrainian People's Home. When the People's Home ceased its activities, Natalka Husar, a local artist with a studio in the building, salvaged material that was being discarded. This material offered her creative ideas and inspiration for her paintings and other artwork.

Notes:

Arrangement: Arranged by format and chronologically within each series.

Conservation: Acid-free enclosures for photographs; mounting of fragile posters (or photographic replacement)

Languages: Ukrainian and English

Restrictions on access: None

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UKRAINIAN PEOPLE'S HOME Records

SERIES 1: Photographs			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
1:1	[Theatrical event at the Ukrainian People's Home], (two young females in national dress and one male youth)	Framed photograph	n.d.
1:1	[3 male musicians—violinist, clarinetist, and trombonist]	(3.25 x 5.25")	1918
1:2	"Luh" Youth Society at the Ukrainian People's Home (2 copies)	Photograph by M. Schlachter, Proprietor of The Modern Studio, 452 Queen St. West, Toronto (4 x 6")	1933
1:3	[Group portrait at the Ukrainian People's Home]		n.d.
1:3	Mixed Choir of the Ukrainian People's House under the direction of Mrs. H. Holynska in Toronto, on winning the first prize at the 1st Ukrainian Music Festival organized by the Ukrainian branch of the Canadian Legion	Photograph by Stanley (Evstakhii) Klosevych, 205 Lippincott St., Toronto, Ont. (8 x 10")	7-8 June 1952
1:3	Funeral of Iurii Hassan (1889-1934), Choir director, at the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 631 Crawford St., Toronto (2 copies)	(8 x 10")	30 June 1934

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1:4	Directorate, delegates and participants of the Congress of Mutual Assistance, Toronto, Ont. (4 copies)	Photograph by Western Art Studio, 449 Queen St. West, Toronto (8 x 10")	25-26 Jan. 1935
1:5	[Group photograph of choir in Ukrainian national dress]	Photography by Mackintosh Studio, 375 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.	n.d.
1:6	[Group portrait of 8 men in suits]	(5 x 7")	n.d.
2:1	Women's section of the Ukrainian People's Home in Toronto	Framed photograph	24 May 1931
2:1	Funeral of Maria Khoma-Lypkova	Framed photograph by The Modern Studios, 452 Queen St. West, Toronto	June 1926
2:2	Poster for the Ukrainian Canadian Festival of Arts, Aug. 30 to Sep. 3, 1971	Poster	Aug.-Sep. 1971
2:3	Ukrainian People's Home Choir (mixed, in national embroidered dress)	(13.5 x 20")	n.d.
2:3	[Ukrainian People's Home Choir?] (Mixed, in national embroidered dress)	Photograph by the McLean Photo Co., 67 Richmond St. West, Toronto (7 x 17")	n.d.
2:4	[Ukrainian People's Home Choir?] (Mixed, in national embroidered dress)	(6.25 x 9.5")	
2:4	[Ukrainian baseball team The Nationals]	Photograph by A.A. Gray & Co., Toronto (8 x 10")	n.d.

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2:4	[Women's section of the Ukrainian People's Home?]	Photograph by A. Art-Gray & Co., 561 Queen St. West, Toronto	n.d.
2:5	[Graduation photograph?]	Photograph by Harkness Studio, 52 King St. West, Hamilton – back of photograph reads Ernest Rycroft, Hamilton, Ont. (8 x 9.5")	2 Nov. 1921
2:5	The Second People's Congress of Ukrainians of Eastern Canada, Toronto, Ont. (taken in front of the Ukrainian People's Home)	Photograph by M. Schlachter, Proprietor of The Modern Studio, 452 Queen St. West, Toronto (8 x 10")	1930
2:5	Group photograph of participants at the opening of the Ukrainian People's Home	(7.75 x 9.5")	15 Dec. 1928
Map case Folder 1	Ukrainian National Baseball Club, Annual Picnic, Toronto	Panoramic photograph by Panoramic Camera Co., 289 Avenue Rd., Toronto	1933
Map case Folder 4	Ukrainian Society of Mutual Aid, Branch 8 in Toronto, Annual Picnic	Panoramic photograph by M. Schlachter, 452 Queen St. West, Toronto	14 July 1935

SERIES 2: Posters of Events

BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
2:6	Ukrainian Chorus of T. Shevchenko [Prosvita] Society, Concert, Standard Theatre, Toronto (Spadina and Dundas)	Poster (22 x 14")	8 Jan. 1925

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2:6	Ukrainian Chorus of Shevchenko [Prosvita] Society, Concert, Canadian Foresters Hall, Toronto (22 College St.)	Poster (22 x 14")	25 April 1925
2:6	Vasile Avramenko's Ukrainian Ballet, Deutsches Haus, Detroit (Mack and Maxwell Avenues)	Poster (22 x 14")	20 Oct. 1928
2:6	Vasyl Avramenko Ukrainian National Dance School, Detroit	Poster printed by Ukrainian Printing Col, 2753 Halleck Ave., North Detroit, Mich.	1928
2:6	Ukrainian People's Home in Toronto, sponsor advertisements (calendar missing)	(22 x 14")	n.d.
2:6	Ukrainian People's Home in Toronto, sponsor advertisements, with calendar	(22 x 14")	1940
2:6	Ukrainian People's Home in Toronto, sponsor advertisements (calendar missing)	(22 x 14")	1943
2:7	Comedy-operetta "Zaporozhian treasure" (Zaprozhsnyi skarb), directed by D. Burtnyk, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.) (2 copies)	(22 x 14")	3 Dec. 1944
2:7	Ukrainian opera "Kateryna" by M. Arkas, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.) (2 copies)	(21 x 14.5")	4 April 1947
2:7	Ukrainian opera "Kateryna" by M. Arkas, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	(20 x 14")	13-14 Jan. 1950

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2:7	Festival of Song to celebrate the 20 th anniversary of the Choir of the Ukrainian People's Home	Poster printed by Ukrainian Toiler Publishing, 339 Bathurst St., Toronto (23 x 17")	2-4 Sep. 1944
2:8	Operetta "Zaporozhian beyond the Danube", Toronto (191 Lippincott St.) (5 copies)	Poster printed by Ukrainian Toiler Publishing, 339 Bathurst St., Toronto (22 x 16.5")	31 May 1947
2:9	Romantic operetta "Sharika" by Iaroslav Barnych, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	(21 x 15")	26-27 Jan. 1951
2:9	Romantic operetta "Sharika" by Iaroslav Barnych, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	Poster printed by "Narodne vydavnytstvo, 339 Bathurst, St., Toronto (21 x 15")	17 Feb. 1951
2:9	Operetta "Zaporozhian treasure" (Zaprozhsnyi skarb), directed by H. Holynska, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.) (2 copies)	Poster printed by "Narodne vydavnytstvo, 339 Bathurst, St., Toronto (23 x 17")	24 May 1951
2:9	Fantasy-opera "Vii" by M. Gogol and M. Kropyvnytskyi, on the 100 th anniversary of Gogol's death, performed by the drama and singing group of the Ukrainian People's Home	(18 x 12.25")	28-29 March 1952
2:9	Jubilee celebration of 60 th anniversary of the arrival of Ukrainians in Canada (1891-1951), Palace Piere, Lake Shore Rd and Humber Bay	(22.5 x 16")	23 May 1952
2:9	National demonstration at Queen's Park to honor the victims of Moscow's genocide-mass famine in Ukraine in 1933	(22 x 16")	14 June 1953

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Map case Folder 2	Ukrainian choir Dumka from New York, Victory Theatre, Spadina and Dundas, Toronto (2 copies)	(25 x 17.5")	6 Sep. 195?
Map case Folder 2	Ukrainian ballet studio Apollon directed by Anna Zavarykhyn, Ukrainian Orthodox community, 404 Bathurst St., Toronto	(24 x 16.5")	3 June 1962
Map case Folder 2	Drama Joan of Arc by Jean Anouilh, translated by V. Myrosh; performed by the Zahrava Ukrainian Theatre of Toronto (85 Christie St.)	(21.5 16.5")	27 Dec. 1964
Map case Folder 3	3 rd annual St. Josaphats Ukrainian Catholic Youth Concert, Central Commerce, Shaw at Harbord, Toronto (on back a hand-drawn announcement for a performance of "Batraky: by F. Kostenko)	(28 x 18")	18-19 May 196?
Map case Folder 3	Ukrainian Youth for Christ on the 20 th anniversary of the death of God's Servant Metropolitan Andrew Sheptycky, Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, Toronto (2 copies)	(25 x 19")	14 June 1964
Map case Folder 3	Shevchenko Male Chorus with Mandolin Orchestra and Folk Dancers, conducted by Eugene Dolny, Massey Hall, Toronto	(18 x 13")	30 April 1966
Map case Folder 3	Helsinki Demonstrate, Soviet Embassy, Ottawa, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian University Students Union and Amnesty International	(23 x 15.5")	15 May 1975

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SERIES 3: Documents			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
2:10	Avramenko's Ukrainian Ballet	Paper poster in fragments	3 Oct. 1931
2:10	Announcement of the 70 th jubilee anniversary of the founding of the Prosvita (Enlightenment) Society to be held in 1938, Lviv, Ukraine	Folded poster (fragile)	Jan. 1935
2:10	"We are the Ukrainian People", Prosvita (Enlightenment) Society, Lviv, Ukraine	Folded poster (fragile) published by the Prosvita Society and printed by Dilo, Lviv, Ukraine	1932
2:10	"Ridna Shkola" Ukrainian Pedagogical Society calendar (with Jewish holidays noted below), design by Iaroslav Fartukh, Prague	Fragile, printed in Lviv, Ukraine	1926
2:11	"Karmeliuk tikaie v lis" (Karmeliuk flees into the forest)	Half of poster	n.d.
2:11	Operetta "Chornomortsi" by Iakiv Kukharenko and Mykhailo Starytskyi, and lecture on dental care and comedy "Redaktor Khliboroba", Ukrainian People's Home, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	Broadside printed by Prosvita, 324 Queen St. West, Toronto	23-24 April 1932
2:11	"Ridna Shkola" Ukrainian Pedagogical Society calendar	Poster in fragments	1933

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2:11	“Babskyi bunt” (Woman’s riot) and “Maty” (Mother), Ukrainian People’s Home, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	Broadside printed by Prosvita, 324 Queen St. West, Toronto	25-26 May 1935
2:11	Coronation concert for contestants in the Miss Popularity Contest, preceded by a concert sponsored by the O. Pchilka Ukrainian Women’s Society, Ukrainian People’s Home, Toronto (191 Lippincott St.)	Broadside printed by Prosvita, 324 Queen St. West, Toronto	22-23 Nov. 1947
2:12	Ukrainian People! 60 th jubilee anniversary of the Prosvita (Enlightenment) Society, Lviv, Ukraine (8 copies—3 blue, 6 yellow)	Published by the Prosvita Society and printed by Dilo, Lviv, Ukraine	1928
2:13	Ukrainian People’s Home Public Hall License issued by the City of Toronto	License	26 July 1943
2:13	Notice for Full Hall (Salia zapovnena. Bilshе ne vpuskaietsia)	Sign	n.d.
2:13	Postcards of the Ukrainian People’s Home in Toronto (Choir—10 copies; Building—6 copies; Library return-1 copy)	Postcards	n.d.
2:13	Postcards, misc.—S. Petliura Library in Paris; Embroidery; 2 cards by A. Vatiushchak; General Myron Tarnavskyi, Commander of the Ukrainian Galician Army	Postcards	n.d.

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2:14	Miscellaneous unrelated documents	Enveloped of clippings, signs, etc.	n.d.
Map case Folder 5	Vasyl Avramenko Ukrainian Ballet, Ceska Narodni Sin (Czech National Hall), Broadway and Mead Streets, Cleveland, Ohio (4 copies)	Folded poster, printed by International Printing Co., 1349 East Perry, Northway	28 Oct. 1928
Map case Folder 6	"Ditocha biblioteka (Children's library) subscription drive, Lviv, Ukraine	Poster (fragile), in fragments	n.d.
Map case Folder 7	Hand-block lettered lists on Ukrainian literature and history	Large broadside (fragile), in fragments	n.d.
Map case Folder 8	Hand-drawn poster for the performance of "Khmara" (Cloud) by the drama group of the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM), Ukrainian People's Home (191 Lippincott St.)	Poster	17 April 1949
Map case Folder 8	Jamboree of Ukrainian-Canadian Youth, Pike Lake Ukrainian Recreational Park, Saskatchewan	Poster	14-16 July 1972

*Item withdrawn (duplicate copy):

Avramenko, V. *Tanky, muzyka i strii*. 1947

*Item transferred to Robarts:

Ukrainian Studies at Harvard, 1968-1973