

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

English supplement of SVOBODA, Ukrainian daily, founded 1893.

Dedicated to the needs and interests of young Americans of Ukrainian descent.

No. 23.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1941

VOL. IX

## "SOYUZ UKRAINOK" HOLDS CONVENTION

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America held its fifth convention last Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the International Institute, 341 East 17th Street, New York City.

Several score of delegates from the East and Middle West attended the convention. It was presided over by Helen Shtogryn, chair-lady, and Stephania Abrahamovska, vice-chairlady. Angeline Banakh and Katherine Kuzma were Ukrainian secretaries; Anne Mazur and Mary Ann Wagner, English secretaries.

The convention featured a talk on child psychology given Sunday afternoon by Dr. Nellie Pelecovich. Another talk was on the topic of Unity, given by Anne Mazur of Jersey City.

It was decided that the next convention of the organization—"Soyuz Ukrainok" in Ukrainian—will be held in New York City again.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Annette L. Kmetz; Honorary President, Anastasia Wagner; Executive member, Julia Jarema; First Vice-President, Stephania Abrahamovska; Second Vice-President, Olga Konyk; Third Vice-President, Mary Ann Wagner; Chief Organizer, Mary Polevchak; Recording Secretary, Stephania Kowbasniuk; Financial Secretary, Anne Hodowansky; English Secretary, Anne Mazur; Treasurer, Katherine Stefanovich. Auditing Committee, Petronella Kostetska, Anne Bodak, Sophie Kuziw; Exhibit Committee, Pelagia Bencal, Catherine Choliy, Mary Brin, Katherine Drozdik; Chairman of convention committee, Anne Koltun; chairman of by-laws and resolutions committee, Maria Marusevich.

## BOOKS FOR NEW CITIZENS

For men and women learning to read English, the Newark (N. J.) Public Library has prepared a special booklet selected with the cooperation of teachers in Newark schools. The list includes the following titles:

"America Builds Homes" by Dalglish, "American People and Language" by Rose, "America's Building" by Freeland, "An There Was America" by Duvoisin, "Big Miss Liberty" by Rogers, "Buffalo Bill" and "Daniel Boone" by Tousey, "Democracy" by Goslin, "First Year" by Meadowcroft, "Old-told Tales of Lincoln" by Winchester, "Our America" by Melbo, "Our Flag" by Harbourt, "Picture Map Geography of the United States" by Quinn, "Pioneering in Democracy" by Morgan, "Story of America" by Peattie and "Which Way America?" by Bryson.

New citizens will be interested also in such books as "Americanization Questionnaire" by Bradshaw, "What Every Citizen Should Know" by Durham, and "Civics for Americans in the Making" by Plass.

Books in the Ukrainian language as well as those for new citizens and students in English are available to borrowers in two branches of the Newark Public Library. Both the Springfield Branch at 50 Hayes Street and the Van Buren Branch at 140 Van Buren Street have collections of about forty volumes each in Ukrainian.

## FOX CHASE GIRLS PREPARE FOR GRADUATION

Sunday, June 15th, will be graduation day for the students of St. Basil's Girls Academy at Fox Chase, Pa. They extend an invitation to all to come to their commencement exercises and view the beautiful institution in which they live and study.

## Read Ukrainian Also

Now that summer is nigh, and with it plenty of time for reading, we suggest that one take in hand some such Ukrainian work as Taras Shevchenko's "Kobzar," or Ivan Franko's "Z Vershyn i Nyzyn," or Hrushevsky's Popular History of Ukraine, open its pages at random and begin reading it.

We guarantee that before long, one's interest will be caught by some particularly striking passage in it and soon the mind and the imagination will be far away from the dull routine of daily existence—perhaps buried deep in the pathos of Shevchenko's poem of mother love, "Naimechka," or overwhelmed by the stark beauty of Franko's cluster of poems on the theme of unrequited love, "Ziviale Lestia," or enthralled by a vigorous account of some stirring period in Ukrainian history.

Such a welcome emergence from the summer doldrums, however, will not be the only result of following our suggestion. More important, it may become the introduction into a new world of thought and conception, through which our reader will roam with much delight, for it is a world peopled by characters that are very much akin to his inner Ukrainian self. Their happiness, sorrows, and experiences will be his as well, for each of them is but a composite reflection of his inner Ukrainian nature, dormant in the atmosphere of the different culture in which it exists but in the world conjured by proper reading in Ukrainian growing into vigorous and fruitful life again.

Such an emotional and intellectual uplift that will come from proper reading in Ukrainian, is bound to enrich one's personality and perhaps give expression to some hidden talents. And so, what was originally intended as only an escape from summer apathy, may turn out to be the making of a new person.

It matters little that the person who would fain follow our suggestion here finds reading in Ukrainian very difficult. For steady reading of something interesting will soon make him quite proficient in that respect. That has been proved many times. And where help is needed, surely the parents or someone else nearby will be glad to oblige.

Of course, there is a danger that in embarking upon such reading, our young person may start with a story or poem that is dull, trite and of little literary worth, or with a history that is as dry as the dust that has accumulated upon it. Such stuff is likely to discourage even the most patient reader. He probably won't open a Ukrainian book again for a long time, with the further result that the little knowledge he possesses of the Ukrainian printed word will soon be lost.

Therefore, the greatest care should be exercised that one's venture into the world of Ukrainian literature should be an auspicious one. That means that one should begin reading something that is easily readable and interesting as well.

For a starter we strongly recommend Taras Shevchenko's immortal collection of poetry, the "Kobzar." Written in the simplest manner possible, yet being of the highest literary quality, the "Kobzar" is about the best and easiest entrance into the field of readings in Ukrainian.

The program of the day will include a High Pontifical Mass in the morning. The graduation exercises, beginning at 4 in the afternoon, will feature choral numbers, vocal and instrumental solos, recitations in English and Ukrainian, and two one-act plays, one in English and one in Ukrainian, all presented by the students of the academy. In addition, the school orchestra will play a number of selections.

Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky will preside during these ceremonies.

## UCYL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN SCRANTON

The Eighth Annual Convention of the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League will be held in Scranton, Pa., August 1, 2, and 3, in Hotel Casey.

The Ukrainian Catholic Youth Clubs of Scranton and Olyphant are making arrangements for the convention. Chairman of the local convention committee is Dr. M. J. Stec. Rev. Myron Zalitch of Scranton, and Rev. John Ortynsky of Olyphant are honorary chairmen.

## TORONTO SCENE OF JOINT UKRAINIAN CONFERENCE

Three Ukrainian-Canadian organizations held a joint three-day convention at the Ukrainian Hall, 404 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ending Sunday, May 26th. They were the Self Reliance League, the Ukrainian Women's Association, and the Ukrainian Canadian Youth Association.

According to local press reports, the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Youth Association carried off most honors. The awards were presented to the winners Sunday evening before a large audience. Victor Moshuk presided as chairman and the awards were given by Theodore Humeniuk and D. Hunkevich.

Results were as follows:

Mixed chorus, Montreal, directed by Helen Wypruk; girls' chorus, Toronto branch, directed by Mary Mattern; recitation, Emily Skorenko of Windsor and Bohdan Radysh of Toronto; oratory, Olga Kowbel of Toronto; dances, Nick Worobec and Helen Zwior, both of Toronto; quiz Leo and Rose Faryna of Toronto. Queen of the convention was Rose Faryna.

Prize winners were presented with a cup and silver medal. Second prize winners were given a bronze medal.

Sunday afternoon, according to the Toronto Evening-Telegram, all branches of the Ukrainian Canadian Youth Association met and once again named Victor Moshuk president for the coming year.

The convention was attended by delegates from Winnipeg, Nova Scotia, Windsor, Hamilton, Saskatchewan, and other points.

Chief speakers were Julius Stechishin of Saskatoon, president of the Self Reliance League, and Mrs. Mary Tkachuk, president of the Ukrainian Women's Association.

Before a large gathering on Saturday afternoon, Mayor Dr. F. J. Conboy welcomed the convention to Toronto, reports the Telegram. Theodore Humeniuk was chairman. The Mayor particularly stressed the importance of young people at the convention.

"Young people," he said, "should prepare themselves for the coming years. Canada is to have a second pioneer period. The reconstruction of a greater Canada will commence, and it will largely depend upon the young people of this country."

Others speakers at the afternoon session were Professor Watson Kirkconnell and Rev. W. Sluzar.

On Saturday, reports the Telegram, a special dinner was held in the King Edward Hotel, sponsored by the Ukrainian Professional Society. N. Romanuk presided, and guest speaker was Professor Kirkconnell. More than 20 professional men attended.

On Saturday evening nearly 400 young people attended the dance. Music was supplied by Joe Zazinsky and his orchestra. A large five-column wide picture of the dance appeared in the Evening-Telegram.

Divine services were conducted by Rev. P. Sametz, who was assisted by other clergymen. At the banquet in the afternoon the speakers were: Anthony Hlynka, Member of Parliament; T. Humeniuk; Dr. John Yatchew of Windsor, Dr. W. Yarmey, and D. Hunkevich.

The committee for the joint conference consisted of: Self Reliance League, T. Humeniuk, M. Dereniuk, and Father P. Sametz; Women's Association, Mrs. K. Sakaluk, Mrs. P. Moshuk, and Mrs. M. Humeniuk; Youth Association, Victor Moshuk, E. Kocha and Olga Kowbel.



# Early Relations Between England and Ukraine

By ELIE BORSHAK

(1)

DOWN to the beginning of the 17th century, we do not meet any materials on Anglo-Ukrainian relations. Direct relations of course there could not be, as Ukrainian territory was at first under Lithuanian and then Polish sovereignty. English travellers were then in general very rare in the Polish-Lithuanian state and did not go as far as Ukraine. Certainly, the 16th century is the one in which British relations with Moscow developed. England at that time had a monopoly there; but in that period Ukraine had little in common with Moscow. The journey from England to Moscow was made by the Baltic and White Seas; the Black Sea was jealously closed by the Turks.

All the same the first information on the Cossacks of Ukraine came to England through Turkey. The Cossacks, who gave much trouble to Turkey, then very powerful in Christian Europe, could not fail to attract the interest of English students of Turkey. Richard Knolles (1540-1618) for instance, in a serious work on that period, *The Generall Historie of the Turks*, which appeared in 1603 and had great success, gave the English reader most interesting information on the Cossacks of Ukraine and on their naval expeditions to the coast of the Ottoman Empire.

Through Constantinople, too, British diplomacy for the first time took an active interest in Ukrainian questions. As is known, in the 1620's Europe was divided into two coalitions, a Catholic and a Protestant. Poland was on the side of the Catholic Habsburgs, and naturally the whole anti-Habsburg league gave serious attention to the Orthodox Ukrainians in Poland, whose armed vanguard was the Cossacks.

## The Cossacks—"A Warlike and Brave People"

British diplomacy could not fail to know that the Papal Nuncio in Warsaw, de Torres, in 1622 reported with mortification: "It is impossible to take forcible measures against the Orthodox, for this is prevented by the Cossacks, a warlike and brave people standing watch over the freedom of faith, now with appeals, now with threats in their mouths, but always with weapons in their hands. What may some time come out of these threats, it is easy to guess if we take into account that there are about 60,000 Cossacks and that they... at convenient times do enormous harm, especially in a country like Poland that is open and without fortresses."

This was also taken into account by Protestant diplomacy, which in addition in 1620 had to do with the Cossacks as an auxiliary corps in the army of the Habsburgs that devastated Silesia and Moravia.

So, one after another, the members of the Protestant league begin to get connections with the Cossacks in the hope of destroying the Polish State with their help. Oxenstiern, the famous Chancellor of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, in his instructions of 7 August 1623 to his envoy in Holland, John Rutgers, writes that the King hopes for the help of the Orthodox Ukrainians in Poland. As the Hague was then in close touch with London, British diplomacy must certainly have known of the hopes of Gustavus Adolphus.

<sup>1</sup> London, printed by Adam Islip, p. 40.

<sup>2</sup> In 1638 was published the 5th edition.

<sup>3</sup> Relacye nunciuszow apostolskich i innych osob o Polsce od roku 1548 do 1690. Berlin 1864, II, p. 150.

<sup>4</sup> *Theatrum Europaeum* 1634, I, 343; Hurmazaki, *Documente privotoare*... V, part I, 600; A. Moslach, *Przyczynek do dziejow polskich z Arch. miasta Wroclawia*, Poznan, 1860, p. 58, 156, 158.

<sup>5</sup> *Rikskansleren Axel Oxenstierns skrifter och Brefvexling*... Stockholm 1388, i, 584.

Another member of the Protestant league, one who was still more intimately connected with British diplomacy, also came into connection with the Ukrainians. This was the famous Transylvanian Prince Gabriel Bethlen. A man of great statesmanship and wide political conceptions, Bethlen clearly saw the chronic weakness of the Polish state and was very much interested in Ukraine. In one of his talks with Paul Strassburg, envoy of Gustavus Adolphus in Transylvania, Gabriel Bethlen gave a remarkable exposition of the Ukrainian question which does honour to his foresight: "Many sensible and distinguished persons have been studying the question whether the Zaporog people, brought to extreme despair by prolonged oppression, may not leave Poland, recognise the protection of neighbouring sovereigns and form an independent state... There are some who think that the people of the Zaporogs is most famous by its origin and ancestors... So we must not only use the present occasion, but also in the future it would be well to attract to our common action such outstanding and brave fighters... The Patriarch of Constantinople, Cyril... is now at once summoning the Cossacks to stand firm for the cause of God... Envoys of the King of England and the Dutch envoy... persuaded the Patriarch to do this, and he has solemnly promised to stand with loyalty and truth for the common weal."

The Patriarch of Constantinople, on whom the English envoy laid such hopes in the Ukrainian question, was the famous Cyril Lukaris, one of the most distinguished figures in the gallery of Orthodox hierarchs who fought Catholicism. A student of the University of Padua, Lukaris for a long while travelled about Western Europe, lived in Geneva, where he entered strong sympathies with the Calvinists, later was Professor of Greek in the Bratstvo School of Vilna, lived with the famous Ukrainian cultural worker, Prince Constantine Ostrozhsky, also visiting L'viv, until in 1612 he became Patriarch of Constantinople. Having strong sympathies with the Calvinists, Lukaris is intimately connected with two brilliant Protestant diplomats on the shores of the Bosphorus, the Dutch Ambassador, Kornelis Haga, and the British, Thomas Roe. The latter was also particularly closely connected with Bethlen.

## Ambassador Roe's Interest in Ukraine

Thomas Roe (1581-1649) carefully studied the position in Ukraine, and possibly he was the inspirer of the Ukrainian plan of action which was worked out by Lukaris, Gabriel Bethlen and Strassburg. It is more than possible that researches in Roe's dispatches in the Record Office will give new data on the Cossack policy of England. At present we have to be content with the work which appeared in 1740 in London under the title *The Negotiations of Sir Thomas Roe in his Embassy to the Ottoman Porte from the year 1621 to 1628 inclusive: A great variety of curious and important matters relating not only to the Affairs of the Turkish Empire, but also to those of the Other States of Europe, in that Period*... now first published from the originals.

In this book there are reports of Roe which show what an interest the British Ambassador took in the Cossack customs and their manner

<sup>6</sup> The Latin original of the report of Strassburg giving Bethlen's expose is printed in the Hungarian *Toertnelmi Tar*, 1882, pages 272-4; and in Russian in the archives of South-Western Russia, part III, vol. 6, pages 28-30; in Ukrainian in Ivan Kripyakevich, *Cossackdom in Political Coalitions, 1620-30*, Lviv, 1914, pp. 12-14.

<sup>7</sup> The vast bibliography of Lukaris is collected in the work of E. Legrand, *Bibliographie hellénique*, Paris, 1396, Vol. IV.

of waging war. Thomas Roe is also connected with the name of the celebrated Samuil Koretsky, the hero of Ukrainian songs. Married to the daughter of the Moldavian Hospodar, Koretsky, at the head of the Cossacks, helped his father-in-law against the Turks and was taken prisoner. Shut up in a castle on the Bosphorus, Koretsky, by a whole series of clever devices, escaped from captivity, but in the battle at Tsetsopa, which was so disastrous to Poland, he fell into the hands of the Turks. In the name of the King of England Roe begged the Sultan for the life of the brave Ukrainian knight but was opposed by the Grand Vizier, who was furious because the Cossacks had made a daring attack by sea on the castle where Koretsky was imprisoned. On 27 June, 1622, Roe informed his government of "a new and awful step of the barbarians." The Turks strangled Koretsky, "the defender of Ukraine," "the Sarmatian Leonidas," as he is called in contemporary literature of the Panegyrics and in Ukrainian popular songs, beginning as early as the 17th century, Koretsky is celebrated together with another Ukrainian hero, the founder of the Zaporog Fastness, Prince Baida-Vishnevetsky, who was also tortured by the Turks in 1653. Popular poetry later even confused the two Ukrainian heroes:

Buv Pan Koretsky  
Dmitro Vishnevetsky  
Vin nebesnu silu mav  
I voiovav hromom  
Ta svoim slovom...

In the history of Anglo-Ukrainian relations, the personality of Thomas Roe is always emphasising itself side by side with Samuil Koretsky, whom, on the initiative of the British diplomat, the King of England took under his protection and even had a definite promise of the Turkish Government, but, as Roe writes, "here no one thinks of keeping his word."

About the end of the 1620's and the beginning of the 1630's, Oxford and Cambridge had with them as a student the later well-known Ukrainian statesman Yury Nemirich, the creator of the Swedish-Ukrainian alliance of 1657, a friend of Charles X, whose friendship was also sought even by Louis XIV. Nemirich, whose name is written in golden letters in the history of Ukrainian culture, was in his youth a Unitarian, studying the humanities in Protestant universities and afterwards in Paris and Padua. In the last-named, Nemirich is entered in the university records on 17 June, 1632, as "Georgius Nemirycz ex Belgio, Britannia, Gallys hospes in itinere adhuc conficiendo."

## English Press Comments on 1648 Revolution

What was feared by the Papal Nuncio in 1622, what was foreseen by Gabriel Bethlen, what had engaged the activity of Thomas Roe, at last came about in 1648, namely a great Ukrainian revolution under the leadership of Bohdan Khmel'nitsky. We can easily imagine the deep interest which was aroused in Europe by the Ukrainian national and social revolution. Unfortunately, as far as England is concerned, no systematic work on this subject has yet been done in the English archives.

However, we know the interest which was excited in the English

<sup>8</sup> Folio LXIV, 828, a fragment in the collection of Niemcewicz: *Zbior pamietnikow historycznych i dawnej Polsce*, Vol. V, 1830, under the title *Wyjatki z negocjacji kawalera Sir Thomasa Roe w czasie poselstwa jego do porty ottomanskiej*.

<sup>9</sup> This song is given by Edward Rulikovskiy who wrote it in 1853 in the district of Vasilkov, near Kiev. M. Voznyak, "Chikava pam'yatka ukrainskoi pisennosti 17-ho viku" in the periodical *Ukrainz*, Kiev, 1920, III-IV.

<sup>10</sup> In the celebrated poem of the Bubrovnik poet Gundulic, Osman, one of the chief heroes is Koretsky. Cf. A. Jensen, *Gundulic und sein Osman*, Ein suedslavisches Literaturstudie, 1900.

press by the Ukrainian revolution. As early as 14 December, 1648, *Le Mercure Anglais* gave a detailed description of the battles of the Yellow Waters and Korsun, where, in the words of contemporaries, "Poland lay in dust and blood at the feet of the Cossack." Another paper, *The Moderate Intelligencer*, in the course of 1649 gave interesting information from Ukraine, where the revolution was in progress. The geographical and political Manual: *A Book and Map of all Europe, with the Names of all Towns of note in that Known quarter of the World*, gives data about the chief towns of Ukraine and knows of the changes which had taken place there after the Revolution. The Treaty of Pereaslav between Ukraine and the Tsar of Moscow, which ended so disastrously for the first-named, was made known in the London paper *The Weekly Intelligencer of the Commonwealth* as early as 16 April, 1654.

All who are even superficially acquainted with the Ukrainian revolution of 1648 know the name of Maxim Krivonos, one of the most terrible lieutenants of the Hetman Khmel'nitsky. He was a cruel leader, with whom not a single Pole ever found mercy. He destroyed and ruined for the sheer love of ruining, and on this ground Krivonos came more than once into conflict with Khmel'nitsky, a real statesman for whom the Revolution was not an end in itself but a means of organising a Ukrainian state. Krivonos, on the other hand, was a living incarnation of so-called permanent revolution, a brilliant demagogue who could only too well play upon the destructive instincts of the mob. In the end Khmel'nitsky, after long efforts, succeeded in getting rid of Krivonos, who vanishes from the Ukrainian stage without leaving any documentary traces of his enigmatic disappearance.

Who exactly he was, no one, right up to the present day, has succeeded in establishing. "Krivonos" was of course a pseudonym originating in the crooked nose of the leader, with which contemporaries also drew him in portraits. Krivonos appeared in Ukraine on the very eve of the Revolution. It is curious and extremely suggestive that not one of the leaders of the Revolution was so closely followed abroad as Krivonos. The *The Gazette de France*, it is true, offers us fantastic information about him, giving great significance to reports of his mortal wound in November 1648. The Papal Nuncio with pleasure specially informs the Holy See of the conflicts of Khmel'nitsky with Krivonos, and the Swedish Chancellor Oxenstiern obtains exact information about him through his agent in Danzig.

## Interest in Krivonos

The riddle of the personality of Krivonos must perhaps be sought in a now very rare pamphlet in German which appeared in 1649 under the title: *Gründliche und deckwürdinge Relation... der newlichen Cosaken Revolte wjder Cron Polen... unter Commando Gen. Chmielnicki als Gen. Hauptmann, Pultorock Cosaken-Obristen und Krziwanos, Obristen, des vornemsten Haeuptern der Cosacken, von Anfang bis zur newlichen (Gott sey Lob.) unverhofften Friedens-composition, so hiebey gefüget, und darauff ertheilten Königl. Pardon, nach bewusten und zum Theile selbst erfahrenen Umbsaenden kürztlich verfasst durch einen namhaften Offizirer, jedoch dabey des Friedens Liebhabern.* The author of this pamphlet with such a long title was a certain German officer in the service of the Hetman of Lithuania, the well-known Jan Radziwill, who on the one hand for a short time took Kiev away from Khmel'nitsky and on the

(Continued on page 4)

<sup>11</sup> By John Cotgrave, London, 4to. It appeared in 1644 on Thursday.

<sup>12</sup> By John Dillingham, London, 4to.

<sup>13</sup> London, 8vo, p. 206.

<sup>14</sup> Printed by R. Austen, 4to.

<sup>15</sup> Collection of Materials on the History of South-Western Russia, Kiev, 1916, issue II, 113.



## OUR FOLK SONGS

THE worth of Ukrainian culture appears, in its most beautiful and highest form, in the unwritten literature of the people.

The philosophical feeling of the Ukrainian people finds expression in thousands and thousands of pregnant proverbs and parables, the like of which we do not find even in the most advanced nations of Europe. They reflect the great soul of the Ukrainian people and its wordly wisdom.

The national genius of the Ukrainians, however, has risen to the greatest height in their popular poetry. Neither the Russian nor the Polish popular poetry can bear comparison with the Ukrainian.

Beginning with the historical epics (dumy) and the extremely ancient and yet living songs of worship, as, for example, Christmas songs (koliady), New Year's songs (schedrivki), spring songs (vesnianky), harvest songs (obzhinkovi), down to the little songs for various particular occasions (e. g. shumki, kozachki, kolomyiki) we find in all the productions of Ukrainian popular epic and lyric poetry, a rich content and a great perfection of form. In all of it the sympathy for nature, spiritualization of nature, and a lively comprehension of her moods, is superb; in all of it we find a fantastic but warm dreaminess; in all of it we find the glorification of loftiest and purest feelings of the human soul.

A glowing love of country reveals itself to us everywhere, but particularly in innumerable Kozak songs, a heart-rending longing for a glorious past, a glorification, although not without criticism, of their heroes.

In the Ukrainian love songs we find not a trace of sexuality. Not the physical, but the spiritual beauty of woman is glorified above all. Even in jesting songs, and further, even in ribald songs, there is a great deal of anacreontic grace. And at the same time what beauty of diction, what wonderful agreement of content and form. No one would believe that this suppressed and tormented people could scatter so many pearls of true poetic inspiration throughout its unhappy land.

This peculiarity of the Ukrainian poetical spirit enables us, just as do the other elements of Ukrainian culture, to recognize the vast difference between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples.

The Russian folk songs are smaller in number and variety, form and content. Sympathetic appreciation of nature is scant. The imagination rises either to supernatural heights or sinks to mere trifling. Criminal monstrosities and the spirit of destruction are glorified as objects of national worship. The conception of love is sensual, while the jesting and ribald songs are disgusting.

## MARIA SOKIL TRIUMPHS IN CHICAGO CIVIC OPERA

[Editor's Note:—The author of the following article, Mr. John Barabash, is Professor of Music at the Wright Junior College, Chicago, and a well known band-leader. Under his leadership the Chicago bands won many first prizes at the Illinois State contests as well as at the All-American Band contests. Professor Barabash, Captain in the U. S. Army, was born in the County of Ternopil in Western Ukraine. He has always been very active in the Ukrainian cultural life in Chicago.]

Maria Sokil, the charming and distinguished Ukrainian singer, thrilled a packed house at the Chicago Civic Opera, Sunday evening, May 18th, with her beautiful voice in the role of "Halka."

Those Chicago Ukrainians who were fortunate to be at the Civic Opera House were overwhelmed with joy at the success which our own Maria Sokil scored. We were glad she had the opportunity to sing on one of the greatest operatic stages with the famous tenor Jan Kiepara before a huge audience.

Mme Sokil was superb in her role. She challenged and equalled Jan Kiepara. She put all she had in the role and the results were most gratifying. She had perfect command of everything. Her voice was rich in coloring, tonal quality and carrying power. I have seen and heard many opera singers at the Civic Opera in Chicago, and I may say that Maria Sokil ranks with the best of them. She sang, to quote Edward Barry, music critic of the Chicago Daily Tribune, "brilliantly and yet managed to communicate to the audience all of the most wistful aspects of the unhappy peasant girl's character."

Herman Devries another very eminent critic of the Herald-American said, "Maria Sokil's debut in the title role should be considered a very happy introduction to our lyric-stage, for she has a fine appearance and sang beautifully." The Chicago Daily News music commentator Eugene Stinson wrote thus about our prima donna, "A new Halka was Maria Sokil, making her first operatic appearance here. Her voice is warm and smooth, bearing a close resemblance to Elizabeth Rethberg as we remember her from the Ravinia days. Her impersonation was sympathetic and she carried through the suicide of the last act with quiet power. It was delightful to hear." These comments of the Chicago leading music critics are all very fine and encouraging.

Maria Sokil thrilled also the local Polish press despite the fact known to that press as well as to the audience that Maria Sokil is

a Ukrainian. We read in the "Dziennik Zwiazkowy" that "... Maria Sokil created the best Halka of all we saw up to date... She has a most beautiful voice, an unusual personality and is a most gifted actress... She enchanted the audience already with her first aria... All other arias in following acts have been real pearls of the unusual talent of this magnificent artist..." The other biggest Polish daily "Dziennik Chikogowski" writes: "...the superb artist Maria Sokil created with deep understanding in her debut at the Civic Opera an excellent character. We never saw such a Halka in former performances of this opera in Chicago..."

Mme. Sokil was received warmly by the audience even though she was unknown to them with the exception of a handful of Ukrainians. She was enormously applauded in the second and fourth acts where she displayed her artistic ability best.

After the performance Maria Sokil's name was on the lips of every one,—what a marvelous Halka she was, and that it was the best performance of the Halka role they had ever seen or heard on the Chicago stage. One gentleman who has travelled extensively abroad and worked in the theatres of Europe declared that he had heard and seen a great many sing the role of Halka but that Mme. Sokil surpassed them all, and that he was genuinely moved by her fine performance.

I was, of course, very proud of Maria Sokil and wish with all my heart that we Ukrainian-Americans could do something to let all the American public hear our opera singer. Could it be possible for our younger generation to sponsor her in concerts for the Americans and thus make her our Ukrainian "Lily Pons"? I am sure we have enough young blood who would want to do this for the sake of Ukraine and our own prestige in this country. Why not then arrange a concert in your town or city and invite Mme Sokil to sing, but not in an out-of-the-way hall where only the Ukrainians would hear her, but in a decent American hall for the Americans to see and hear her. Let us be like other nationalities, boost our artists and bring them to the attention of the Americans for the glorification of our people in America.

JOHN BARABASH.

## U.N.A. Personalities

(2)

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

**Paul Duda of Windsor, Canada.**—Solidly built; forcible; first Canadian to be elected to U.N.A. Supreme Assembly; polled highest vote as Advisor.

**Stephen Slobodian of Philadelphia.**—Brother of Roman Slobodian; above medium height; pale; likes to speak confidentially to one; a hard worker; re-elected.

**John Romanion of Irvington, N. J.**—A younger generation representative; former UYL-NA president; lawyer; disarming smile; a plugger.

**Taras Shpikula of Chicago.**—Tall; well-built; soft-spoken; an unassuming but effective worker; re-elected.

**Walter Didyk of Detroit.**—Compact in build; friendly appearance; strong voice; energetic; re-elected.

**Genevieve Zepko of Akron, Ohio.**—a younger generation representative; does all her traveling by plane; idealistic and deeply religious; occupies responsible post with U.S. Department of Agriculture; Lemko with a real Lemko accent.

**Nicholas Dawyskyba of Boston.**—Very much the American type of a Ukrainian; member of various American and Ukrainian patriotic organizations; medium height; energetic in action and speech; re-elected.

**Eugene Lachowitch of New York City.**—Earpest in appearance and demeanor; conscientious worker; military bearing; Ukrainian army officer in last war; a former Londoner; co-editor of "Svoboda."

**Antin Shumeyko of Union, N. J.**—A younger generation representative; third oldest of the Shumeyko clan; light features; reserved; engaging smile; works in aeroplane engine plant; re-elected.

**Dmytro Shmagala of Cleveland.**—Powerfully built; dark visaged; hard worker; active in church affairs and in local and national Ukrainian-American organizations; a businessman.

**Julia Bavollak of McAdoo, Pa.**—Well-groomed and a striking in appearance; dark complexion set off by prematurely white hair; proprietress of a beauty shop; re-elected.

The Ukrainian National Association is the chief bulwark of Ukrainian-American life. Join it and thereby strengthen it. Do it now!

## Doctor Besserwisser

By IVAN FRANKO

Translated By W. Semenyina

(1)

ALTHOUGH bearing such a German name, Doctor Besserwisser is of our own race. Not everybody knows him by this name because he hides under different pseudonyms, but just the same we are all acquainted with him. We meet him at every step and like to talk with him. True, no one seems to be able to get acquainted with him intimately. The honorable doctor seems to have in him something similar to the electrically charged pith ball; at first he draws to himself some light body and then repels it.

Not only is he a diplomatic man but without a doubt he is a talented and clever man. Yet here is a catch. You see, there are two types of clever people: those that know well and those that know better. Some people have a comparative knowledge; not relative, but comparative. How shall I explain the difference? You see, all our knowledge is relative in that absolute truth is hidden before us by its very nature. People of positive knowledge feel that the most, and always say: here and here we stand on the firm foundation of truth—in as far as we are able to recognize it as such at all. People of comparative knowledge look at the subject altogether differently. It is enough

for them to say: this or that learned one said this, that, and what not; in the middle of his fifth sentence, this and this page, is such and such an error, poor order, inconsequence. How can one write such an absurdity? I, Doctor Besserwisser, know and affirm that this is an absurdity; that means that I am nearer the truth, that I am more learned than the other one! Pardon me! I forgot to say that our dear Doctor Besserwisser belongs to this second category, to those people who know everything better than someone else, because they always and everywhere find some error, and are naturally gifted with that happy faculty of firmly believing that "when I correct this error, it means that I am nearer the truth, which means that I am more learned than the other one."

Does he really possess some true positive knowledge? You wonder how one could raise such a question. It seems to you paradoxical; just as if someone, seeing a man in dress suit and white gloves, dared to ask if beneath the cutaway there was a shirt. Well, my dear friends, the secrets of physical and spiritual toilet are unfathomable. Who knows if every fellow with a cutaway and gloves has a clean shirt on his back; and Doctor Besserwisser is so busy running around in this world and looking for someone to compare himself with, to show his superiority, that he absolutely has no time to show his spiritual baggage. You don't have to know how to build a bridge to find a hole in it.

Our Doctor is like that tiny finch in the fable, which hidden among the eagle's feathers,

was raised by the eagle to a great height and which, when the eagle could not rise any higher, shot up from its hiding place and rising a little higher chirped: "You see. I can fly higher!" Very likely people of that type, such as our Doctor Besserwisser, walked around in ancient Greece, since the old hunchback, Aesop, considered it necessary to immortalize this type in his fables. It means that our honorable Doctor has a very old and wide lineage. They say that ambition consumes him and that the frog which competed with the ox, with such an unhappy result, was his some kind of an aunty's aunt or an aunt's aunty. I don't know and have my doubts. It seems to me that ambition alone would not lead a man to force himself to know everything better than someone else. It must be a born characteristic feature, just as it is characteristic of the hop plant to grow higher and to flower buoyantly above the supporting prop. It would be unwise and unjust to demand from the hop that it stand and grow independently. Although he eventually shows himself to be an unproductive force, Doctor Besserwisser, with his constant activity and his pursuit of those over whom he could stretch himself "higher than anyone else," always manages to enliven the whole surroundings, giving it an appearance of action, hustle—making an illusion of progress. He grasps very quickly all new ideas and new styles in science and in literature and defends them heatedly until he is able to show, in his fashion, that he is more progressive and higher than others.

(To be concluded)



## Will They Turn To Religion?

This was the title of a recent editorial that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer, which observed that "out of the welter of mixed emotions, confused thinking and a sense of futility in the face of a world aflame—it is not surprising to find what appears to be a measurable inclination among thoughtful people to turn for renewed hope and courage to religion." That there is "a striving to comprehend in some measure the tortured processes by which the human heedlessness germinated in our modern world and produced today's bitter harvest."

This article states that "thoughtful people" everywhere were beginning to realize "... that if our civilization is to endure, men somehow must find their way back to a simple faith and a reliance upon a Higher Power." It goes on to observe that according to psychology "... adult people are like young children, boastfully self-contained and indifferent to danger in the bright light of day but humbly glad to seek the presence and protection of those stronger than themselves when darkness falls." That it is a well established fact, "... that when stark disaster is clawing at the door and the world is falling about their heads men turn, with an instinct as old as humanity, to religion as the only imperishable stronghold in a perishable and imperiled world."

It went on further to acknowledge that "... for years there have been increasingly bitter assaults upon religion. It seems strange indeed that this sad state of affairs is only now recognized and why, do we ask ourselves, did not such authorities raise their voice in its defense?"

The editor goes on to say, "We have felt it was not our concern if 'the old faiths lose and fall'... and by 'we' is meant mankind in general (we)... have watched... the growth of queer cults and... modern Humanism, with its denial of a power greater than our own; its exalting of man to equality with his Maker."

"Now, when our civilization may be dying on its feet,—human creatures at last are beginning to discover that they are not little gods—but only little men."

"Sickened and appalled by the fantastic cruelties and injustices of our times; facing problems whose consideration leads nowhere but to a blank wall of bewilderment; fearful of what the future may hold for them... is it strange if they find themselves seeking the road back to the faith of their fathers?"

I add: No, it is not a bit strange. The ways of the Lord are wise and many. Who knows but that this world chaos was intended by Him to bring our attention to our own neglect and "bitter assaults" on religion and teach us a lesson from which we will profit in the future.

JOHN DOODAN

The Ukrainian National Association has more young (as well as old) Ukrainian-Americans within its ranks than any other organization. Sign up with them!

### NEW YORK CITY

There are ten things you can do this Tuesday Evening June 10th.

1. You can play Bridge.
2. You can play Pinochle.
3. You can play Chinese Checkers.
4. You can play Ping Pong.
5. You can play Chess or Checkers.
6. You can do some singing.
7. You can do some informal dancing.
8. You can relax and chat in a pleasant atmosphere amidst pleasant company.
9. You can sit, and read and sip a thirst quencher.
10. You can make new friends.

All this at the **CARD GAME and INFORMAL PARTY** at the Ukrainian Civic Center at the International Center, 341 17th St., 8:30 P. M. on **TUESDAY, JUNE 10th**. This is the Tenth Anniversary Year of the Civic Center, so come and get acquainted with us before we start on our second decade.

## YOUTH AND THE U.N.A.

### To The Young Delegates

Now that the excitement created by the 20th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, Inc., has subsided somewhat, this would be an opportune time to have a few words with the younger delegates.

It is taken for granted that the young people who were elected delegates by their branches were unusually active, otherwise they would not have been picked. The young branch representatives probably were elated to be part of a history-making U.N.A. convention, and their unprecedented activity in Harrisburg, the convention city, proves that they most certainly were sincere and serious-minded.

A delegate, young or old, had many duties at the convention. But now that the convention is over, the delegate should not forget the U.N.A. until the next convention comes around. He should continue to be sincere and serious-minded about his organization. Of course, he should continue to be active in his branch, but he should do something for the U.N.A. at the same time. And the best way to help the U.N.A. is to bring in new members.

Why do we appeal to the delegates to take active part in organization work? Because the delegates have a better-than-average knowledge of the U.N.A., and because they, due to their unusual branch activity, are in a position to organize new members. They are more or less known in their local regions, and therefore can approach prospects. The branch members expect the delegate to do everything in his power to help his parent organization at all times.

The writer knows for a fact that a few young delegates, without being asked, have taken an interest in organization work. They are New Jerseyites, but others should follow their example and make it a nation-wide movement. The U. N. A. depends on new members for the continued development of the fraternal order, and is particularly anxious to enroll new young members. Two new types of juvenile insurance were approved at the convention, which gives the young organizer a total of nine different types of insurance to sell to his prospects. These types range from \$100 to \$3,000. Dues range from 25 cents monthly up to several dollars. All certificates of policies feature the most modern improvements, and earn dividends after being in force two years.

There is plenty of opportunity for young organizers in the insurance field. Handsome rewards are being paid for new members brought in. There is no reason why young people should not take advantage of this opportunity to help themselves as well as their organization.

Interesting prospects in the U. N. A. is not difficult. For information and organization material write to the Ukrainian National Association, Inc., P. O. Box 76, Jersey City, N. J.

Delegates are not the only persons that participate in U.N.A. organization work. Any U.N.A. member with enough ambition may get in on the ground floor. Sincerity is the only essential qualification. Write for further information today.

Remember... the future of the U.N.A. depends on young people. The more young people the brighter the future. Be a pioneer in youth organization work. Your parents were pioneers, and they built up the organization to something we are all proud of. Unfortunately, however, they cannot live forever, so it's up to us to carry on.

The Ukrainian National Association needs young blood. Do your share of the work.

THEODORE LUTWINIAK.

## Wins U.Y.O.C. Scholarship

Mr. Walter J. Medwid, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Medwid, 18 Hamilton Street, Hartford, Conn., has been awarded the first U. Y. O. C. scholarship, according to the announcement made by Miss Vera Malanchuk, secretary of the scholarship committee, at the semi-annual meeting of the Ukrainian Youth Organization of Connecticut in Hartford on May 25.



Walter J. Medwid

Mr. Medwid, a member of the June graduating class of St. Basil's Preparatory School of Stamford, Conn., has an excellent scholastic record plus the capacity for leadership. These qualities determined the committee in choosing him.

He has been active in the Boys' Chorus and Orchestra at the seminary, and while in Hartford he was a member of St. Michael's Ukrainian Choir and the Y.U.N. His interest is very keen in Ukrainian affairs. He has often written to the press correcting distortions of facts pertaining to Ukraine and the Ukrainians. He knows the Ukrainian language, speaking, reading, and writing it well. He also is a member of the U.N.A. branch 277.

Mr. Medwid intends to enter the Boston Conservatory of Music in September. His main interest is music, and his hobby is writing. He has started on a book called "The Rising Dawn of Ukraine."

Members of the scholarship committee are Andrew Melnyk, president of the U.Y.O.C., D. Charinowsky, president of the Ukrainian-American Political and Relief Org., Vera Malanchuk, W. Korotash, Irene Preston, Mildred Adamovich, and Mary Blahitka. Proceeds for the scholarship are raised by holding annual Taras Shevchenko concerts.

### AKRON YOUTH BRANCH TO HAVE DINNER-DANCE

U.N.A. members and their friends of Akron, Ohio and surrounding cities and towns will have cause to remember Sunday, June 15th for a long time. For on that day Akron's U.N.A. youth branch, 180, I. Franko Society, will hold a dinner-dance at Hotel Portage. It promises to be one of the finest affairs of its kind. It will be semi-formal.

The speaker at the diner will be Genevieve Zepko, newly elected Supreme Advisor of the U.N.A.

Invitations have been extended to U.N.A. branches in Cleveland, Youngstown, Canton, Rossford and Toledo. Music will be furnished by Ross Hamalay and his orchestra—one of the finest dance orchestras in Ohio. Tickets—\$1.50 for dinner and dance.

Those who through some mischance have not as yet received an invitation, are cordially invited through the medium of the Ukrainian Weekly to attend this U.N.A. Dinner-Dance in Akron, Sunday, June 15, at Hotel Portage.

JENNIE E. PULK

## MILLVILLE CELEBRATES U.N.A. BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

On Sunday, May 25, it was my privilege to speak before one hundred persons at a U.N.A. banquet in Millville, New Jersey. The banquet was given by the local Ukrainians to celebrate the winning of the Eastern Basketball Championship by the Millville U.N.A. Team. It was attended by as fine a gathering of people as anyone could hope to meet anywhere. The young ones present impressed me with their eager energy and organizing ability. I only hope that all of our young people can at some time visit these fine young Millvillites.

Nick Fedyk was toastmaster at the banquet. A trophy and individual medals donated by the Ukrainian National Association were presented by Mr. Harry Tymchik, Secretary of Branch 347, and Michael Romanik, team manager. Main speakers were Mr. Tymchik and myself. The topic of the speeches was an appeal for greater U.N.A. membership among our young people. Several of those present who are not as yet U.N.A. members agreed to sign up as members. The prospects for increased U.N.A. membership in the Millville area look very favorable.

Others who spoke were Nicholas Hantius, Fred Romanik, Basil Motolicz, Stephen Chopek, Jim Romanik—President of U.N.A. Branch 347, Andrey Sachronski—President of U.N.A. Branch 457, and Onufrey Hanituk.

A collection for the coming baseball season netted \$54.55.

JOHN ROMANTION

### EARLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND UKRAINE

(Continued from page 2)

other, being chief of the Lithuanian autonomists, kept up secret relations with the Ukrainian Hetman. And this German officer, who was well informed by the nature of his service, writes: "Der Gen. Major Krzlwanos ein geborner Schott, von wegen seiner Krumen Nas also von den Cosaken genannt, sonat ein resoluter und verwegener Soldat." Indeed, if we give careful attention to the career of Krivonos, we get an impression that we have before us a conscious agent of the Protestant league, or rather of England, an uncompromising enemy of the Kingdom of Poland, with which he wants no agreement but seeks its complete ruin.

### Khmelnitsky and Cromwell

Contemporaries compare Khmelnitsky with Cromwell, as, for instance, a French agent in Ukraine, Pierre Chevalier, who personally knew the Hetman, author of a History of the Cossack-Polish War, which had great success." In the preface Chevalier calls Khmelnitsky "A Cromwell, not less daring, not less experienced in politics than the English Cromwell." With Cromwell in view, contemporary diplomatic reports entitle Khmelnitsky "Protector of the Cossacks."

Some historians admit that Cromwell had direct relations with the Hetman, but in Ukrainian sources there is no documentary evidence of this. Certainly we must have in view that, after the death of Khmelnitsky and the disturbances which broke out in Ukraine, the archives of the Hetman were destroyed.

(To be continued)

### DINNER DANCE

— Auspices of —  
UKRAINIAN CENTER GIRLS

at the

TOP HAT

3211 Boulevard, Union City, N. J.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1941

Semi-formal

Subscription \$4.00 per couple

Please send all reservations to the Ukrainian Center, 180 William St., Newark, N. J.