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TARAS SHEVCHENKO

М У Н Beams



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WHY DOESN'T PLAYHOUSE 90 KNOW KHRUSHCHEV IS A RUSSIAN?

It is a fundamental rule that in any type of contest there is a greater chance of success if you know your opponent. Regardless whether your adversary is a man such as a boxer or a chess player, a group of men such as a political party, or a nation or empire, the greater amount of knowledge one has of the opponent the easier it will be to understand his maneuvers.

The opponent of the free world today is the Soviet Union and its satellites. For this reason Canadian citizens should know at least fundamental facts about the USSR. Canadian youth of Ukrainian origin, however, especially those dedicated to the ideals of the UNYF, should go deeper. Through their knowledge of Ukrainian and Russian, they can read Soviet books, and because they have a grasp of the true historical relationship between the Ukrainian and Russian people they will not be misled by propaganda.

Although it is necessary to know the background of the Ukrainian people and culture, it is equally crucial to understand Russian history and culture. Possibly our knowledge has been too one-sided so far.

Reliable information on the Soviet Union and its nationalities is buried in a mass of propaganda, misinformation, misconceptions and half-truths. All this unreliable information does not come from abroad; a great deal is printed in Canada and the USA as a result of inaccurate source material.

A good example of the way in which a false idea about the Soviet Union is propagated here in Canada occurred recently on television. Playhouse 90 on September 25th featured a program centering around a plot to assassinate Stalin. Although Oscar Homolka, the actor who portrayed Khrushchev did an excellent job, one of the important lines he spoke was misleading. We feel that the seriousness of this one incorrect line necessitates our comment. In reply to a query whether poison wasn't Khrushchev's way of taking care of people, the TV Khrushchev said: "The Ukrainians don't stoop to poison; that's a woman's game."

The obvious insinuation was that the present premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev is a Ukrainian. This is false. A person who is an authority on this question, Mr. Katchanov of the USSR Embassy in Canada at Ottawa, stated in a letter to the editor of MYH Beams on Sept. 20, 1958:

"N.S. KHRUSHCHEV IS A RUSSIAN. Because he spent many years in... Ukraine, and was for some time the Secretary of the Communist Party of... Ukraine, he is sometimes (mistakenly) considered to be of Ukrainian origin." *

Can we wonder that a great deal of information on the Soviet Union is questionable if such a fundamental fact as the nationality of the most important man in the USSR is not accurately known in Canada and the USA? All material on the Soviet Union, regardless of who sponsors it, should be viewed carefully with a critical eye.

ag



TARAS SHEVCHENKO

Excerpt from a book by Marietta Shaginian, Moscow, 1946.
Translated from Russian by Bohdan Klymash.

Much has been written about Shevchenko, the Poet, and only recently are we beginning to discover him as a master painter. But we have hardly heard anything at all about him as a playwright, a singer, an actor; for Shevchenko was an expert on the theatre, and an excellent musician of rare taste.

Shevchenko left us only one play "Nazar Stodolia" which has successfully held the Ukrainian stage for decades. The art of stage production has changed drastically since the time of Shevchenko, mainly due to the stress on costume, scenery, lighting, etc. This caused playwrights to create poor plays, in the hope that the flaws would be covered by such means as already mentioned. What is still worse, often they would deliberately turn to writing "spectaculars" which would include "a cast of hundreds", calling for many scenery changes, machines, props, etc.

"Nazar Stodolia" takes us back to those times when a play was primarily based on characters and conflict. Sotnyk, his daughter Halia, and his cunning housekeeper; Nazar, his faithful friend Dnat and the landlord of the cottage where the 'vechernytsi' take place - and there you have the entire cast of Shevchenko's play. The old but wealthy landowner chosen by Halia's father as her bridegroom, is the cause of strife and conflict in the play. But he doesn't even appear in the play! A most simple and straightforward plot unfolds itself before the onlooker -- the national customs, the remarkable matchmakers who introduce themselves as hunters seeking "the beautiful red marten", the scene with its presentation of the "rushnyky", the carols, the vechernytsi, and finally the wonderously beautiful night in the abandoned inn. Completely free from artificialities, the play reflects Shevchenko's deep understanding of the art of writing for the stage, his minute attention the essences of art, and his innate knowledge of the rules of theatre. Aware of these qualities in Shevchenko, one can not help but ask, "Is it possible that Shevchenko wrote nothing else for the stage, that he never performed himself?"

Besides the drama, Shevchenko also tried his hand in writing for the opera. Of this fact, there is evidence in the venturesome "Zapysky" published by a wealthy landowner, P. Seletsky, whose estate bordered on that of Prince Repnin. Shevchenko lived with the Repnin's from November of 1843 to January of 1844. Seletsky often dropped in at the Repnin's for the holiday celebrations, having just returned from abroad, where he amicably (if we are to believe the "Zapysky") got to know Franz Liszt, studied composition and even gave music lessons. Seletsky had a very high opinion of his own musical creativeness.

Varvara Nykolaevna, Prince Repnin's 35 year old daughter, passionately fond of the poet, suggested that both guests that they create an opera. "Varvara" relates Seletsky, "suggested that I write an opera; Shevchenko took it upon himself to do the libretto; we chose Mazepa for the subject...but we didn't agree on the development of the plot nor the language." Shevchenko, it appears, knew the true value of Seletsky's "opera" works, and didn't like the musician himself. This hostility towards him was preserved by the poet till the last days of his life.

Shevchenko was constantly in touch with the theatre. While still a student at the Academy, he went to all the new productions especially those with famous guest artists e.g. the appearance of the dancer, Lola Mendes.

Later, when he was in exile, Shevchenko proved himself to be a first-rate actor. The memoirs of Shevchenko's company commander, Ihor Mykhailovych Kosarev, tell of the poet's participation in a comedy by Ostrovsky. The presentation was staged in the barracks. "Since we didn't have a general rehearsal, and since Shevchenko never took part in our rehearsals, we of course didn't know what to expect of him. But when at the first presentation he appeared in costume and began to act, not only the public, but the rest of the cast, were delighted and astonished! Would you believe it - it was as if he had completely changed. Absolutely nothing was left of Taras in him - appearance, voice, manners, all had changed!"

Soon after his return from exile, Shevchenko, by now an elderly man, experienced a strong love for a young actress, Piunova. She requested that he write a theatrical review on a performance of hers. This review, among other things, is one of the most interesting documents of Shevchenko's healthy, artistic tastes. It should be noted that the young actress was convinced that Shevchenko, passionately in love with her, would undoubtedly produce a dithyramb. The poet willingly accepted and wrote the whole truth, precisely that which he thought and felt: "...As far as we can judge, Mlle Piunova prefers to choose roles of naive, delicate girls. This is fine. But she should not forget that this gives rise to monotony which can injure her talent. We sincerely believe she can, if she so desires, widen her repertoire; this, of course, means more work and a need to study the role more closely; but in return for the effort, her talent will reach new heights."

At the decline of life, ill and old, Shevchenko was cheered by his meeting with the great Negro actor, I. Aldridge.

Continued on page 12

Right: The home where Taras Hryhorovich Shevchenko was born, March 9, 1814. It was in Moryntsi village, Kiev Province.



COINS of TSAR PETER 1

The two coins below are from *The Story of Russia* by W.R. Morfill, New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890. They seem to indicate that Peter the Great considered himself and his state Muscovite in 1704. Later in 1710 he changed the name to Russian on the coin.



ABOVE:

Ruble of 1710. On obverse (head) side: Tsar Petr Alexievich V.R.P. Reverse: Rossiĭskoi (Russian) rublovik 1710

BELOW:

Ruble of 1704. Obverse side: Tsar Petr Alexievich V.R.P. Reverse: Moskovskiĭ (Muscovite) rubl



The early Ukrainian state (Rus) had ruled over the ancestors of today's Russians. It appears that for a short time* they called themselves 'Rusky', in the sense of belonging to the Rus empire. The Ukrainians called themselves by similar names (Rusini). A comparison may clear this confusing point: A negro of British Guiana could certainly call himself British in the sense that he is part of the British Commonwealth. He could not, however, call himself a Briton since he is not of the Anglo-Saxon race.

* The Russians used Rusky for only a century or two until Muscovite replaced it, which lasted about four centuries until Tsar Peter's time.

MUSCOVY—old name of RUSSIA

Andrew Gregorovich

The Origin of the name of a nation is often interesting as well as valuable in understanding its history. We would like to offer a few thoughts on the name 'Moskva' meaning 'stagnant water'. This is the name of the river upon which Moscow was built in 1147. Muscovy is derived from the Finnish Moskva

Related to this is the name 'Russia', the Latin form of 'Rus'. 'Rus' was the name of the Ukrainian Kingdom (IX to XIII centuries) which centered round its capital Kiev.

Tsar Peter, according to historians, adopted 'Rossiya' the Greek form of the Ukrainian 'Rus' as one of the measures in Europeanizing his nation.

What is the relationship between Muscovy and Russia? Perhaps this comparison will illustrate it. A nation exists today called Rumania (or Romania) which derives its name from the Roman empire because it originated as a colony of Rome. It cannot be said that the Rumania of today is the heir of the Roman empire although it bears a similar name while Italy does not.

In a similar manner the name 'Russia' does not indicate that that nation continued the traditions of the Ukrainian kingdom called 'Rus'. Russia, like Rumania, carries only the name. Ukraine was the original possessor of the name Rus, just as Italy was the original Rome.

Because of the similarity, especially in English, between the Ukrainian 'Rus' and 'Russia' a great deal of confusion (often deliberate) has arisen in the use of these two names. To sum it up **RUS IS THE OLD NAME OF UKRAINE WHILE THE OLD NAME OF RUSSIA WAS MUSCOVY.**

Evidence exists today proving that to very recent times the Ukrainians identified themselves with Rus. For example, Ivan Franko often used the word 'Rusin' for a Ukrainian. 'Ruthenian' a Latin form is familiar in Canada because it was the official name for Ukrainians in Austria and the early Ukrainian immigrants were thus classed by it. It is clear that the Ukrainians continued their identity with Rus down to very recent times. Only in the past century has "Ukrainian" replaced the older name.

Is there any evidence, however, that the Russians do not identify themselves with the 'Rus' kingdom? Isn't the word 'Russia', although obsolete today, proof that they, too, identify themselves with Rus?

To this day the Ukrainians call the Russians 'Moskali'. A book by Lankenau and Oelnitz (1881) says on page 231: "The Cossack calls..(Russians).. 'Moskal', Muscovite."

English language dictionaries also maintain the connection between Russia and Muscovy. The Oxford Dictionary (p. 779) says: "Muscovy or (Arch) Russia" while Chamber's Twentieth Century Dictionary (p. 704) gives: "Muscovite, of Muscovy; Russian; a Russian. Funk and Wagnall's says that "a company of London merchants chartered in 1553 for the purpose of trading with Russia" was called "Muscovy Company".

Continued, page 14

PHOTO



Our apologies to Irene Kruchka (kneeling second from left) whose name was omitted accidentally in our last issue. Also to Olga Wolanski and Victor Kleenzmit whose names we spelled incorrectly. Please forgive us!



Walter Klymkiw and Jerry Klum supervise as the group line up for "Zbirka", a morning and evening ritual.



MORE PICTURES
TAKEN AT THE
LEADERSHIP COURSES
IN SUDBURY!



Ahhh! That delicious Ukrainian food!



Benny Chaban turns his back on the camera as everyone gathers 'round the fire for a singsong.



Left! Right! Left! Right!
Everyone marches into the cabin for classes.



Oh, you lucky girls! To have had
Walter Klymkiw for a teacher!



*Ukrainian Youth League
of North America, Inc.
25th Anniversary*

Twenty-five successful years were celebrated by the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America in Cleveland at the Silver Anniversary Convention. The UYLNA can look back on successful projects such as the exceptional Ukrainian Arts Book, Christmas cards and a quarterly, the Ukrainian Trend. Our organization, one year younger, will similarly celebrate twenty-five years of solid achievement in July, 1959.

The UYLNA is the principal organization for American youth of Ukrainian origin in the United States. The same ideals are cherished by the UYLNA and our UNYF, with both organizations working towards similar goals.

These two organizations are good examples of co-operation between American and Canadian youth. An example of their unity is the fact that the 1957 UYLNA Convention held in Detroit featured a concert program which was entirely Canadian.

The new officers of the UYLNA for 1959 are listed below.

President	Taras Szmagala, Cleveland
Vice-President	Myron Kuropas, Chicago
Vice-President	Jennie Kohut, Rochester
Treasurer	Will Sosnowski, Detroit
Financial Secretary	Emil Dochych, Elizabeth
Recording Secretary	Dolores Hovitch, Detroit

Advisors: Walter Bodnar, Newark; Alexander Danko, North Bergen; Dr. Eugene Draginda, Detroit; Joseph Yaworsky, Phoenixville; Joseph Smindak, New York.

The concert program featured the Trembita Male Chorus of Detroit; Michael Minsky, baritone; UNYF Dancers, Toronto; Ukr. Plast Dancers; the Homin Male Chorus, Cleveland and George Rusyn, Dancer. At the convention banquet C. William O'Neill, governor of Ohio, greeted the guests while Stephen Zenchak acted as toastmaster. Dmytro Halychyn, president of the UNA, Antin Batiuk, president of the UWA and Dr. Lev Dobriansky, chairman of the UCCA all spoke briefly. Featured speaker was Dr. Alexander Sas-Yaworsky who later sang a duet with Dr. Baran.

* * *

The Ukrainian Trend edited by Helen Perozak featured an excellent article on the Bandura by M. J. Diakowsky in the most recent issue. This would be a good time to subscribe. Yearly subscription is \$2.50 which should be sent to: UYLNA Foundation Inc., 2 East 79th St., New York 21.



Map by the Italian geographer Sanson made in 1641. It was published in Rome, 1678. A copy of it is in the French National Library at Paris. Note that Russia is called Moscovia and Ukraine, the Country of Cossacks

NEWS of the BRANCHES

HAMILTON

.....Ted Pawchuk

At the present, invitations are being sent to branches throughout Ontario. The date is set for Friday, October 31st at 8 pm. Everyone is asked to wear a costume for the masquerade.

About twelve members of Hamilton UNYF attended the UYINA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Congratulations are in order for the Toronto UNYF dancers who put on a magnificent display of their dancing talents at the concert staged by the Ukrainian Club of Cleveland. Meanwhile, Hamilton dancers under the capable leadership of Jerry Klun started practices on September 12th.

With fall just around the corner, sport fans from the Steel city begin bowling Wednesday, September 17.

SUBBURY

.....Elsie Formanec

We were very happy to welcome representatives from Regina, Saskatoon, Oshawa, Montreal and Hamilton to our leadership courses in August. During the two week period we attended lectures on Ukrainian music and history. We also had an opportunity to learn a few ballads as well as a few new dances under the direction of Jerry Klun and Walter Klymkiw. We were happy to welcome G. Orychiwsky, E. Poworoznyk and A. Gregorovich during the latter part of the leadership courses who presented brief lectures to the group. We were very sorry to have the courses come to an end so soon. But we were even more sorry to have all of our new friends leave us.

We held a few Sunday picnics during the summer where we had an opportunity to improve the financial situation of our treasury. But all was not business and no pleasure. We had about three weiner roasts, two dances and parties.

Speaking about parties, we have been having as many as possible before our members return to school. We had a farewell party for Doreen Shulha who will be attending McGill this fall; Ihor Kuryliw, University of Toronto; and Vera Hrycenko who is going into nursing in Montreal. I know we are looking forward to their return during the holidays. Best of luck kids!

Our dancing group travelled to North Bay on September 1st to appear in Precision Fantasy. Besides bettering our financial status, day of fun, song and laughter was enjoyed by all.

Choir practices are slowly getting under way and we hope that we will be able to have an all-girl choir such as we had last season.

A definite program has not been established for the on-coming season, but we hope to have the annual program planned within a few weeks.

On Monday, August 18th, at the WIFU game between Saskatchewan and Edmonton, at half time there was a presentation of a plaque to football player Rollie Miles who became a Canadian citizen. At the same time, there was a parade of various ethnic groups to honor him. Surprisingly, the Ukrainians were represented by a greater number than any other group.

Two weeks ago we had a weiner roast where about 20 people had a very enjoyable time. Choir practices have commenced for a Concert to be held on November 1st. Also dancing practices, under the capable direction of Chester Kuc are in full swing.

August 30th was a beautiful sunny day when Mr. Joseph Boon took for his wife Miss Joyce Skubleny. The marriage took place in St. Josephat's Cathedral.

WEST TORONTO

.Vera Chacula

The 23rd UNF Convention took place on Labor Day weekend at the UNF hall in Toronto with General Kapustiansky of Europe being the honoured guest at the banquet. Torontonians were very pleased to greet him, out-of-town delegates and old friends such as Bohdan Klymash. Another highlight of the convention was a concert featuring the Hamilton choir and dancers.

At the Kiev grounds on September 7, a picnic was held which was sponsored by RYMK, the organization composed of various Ukrainian youth organizations such as UNYF, Plast, CUMK, ODUM, Ukr. Catholic Youth and Ukr. Students' Club. UNYF dancers again performed while other members took part in various sports events. The energetic West Toronto girls showed a good effort in their volleyball game against Plast. Good team work enables participants to develop sportsmanship and co-operation, both essential to club work.

One of our well known members left us on September 23rd for Belgium. There, Olga Danylak will continue her University studies for one year. Best of luck, Olga.

A hilarious evening for all is approaching. In November, West Toronto will hold a musical as well as humorous concert at the UNF hall. Stop! Look! Listen! - for more information.

Shevchenko continued

Graf F. Tolstoi, in whose home Shevchenko was a daily visitor (F. Tolstoi was president of the Academy; he and his wife did much to have the poet released from exile) held a party for Aldridge and there poet and actor met for the first time. Tolstoi's daughter has left us an interesting description of her experience as a translator, when the two conversed with each other; Shevchenko didn't know English and Aldridge knew neither Ukrainian nor Russian. In spite of the language barrier, both became very close friends. Much has already been written on this friendship, which was founded on a deep affinity of circumstances. The Negro was a social outcast in his own homeland, and his kinfolk - slaves; Shevchenko was born a serf, and his brothers and sisters were still serfs. But it was not only this fact that bound them together. Shevchenko deeply felt and appreciated Aldridge's roles on the stage and the actor understood the depth and strength of Shevchenko's genius.





the RAMBLER

And away we go.....One branch that's really hopping has recently revived its infamous publication The Blue and Gold. The newly appointed editor, **Bad Leschuk**, has produced a most effective first issue and we wish him together with his West Torontonians staff, every success,The November issue of Liberty will feature an article on the Ukrainian Community in Canada, written

by Frank Rasky, Editor.....Thanksgiving Day weekend will mark the marriage of Mary Braciuk and Oryest Orychivsky, Past President of the UNYF, Montreal branch, member of the Dominion Executive and very active in Ukrainian organizational work. Oryest is the brother of Mr. Michael Orychivsky, President of the UNYF D.E. The entire MYH Beams staff together with the Dominion Executive, wish Oryest and Mary many many years of wedded bliss.....Mary's wedding gown, by the way, was designed by well known designer John Wozny who is also a member of Montreal UNYF....

.....In an endeavour to bring closer unity between the Ukrainian youth in Toronto, MYH and CYM will hold a buffet dance on November the 13th at the "Sign of the Steer". Admittance will be by invitation only and 300 persons are expected to attend.....The West Toronto UNYF Girls Dancing Quartet have been invited to perform at the Toronto City Hall as part of a program designed to entertain new Canadians who received their citizenship papers.....Walter Klymkiv of Winnipeg has been seen "speeding" in his recently acquired new car. Model A??.....

...The Ukrainian National Association in the U.S., in co-operation with other Ukrainian American organizations are making plans on having a statue-monument erected in Washington, D.C.....Ukrainian film star Jack Palance will be seen shortly in "Kimberley" a story about the South African diamond fields, as well as three other movies he made outside the U.S.....

.....Before beginning an extensive tour of Europe, the Bandurist Chorus of Detroit will appear at Toronto's Massey Hall, October 16th. The group's repertoire will include many new songs.....West Toronto UNYF invites everyone in and around the Toronto area to a pre-halloween dance to be held on October 25th.....At the UYUNA Convention in Cleveland, Miss Oksana Martyniuk of Windsor UNYF was chosen Miss Ukraine. Congratulations, Oksana!.....Remember to make plans now to attend the UNYF 25th Anniversary Convention in July 1959.

.....Bye now.....

"Here is my two dollar membership fee for 1958 - getting MYH Beams each month is well worth it (it provides me with a Ukrainian stimulus that I can't find elsewhere).

"The "Photo Notes" section of MYH Beams is an enthusiastic piece of work and adds quite a bit of color to this big-little publication. The exciting and diversified tid bits in "The Rambler" section always have me peering there first!

"I would like to repeat a suggestion I made some time ago to the former administration of M.B. but didn't seem to meet their approval, and that is, start up a "gab sheet" or "pen pal page" where, say, due to limited space, you would select one or two of the best letters from the mail and print in full giving writer's full name and address etc. and the other members' letters just fill in their name address, hobbies and possibly more important personal data, in about one or two columns. This would stimulate a correspondence club which would keep all members writing to and fro exchanging ideas on club money-making activities, concert themes, new meeting incentives, etc.

-DON PRODANYK

"... the Editorial on Ukrainian in Alberta high schools last month was good. "Is Franko's birthday on September 27? Probably I can't remember right but I thought it was in August.

-JENNIE HARMANSKY

Our apologies to Jennie and other sharp eyed readers. Franko's birthday is on AUGUST 27 not September as reported last month. -Ed.

Muscovy-Old Name of Russia, continued

Famous authors such as John Milton titled a work of his not with Russia but "Brief History of Moscovia." Voltaire said that Muscovy was the old name of Russia. It should be commented that translators of Voltaire's 'Charles XII' have violated the text with every succeeding edition by eliminating the 'Muscovy' and 'Muscovite' used by him and replacing it with 'Russia' and 'Russian'. Another book "Russia: Its Plans of Conquest Revealed by a Rusinian" .. (London 1854) uses the words 'Moskwa' and 'Moskwaits' for the Russians and "Rus", "Rusin" for the Ukrainians. This, incidentally, is the oldest book in English by a Ukrainian author which is known to us.

Maps of the XVIth and XVIIth centuries often used Muscovy or variations of it. For example, see the map on page 10 of this issue.

Finally, we would like to offer evidence which confirms our viewpoint in the form of the illustrations of coins on page 5. Minted by Tsar Peter I, it shows that in 1707 he used 'Muscovite' to describe the money. Hence this name would apply to the people and state. Later, in 1710 he changed it to 'Russian'. 1709 was the year of the battle of Sweden and Ukraine led by King Charles XII and Hetman Ivan Mazepa against Muscovy in which Tsar Peter defeated them. It appears that with this victory he "rechristened" his nation, as one writer put it.

We conclude then, that there is substantial evidence in language, dictionaries, books, maps and coins for the thesis that 'Muscovite' and 'Muscovy' were the original names of the Russian people and their early state.

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