

VF Ukraine

# UKRAINIAN WEEK

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



*Ukrainian Students' Club*  
*of*  
*McGill University*

*UKRAINIAN WEEK*  
*SOUVENIR PROGRAMME*  
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# *Ukrainian Week*

*November 2nd - 7th, 1953.*

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# *Why - a Ukrainian Week?*

In speaking to the Alpha Omega Club, a club which is our counterpart at the University of Saskatchewan, Professor G. W. Simpson, Dean of the Department of History and honorary president of the club, once said: "A group feeds on its traditions as an individual feeds on his memories. A man without a memory cannot act intelligently . . . an intelligent group feeds on its past.

To dissociate oneself with the past involves two dangers; firstly, you are deliberately throwing aside a great potential value in life and it is impossible to throw away a tradition without becoming contemptuous of all tradition. Secondly, you are deliberately cutting yourself off from a large wealth of group experiences which is food for the future."

Canada is a young and growing nation. It is the result of extensive immigration from all corners of the earth, and most of all from Europe. The English, the French, the Welsh, the Scots, the Irish, the Germans, the Ukrainians, the Dutch, the Baltic and Scandinavian peoples and practically every other nationality you can name, in larger or smaller numbers have made Canada their home, while their first and successive generations are Canadians by birth. The cultures and traditions of all these peoples and nationalities, like streams and brooks from many mountains, all join and flow together to make a large river — a new Canadian nation and a new Canadian culture. In the words of the poet, Emerson, "all are needed by each one, nothing is good or fair alone".

St. Augustine said in "The City of God", "A nation is an association of reasonable beings united in a peaceful sharing of the things they cherish; therefore, to determine the quality of a nation, you must consider what those things are."

It is to help our fellow students and members of McGill University to get a glimpse of things we "cherish" and as "reasonable beings" wish to add to the contributions we must all make to make Canada a still better and greater nation, and Canadian culture a stronger and richer culture, that we have organized and present to you — THE UKRAINIAN WEEK.

To my executive and fellow club-members:

*Without you . . . the Ukrainian Week would not have been possible.*

*From you . . . I have received co-operation and encouragement.*

*To you . . . therefore, I owe my sincerest thanks.*

LUBA SLUZAR

*President, Ukrainian Students'  
Club of McGill University.*

# Our Club Activities



Make it tight !

look at the birdie !

m-m-m good  
aren't we nice

"Grand Finale "

a little higher please

hard work this !

# *The Ukraine*

## *Its Past and Present*

by Gordon Panchuk, M.B.E.

Head of the Ukrainian Section  
of the CBC Voice of Canada

In The Foreword to his most recent book, "Ukraine Under The Soviets", Professor Clarence A. Manning of Columbia University, makes this significant statement, "It is no exaggeration to say that the Russian Communists have used Ukrainian land and the Ukrainian population as the laboratory for their future conquests. It is there, among the Ukrainian people, that Lenin and his associates worked out their program of disintegration, infiltration, conquests, exploitation and russification that they have employed so successfully since the end of World War II. It has cost the Ukrainians dearly to serve as this laboratory. By the millions, they have perished of starvation, execution and deportation, and the other peoples of Central and Eastern Europe are meeting the same fate".

In this connection it is worth quoting here another most significant statement by an outstanding journalist and scholar of the Soviet system and International world problems, Paul Winterton, when he said that "there are no experts on Soviet Russia — only varying degrees of ignorance".

One of the very early victims of this situation have been and still are some forty-five million Ukrainian people. Other victims are the Georgians, the Armenians, the Byelorussians, in fact over 52 percent of the population of the USSR WHO ARE NOT RUSSIAN, followed more recently by the Estonians, the Latvians, the Lithuanians, the Poles, the Czechs, the Scovaks, the Hungarians, the Roumanians, the Bulgarians, etc and going on to the East Germans, the North Koreans, and the Chinese.

One of the world's great (perhaps greatest) geographers, Mackinder, declared that "he who rules the heartland rules the world". The heartland is that area of 359,047 square miles, which falls north of the Black Sea, bordered by the Carpathian Mountains on the West, and the Caucasian Mountains on the East, and cradled by the Dnieper and Dniester Rivers, inhabited by the same people whose ancestors have held the territory for over a thousand years.

Napoleon appreciated the importance of Ukraine by making that his first aim in his march Eastward. Hitler based his entire Eastern campaign on the strategy of conquering this Ukrainian heartland.

Since first adopting Christianity in 988, Ukraine has had at least three outstanding separate periods of freedom, independence and fair prosperity. The first of those periods was from the ninth to the thirteenth century. During these 300 years, Ukraine was a powerful cultured nation, one of the foremost in Europe. Rus was its popular name then, but the people were the same as those there today and Kiev was and still is the traditional capital. Moscovy (which later took the name Russia) came into existence centuries later, waged aggressive war against its Southern neighbour Ukraine (Rus), and in time appropriated (or attempted to appropriate), not only the name, but also the history, the people, the heroes, the saints, the culture and the whole estate. But even outstanding Russian historians like Kluchevsky, admit that these two separate regions are inhabited by two separate and different nations and are entirely separate and different from one another.

The second period of Ukrainian independence and prosperity was the Cossack period during the second half of the seventeenth century. Hetman Chmelnitsky, the most outstanding of the Cossack Hetmans, was not only a contemporary of Cromwell, but extensively corresponded with Cromwell. Unable to wage continuous and simultaneous war against the Tartars, the Turks, the Poles, and the Moscovites, Hetman Chmelnitsky concluded an alliance with Moscovia. What the Communists all never mention, and most Russians conveniently tend to "overlook", is that the alliance was as between equals, but Moscovia was faithless and sent overwhelming forces into Ukraine, which she eventually annexed. For centuries, the Cossacks continued to revolt at frequent intervals, but never with complete success.

The third and most recent period of independence was following World War I, when all the nationalities of the falling and disintegrating Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires independently set up their own national states. Like the Poles and the Czechs and Slovaks, the Baltic nations, the Yugoslavs and most of the other nations in Central and East Europe, the Ukrainians too chose freedom and democratic independence and enjoyed these attributes of a sovereign state until completely overrun by the Russian Communist forces, Ukraine became one of the earliest satellites of the Soviet system and regime centred in Moscow. World War II brought the same fate to those same sister nations which had enjoyed independence for ten or fifteen years longer than did the Ukrainians, and once again the "smaller" non-Russian nations are all enslaved.

In today's battle (hot or cold), for freedom, which is of world-wide importance, most students of Central and East European affairs realize that a sound international society and a free democratic Europe built on the basis of free voluntary union of free peoples united in their resistance to aggression and in their determination to achieve justice cannot ignore or treat lightly the Ukrainian state and people, who on every occasion have proved their inseparable bonds with the Western World.



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## UKRAINIANS IN CANADA by M.J. Diakowsky, M.A.

Wasył Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, the forerunners of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, arrived in this country in September, 1891, from Nebyliv, a village in Western Ukraine, then part of Austria. They went to Manitoba to work during the harvest and after acquiring homesteads Pylypiw pushed on to Alberta to explore the possibilities of settlement there. He returned to Manitoba determined that Canada was a promised land for the land-hungry peasant, and again leaving, Eleniak returned to Europe that same winter. Back home he told his listeners about Canada, of the vast prairies untouched by the plow and how land, acres and acres of it, was to be had for the asking. "Canada fever" gripped the villagers and to combat the epidemic authorities clapped the carrier of the infection, Pylypiw, into jail for sedition.

Meanwhile some of his fellow-villagers left for Canada. The first settlements were founded in the districts around Star and Chipman in Alberta.

Early hardships did not deter them and soon the trickle of immigration became a stream and the stream a river as immigrants bringing with them their families came to begin life anew in this country.

The areas in which they first founded their "block settlements" have a population largely of Ukrainian origin. Such districts as Vegreville in Alberta, Battleford and Yorkton in Saskatchewan, and Dauphin and Stuartburn in Manitoba are even today centres of Ukrainian population.

\* \* \*

As early as 1913 a Ukrainian was elected to the Alberta Legislature, the first in the British Empire. Another was elected in 1915 in Manitoba and since then the Legislatures of the Prairie Provinces have seen an increasing number of members of Ukrainian origin sit. Canadians of Ukrainian origin have sat too in the House of Commons. One of these, the present Member for Vegreville, was a member of the Canadian delegation at the U.N.O., while a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, N. V. Bachynsky, has been Speaker of that body.

At the present time, four members of Parliament in Ottawa trace their origin to Ukraine.

In other fields, too, Ukrainians are prominent. Their greatest success has been in agriculture for almost a half of the gainfully-occupied Canadians of Ukrainian origin are in agriculture. In 1941 there were over 50 of them who were engaged by Federal and Provincial departments of agriculture and out of 54 agricultural prizes won that year by Alberta, 29 went to farmers of Ukrainian origin. Other achievements include many firsts at provincial and Dominion agricultural shows, as well as several world championships.

Nor have the scientific aspects of agriculture been neglected for there are many Ukrainians engaged in research in various phases of agriculture today. A Ukrainian scientist, who came to Canada after the First World War was largely responsible for the setting up of the Department of Applied Plant Ecology of the University of Saskatchewan.

In the professions, too, they have an enviable record. Many today are teachers and principals of schools; a number of lawyers of Ukrainian origin can now add K.C. to their name, while two have become district judges. Ukrainians are lecturing in almost every major Canadian university on a variety of subjects ranging from ichthyology to Slavic history. Many of the most recently arrived have already made their own valuable contribution in various fields.

According to the census of 1951, there were 395,000 persons of Ukrainian origin in this country at that time. Of these, 13,000 were in the Province of Quebec. The majority of this number lived in Montreal and district.



*SCOPE*  
and  
*Ukrainian Students'*  
*Club*  
of *McGill University*

presents

*Donna Grescoe*

**Violin Virtuoso**

Donna Grescoe is of Ukrainian ancestry and was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1927. When she was only eight years old, Donna attracted widespread attention as a child prodigy and was acclaimed a "wonder" and a "musical genius". At the age of ten, she won a \$5,000 scholarship from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and went there to study. While playing her original \$5.00 fiddle at a musicale, a violin-maker in the audience was so impressed with her playing that he presented her with a \$1,000 instrument of his own collection. Later, Donna returned to Winnipeg and at the annual music festival in 1942, she received the highest rating the judges had ever given. Arthur Benjamin, eminent British pianist and composer, in presenting the award to the fourteen-year-old violonist, repeated Schumann's famous tribute to Brahms: "Hats off, gentlemen, a genius!"

At about this time, a group of her townspeople in Winnipeg established the "Donna Grescoe Educational Trust Fund" in order to enable Donna to go to New York for further study under Mishel Piastro, famous violonist and former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

On February 3rd, 1947, Donna made her New York debut in Town Hall, and in January, 1948, at the age of 20, made her debut at Carnegie Hall with very prominent persons in attendance. The consensus of critical opinion is that Donna has a "controlling musical intelligence and taste" and "has already reached a high point of development technically," that she is an "uncommonly talented girl" and a "highly exceptional violonist," intellectual mastery and breadth of style" were among the attributes ascribed to her by New York newspaper critics and magazine editors.

Lynn Cook, the well known Canadian writer of children's books, felt the need among young people for books whose heroes and heroines were real people, not much older than themselves, who had conquered the problems that beset the road to success. After much research, Donna Grescoe was chosen as the heroine of Lynn Cook's latest book, published by the Macmillan Co. in November of 1951 and titled: THE LITTLE MAGIC FIDDLER.

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*Concert Programme*  
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1. SONATA in A major

*Allegro*

*Tema con variazioni* .....W. A. MOZART (1756-1791)

2. CONCERTO in D major

*Allegro moderato*

*Canzonetta: Andante*

*Finale: Allegro vivacissimo* .....P. TSCHAIKOWSKY (1840-1893)

I N T E R M I S S I O N

3. RITUAL FIRE DANCE .....MANUEL de FALLA (1876-1946)

PRELUDE in G minor .....S. RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)

NOCTURNE .....F. CHOPIN (1810-1849)

RIGOLETTO PARAPHRASE .....VERDI-LISZT  
(1813-1901) (1811-1885)

LEOPOLD MITTMAN *at the Piano*

4. ESTRELLITA .....PONCE-HEIFETZ (1886-1948) (1901- )

CARMEN FANTASIE .....BIZET - SARASATE  
(1838-1875) (1884-1908)

BARCAROLLE .....TSCHAIKOWSKY - SAENGER  
(1840-1893) (1865-1935)

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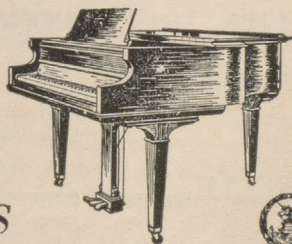
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## Ukrainian Culture

Although it is a synthesis of various elements (Indo-European, Iranian, Altaic, Byzantine, Slavic and Western European), Ukrainian culture today possesses a stamp of its own. Its most characteristic feature is that it is deeply rooted in the ordinary life of the common people. It is, therefore, even today, predominantly a peasant culture. To say this does not in any way diminish its stature; on the contrary, at a time when the modern culture of the cities is undergoing such an acute spiritual crisis, the culture of Ukraine may offer an example of more permanent values.

The folk culture of Ukraine has been little studied abroad. In its outward manifestations (songs, dances, embroideries, carving, ceramics, weavings, etc.) it may seem, to the uninitiated, not very different from other folk cultures of Europe. The external forms of this culture have become a meaningless display even to many of the Ukrainian settlers in Canada, who perform them ritually without knowing their history or spiritual significance.

What, then, are its deeper values? Ukrainian culture has developed and preserved a way of life which has its own unmistakable characteristics. It might best be described as contemplative and creative, rather than active. Not only does Ukrainian folk art reflect these qualities, but Ukrainian literature, philosophy, and art do so as well. All have reached today a state of definite maturity, but they have not lost a very deep bond with the people. That is why, for instance, Shevchenko is above all a people's poet, whose art springs from the people's wisdom, their search for justice and truth, and their language, the folksong.

What of the Ukrainian contribution to world culture? If it has not been as extensive as that of other nations, this is because of the absence of a state, within which Ukrainian culture could develop freely. The oppression which for centuries has stifled Ukrainian culture is responsible for its slow development. Indeed, Ukraine's neighbors, while liberally borrowing from her cultural heritage, have continually thwarted its growth with a hostile and aggressive spirit. The warlike conquerors of Ukraine, both past and present, could not tolerate a culture of peaceloving peasants. However, it has survived, in spite of these difficulties, and offers hope for the future.

The study of Ukrainian culture offers wide scope to students of history, anthropology and literature. Aided by modern methods of cultural anthropology, a most valuable contribution might be made to the understanding both of the present role of Ukraine in European history, and of the background and characteristics of Ukrainian settlers in Canada.

GEORGE LUCKYJ

*Assistant professor, Department of  
Slavic studies, University of  
Toronto.*

*"Strive and you shall conquer!"*

Taras Shevchenko

*"Only he can know no hate  
Who all his life has never loved."*

Lesya Ukrainka

*"Seek not misfortune for it will inevitably search you out."*

—an old Ukrainian proverb.

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## Non-Ukrainians about Ukraine :-

~~~~~  
"L'Ukraine a toujours aspiré à la liberté."

Charles Voltaire, *Histoire de Charles XII* (1731).

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"For six hundred years . . ." writes H. Hessel Tiltman in his book on "Peasant Europe"<sup>(1)</sup>, "they (Ukrainians) have fought to remain Ukrainian. They have preserved their own distinctive language, their own Church, their own clothes, their high state of husbandry. And, at the end of that fight for centuries, as at the beginning, they face the world undaunted alike by poverty, persecution, and repression — demanding the right of 43 millions of people having a common stock and a common life to rule themselves. That demand may be resisted for a year, a generation or a hundred generations. But at the end of that time the Ukrainian people will still be asking their freedom. And there will be neither lasting peace nor the reign of justice in Eastern Europe until that right is granted, and the alien troops withdrawn, leaving the Ukraine to control its own destinies and enrich all the peasant lands by its example."

H. Hessel Tiltman, "Peasant Europe" Jarrolds, London, 1934.

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"The Ukrainian Soviet Republic has been admitted to the United Nations as an independent state, but its representatives are the most subservient and handpicked representatives of the will of Moscow. There is something paradoxical in this situation for at one and the same time it has insured for the first time in centuries that Ukraine appears in its full area on the map of the world. This is a tribute to the success that the Ukrainian revival has had during the last century and a half, from that time when it seemed as if it was irreparably fated to disappear. On the other hand the Soviets, continuing the tradition of the Russian Empire, have decided that all those qualities that have marked Ukrainian history are to be eradicated and replaced by their own conceptions. For a quarter of a century Ukraine has been the testing ground for the Russian Soviet theories of government. They have destroyed millions of lives and thousands of historical monuments but they have not quenched the Ukrainian determination which was manifest at the time of Yaroslav and the Kiev rulers to play their part in Western civilization and to follow those ideals which marked the development of free institutions in Europe".<sup>(2)</sup>

Clarence A. Manning, Ph.D., "Outline of Ukrainian History" 1949.

*AUTOGRAPHS*

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# *Ukrainian Week*

## *Calender of Events*

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- (1) Arts and Crafts Exhibit  
Nov. 2nd-5th — Redpath Library.
- (2) Presentation of Ukrainian records to the McGill Music Club  
Nov. 3rd, — 1:00 P.M. — McGill Union Club Room.
- (3) Concert featuring DONNA GRESKOE, violin virtuoso, sponsored by  
*SCOPE*  
Nov. 5th, — 8:30 P.M. — Moyses Hall (Arts Building)
- (4) Presentation of books on Ukrainian Culture to the Redpath Library  
Nov. 6th, — 5:00 P.M. — McGill Union Club Room.
- (5) GRAND BALL (semi-formal) at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel  
Nov. 7th, 1953.

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