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## "Carpathia" and Renaissance of Regional Historical and Cultural Heritage in Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia, Ukraine)

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### Abstract

*The article is dedicated to the Agency of researches of regional society "Carpathia", regional and cultural traditions and the reproduced materials (old books and newspapers) in the electronic format. Our main goal is to save interesting publications, photo illustrations and documents, and also to enrich the cultural treasure of the Transcarpathian region (Zakarpattia, Ukraine).*

**Keywords:** *Transcarpathia, Zakarpattia, Ukraine, Agency of researches of regional society "Carpathia", regional and cultural traditions, the reproduced materials in electronic format, project "InovEduc".*

The idea of preserving and enriching the cultural heritage of region, adjacent geographically, but close spiritually and historically is an essential component of inter-regional cooperation. It should be noted that the issue of revival of cultural and historical values is actual for the adjacent Slovakian and Ukrainian regions and apparently requires common approaches to the principles and methods of presentation of the best samples and continuous exchange of experience in this field.

In this sphere works the Agency of researches of regional society "Carpathia", which was established in 2012 as an independent public organization in Uzhhorod (Transcarpathia / Zakarpattia, Ukraine). Although it has a regional status, but the extents of its creative initiatives are generally wider. "Carpathia" helps monitoring, study and analyze topical issues of Ukrainian, regional and interregional development, fulfill direct contacts and common research projects with research and scientific and educational institutions of Ukraine and the countries of Central Europe, and also is involved in the organization of historical, cultural, political and sociological researches [1].

*The main tasks of the Agency "Carpathia" are the following:*

- study of public society, social, political, cultural, educational and spiritual development of the Transcarpathian region;
- monitoring of the actual regional issues;
- research of the various spheres of social life in the region and its dynamics;
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- conducting of surveys, questionnaires and other methods of political research with the aim to identify public opinion on issues of public life;
- realization of rating cuts of political and social organizations;



- development of statistical and expert analysis;
- realization of publishing and other kinds of activities, including the publishing of scientific series "Studia Regionalistica";
- organization of connection between the citizens and the local authorities to assess the effectiveness of state and regional policy;
- realization of direct contacts and common scientific projects with research, scientific and educational institutions of Ukraine and foreign countries [2].

The Agency conducted sociological surveys in the areas of:

- formation of civil society, political culture and mentality in a multi ethnic region;
- identification of the level of public interest in the political processes, participation in the delegation of its authority to elected representatives;
- analysis and forecasting of demand and supply for labor;
- monitoring of historical, cultural, educational and pedagogical problems [3].

Particular attention should be paid to the problem of preserving historical and cultural heritage in the region. In particular, the "Carpathia" started the campaign for preservation and reproduction of distinctive regional publications by electronic digitizing of printed materials of Transcarpathian region. It is entitled "Historical and cultural heritage of Transcarpathia". Thereby we call: "Do not be indifferent to the past! Support the Future!" [4].



Figure 1: Digitization campaign banner

The action is caused by the fact that nowadays a significant number of valuable published sources, including periodicals, popular scientific, cultural, educational and other publications that were published in our region in XIX – in the beginning of XX centuries, are unknown not only for the general reader but also for professionals.

Inaccessibility of original sources for contemporaries significantly reduces the possibility of transmission to the young generation of the best examples of historical and cultural heritage of Transcarpathia deprives to present on a high-level cultural achievements of the peoples who live here. In addition, this problem is poorly understood and virtually unknown to the general public, not only in our region but also in Ukraine and adjacent regions of neighboring countries.

Therefore "Carpathia" promotes original publication of the past, and for the first time makes them actually available in full to the public. The final result will be addressed not only to the qualified

readers, scholars, researchers of history, culture, education, journalism, writing, publishing, and also student and school youth.

The implementation of this noble mission allows readers not only to read the original text, but also to work with the source for further studies, compare the substance of the text with the historical course of events in the development of the region.

With the reproduced materials in electronic format we have an opportunity to present on education and cognitive internet portal "zaKarpattia" ("заКарпатія") (www.zakarpattia.com), where they will be stored and available for present and future generations.

Screenshots from the site



Figure 2: Carpathia web site header

For example, we have already processed a batch of brochures under the title "Books of Ruthenian" ("Knyzhky Rusyna") on educational topics that were initiated by the editorship of Uzhhorod newspaper "Ruthenian" ("Rusyn") in 1923. Publication of pocket thematic books was carried out with the assistance of the vice-governor of Pidkarpatska Rus – Peter Erenfeld. In publishing editorial were working F. Tihyi, V. Hrendzha-Donskyi, A. Shtefan, A. Voron, M. Kachaniuk.

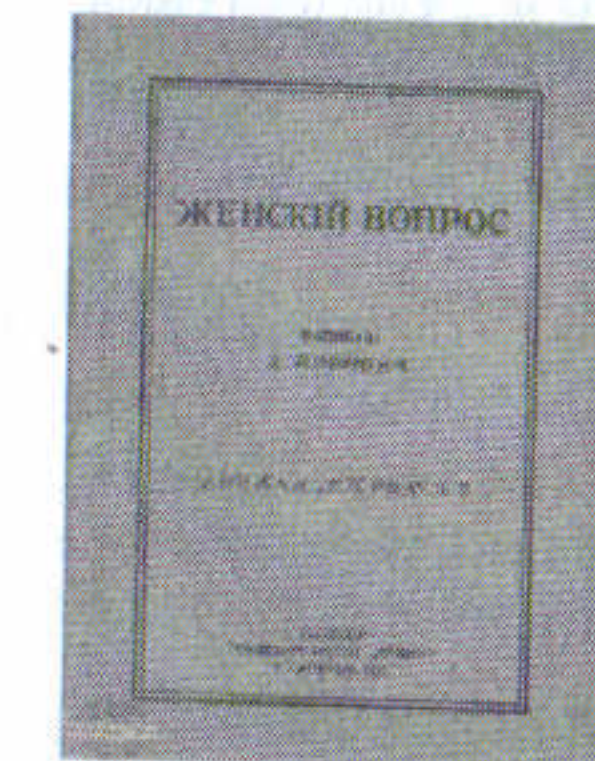


Figure 3: Cover page of book "Woman's question"

The book "Woman's question" ("Zhenskii vopros") written by Dmytro Popovych was published in Uzhhorod in 1923 under the № 9 of the series "Books of the Ruthenian" ("Knyzhky Rusyna"). In the contents: an old question in a new century, the ideal goals of a happy life, mutual respect in family life, the gift of motherhood, a woman's place in society before and after the adoption of Christianity, a woman in politics, modern feminism, etc. The edition was edited by Francisk Tihyi (Frantishek Tihyi).



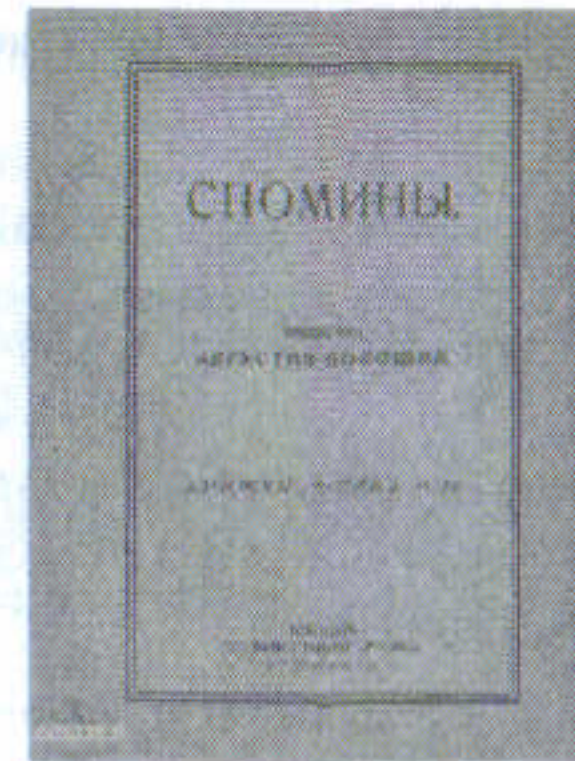


Figure 4: Cover page of book “Memories”

The book “Memories” (“Spomyny”) written by Augustyn Voloshyn was published in Uzhhorod in 1923 № 10 of the series “Books of the Ruthenian” (“Knyzhky Rusyna”). In the contents: information on the establishment of “St. Basil (Vasyl) the Great Society” and the stock company “Unio”, church history and the beginnings of regional periodicals, the foundation of Uzhhorod Ruthenian People's Council (Uzhhorodska Ruska Rada). The edition was edited by Francisk Tihyi (Frantishek Tihyi).

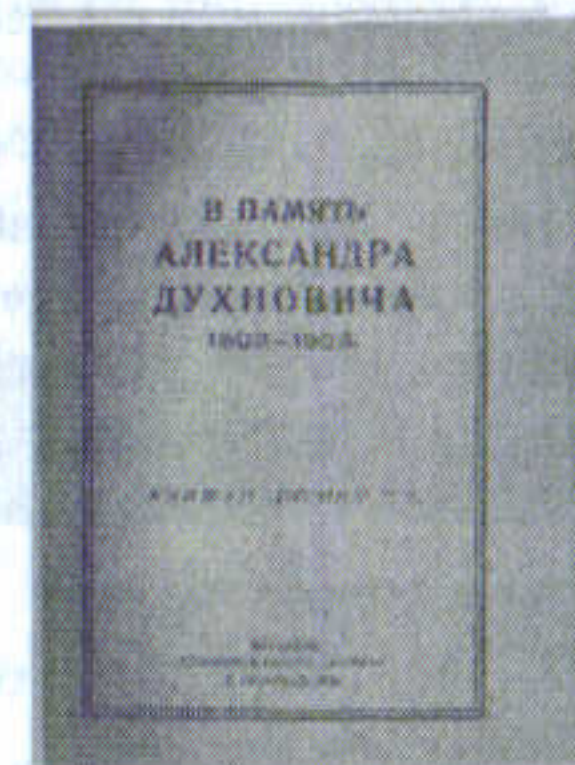


Figure 4: Cover page of book “In memory of Aleksander Dukhnovych. 1803 – 1923”

The book “In memory of Aleksander Dukhnovych. 1803 – 1923” (“V pamiat Aleksandra Dukhnovycha”) was published in Uzhhorod in 1923 under the № 8 of the series “Books of the Ruthenian” (“Knyzhky Rusyna”). In the contents: articles about arouser author and his works. The publication was edited by Francisk Tihyi (Frantishek Tihyi).

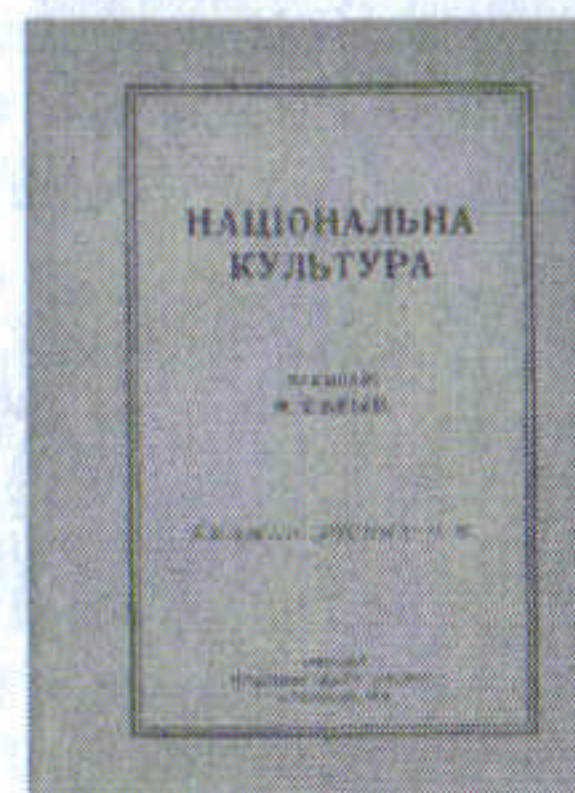


Figure 5: Cover page of book “National Culture”

The book of M. Siroho “National Culture” (“Natsionalna kultura”) was published in Uzhhorod in 1923 under the № 16 of the series “Books of the Ruthenian” (“Knyzhky Rusyna”).

We also made available pedagogical periodicals – professional newspapers and journals for teachers of Pidkarpatska Rus, which were published by professional associations. Among them are periodical publications under the titles: “Teacher” (“Uchytel”), “Teacher's voice” (Uchytelskyi holos”), “Our School” (“Nasha shkola”), “People's School” (“Narodna shkola”) [5].



Figure 5: Front page of newspaper “Teacher”

Therefore, our collaboration draws attention of contemporaries to the little-known pages of multifaceted life of Transcarpathia, returns from oblivion dozens of famous and unjustly forgotten names of great personalities of social, political, religious, spiritual, cultural, educational, journalistic and publishing life of Transcarpathian region.

We have a goal – to save interesting publications, photo illustrations, documents, and to enrich the cultural treasure of the region!

However, we are extremely interested in interregional cooperation with our Slovak partners towards the preservation and restoration of cultural and historical heritage, which has a large number of common characteristics. In particular, we have great hopes for the realization of the project “InovEduc”, which largely serves as a prop for our common aspirations for the enrichment of regional and cultural traditions and also the methods of its reproduction in the educational sphere.

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