



NEWS

Spring 2005

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HURI and the Ukrainian Elections

Ukraine's recent presidential elections are the latest chapter in its struggle for democracy that began with the independence achieved so suddenly in 1991. In many ways, the developments now taking place in Ukraine resemble those in Eastern Europe in 1989 and 1990, with equally important implications both for the internal evolution of Ukrainian politics and society and for Ukraine's geopolitical role in the twenty-first century. Here at the Institute we realize the importance of events in Ukraine and are committed to presenting relevant information and perspectives to the broader public.

During this exciting time, HURI has been actively disseminating information and providing expert opinion on the elections to media outlets around the world. Roman Szporluk, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History, wrote an important piece in the *Wall Street Journal*, European Edition, on October 28, 2004, "Showdown in the Borderland." The article was reprinted on the Ukraine List Serve, #255. On November 24, 2004, Professor Szporluk's comments on the crisis in Ukraine were published in the article "The Crisis in Ukraine: A Historian's Perspective" on the

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Gene Fishel Discusses the "Orange Revolution"

On December 2, 2004, members of the Harvard and Ukrainian communities came together for a long-awaited session of the Ukraine Study Group to discuss the ongoing crisis surrounding the presidential elections in Ukraine. At the time of the meeting, it had been only one day since the Rada had presented then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych with a no-confidence vote, and the Supreme Court of Ukraine had not yet invalidated the results of the November 21 runoff.

The meeting featured a talk by Gene Fishel, Senior Analyst, U.S. Department of State, who presented his personal views on the elections. Regarding the runoff contest, he stated in no uncertain terms that "the election was stolen." In Fishel's words, the inability of Ukraine's



Gene Fishel lectures at a meeting of the USG

government to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections was an "act of violence upon the Ukrainian people."

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See pages 8–9 for
complete coverage of the
AAASS Convention held in
Boston

Solovey Presents Jacyk Memorial Symposium Lecture

This year's Petro Jacyk Memorial Symposium featured a discussion of Volodymyr Svidzins'kyi, a Ukrainian poet and translator of classical and modern European works. Dr. Eleonora Solovey-Honcharyk of the Institute of Literature at the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, who is also this year's Jacyk Distinguished Fellow at HURI, lectured on the poet's life and work.

During his lifetime Svidzins'kyi published two collections of lyrical poetry, both of which were denounced by Marxist critics as "decadent" and "petty bourgeois." Although he was highly esteemed by his literary peers, Svidzins'kyi was practically unknown to Ukrainian readers. He died tragically in 1941, having been arrested by the Soviet secret police.

Svidzins'kyi's name was purged from all Soviet textbooks and anthologies. Now, sixty years after the poet was killed and all his works obliterated, there is a growing awareness of his



Volodymyr Svidzins'kyi

stature as a major poet, a profound and subtle modernist who managed to bring together his national sensibility, the beauty and discipline of classical form, and the free spirit of European experimentation.

As one of the leading experts on Svidzins'kyi, Solovey compiled, edited, and wrote commentaries to a two-volume edition of Svidzins'kyi

works and letters—by far the fullest compilation of the poet's work. The volumes are published by Krytyka Press (see page 9 for more on the book's launch at the AAASS Convention).

At the symposium Solovey spoke about the complex relationship between Pavlo Tychyna and Svidzins'kyi, probably the most interesting and influential Ukrainian poets of the twentieth century. Other participants in the symposium were Dr. Ihor Papusha ("Ivan Franko and Sigmund Freud: Analogies and Interpretations") and Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky ("Life Creation' and Ukrainian Modernist Writing"). Summing up the discussion, George Grabowicz, Dmytro Čyževs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard, offered his insights on the idea and the context of symbolic autobiography, on the nature of a national poet, and on the way romanticism and symbolism coexisted in the literatures of various Slavic lands.

Donetsk University Rector Visits HURI

The rector of Donetsk National University, Volodymyr Shevchenko, visited HURI on December 7–8, 2004. A distinguished mathematician, Rector Shevchenko has headed the university since 1986.

The occasion for this visit was the rector's participation in the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, held this year in Boston. Because Donetsk University is slated to host the next conference of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies in summer 2005, the rector wished to observe the organization of a large-scale conference in the West, and to meet American scholars who study Ukraine.



Volodymyr Shevchenko

In addition to panel discussions, Rector Shevchenko took part in the HURI-organized evening of poetry reading by Oleh Lysheha and the book presentation of Eleonora Solovey's publication of Volodymyr Svidzins'kyi's works. (For more on these events, see pp. 8–9.)

Rector Shevchenko was also interested in seeing the facilities and resources at Harvard, especially Widener and Houghton Libraries, the Fogg Art Museum, the HURI library, and its publications office. A meeting with the Institute's director, Michael Flier, and conversations with the scholars and staff of HURI provided an opportunity to discuss mutual scholarly interests and future cooperative ventures.

On December 8, the rector delivered a lecture at a meeting of the Ukraine Study Group on the state of higher education in Ukraine today. The lively discussion that followed developed this theme further and ventured into more general questions about the Donbas, the center of recent controversy over the presidential elections in Ukraine.

Collaboration with scholars and academic institutions in Ukraine has been an important aspect of HURI's mission ever since Ukraine's independence made such contacts possible. The Ukrainian Research Institute over the years has hosted numerous researchers, seminar and conference speakers, teachers, and occasional lecturers at the Summer Institute. With many of them the Institute has established fruitful research and publication projects. Among the centers represented in such intellectual exchange have been Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Nizhyn, Odesa, and Vinnytsia.

Commentary: Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" by Gene Fishel

[Editors' note: This article was written before the second runoff of December 26.]

The 2004 presidential election in Ukraine is an event of major international significance. Its outcome will leave a lasting impact not only on Ukraine itself but also on its neighbors and Europe as a whole. Can Ukraine achieve a genuine post-Soviet transition rather than the largely nomenklatura-directed exercise observed heretofore? Can Russia become a normal state by jettisoning its imperial legacy as a result of Ukraine's rebirth? How will Ukraine's choice affect the diminishing area between expanding Euro-Atlantic institutions and Russia? What is Europe and where does it end?

It was not surprising that the official results of the November 21 runoff election that sparked the Orange Revolution were fraudulent and did not reflect the will of the people. All indicators pointed clearly in that direction. The Kuchma regime probably realized early in the process that its candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, could not win a free and fair election against opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko. As a result, the playing field was tilted significantly in favor of Yanukovich during the four-month election campaign. The first round of the election, held on October 31, also left much to be desired. While official results gave Yushchenko a razor-thin lead of 0.55 percent, reliable exit polls showed a much more comfortable victory margin.

Following Yushchenko's victory in the first round and in anticipation of his expected triumph in the required runoff against Yanukovich, the authorities chose to take the low road by rigging the outcome of the second-round election in their favor. What ensued was an outright theft of the election and complete disregard for the will of the electorate. Although official results claimed that Yanukovich won by a 2.7 percent margin, reliable exit polls showed an 11 percent Yushchenko victory. The massive fraud was carried out by a number of means: opposition-appointed commissioners were illegally dismissed on the eve of the election; observers representing the various opposition parties were denied access to polling stations in many regions; and approximately 1.5 million absentee ballots were cast, a number much higher than in previous elections. Home-voting numbers were very high as well, reportedly up to 35 percent in some districts.

The November 21 runoff election also saw impossibly high turnout rates, particularly in pro-Yanukovich regions. His home region of Donetsk claimed a turnout of 96.65 percent (compared to the 78.1 percent in the first round). The neighboring region of Luhansk reported an 89.53 percent turnout (versus 75.62 on October 31). Moreover, about a third of the Donetsk region polling stations ended up reporting turnout rates of over 100 percent. The extra votes picked up in these

two regions alone added up to about 1.1 million, an important number when one considers that Yanukovich claimed a margin of "victory" of 900,000 votes. Overall, the Committee of Voters of Ukraine claimed that 2.8 million votes were rigged through various means.

Despite such blatant falsification, the authorities did not expect a harsh reaction—but a harsh reaction, both domestic and international, is what they received. At home, hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets to protest the fraudulent results. The West's reaction left no doubt as well. The White House statement of November 23 made it clear that the United States "stands with the Ukrainian people." The next day, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced that the U.S. did not recognize the legitimacy of the official

results. The unanimity of the Western reaction must have had quite an impact on the Ukrainian leadership. It also no doubt gave hope to the growing democracy movement in Ukraine and sent a warning to those in the ruling elite and governing institutions that the Euro-Atlantic community was not indifferent to the attempted electoral theft in the geographic heart of Europe.

Subsequent developments, such as the parliamentary vote questioning the validity of the official results and the supreme court ruling throwing out those results and calling for a repeat of the runoff by December 26, suggest that the will of the Ukrainian electorate may yet be respected. Although

some have proposed a new election, thereby dragging out the electoral process and adding more fraud, the clear desire of Ukrainians to defend their constitutional right to elect their president, as well as the international community's principled position that fraud cannot stand, provides a basis for optimism, particularly if the parliament makes several key changes to create a more free, fair, and transparent electoral process. Ukraine must succeed. The price of failure would be too great: international and domestic illegitimacy, negative economic repercussions, and the creation of a new dividing line in Europe.



Gene Fishel

*Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn
Memorial Lecture*

April 11, 2005

Dominique Arel

"Understanding the Regional Factor
in Ukrainian Politics, 1994–2004"

HURI and the Ukrainian Elections

(continued from p. 1)

web magazine *Eurozine*. As a follow-up, he was interviewed by Matthew Bell on the National Public Radio (NPR) program *The World* (broadcast on 183 public radio stations across the country) on November 24, 2004. He was also a featured guest on *The Connection*, a live hour-long program nationally broadcast on NPR, on November 29, 2004.

George G. Grabowicz, the Dmytro Čyževs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature, spent most of the past semester in Ukraine. While there he appeared on several radio programs, including four live broadcasts on Channel 3 of the Ukrainian National Radio (Kanal "Kultura") which he chaired, as well as appearances on the Foreign Service of the Ukrainian National Radio, and interviews on Radio Free Europe (Prague) and Radio Era (Kyiv). Attention was also focused on the coverage of the elections in the monthly *Krytyka*, of which Professor Grabowicz is editor-in-chief. On December 15, 2004, along with the writer Jurii Andrukhovych and Serhii Kurykin, former Ukrainian minister of the environment, Professor Grabowicz took part in an open hearing at the European Parliament in Strasbourg which was sponsored by the European Green Party and devoted to the revolutionary events in Kyiv.

In a joint effort with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at University of Ottawa, the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, and the Kennan Institute, HURI is supporting the translation of Ukrainian articles about the current political situation. These appear on the Ukraine List Serve, which can be accessed by sending an e-mail to Dominique Arel (darel@uottawa.ca). Extensive news coverage can also be found on the Brama website (www.brama.com) and on the e-mail announcement list of articles maintained by Roman Senkus (r.senkus@utoronto.ca). Our own website provides links to the articles and appearances listed here and is updated as new materials become available.

In addition to articles and press appearances provided by HURI faculty, the Institute's most important means of involvement has been to guide the media to scholars and analysts best suited to address the issues raised for discussion. Many of these experts have been visiting scholars, associates, and former students at our Institute. For example, Gene Fishel, a senior analyst from the U.S. Department of State, appeared at our suggestion on the NPR program *On Point* on November 29, as did the historian Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern; and Institute associate and well-known author Askold Melnyczuk was the major source of an important op-ed piece in the *Boston Globe* by James Carroll, "Ukraine's Scream," dated November 30, 2004. Institute Director Michael Flier has also provided foreign correspondents with a list of specialists on Ukrainian politics based in Western European countries to serve as sources or consultants on BBC programs on Ukraine. Over the last few weeks of 2004, we have answered countless questions on specifics of Ukrainian history and current events.

The faculty and staff at HURI remain committed to use the Institute's resources to clarify and analyze Ukraine's history, politics, and culture for the Ukrainian community and other concerned readers worldwide.

Fishel Discusses the "Orange Revolution"

(continued from p. 1)

Russia's role in the elections was the primary concern of many audience members, and Fishel was particularly eloquent in his description of Russia's "colossal miscalculation" in supporting Yanukovych's candidacy. It is true that a victory by Yushchenko represents an opportunity for Ukraine to strengthen its ties with the West and weaken those with Russia, but at the same time Russia's economic interests would not be particularly well served by a Yanukovych presidency.



Fishel and Lubomyr Hajda

Fishel offered a few predictions, stating outright that he does not believe that Yanukovych will achieve the presidency. He expressed his strong hope that the Supreme Court would authorize a revote of the runoff election, rather than ordering an entirely new election. The latter would most likely preclude Yushchenko from running again, and would force a delay of several months that could only assist the aims of the regime. [Indeed, the Supreme Court did authorize a new runoff election, held on December 26, 2004.]

Fishel's presentation was followed by a lengthy period of debate among members of the audience and Fishel himself. There was passionate—often heated—argument as points of fact about the elections and possible scenarios for the resolution of the crisis were discussed. The possibility of Ukraine's winning membership in the European Union and NATO evoked strong reactions from everyone present, as did a comment about the possibility of partition or political split between Ukraine's eastern and western halves.

Bohdan Krawciw Memorial Symposium

May 2, 2005

George Grabowicz

Halyna Hryn

Tamara Hundorova

"Ukrainian Modernism Reconsidered:
The Literary Dimension"

Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Seminars in Ukrainian Studies

Spring 2005

Unless otherwise noted, all seminars take place from 4:00 to 6:00 PM
in the Seminar Room of the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University
1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

Program subject to change. For updates, please check the HURI website: www.huri.harvard.edu

- Monday, February 7 *Title to be announced*
Harvey Goldblatt, Professor of Medieval Slavic Literature, Yale University
- Monday, February 14 *Ukraine and Europe before and after the "Orange Revolution"*
Angela Stent, National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia, National Intelligence Council, and Professor of Government, Georgetown University (on leave)
- Monday, February 21 Holiday: Presidents' Day. No seminar.
- Monday, February 28 *History from the Bottom Up: An Oral History of the Boiko Region in the Twentieth Century*
Frank Sysyn, Director, Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research
Leonid Heretz, Associate Professor of History, Bridgewater State College
- Monday, March 7 *Collaboration and War Crime Trials in Ukraine, 1943–1953: Regional Perspectives*
Tanja Penter, Fellow, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Monday, March 14 *Logistics, Polish-Ukrainian Grain, and Russian Ambitions in the Black Sea Basin, 1737–1829*
John LeDonne, Senior Research Associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies
- Monday, March 21 *The Writer Maik Yohansen (1895–1937): Context and Legends*
Rostyslav Melnykov, Assistant Professor, Skovoroda State Pedagogical University of Kharkiv
- Monday, March 28 Spring Recess. No seminar.
- Monday, April 4 *Russia's Italy or Poland's Scotland? Toward the Meaning of Ukraine in the Romantic Age*
Serhiy Bilenky, Ph.D. candidate in History, University of Toronto and
Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute
- Monday, April 11 Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture
Thompson Room, Barker Center (12 Quincy St. on the Harvard campus)
Understanding the Regional Factor in Ukrainian Politics, 1994–2004
Dominique Arel, Associate Professor of Political Science and
Chairholder of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa
- Monday, April 18 *Narrative Models of Realism in Ukrainian Literature*
Ihor Papusha, Assistant Professor of Philology, Ternopil State Pedagogical University,
Ternopil, Ukraine, and Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute
- Monday, April 25 *Death and the Afterlife in Early Modern Ukrainian Culture*
Liliya Berezhnaya, Research Fellow, Center for Historical Studies, Central European
University, Budapest, and Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute
- Monday, May 2 Bohdan Krawciw Memorial Symposium
Ukrainian Modernism Reconsidered: The Literary Dimension
George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Čyževs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature, Department of
Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University
Halyna Hryn, Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute
Tamara Hundorova, Corresponding Member, Institute of Literature, National Academy of
Sciences of Ukraine

Dillon Named HUSI Director for 2005

Alexander Dillon, a longtime colleague of the Ukrainian Research Institute, has accepted the directorship of the thirty-fifth Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI).

A graduate of Macalester College (B.A., 1991), Dillon earned his doctorate in history from Harvard University in 2003. His work focused on the rural cooperative movement and the problems of modernization in Tsarist and post-Tsarist southern Ukraine from 1871 to 1920. In addition to the topic of cooperative movements, Dillon has written on U.S.–Ukraine relations. He is also the author of review articles published in *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*.



Alexander Dillon

During his graduate study, Dillon served as a teaching fellow in courses on the Russian Revolution with noted historian Richard Pipes; nationalism and socialism in Eastern Europe with Roman Szporluk; and Jewish life in Eastern Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with Jay Harris, professor of Jewish Studies. In his last two years of study, he held the position of tutor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of History. He is also a veteran of the HUSI program, both as a student and an assistant.

After graduating from Harvard, Dillon was a visiting assistant professor in history at the College of the Holy Cross, where he taught courses in general modern European, Eastern European, and Russian history. At present, Dillon is a Higher Education Support Program Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, where he is teaching and conducting research.

As HUSI director, Dillon will work to uphold the level of academic teaching excellence that has been the hallmark of the program over the past three and a half decades. In addition, he hopes to introduce some new and exciting elements to HUSI's evening events program, which supplements course offerings by bringing academics, politicians, and artists to HURI for weekly lectures, workshops, and performances on Ukrainian topics and arts.

HURI Announces Summer Programs for 2005

The Ukrainian Research Institute will hold its thirty-fifth Summer Institute at Harvard from June 27 through August 19, 2005.

Three instructors will offer various levels of intensive Ukrainian language (each counts as eight credit hours): Alla Parkhomenko (introductory); Yuri Shevchuk (intermediate); and Volodymyr Dibrova (advanced). In addition, students can choose courses in history, literature, and linguistics. Georgiy Kasianov, professor of humanities at the National University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, will offer "Modern Ukraine in the Twentieth Century"; George Grabowicz, Dmytro Čyževs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard, will offer "Twentieth-Century Ukrainian Literature: Rethinking the Canon"; and Michael Flier, Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology at Harvard, will teach "Ukraine as Linguistic Battleground," a course that explores the emergence of the Ukrainian language as a literary standard and its interaction with Russian on Ukrainian soil.

The Summer Institute offers a full cultural program in addition to the academic courses. Guest lecturers come from many institutions to speak on topics of interest. Theater and music



workshops are also planned. Students enrolled in HURI's program can also take advantage of cultural activities and trips offered by Harvard to all summer school students.

HUSI students are required to register for 8–12 units. Tuition for HUSI 2005 is \$2,500. Students with demonstrated financial need may qualify for fee reductions but must apply by April 15, 2005. Otherwise, the regular application deadline is May 27, 2005. For further information or a brochure, please contact Patricia Coatsworth (617-495-7833 or pcoatsw@fas.harvard.edu) at HURI. For updates, please visit the Institute's website at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>.

HURI Participates in International Education Week

On November 14–19, 2004, Harvard participated in International Education Week for the first time. International Education Week, which began in 1999, is sponsored jointly by the U.S. Departments of State and Education. As set forth in a statement issued by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, the purpose of the week “is to provide an opportunity to highlight the benefits of international education and exchange.” This goal resonates with Harvard President Lawrence Summers’ proposal that every Harvard undergraduate experience a semester abroad in order to enrich his or her worldview in this age of globalization.

As part of Harvard’s participation, each research center in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences sponsored events such as lectures, films, panels, and receptions for the Harvard student community. HURI’s contribution emphasized research on Ukrainian topics and the availability of student travel grants

through the Institute to support the costs of conducting research on topics germane to Ukrainian studies.

Amelia Glaser, currently a HURI research fellow whose stay at the Institute is supported by funds from the Michael Novak endowed gift, presented a seminar paper entitled “Trading Tales: Jewish/Slavic Exchange in the Literatures of Ukraine.” Her research explores relations between Jews and Ukrainians as reflected in Ukrainian literature during the nineteenth century.

In addition, HURI and the Korean Institute sponsored a lunch presentation by Brian Jongseong Park (Harvard Class of 2005 and recipient of a HURI Summer Research Grant in 2004), who spoke about the results of his research on Korean communities in today’s Ukraine. A native of South Korea, Park became interested in Ukraine after taking a course with Roman Szporluk, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History. His talk highlighted a demographic group that most people would not readily associate with modern-day Ukraine.

Summer Travel Grants for 2005

Every summer, the Ukrainian Research Institute offers both Harvard undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to travel abroad to conduct research projects focusing on Ukraine. Selected on the merit of proposed projects, recipients of the HURI Summer Research Travel Grant Program are awarded stipends of up to \$2,000 for graduate students and \$1,500 for undergraduates to defray the cost of travel and research expenses.

Interested students are invited to apply for travel grants through the Office of Career Services’ Summer Research Travel Grants Common Application. This form is available at the OCS Fellowships Office and on the OCS website at www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu/fellowships/summerresearchtravelgrants.htm. Forms can also be obtained at HURI.

Completed applications must be delivered to the Fellowships Office, Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, by Friday, February 28, 2004, at 12:00 p.m. Application proposals will be reviewed by HURI’s selection committee, and decisions will be announced in March.

Fall 2004 USG Roundup

The Ukraine Study Group entered its fourth year with a full program of meetings in the fall semester of 2004. This forum was created to accommodate the growing number of specialists in Ukrainian studies at Harvard. Recently, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, William Kirby, called the Ukraine Study Group (USG) a most needed and exciting new activity at HURI.

An important mission of the USG is to provide an opportunity to discuss current affairs in Ukraine. This fall the main focus in this area was on the presidential elections, with three meetings devoted to this theme. A discussion entitled “On the Eve of Ukraine’s Presidential Election,” was held on October 28, with an eastern Ukrainian perspective provided by three visitors from the city of Berdiansk. An eyewitness account and video presentation by Professor George Grabowicz were featured on November 4 at a session entitled “Ukraine’s Presidential Election, Round One: A Report and Documentation from the Scene.” A session devoted to the controversial runoff election of November 21 and the widely publicized mass protests that followed drew an overflow audience to the December 2 presentation on “Ukraine’s Presidential Election:

The Orange Revolution” by U.S. Department of State Senior Analyst Gene Fishel. (See pages 1 and 3 for additional coverage of this session.)

Two sessions of the USG were devoted to issues of education. On October 21, Serhiy Surma, founder and principal of the Kyiv Lyceum “Universum,” spoke on prospects and problems in private secondary education in independent Ukraine. Developments in higher education were the main theme of a lecture by the rector of Donetsk National University, Volodymyr Shevchenko, on December 8 (see page 2 for a report on the rector’s visit to HURI). Both sessions were conducted in Ukrainian.

Unusual perspectives on Ukrainian-Jewish relations were provided in two academic lectures. On October 14, Professor Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern (Northwestern University) spoke on the first Ukrainian-language Jewish poet of the late nineteenth century in a lecture entitled “The Construction of a Ukrainian-Jewish Identity: The Case of Hryts’ko Kernerenko.” Professor Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ivan Franko National University, Lviv) drew on long unavailable materials in his lecture, “Ivan Franko and the Jews: A Reinterpretation” on November 9.

Meetings of the USG will resume in February 2005; topics and times are posted on our website.

Keenan Panel Fires Controversy

At a AAASS roundtable discussion on December 7, 2004, Professor Edward L. Keenan defended the controversial arguments of his recent book *Josef Dobrovský and the Origins of the Igor' Tale*. The book was published jointly in 2003 by HURI and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. It is distributed by Harvard University Press.

Over 60 people attended the two-hour forum at which internationally known scholars presented papers both in support of and in opposition to Keenan's thesis. Chaired by Donald Ostrowski (Harvard University), the panel included Keenan, Ladislav Matejka (emeritus professor, University of Michigan), Simon Franklin (University of Cambridge), and Francis Thomson (University of Antwerp).

Professor Keenan is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History at Harvard University and director of Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks Research



Ladislav Matejka and Edward Keenan

its obscurities in language, imagery, and allusions.

Library and Collection in Washington, D.C. In his book he argues that the eighteenth-century Bohemian scholar Josef Dobrovský composed the *Slovo o polku Igoreve*, also known as the *Igor' Tale*. Long considered a work of the twelfth century, this poem has attracted the attention of scholars puzzled by

Continued on next page

Renowned Ukrainian Poet Reads at AAASS

The Ukrainian Research Institute invited Oleh Lysheha and his translator, James Brasfield, senior lecturer in English at Penn State, for a special literary reading, "The Poetry of Oleh Lysheha: An Evening with a Poet," held at the AAASS Convention in Boston. Because the eyes of the world were focused on Ukraine and its Orange Revolution, the event attracted wide attention and became a timely vehicle for the promotion of Ukrainian culture.

For nearly an hour the slender, tall, full-bearded poet and translator of American literature, a glass of wine in his hand, recited from memory some of his most famous poems. The



Oleh Lysheha

highlight of the evening was Lysheha's reading of "Swan," which left the audience transfixed. Brasfield's translation of this longer, darker poem earned him the Pushcart Translation Prize. Lysheha ended his presentation with a confession that he is really a sculptor, constructing his forms with words.

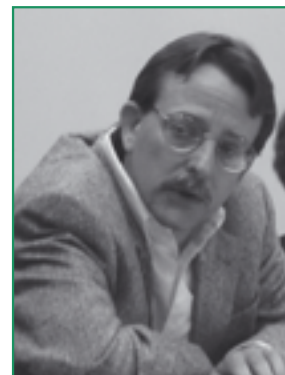
After Lysheha spoke, James Brasfield read his translations and commented on the challenges and artistic rewards of the trade. The audience's enthusiasm was genuine and contagious.

In 2000, *The Selected Poems of Oleh Lysheha* was published by HURI and received excellent reviews from such journals as *Publishers Weekly* and *World Literature Today*. The book

received the PEN America 2000 Poetry-in-Translation Prize as well as the American Association for Ukrainian Studies Translation Prize (awarded to Brasfield and Lysheha). Lysheha and Brasfield have already begun working on a second collection that will include new poems from Lysheha's most recent book *For Snow and Fire*, as well as a selection of his prose meditations from *Another Format*.

Lysheha also participated in the AAASS roundtable discussion "Translating Ukrainian Literature," in which he spoke about a work in progress entitled *America Emeralds*. This book will include his translations of Henry David Thoreau's 1851 diary, the poetry of Robinson Jeffers, and his own material based upon his stay in the United States as a Fulbright scholar in 1997–1998.

On his last full day in the Boston area, Lysheha visited places associated with Thoreau, whom the Ukrainian poet reveres as a kindred spirit and role model. Lysheha and Brasfield went to Concord, Massachusetts, to a local museum, and to Thoreau's burial place next to the graves of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Then they visited the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods in Lincoln to see some of Thoreau's drawings, manuscripts, and other artifacts. Finally, they came to Walden Pond, which has a special significance for Lysheha. The high point of this pilgrimage was to be a swim in the icy waters of the lake, but it began to snow and the hour was late. The poet decided to leave that experience for another time.



James Brasfield

HURI at the AAASS

For many readers the *Igor' Tale* represents the foundation of East Slavic literature and is therefore revered by Ukrainians, Belarusians, and Russians. To question its authenticity, therefore, is seen by many as an act approaching blasphemy. Some scholars, however, have put aside such emotional arguments in favor of questioning Keenan on his choice of evidence and the moral implications of his conclusion.

For example, Simon Franklin asked for an analysis of folkloric elements in the poem, which Keenan largely excludes from his book. Others questioned certain linguistic features in the poem, which do not appear in Dobrovský's own Slavic grammar written more than two decades after the publication of the alleged forgery. How could he have included features in the *Tale* that had escaped the notice of modern Slavic linguists and that Dobrovský himself failed to note in his grammar of 1822?

Convention

Francis Thomson took another critical approach, questioning the morality of Dobrovský's putative falsification. If indeed the Bohemian scholar did compose the *Igor' Tale*, then he must be deemed either mentally incompetent and schizophrenic or thoroughly hypocritical and a scoundrel. It turns out, we learn, that Dobrovský roundly criticized one of his own students, Václav Hanka, for perpetrating a forgery of his own, while he himself wrote reviews of the *Igor' Tale* praising it as a major work of the twelfth century.

While noting that more linguistic work still needs to be done on the *Igor' Tale*, Matejka acknowledged Keenan's efforts as a major contribution to the field of Slavic literature. As most in the audience concurred, both the poem and Keenan's analysis will continue to fuel debate for years to come.

Panel on Polish Uprising of 1863

The Ukrainian intelligentsia and their relation to the Polish insurrection of 1863 was the focus of a panel sponsored by the American Association for Ukrainian Studies. Ksenya Kiebuszinski, Petro Jacyk Bibliographer at the Institute, presented a paper on the image of Ukraine and Poland in French culture during the period in question and its reception among Polish and Ukrainian intellectuals. Johannes Remy (University of Helsinki) provided historical perspective, and Oksana Ostapczuk (Russian Academy of Sciences) spoke on matters of language. Myroslava Znayenko (Rutgers University) chaired the panel. Anna Procyk (CUNY, Kingsborough CC) and Antonina Berezovenko (Columbia University) initiated a discussion of the papers, leading to a lively response from the panelists and members of the audience. The success of the panel has resulted in a plan to continue the collaboration at the 2005 AAASS convention.

HURI and AAUS Co-Sponsor Reception and Book Presentation

On December 6, 2004, the Institute joined the American Association for Ukrainian Studies (AAUS) in sponsoring a reception commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies (IAUS, or MAU). The central part of this event was the presentation of a major new publication that is the product of joint Ukrainian and American efforts, the award-winning two-volume edition of collected writings by one of Ukraine's major Modernist poets, Volodymyr Svidzins'kyi, *Tvory u dvokh tomakh*. The book was brought out in the fall of 2004 by Krytyka Publishers in Kyiv with financial support from HURI.

This publication was compiled and edited by Dr. Eleonora Solovey-Honcharyk, the Jacyk Distinguished Research Fellow at HURI for the Fall 2004 semester. A labor of love for Solovey, this groundbreaking edition for the first time allows readers to fully appreciate the magnitude of the talent and the tragic fate of Svidzins'kyi, one of Ukraine's greatest poets of the twentieth century and arguably the only non-Sovietized literary voice in Soviet-ruled Ukraine in the 1930s. Svidzins'kyi's name was purged from official Ukrainian literary history for decades, but remained known in Ukraine to a narrow circle of specialists. Greater attention to his writing began to develop in the late 1960s thanks to an essay by another great Ukrainian poet-philosopher, Vasyly' Stus. Before this edition, the most comprehensive selection of Svidzins'kyi's poetry was published in the West in 1975 by the journal *Suchasnist'*.

The first volume collects all of the extant original poetry by Svidzins'kyi, including more than twenty poems published for the first time. It also presents a comprehensive critical biography of the poet by Solovey. The second volume contains his essays (many of them collected and republished for the first time from hard-to-find archival sources), translations, and selected letters. The edition also contains many unique illustrations.

Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky, a visiting scholar at HURI, hosted the presentation. Similar to other Ukrainian-themed events at this year's AAASS convention, it drew a large audience and was enthusiastically received.



Eleonora Solovey



Vitaly Chernetsky

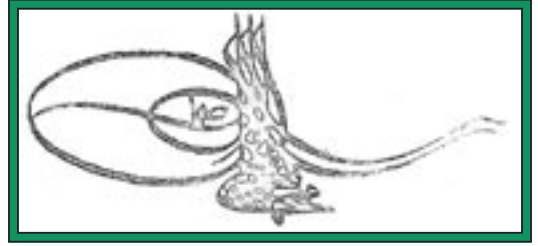
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