



Ukrainian Genealogy Group

National Capital Region

The Ukrainian Genealogist

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September UGG-NCR Webinar

"Ukrainian Iconography in Canada" by Sterling (Slavco) Demchinsky

Slavco Demchynsky is an authority on the history of church architecture, icons and religious artistic traditions in Ukrainian churches across Canada. He has made previous presentations where he shared his knowledge and experience with the members of the Ukrainian Genealogy Group.



Slavco) Demchinsky our September Speaker

In this presentation, he described the work of Ukrainian iconographers and their various styles of iconography from the pioneer years to the contemporary period. Slavco illustrated his presentation with examples of icons from his many years of research across Canada.

He began this presentation by describing the first prints in Canadian churches that were acquired from commercial sources such as store calendars. The style of the prints was often influenced by the Roman Catholic Church in Galicia and also by the Russian Orthodox

Church in Canada. Other religious prints trace their origins to the Romanian cultural influence in Bukovyna. Some of the early works were rare hand-painted icons that were created by European artists. Slavco mentioned the 'Eternal Light' style that were ordered by the early pioneers from Bukovyna.

He described some of the artists who were trained in the Galician Regional style in Greek Catholic monasteries in Galicia. Slavco also described the development of the Cossack Baroque style from the 1920s. The arrival of the Displaced Persons after the Second World War introduced new artists to the field on Ukrainian iconography in Canada. According to their brief biographies, many of the new artists settled in the large cities of eastern Canada where the Ukrainian parishes built large new churches that required religious art.

Slavco also mentioned the works of artists some of whom studied art in the Soviet Union. A few new artists were fortunate to work on major church projects across Canada. During these years, there was the revival of the Early Byzantine Revivalist style that was more in accordance with Ukrainian church traditions. There were individual iconographers who lived and worked in the United States but also worked in Canadian churches. As described by Slavco in the era of 'Anything Goes,' there were influences of the 'modernist' and 'cubist' styles from the 1960s to the 1990s.

In order to practice their profession as iconographers, individual artists also produced secular and commercial works. He noted that the most prolific artists created icons in the Byzantine Revival style because they appealed to the Ukrainian Canadian religious community.

Slavco concluded his presentation with a description of 'Today's Living Canadian Iconographers'. Today, there are iconographers in Canada that were educated in Ukraine after 1991. Most modern iconographers continue to work and restore icons in the Byzantine Revival style and several have established iconographic studios to educate new generations of church artists. From the earliest years, the Ukrainian iconographers have contributed to the preservation of church religious art and also to the development of religious styles that are now an integral component of the art of a multicultural Canada.

The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period. Slavco also answered some questions in writing.

Community Events

Saturday, Nov 4, 5:30pm

Ukrainian Night

Knights of Columbus, St. Volodymyr the Great Council #9557 will be holding a Ukrainian Night Dinner to raise money for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Vespers at 5:30 pm, cocktails at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm.

Tickets \$60.00 each.

For tickets or more information:
email kofc9557events@gmail.com
phone Paul Kozak (613-224-3551) or
Austin Leduc: (613-362-3597)

Where: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 952 Green Valley Crescent, Ottawa

Sunday, Nov 5, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

1st Ukrainian Fest (Lanark County)

Join us at the 1st Ukrainian Festival in Lanark County!

Date: November 5th

Time: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: 75 Neelin St, Carleton Place Arena, ON K7C 2V8

Program: see [here](#)

Saturday, Nov 18, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Ukrainian Christmas Market

Take home Ukrainian foods (perogies, cabbage rolls, borsch), Christmas breads & baked goods.

Unique gift items, local & imported Ukrainian handicrafts.

Where: Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 1000 Byron Ave

Saturday, Dec 2, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Christmas Bazaar (St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Shrine)

Ukrainian food, bake table, Christmas cards, gifts. Ukrainian Vintage Sale – anything and everything Ukrainian: ceramics, pottery, embroidery, weaving, wooden items, art, clothing, pysanky, books, music. Give your loved ones a gift of something Ukrainian for Christmas!

Organized by the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada, Ottawa Branch. St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 952 Green Valley Cres.

Sunday, Jan 21, 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm

The National Ballet of Ukraine (NAC)

This once-in-a-lifetime performance by the world-renowned National Ballet of Ukraine from the Taras Shevchenko National Opera House features excerpts from some of the world's greatest ballets such as Le Corsaire, Giselle, Don Quixote, while also highlighting Ukrainian culture through traditional dance.

This tour is also a benefit for the Ukrainian people and the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, will address audiences prior to the intermission via video.

For tickets and more information:
<https://nac-cna.ca/en/event/35088>