

J.B. RUDNYCKYJ — SEPTUAGENARIUS

Ottawa

1980

Montreal

Ukrainian Language Association

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A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

by

Ol'ha Woycenko

Ottawa

1980

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Ukrainian Language Association

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in tribute to
Professor J.B. Rudnyckyj —
Its Founder (1964)
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J.B. Rudnycky
(Crayon by K. Antonovych, 1960)

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SLAVISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES SLAVISTES

*This is to certify that, by authority of
the Executive Committee of the
Canadian Association of Slavists*

Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnyckyj
(M.A., Ph.D., F.I.A.A.S. (Paris))

*has been appointed an Honorary
Life Member of the Association
in recognition of his distinguished
contribution to the development
of Slavic Studies in Canada*

Signed

Philip E. Uren, President

*at Banff, Alberta
the sixth of September
nineteen hundred and
seventy four*

Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnyc'kyj was born on November 28, 1910 in Peremyšl' (then the Austrian part of Ukraine) in the family of Anthony and Julia (nee Shawala) Rudnyc'kyj. He was the second child; his sister Natalia was born in 1909 in Stryj. At that time Anthony Rudnyc'kyj was in the military service and because of his duties in Peremyšl' the family moved there from Stryj in 1909.

These prewar years were uncomplicated and promising for the young family. Both children were well tended in a warm atmosphere of love and understanding. Yet they were unspoiled; along with parental care and affection they were raised in 'semi-military' discipline. It became a rule, for example, that both children would 'report' on the day's happenings to their father when he came home from work. Although the mother-tongue at home was Ukrainian, the Rudnyc'kyjs wanted their children to be bilingual. Thus every evening after supper they sat down with their father for lessons in German, one of the official languages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Peremyšl' was a picturesque city situated on the banks of the River San, providing delightful settings for family outings. Accompanied by their parents, the children made excursions to parks, zoos, and the countryside.

The outbreak of World War I deeply affected this idyllic family life. Peremyšl' was declared one of the bastions of defence against Russia, and the civilian population was advised to look voluntarily for other places to live. Since Anthony Rudnyc'kyj was transferred to the Italian front, his wife and children returned to Stryj, taking up residence with her parents, Paul and Anna Shawala. Here, separated by a corridor from the rest of the house, they occupied a large living room and kitchen.

During the war the city of Stryj became the crossroad for army units that constantly passed through; as the front lines kept changing, masses of refugees poured in. This caused considerable hardship for the local residents; a shortage of supplies ensued and this in turn created famine. The only bright moments for the family at that time were the brief periods of togetherness when Anthony Rudnyc'kyj, on his annual leave from active service at the front, joined his wife and children. It was also during the war years that the family was increased by two sons; Romuald (born in 1916) and Alexander (1918).

In his autobiography, Jaroslav reminisces on the war years as follows:

On August 31, 1918, when Austro-Hungary was nearing its collapse, our father returned to Stryj from the Italian front and took part in the military coup on November 1, 1918 which established the Western Ukrainian Republic in the territory of Eastern Galicia. He served in the local military unit as one of the commanding officers. In 1919 he was sent to Vienna as a special courier-emissary with important messages to the 'dictator' Petrushevych in the Austrian capital. In the meantime his return to his family in Stryj became impossible because the city as well as all of Western Ukraine were occupied by the Polish Haller Army. He found his refuge with other Ukrainian units in Czechoslovakia in Nimečke Jablonne (Deutsch Gabel).

As his health began to fail, due to an illness contracted during action on the front, he was transferred to the General Hospital in Prague. He died there on November 22, 1922.¹

His widow was not given permission by the Polish government to attend the funeral. After her husband's death, Julia Rudnyc'ka continued to reside with her children in Stryj.

Adverse circumstances and difficult times ensued. In spite of them Julia did not lose sight of her main objectives — the upbringing and education of her fatherless children. Resourceful, diligent with capacity for hard work, she carried on. In time her efforts brought the expected results: Natalia completed Teachers' College and Jaroslav attended the local Ukrainian Gymnasium (High School), being one of its best students. In 1929 he registered in the Faculty of Arts at the University of L'viv.

Rudnyc'kyj's original plan was to study medicine, and it was in this field that he made his first application to the University. But due to a *numerus clausus* for non-Polish candidates his application was deferred; he was promised acceptance in one of the ensuing years. So as not to lose time, he enrolled in the Faculty of Humanities, selecting Slavistics, Philosophy and Psychology as his fields of study.

He soon realized that he was overloaded; it would be impossible to follow through in all these fields. He dropped Psychology and part of the Philosophy program, and concentrated on Slavic languages and liter-

atures, including theory of Literature and Bibliography (with Professors E. Kucharski, J. Kleiner, W. Bruchnalski and R. Ingarden); Dialectology (J. Janow and Z. Stieber); Comparative Linguistics (J. Kurylowicz); Onomastics (W. Taszycki); Experimental Phonetics (J. Czerny); and Ethnology (J. Fiszer).

In 1934 Rudnyc'kyj received his first M.A. Degree under Professor Janow on the basis of his thesis *Suffixes – iščę-isko-sko*. This was followed by predoctoral work under Professor Taszycki in the field of Onomastics. In 1936 when his Ph.D. dissertation on *Geographical Names of Boikovia* was submitted, complications arose. Janow insisted that, according to University rules, M.A. holders were obliged to study under their Master's supervisors when working towards their doctorates. To avoid further complications, Rudnyc'kyj was advised by Taszycki to work with him on his second M.A. Degree in Polish Philology on the basis of a new thesis on *Alternation of jachać-jechać in the Polish Language*. After the completion of this work in 1936, Rudnyc'kyj was admitted to his Ph.D. rigorosum under Taszycki, Kurylowicz and Fiszer. He was promoted to his doctorate in June 1937.

In the years 1936-37 Rudnyc'kyj practiced pedagogical work as a voluntary assistant lecturer at the Main High School in L'viv with Professor M. Fedusevych. This experience was necessary if one was to obtain a teaching post in one of the high schools.

Influenced by Taszycki, Rudnyc'kyj began to consider seriously a University career. Here a 'habilitation' (postdoctoral examination with a new thesis) was the prerequisite. His professor suggested that he transfer to Silesia where he could research a new topic – 'Old Silesian Placenames' at the Silesian Research Institute at Katowice. About the same time, however, an unexpected proposal came from Dr. Zenon Kuzela of Berlin. This noted scholar offered Rudnyc'kyj a position of chief 'technical editor' of a comprehensive *Ukrainian-German Dictionary*. The project was a joint effort of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute and the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) in Berlin.

With the approval of Taszycki and sincere encouragement of V. Simovych, a prominent linguist at that time, Rudnyc'kyj accepted the offer.

As he began making preparations for his leave, to take up his duties in Berlin, unexpected obstacles arose. The Polish authorities in L'viv considered it 'dangerous for the Polish State' to allow a young Ukrain-

ian scholar entry to Germany to work on a Ukrainian-German Dictionary. Subsequently in September of 1937 the Polish Starosta of L'viv refused to issue him a passport. Then Senator Myron Luckyj intervened. Due to the Senator's tireless efforts, a passport was promised in December of that year. Finally, with all obstacles behind him, Rudnyc'kyj arrived in Berlin in February 1938.

* * *

He was warmly welcomed at the Ukrainian Scientific Institute by Zenon Kuzela, as well as at the University of Berlin by Professors M. Vasmer, F. Schwytzer, and D. Westermann. Rudnyc'kyj looked forward with great enthusiasm to his work on the dictionary. At the same time he began to plan his postdoctoral studies with the above mentioned scholars at the University of Berlin.

As far as the dictionary was concerned, with the exception of some card materials collected and handed over to the Institute by Kuzela, no preliminary work had been done. It was up to Rudnyc'kyj to organize the mechanics of operation. First, he had to order supplies and furniture, such as stationery, filing cabinets, desks, chairs, etc. Then, as 'technical editor', he had to elaborate a system for entries, abbreviations, accentology, and other items. The scope of this dictionary was such that it was to embrace 250,000 words of everyday usage as well as literary and scholarly terms. It was to be the first of its kind in Ukrainian lexicography.

According to Rudnyc'kyj's article on this topic (published in *Dilo* in 1938) the proposed two-year term, in which the work on the dictionary was to be completed, seemed inadequate to both Kuzela and Rudnyc'kyj. To expedite matters, they suggested that a 'technical collaborator' be hired. With a new curator at the Institute, Dr. George Gerullis — a Balto-Slavic linguist, their suggestions were seriously considered. Consequently, Dr. Socrates Iwanytzkyj was added to the staff. At the same time, the question of Kuzela's position as 'editor-in-chief' arose. Gerullis insisted that Rudnyc'kyj, being a linguist, take full responsibility for the dictionary, retaining Kuzela (an ethnographer) and Iwanytzkyj (jurist) as his 'technical collaborators'. Fortunately, Rudnyc'kyj's proposal resolved the problem to the mutual satisfaction of all: Kuzela and Rudnyc'kyj would figure as co-authors, while Iwanytzkyj and later, Dr. K.H. Meyer, proof-reader, would assist them as collaborators.

Rudnyc'kyj's Berlin years were productive and rewarding. On the threshold of his scholarly career, they set a pattern which he continued to follow in years to come in his many-faceted career as scholar, teacher, writer, community leader. His versatility, vitality and large range of interests would not allow him to restrict himself to one job at a time. Here one is reminded of other gifted individuals, for example, Alfred Kroeber, a noted anthropologist, who with regard to his own multitude of interests said:

"It is good for the soul to have two irons in the fire. . . A second active interest tends to encourage a third; whereas a man who has only one is in the ultimately retractile position of a monolingual".²

People who have been closely associated with Rudnyc'kyj in various fields marveled at his inventiveness, aptitude and capacity for work.

In Berlin the young scholar first of all applied himself diligently to his main work which was the dictionary. In addition he attended and read papers at seminars conducted by Vasmer, Schwytzer and Westermann at the University of Berlin. At Westermann's Institute he collaborated with Hanna Nakonechna on a transcription of Ukrainian dialectical texts from Carpathian Ukraine (published in 1940). Moreover, he prepared a manuscript of *Ukrainian Grammar* (published in 1940, '41, '43 and '64), and a pocket-size *Ukrainian-German Dictionary*,³ which appeared in several editions in the 1940's. In addition to his work in Berlin, he assisted Ilnytskyj-Zankowytsch in the preparation of his military and aeronautical dictionaries in Breslau (Wrocław).

In 1938 Rudnyc'kyj went to Paris to attend the First International Congress of Onomastic Sciences. The paper which he gave there was later well received by Gerullis, E. Schwartz and others.

Then came the Second World War with its drastic results. Its outbreak caused some personal difficulties and problems. Because of his Polish citizenship, Rudnyc'kyj was arrested by the Gestapo on September 1, 1939. Following his release, he was confined to two districts of Berlin, Charlottenburg and Centre, places of his work and domicile. Under pressure himself, Gerullis demanded that Rudnyc'kyj complete the first half of the dictionary (letters A to O) within a year, while the deadline for the second half (letters P to Ia), to be compiled by Kuzela, remained as originally planned.

In spite of the war and its obstacles, the dictionary manuscripts were completed in time and the work appeared in print in 1943, published by Otto Harrasowitz Publishing House in Leipzig.³

In 1940 Rudnyc'kyj successfully made his 'habilitation' at the Ukrainian Free University in Prague under Professors O. Kolessa, Ivan Pankevyc and A. Voloshyn. In 1941 he was invited by Dr. E. Schwartz to join the staff at Charles University in Prague.

Having completed his work in Berlin, and desiring to avoid the frequent bombardments of that city, Rudnyc'kyj moved to Prague in 1941. And here he remained until April, 1945.

It was in Prague, the 'Golden City' that two major events took place in the young scholar's life. It was here in 1941 that he launched his life-work *An Etymological Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language*. And it was in this city that he met Maryna (Lala) Antonovych, daughter of Professors Kateryna and Dmytro Antonovych. Their marriage took place on September 9, 1943.

As the war continued and the Soviet front approached, Rudnyc'kyj's mother and sister Natalia fled from Stryj to Prague; later they left for Weimar in Germany. The same course was taken by his younger brother Alexander. On April 13, 1945 the Rudnyc'kyjs left Prague with few of their possessions, among them materials compiled for the etymological dictionary. Taking refuge at Wunsiedel, about 20 kilometers from the Czechoslovakian border, they witnessed the occupation of the town by advancing American troops on April 21, 1945. With this, a new period in Rudnyc'kyj's life began.

* * *

After a five month stay in Wunsiedel, the couple moved to Heidelberg in September 1945; there they settled in private quarters in the suburb of Rohrbach. And it was here their first child, son Zdan, was born in January 1946. However, the Rudnyc'kyjs did not lose touch with the Ukrainian refugees in the camps of Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Augsburg, as well as others. Rudnyc'kyj's work at this time consisted of teaching Ukrainian and Latin in the Mannheim Gymnasium, and lecturing twice a month at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich; he also taught at the UNRRA University branch in Augsburg, and at the Theological College at Hirschberg in Bavaria. Moreover, he took part in conferences at Neu Ulm, Aschaffenburg, Mittenwald, Berchtesgaden, etc., as arranged by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences and the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

In 1947 Rudnyc'kyj was appointed 'referent' of the Ukrainian Academic and Research Institutions at the Educational Council of Central'ne Predstavnytstvo Ukrain's'koho Emigraciji; it was headed at that

time by the noted historian, Dmytro Doroshenko. At the invitation of Professor Hans Krahe, Rudnyc'kyj lectured and conducted seminars in the field of Old Church Slavic at Heidelberg University in the years 1947-1948. The Heidelberg period was also important in the continuance of his work on the etymological dictionary. Indeed, according to Rudnyc'kyj, it was a most productive period for this particular work.

In the summer of 1948 the German government drastically devalued its currency; this was catastrophic for people on a fixed income. The Rudnyc'kyjs, who had been living on their personal resources, in particular the savings brought from Prague (honorariums received from dictionaries and Ukrainian grammar), were on the verge of bankruptcy. Despite help in the form of CARE packets from his brother Romuald (he emigrated in 1947 from Rome, Italy, to Stanford, Conn. USA), the Rudnyc'kyjs decided to emigrate overseas. They had two countries in view, Canada or the United States.

Although Romuald Rudnyc'kyj prepared affidavits for their immigration to the United States, Roman Smook, an American lawyer and consultant to the refugees, advised them to emigrate to Canada. Encouragement for settling in Canada also came from Alexander Gregorovich of Ottawa. Interested in lexicography and aware of Rudnyc'kyj's qualifications as a linguist he must have felt that Canada was more promising in this field of scholarship. Gregorovich had appropriate affidavits made out which, because of his efforts, were included in a list of 'cultural workers' to be brought to Canada under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian National Federation.

Immigration agencies of both countries approached the Rudnyc'kyjs in this respect; it turned out that both the United States and Canada would welcome them to their shores. Anxious to depart as soon as possible, they decided that they would emigrate to the country which would be the first one to process the formalities of entry. It so happened that the Canadian authorities were quicker in procedures and in December 1948 the family was cleared for immigration to Canada.

They liquidated their Heidelberg domicile, spending a short time in the transitory camp at Ludwigsburg near Stuttgart; from there they continued to their embarkation camp in Bremen. They were scheduled to leave Germany on December 28, 1948, but due to their child's contraction of influenza, the departure date was postponed to January 10th, 1949. They left European shores on the above date, arriving in Halifax on January 20. From there they continued their journey to

Western Canada by train, arriving in Winnipeg on Sunday, January 23, 1949.

* * *

Initially, Manitoba's capital in the midst of an extremely cold winter made a depressing impression on the newcomers. The Rudnyc'kyjs settled in one room at 108 Charles Street in the north-end of the city. The immediate future looked bleak indeed, with no prospect of any kind of employment, and the more so, as there was no apparent attempt on the part of the sponsors, Ukrainian National Federation, to help the situation. It was not until the Federation's Executive received a letter from the Federal Minister of Labour, A. McNamara, that a sense of responsibility and some action became evident. At that time, the Federal Department of Labour kept tab on the activities of newcomers by querying sponsors on matters which included employment, earnings, etc. The request from Ottawa regarding Rudnyc'kyj's position and that of other sponsored 'cultural workers', in particular, Professor Leonid Biletsky and V. Martynetz, alerted the Executive, especially the President, V. Kossar. Consequently, Rudnyc'kyj and Biletsky were hired as 'cultural workers' for the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre.

A lecture tour across Western Canada was arranged for Rudnyc'kyj. His duties were to speak in the various cities and communities, and at the same time he was to collect donations to cover his own as well as Biletsky's remuneration; the latter was assigned to some menial desk work in the Centre's quarters in Winnipeg.

In the interval, Rudnyc'kyj and Biletsky met with Professor Dmytro Doroshenko; he arrived in Winnipeg earlier, in December 1947, to assume duties as lecturer at St. Andrew's College. The three professors decided to form a Canadian branch of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences — UVAN and immediately began to work at its organization. With the necessary formalities completed, news releases for the press prepared, and invitations mailed out to organizations and interested individuals, the inaugural session of the Academy took place at the Canadian Institute Prosvita on March 13, 1949. It was a memorable meeting (which the present writer was privileged to attend) honouring Taras Shevchenko. The lectures on various aspects of life and works of the great Poet given by the three erudite professors — Biletsky, Doroshenko and Rudnyc'kyj — made a deep impression on those present, who witnessed the beginning of the activities of UVAN in Canada. As a matter of fact, the enthusiastic and appreciative response

from the audience was a moral boost to the scholars; it encouraged them to develop their plans with regards to the Academy in Winnipeg.⁴

Doroshenko became the Academy's first President with Rudnyc'kyj as Secretary General. After Doroshenko's return to Europe in 1950, Biletsky took over. When he died in 1955, Rudnyc'kyj carried the torch. Under his guidance, as President for the period 1955-70, the Academy reached its heights. This was exemplified by the long list of 'academic lectures' delivered through the years, and its series of publications in various fields of scholarship; also in its contacts with scholars and institutions of learning throughout the world.

The Academy's achievements, in the years when Rudnyc'kyj was at its helm, manifested his qualities and capabilities — those of a dedicated scholar and a man of vision. His gift to spot, help and develop a promising potential was unquestionable. Due to his efforts, the Academy provided a forum not only for established scholars, but for beginners interested in research, including graduate and undergraduate students. Many individuals who have reached prominence in the world of learning and scholarship are indebted to Rudnyc'kyj for his help and encouragement.

* * *

Soon after the inaugural session of the Academy in 1949, Rudnyc'kyj left on his lecture tour as the representative of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre. He covered the cities of Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and many other smaller towns and villages. As there was no apparent effort made by Rudnyc'kyj's sponsors to help him obtain a position in one of the Canadian universities, he decided he would personally call on them as well as other educational institutions during his tour.

The results of his visits and interviews were interesting, for the record, they deserve mention. The University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon, and the Mount Royal College at Calgary seemed without prospects. The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, would be interested in his services, once expansion and further development of Slavonic studies would ensue. The University of Alberta was the most promising. Accompanied by a prominent Ukrainian barrister in Edmonton, P.J. Lazarowich, he met the President of the University, Dr. Robert Newton, the Modern Languages Department Head, Dr. Francis Owen, and Faculty of Arts Dean, Dr. John Macdonald. After lengthy discussions, and familiarising himself with the program of studies,

Rudnyc'kyj was promised an appointment at the University as Assistant Professor of Russian and German, with a further possibility of instruction in Ukrainian. On returning to Winnipeg Rudnyc'kyj received, as promised, an official appointment from the University of Alberta. According to the terms agreed upon during the interviews, the starting salary would be three thousand six hundred dollars per annum.

In the meantime, efforts to introduce Ukrainian courses at the University of Manitoba were forging ahead. A number of meetings between the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and Dr. A.H. Gillson, President of the University, took place. The discussions led to a tentative bilateral agreement: the Ukrainian community would provide funds for five years (at least) to maintain a Professor of Ukrainian; the appointment would be made at the earliest date in 1951; the candidate the Committee had in mind was Paul Yuzyk, who would be receiving his doctorate from the University of Minnesota at about that time.

Gillson knew of Rudnyc'kyj's presence in Winnipeg and was familiar with his qualifications in Slavic scholarship, particularly through letters and personal contact with Dr. E.T. Etsell. The latter, a prominent physician who studied languages, came to know Rudnyc'kyj very well as he was privately tutored in Ukrainian by him. In a letter to Gillson, dated April 30, 1949, Etsell wrote, among other matters, as follows:

"Among these persons [newcomers to Canada — O.W.] have been some who already had reached positions of prominence in their respective fields in Europe. It is one of these persons, Professor Rudnyc'kyj, whom I would like to bring to your attention . . . Professor Rudnyc'kyj is a specialist in Slavonic languages . . . My impression of this man, President Gillson, is that he is . . . away above the ordinary level of University graduate. . . ."⁵

When Etsell learned that Rudnyc'kyj was planning to leave for Edmonton in the fall of 1949, he contacted Gillson and urged him to do something in order to retain him in Winnipeg. Consequently Rudnyc'kyj was interviewed by President Gillson; the result was that the President changed his original plan to establish the Department two years hence, in 1951, when funds from the Ukrainian community would be available. He advised Rudnyc'kyj to withhold his answer to the University of Alberta for two weeks. This would give him time to present the case to the Board of Governors with recommendations to

appoint him on similar conditions as those of the University of Alberta, which were that he be included in the University's budget without awaiting funds to be raised by the Ukrainian community. Rudnyc'kyj conceded to Gillson's suggestion and postponed his answer to the Alberta University. At the ensuing meeting of the Board of Governors, it was decided to appoint Rudnyc'kyj as the first Professor of Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba at a salary of three thousand dollars per annum. After receiving the official notice of appointment, Rudnyc'kyj declined Alberta's offer.

The University's announcement that it would be opening a Department of Slavic Studies in the fall of 1949 came as a pleasant surprise to the Ukrainian community; even more so seeing it was two years earlier than anticipated and that it would be financed by University funds.

Before taking his position at the University, Rudnyc'kyj lectured in July and August at the Ukrainian Summer School at United College (now the University of Winnipeg). It was sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre. In September he began the arduous task of organizing the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba, establishing its program of courses in Ukrainian, Russian, and Polish languages and literatures.

As there were no Slavic books in the University Library, it became Rudnyc'kyj's responsibility to start up a Slavic collection. He knew that a number of refugee-scholars or their families brought to Canada or the United States their valuable collections of books — about the only material possessions they were able to save from the holocaust of war. With this in mind he was on the alert should an opportunity arise to purchase some of them. When it did come, he acted quickly to raise the necessary funds to procure the books, aware that other universities were interested in them as well. His vigilance paid off. He was instrumental in procuring rare and valued collections as that of M.A. Crowe of Ottawa, Nykyfor Hirniak of New York, and the late O. Kolessa of Toronto. Then there was the slavic collection of the arctic explorer and author V. Stefansson at Dartmouth College in the United States. All these accessions were indispensable for a new Department projected for growth and expansion. Thus due to Rudnyc'kyj's foresight, knowledge and alertness, the books purchased in the first years of the Department's formation became the nucleus of a representative Slavic collection. Some of these were very rare and unique as, for example, the monumental *Pomianyky of Horodysche* of 1484.⁶

At first the books were located in the Department's office on the 3rd floor of the Tier Building. Later, they were transferred to the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, some of them to its Rare Book Division.

In addition to the initiation of a Slavic collection, Rudnyc'kyj also foresaw the need for publications of Slavic reading texts, as none were available to meet the requirements of the Department. Thus, under his editorship, he began to publish the Department's own series: the first works to appear in print were *Readings in Slavic Folklore* – 1951, and *Readings in Slavic Literature* – 1958. Through the years the number of volumes published in both series reached fifteen. Starting modestly with slim volumes, the series in the 1970s constituted thick volumes of impressive studies.

It was imperative for the Department of Slavic Studies to keep in touch with the community at large if the University was to expect moral and financial support towards its expansion. In this respect, Rudnyc'kyj prepared press releases for Slavic newspapers as well as appeals for books, or donations for their purchase. The requests were directed both to organizations and individuals. The results were gratifying as books and cash donations poured in from various segments of the community within the province, as well as from outside sources.

As was evident, the Department of Slavic Studies was a one-man Department in the years 1949-51; a Herculean task for Rudnyc'kyj; its organizer, planner, teacher, librarian, editor and public relations' officer. A far cry from demands of present-day academics for lesser work load, top remuneration, travel and research grants, and other benefits. Yet the question remains open: with more time at their disposal and amenities far beyond the imaginations of their predecessors, how do they compare in their initiations and contribution to scholarship and humanity in general?

In 1951 Rudnyc'kyj was saddled with additional duties. There was dire need for additional staff members, and as promised by the President, Paul Yuzyk was to come to the University in the fall of that year. But as he was to be financed by funds to be raised by the Ukrainian community, a drive for donations was to be launched. Here the Ukrainian Professional and Businessmen's Club came to the University's aid by setting-up a special 'Ukrainian Studies Fund' under the chairmanship of Mark Smerchanski.

The campaign for funds involved personally not only members of the Club, but Rudnyc'kyj and Gillson as well. They travelled to various

areas in rural Manitoba and spoke publicly on behalf of the Fund. The community responded favourably to these appeals and indeed, in the fall of 1951, it became possible to appoint not only Yuzyk as assistant professor, but also G. Mulyk-Lucyk as part-time lecturer. It was then that Rudnyc'kyj was promoted to associate professor and was confirmed as the permanent Head of the Department.⁷

Although Rudnyc'kyj's *opus magnum* continued to be the etymological dictionary, his pioneering duties, coupled with his heavy teaching load (averaging 22 hours per week) left little time and energy for this major project. It was only occasionally that he was free to resume his work on the dictionary. Then there was the problem of space and working facilities. At the start, the Department was located in room 213 in the old University Building on Broadway Avenue in downtown Winnipeg. It was too small to house the files of work material for the dictionary; nor was there space for this purpose in his home, a small cottage purchased in 1950 at 488 Anderson Avenue. It was a family of four now, a daughter Inka was born in 1951. Eventually as more space became available for the Department, first in the Tier Building, later in Fletcher Argue, the bulk of the dictionary materials was transferred there.

To keep abreast of the times in the world of scholarship a great deal of reading was required; it was also important to keep in contact with other scholars and institutions. Rudnyc'kyj made it a point to be up-to-date on all pertinent literature, and to attend annual meetings of learned societies on this continent and abroad. Since 1950 he participated in most of the Modern Language Associations' MLA meetings held annually in December, alternating between New York and Chicago. The same could be said of the Learned Societies' meetings in Canada, held annually in May-June on campuses of various Universities. At most of them he read papers, or chaired sessions. In 1958 he was elected President of the American Name Society.

In 1954, when the Canadian Learned Societies met in Winnipeg, Rudnyc'kyj was instrumental in organizing founding meetings of two new societies – the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS), and the Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA); he was elected President of both in 1958. In 1967 he founded and became first President of the Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences (CIOS), followed by two new formations, Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA), and Canadian Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (CSCSC).⁸

As an internationally known scholar, Rudnyc'kyj was invited to participate at various world congresses such as Onomastic Sciences, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Phonetic Sciences, and Dialectology. Since 1955 he travelled abroad annually during recesses between semesters. His travels, participation in congresses, meetings with fellow scholars, and impressions of places visited are well documented in six volumes of his travel diaries; they appeared in print between the years 1955 to 1972.⁹

The year 1956 was an eventful one for Rudnyc'kyj in still another aspect. He was appointed special consultant to the Library of Congress in Washington with duties to survey Ukrainian holdings there and to make recommendations as to further organization and maintenance of the materials. He worked during the summer months, and according to his own assessment of this position, it was one of the most stimulating and rewarding 'working holidays' in his life. As a result of his findings there, several articles and a semi-official publication *Ukrainica in the Library of Congress*, Washington 1956, appeared. Paul L. Horecky, Assistant Chief of the Slavic and Central European Division of the Library of Congress, in an article on the Library's Slavic holdings, gives due credit to Rudnyc'kyj for his data on Ukrainian materials which he included in the above.¹⁰

Another year of significance for Rudnyc'kyj was 1959 when he received an offer from the University of Cincinnati to organize a Slavic Department there. He was to be given full professorship with immediate tenure, a higher salary than the one he was receiving in Manitoba, attractive additional benefits (such as gratis studies at the University for his children, later date of retirement, etc.). After giving this promising offer careful consideration, he declined it for a number of reasons.

For several years Rudnyc'kyj had been working hard for the introduction of graduate studies in the Slavic field at the University of Manitoba; after many meetings and lengthy discussions the University consented to introduce the courses. Leaving the University at that time meant a deferment of the new program as there was no one in the Department who could develop it in a prestigious, professional manner. In addition there was the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences; as founder, President, and editor, he was responsible for a series of periodicals: *Slavistica*, *Onomastica*, *Ukrainica Canadiana*, *Ukrainica Occidentalia* and others. There was a pressing need to continue their publication and develop this field of scholarship. The preparatory work on

his life project, *An Etymological Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language*, was nearing completion and its publication was pending. Then there were commitments to be met with regards to Canadian Learned Societies, some of which he headed at that time. No less important was his involvement in community life; he sat on boards of the Winnipeg Public Library, Manitoba Citizenship Council, and various Ukrainian institutions.

Thus Rudnyc'kyj's deep sense of responsibility and his awareness of withdrawing from all of the above would be leaving 'unfinished business' behind. This of course had a bearing on his decision to decline the Cincinnati offer. In his stead he recommended for this position his former pupil and assistant, John Pauls-Sydoruk.

The only personal gain from this offer was his promotion to full professorship at the University of Manitoba — an analogous situation to the 1949 incident when he began his originally 'preconditioned' teaching career in Manitoba. When the President of the University, Dr. H. Saunderson, learned of the Cincinnati offer, he raised Rudnyc'kyj's status at the University.

The 1960s were a most exciting and challenging decade for Rudnyc'kyj with its share of light and shadows. On the personal side, his mother's death on May 17, 1963, cast its first dark shadow. Losing his father at a tender age, Rudnyc'kyj's mother filled a dual role in his upbringing. He speaks of her with gratitude and refers to her as the guiding spirit in his life; her care and sound counsel in his formative years made a lasting impact on his life. After the death of her daughter, Natalia Chaplenko, in 1953, she resided with her second son, Romuald, in New York. And there Julia Rudnyc'ka died and it was there she was laid to rest.¹²

In July of the same year, Rudnyc'kyj unexpectedly received a call from the Prime Minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson, asking him to sit on the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism which was in the process of formation. He was always keenly interested in minority groups, especially in problems of integration and retention of various ethnic languages and cultures. Sitting on the Commission would give him an opportunity to delve more deeply into these complex and often controversial issues. He accepted the Prime Minister's offer, and when the names of the ten appointed commissioners were announced on July 19, 1963 by the Clerk of the Privy Council, Rudnyc'kyj's was one of them.

This appointment was, however, by no means a political appointment. As a professional linguist and a distinguished spokesman of the non-English and non-French groups, Rudnyc'kyj, no doubt, was the best qualified for the position. He applied himself to the job wholeheartedly, and in the first stage, to be free to work more effectively, he arranged for a partial leave of absence from university teaching for the ensuing academic year. Later, with a good deal of planning and organization, he continued to work on the Commission until its cessation in 1971, while at the same time carrying on his normal load of duties.¹³

In 1968 shadows again loomed on the horizon. Feuds among various factions in the Ukrainian community have been common occurrences through the years; when they spread out into fields of scholarship and academic life they could become most vicious. A representative of one of the factions began attacking the Department's staff for 'pro-Sovietism'. When this failed, the malcontent group began attacking the Department in matters of staff competence, publications, even delving into private matters. For this purpose a pretentious 'mature' student, who failed in the Department's program of graduate studies, became the group's tool. A letter of accusations was sent under his signature to the President of the University. Instead of ignoring this evident maliciousness, the Administration started a detailed investigation. After months of time-consuming enquiries, it came to the conclusion that the accuser did not have a leg to stand on. He was reprimanded and threatened that should he continue the slanderous attacks, legal action would be taken.¹⁴

Towards the end of this decade, Rudnyc'kyj came forth with a plan and proposition which could have been advantageous to the institution concerned. As the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences – UVAN of Canada was steadily expanding, there was a dire need for adequate housing for its library, publications, archives; also suitable quarters were needed to hold its 'academic lectures'; they were always open to the general public. To accommodate these needs, he purchased a building at 221 Flora Avenue in Winnipeg. His proposal to the UVAN Executive was that an amount equal to the purchase price of the property should be raised by the members to assure the building's upkeep and maintenance. The required sum was to have been collected within a five-year period (1968-1973). A bilateral contract was signed for the interim period: The Academy was to utilize the building gratis, paying only for the upkeep and maintenance (taxes, heating, light, etc.). This

ideal scheme failed when relatively new but then executive members of the Academy were more anxious in soliciting for funds to finance their personal publications than providing for a permanent home for the institution. In addition, after Rudnyc'kyj's repeated attempts to have the city council recognize the Academy as a non-profit scholarly institution and exempt it from property taxes failed, there was no alternative but to dispose of the building. Not being a wealthy man, he alone could not be saddled with the responsibility of maintenance of this property; this responsibility should have been shared by the whole membership. Upon expiration of the original contract, the building was sold in 1973.

This was most unfortunate since the Academy was progressing and expanding from year to year since its inception in 1949. It was also ironical; as it had functioned effectively and in harmony when it had had fewer members with a minimum of funds. When membership increased and later government grants became available, it began to decline. A striking example in this respect is the suspension of its series of periodicals and other publications; cessation of its 'academic lectures'; termination of international contacts, etc. *Male parta, male dilabuntur!*¹⁴

In the 1970's Rudnyc'kyj was granted long overdue sabbaticals. These were taken for the 1970-71 period, and again for the academic term of 1974-75. Both of them were supported by Canada Council grants. Taking advantage of his free time from teaching, he made study trips to South America, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Naturally they had an impact, furthering his intellectual growth and widening his academic horizons. It strengthened his ties with scholars, some of whom he knew only through their works or through correspondence, and now he met them face to face for the first time; this extended his contacts with the scholarly world in general. In Rudnyc'kyj's opinion, sabbatical leaves, if planned wisely, offer a real opportunity for 'academic growth and self-improvement'. In his article 'Praise of the Sabbatical' he sums it up as follows:

Comparative experience gained by a sabbatical 'working vacation' is most rewarding, and with an insight into the life of the larger scholastic community you are bound to reach conclusions . . . in most cases you know where you stand, and the 'comparative method' gives you a chance to find yourself in this community. Moreover, it allows you to assess the level of collective progress and achievement in the respective field and to plan further work for the future. . .¹⁵



Canadian Executive Service Overseas

ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATITUDE

THE CONTRIBUTION OF

J. B. Rudnycky, M.D.

TO THE WORK OF THIS ORGANIZATION

FOR CANADA

IN

DEVELOPING NATIONS OVERSEAS

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

[Signature]
PRESIDENT

June 1973

As a volunteer of Canadian Executive Service Overseas (CESO), J.B. Rudnyckyj spent part of his 1974-75 sabbatical year in helping to develop a program of post graduate studies at the Federal University of Parana in Curitiba, Brazil. In this assignment he was assisted by Dr. Oksana Borushenko (from the university's Department of History) as translator and mediator in seminars, theses' assessments and examinations. After a successful completion of the task, he held panels at the Universities of Sao Paulo, Florianópolis and Pôrto Alegre. He also lectured in Buenos Aires, Argentine, and Asuncion, Paraguay, returning to Canada in May 1975.

All went well and according to plan in South America. With his usual keenness and enthusiasm Rudnyckyj found his work challenging and exhilarating; he was pleased with its results. Yet, while in Curitiba he suffered a personal loss. In the midst of his lectures at the University he was informed of the death of Kateryna Antonovych, his mother-in-law, a noted artist and teacher (22 February 1975). Unable to reach Winnipeg for the funeral, he marked the sad event by arranging for a simple service (*panakhyda*) at the local Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, followed by traditional *pomynky* in Iguacu Hotel in Curitiba, and a eulogy in the Ukrainian press.

As originally planned, Rudnyckyj stepped down in 1976 from his post as Head of the Department of Slavic Studies, but — on persuasion of Dean Don McCarthy — retained his position as full professor for the academic year 1976-77. This extension was to his advantage as it gave him more time to wind up his activities and to prepare for the long planned resettlement in Eastern Canada. The latter was greatly facilitated by an unexpected additional appointment as Visiting Professor at the University of Ottawa, substituting sabbatically bound Professor Constantine Bida. Thus the year 1976-77 revived an old practice — bi-weekly flights from Winnipeg to the capital — the same as in the years 1963-71 during his tenure with the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. Holding lectures and seminars in the first part of each week at the University of Manitoba enabled him to fly every second week for Thursday to Saturday classes in Ottawa. It was, in his opinion, the most strenuous, yet exciting, teaching period of his life, the more so, that some of his seminars at the University of Ottawa were held in French.

Finally the year of relief from teaching duties came. After fulfilling his commitments with both universities and after a prostatic surgery in the summer of 1977 (St. Boniface Hospital) he began his and his family's transfer to Ottawa-Montreal. The task was not easy. Accumulated books, manuscripts, clippings, correspondence, and other materials (unevenly housed at the University of Manitoba, his former "Dim Nauky" at 221 Flora Avenue, and his family residence, 29 Scotia Street) were to be segregated, packed and transported to various destinations. With his genuine foresight and organizational skill Rudnyckyj pondered over the problem of suitable depositories to house his collections many years prior to the move. Due to cooperation of the respective institutions, the allocations and transfers of his vast collections were almost completed by the end of 1977. As a matter of record the locations of the holdings are listed as follows:

1. The Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg. — *Manitobiana* materials.
2. St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, University of Manitoba. — Publications (primarily Ukrainian folklore sets); some furniture.
3. National Ethnic Archives, Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa. — The major part of papers (correspondence, manuscripts, clippings, dictionary cards, etc.); sound recordings; photographs; medals, medallions; postage stamps.
4. Iwachniuk Fund, University of Ottawa. — Private Library.
5. University of Ottawa Press, Ottawa. — Etymological Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language (for distribution).
6. G.P. Vanier Library, Loyola Campus of the Concordia University, Montreal, P.Q. — Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism materials (located in Room 314 as "J.B. Rudnyckyj Collection").
7. National Library of Canada, Ottawa. — *Rariora* collection of books.
8. Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia. — Duplicate copies of books and other materials (for planned Chair of Ukrainian Studies).
9. U.N.G.E. Collection, Ottawa. — Political documents.
10. Institut des Civilisations Comparées, Montreal — Publications in linguistics, onomastics and literature.

After an exhaustive summer, the date of Rudnyckyj's official retirement — September 1, 1977 — came. As of that date, in recognition of his long service to the University, he was honoured with the status of a "Professor Emeritus", the first Slavist to hold this position at the University of Manitoba. The official document to this effect reads as follows:

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

I am pleased to advise you that the Board of Governors, at a meeting held on May 19, 1977, approved the President's recommendation that you be appointed Professor Emeritus in the Department of Slavic Studies, effective September 1, 1977.

The Board of Governors, in approving this recommendation, felt the appointment was most appropriate as recognition of your distinguished service to the University, and in particular, your contribution to the Department of Slavic Studies which you organized in 1949.

Your truly,
R.M. Raeburn
Secretary

On this occasion students and friends presented him with the second volume of *Scripta Manent* . . . (J.B. Rudnyckyj's papers at the Public Archives in Ottawa — an inventory), and the University of Manitoba Faculty Club elevated his status to honorary membership. The community at large bid its farewell to the family at a testimonial dinner at the Winnipeg Inn, attended by many of his colleagues, friends and former students.

On the memorable 9th day of September 1977, the "rest of the family"*) Jaroslav Rudnyckyj, his wife Maryna and the family pet-dog Musia left Winnipeg by car, heading towards Eastern Canada, Ottawa-Montreal.

The honeymoon period of Rudnyckyj's *vita nova*, assumed to be a time of rest and relaxation, was brief indeed. Learning of his retirement, Dr. Paul Horecky, then Chief of the Slavic and East European Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, invited him to survey Ukrainian holdings at the Library. This was a unique challenge for the new emeritus. Consequently on September 26, 1977, he signed in Washington a two-year contract.

*) A graduate in fine arts, their son Zdan settled in San Francisco, California, in the early 1970s after disappointing job prospects in Canada. Their daughter Inka, a pianist with the Julliard School of Music, took permanent residence in New York City in 1976.



THE FACULTY CLUB

BOX 104,
100 DAFOR RD.,
WINNIPEG 19.

11 May, 1977.

Dr. J.B.Rudnyckyj,
29 Scotia Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R2W 3W6

Dear Dr. Rudnyckyj:

The Board of Directors have conferred upon you the status of Honorary Member of the Faculty Club of the University of Manitoba. Please find enclosed your Honorary Membership card. Your name will be on the mailing list for all items, therefore if you should move, please notify us of your change of address.

I wish to congratulate you on receiving this award and trust that you will utilize the Club facilities whenever you are able.

Yours truly,

H.J. Skynner
H.J. Skynner,
President, Faculty Club.

In accepting the position at the Library of Congress, a new phase of "life on wheels" began for Rudnycky; working intermittently in Washington and continuing with his other commitments required good planning, organization and quite a bit of commuting between Montreal-Washington-Ottawa. In the interim, he left on January 8, 1978, for Sydney, Australia, to inaugurate the Centre of Ukrainian Studies. Here he spent six weeks lecturing at Macquarie, Sydney, Melbourne, Monash, Adelaide and Canberra universities under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia. Like in Brazil, the Australian lectures were given *gratis* having in mind the need in helping to develop Ukrainian studies on the "fifth continent".

After his return from Australia, May and June were devoted to his work in Washington. In July he went to Munich to lecture at the Ukrainian Free University. While there he assumed the Presidency of the Ukrainian Mohylo-Mazepian Academy of Arts and Sciences — UMMAN (August 12, 1978). In addition he was invited by the Ukrainian National Government in Exile to head its sector on cultural and intellectual international co-operation.

In the fall of 1978 he continued to work on his survey at the Library of Congress until his departure December 1 on the "Oriana" for Sydney. This time his Australian voyage had a special purpose as designated in the official communique of the Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia:

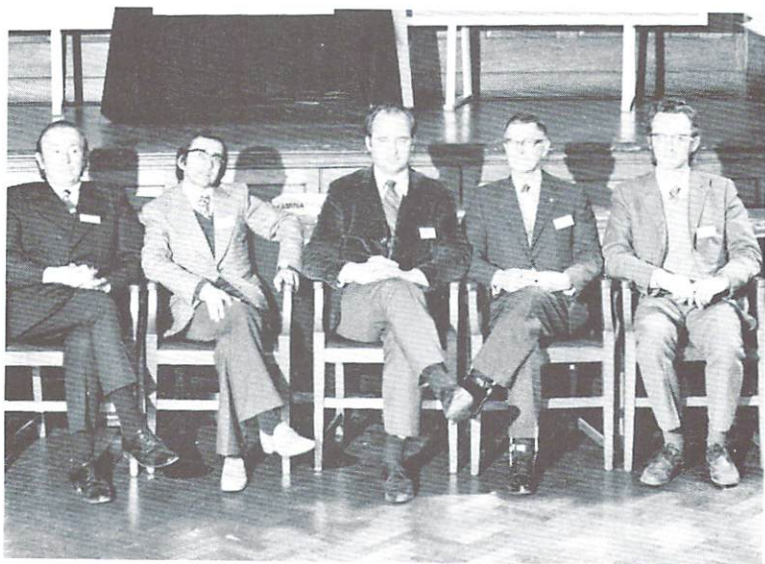
A valuable private library of Ukrainian and Slavic books and serials was brought to Australia from Canada as a gift to the Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia.

The collection, valued at \$10,000, was transported as personal baggage on the Oriana by the donor, Dr. J.B. Rudnycky, founding head and professor emeritus of Slavic studies at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Man.

The collection arrived safely in Sydney port on December 20, 1978, and after customs release, it was deposited for safe-keeping in the custody of Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia at Lidcombe until such time as a Chair of Ukrainian Studies is firmly established at an Australian University.

In Australia he lectured again in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra in addition to conducting a summer course in Ukrainian civilization at the University of Adelaide in South Australia.

His return journey took him to Papua-New Guinea, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Honolulu, reaching Canada on March 30. With the



Messrs. J.B. Rudnyckyj, J. Poirier, M.B. Smart, G.F. Delaney and H. Dorion of the Canadian delegation at UN Conference, London, 1972.



J.B. RUDNYCKYJ (2nd on the top left) as member of the Ukrainian National Government in Exile / Munich 1978/.

exception of a two-week break (June 1-16) when he was in Munich, attending the Assembly of UMMAN and a session of the Ukrainian National Council, Rudnyckyj worked on the survey for the Library of Congress, finalizing his manuscript. It was completed and delivered on September 21 to Dr. D.H. Kraus, Chief of the European Division at the Library.

"A true scholar never retires" was Rudnyckyj's usual answer to advisers to decline any further assignments in the pedagogical field. These were prophetic words when a new unexpected burden fell on his shoulders in connection with the premature death of his colleague, Professor Constantine Bida of the University of Ottawa (April 11, 1979). Due to difficulties in finding an instant replacement, Rudnyckyj accepted a 1-year appointment as Visiting Professor at the University (September 1979 to April 1980).

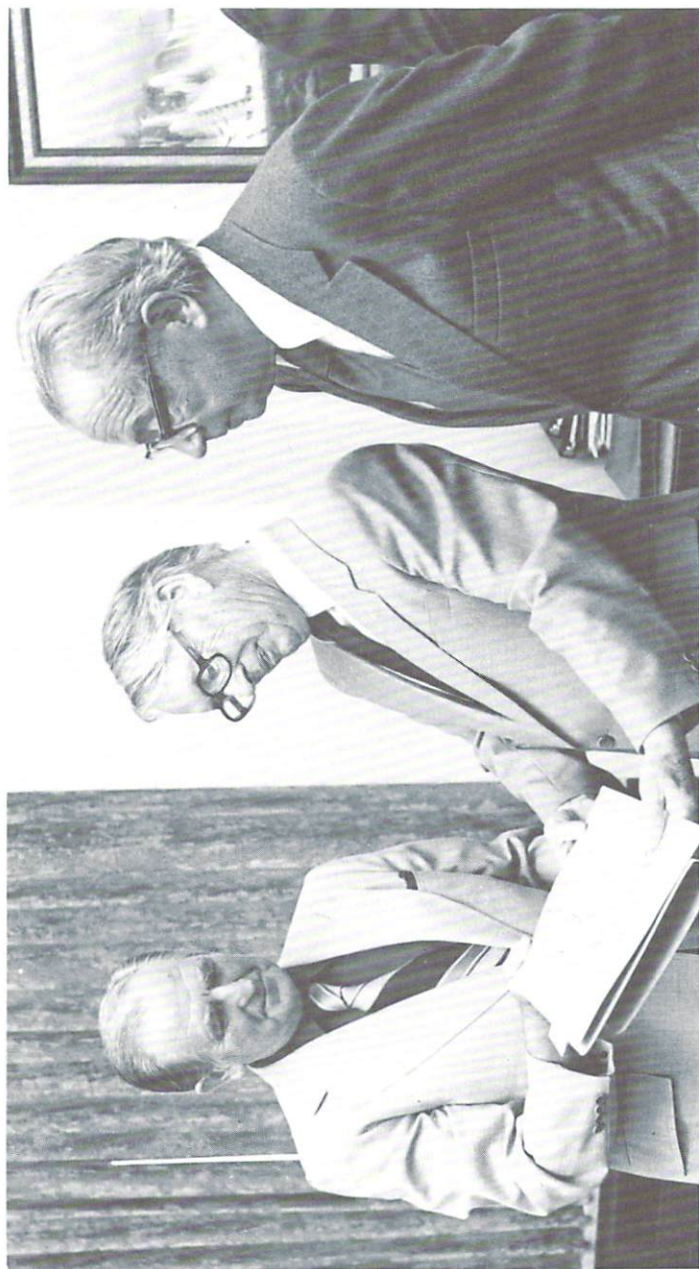
Like in 1977, after completion of his pedagogical work a library appointment followed, so it happened in 1980. After expiration of the Ottawa University agreement, he signed a contract with the National Library in Ottawa for 1980-81. During this period he would prepare a survey of pre-1950 Ukrainian holdings at the Library and make a comparative study of Ukrainica Canadiana in the Library of Congress. He began this work with his usual enthusiasm and devotion.

Parallel with his pedagogical and library assignments he administered his duties as Honourary Charge d'affaires exterieures of the Ukrainian National Government in Exile. In this capacity he co-signed the historical Ukrainian-Polish Declaration of November 28, 1979 in London, England. There were other international actions in this capacity as, for instance, those with regards to the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. One of his most recent achievements was to initiate a centre of documentation for the Ukrainian National Government in Exile. Accordingly, a Committee under chairmanship of George Salsky was formed and subsequently an Agreement to this effect was signed with the Public Archives of Canada on August 20, 1980, in Ottawa.

As President of UMMAN he organized an impressive Assembly of this academic institution on May 16, 1980, in Philadelphia.

After 40 years of devoted service, often at a great personal sacrifice, Rudnyckyj retired on August 1, 1980, from the staff of Ukrainian Free University in Munich. This brought much needed relief to his overloaded schedule.

* * *



First documents for the U.N.G.E. Collection presented to the Public Archives of Canada. (L. to r.) George Salsky, Dr. W. Smith, Dominion Archivist, and Professor J.B. Rudnycky (see p. 29).

In presenting this biographical sketch of J.B. Rudnycky, we are aware that it is a very brief chronology of events, facts and dates and does not give details of his profusely rich and creative life. To assess him as a scholar, teacher, writer, and to portray him as a complete man would be the task of future biographers and even monograph authors — specialists in various fields of human endeavours. In the meantime we would like to conclude with appropriate remarks made by Professor P. Cymbalista in his review of *Scripta Manent* . . . — J.B. Rudnycky's bio-bibliography for 1933-1975:

The very headings, varied as they are in their content, reflect a certain style and the colourful personality and penetrating mind of the author; they picture his concern for intellectual freedom and honesty, truth and justice . . . It is from these titles that we see a chronological development of a consistent, thorough and original scholar of the highest degree, challenging and accepting challenges, inventive, bold and original in his approach to difficult problems, a provocative reformer with a sense of humour . . .¹⁶⁾

* * *

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