Since the official beginning of spring is fast approaching – even though it has only started to look and feel like winter in many parts of the country in the last few weeks – we figured we better hurry if we wanted to still call this issue of Field Notes our winter 2005-2006 number. Below is a somewhat belated seasonal update on recent developments relevant to the field of Ukrainian Canadian Studies, and important news about upcoming events and activities.

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Conferences

The Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) conference has proven to be the most popular annual academic gathering in Canada at which papers on Ukrainian-Canadian topics are presented. This year seems to be no exception to that rule. The conference, to be held on 27–29 2006 at York University in Toronto as part of the 75th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (aka the Learned), will feature six panels dealing with Ukrainian Canadiana. The CAS Web site includes a “Conference” page (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/conference.html>) on which the programme will be posted when it becomes officially available. It also provides a link to the Congress Web site (<http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2006/>), where one can register for both the Congress and the CAS conference on-line. Early registration for the Congress (before 1 April) is $100; thereafter it is $150. Registration for CAS (organization no. 56) is $20 for members and $30 for non-members. Discounts for the Congress and CAS registration are available for students, the unwaged, and retired people.

The Ukrainian Academy of the Arts and Sciences in Canada (UVAN) and the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada (NTSh) will be holding a one-day conference at the Learned on Saturday, 27 May 2006 (concurrent with the first day of the CAS sessions). The call for papers includes Ukrainica Canadiana as one of the categories for the sessions to be organized. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Daria Darewych (dariad@yorku) before 1 April 2006. UVAN and NTSh are also planning a round-table discussion on the present and future state of Ukrainian (including Ukrainian-Canadian) studies in Canada, which will take place following the sessions in the evening at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation in Toronto.

Three conferences dealing with the Ukrainian diaspora are being held in Ukraine this year. The number marks a substantial increase in activity.

The earliest (mentioned previously in “Field Notes”) is the “The Diaspora as an Affirmative Factor of Ukraine in the International Community” conference sponsored by the International Institute of Education, Culture, and Ties with the Diaspora in Lviv, which just concluded. It had been scheduled to be held in May 2006 to coincide with that city’s celebration of its 750th anniversary. However, its dates were moved up to 8–10 March 2006.
Next is the “Ukrainian Diaspora: Research Issues” conference which will take place in Ostroh on 22–23 May 2006. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ukrainian Diaspora at the Ostroh Academy National University and several other groups, it is the second such event held there (the first was in 2004). The deadline for proposal submissions is 17 March 2006. For more information, contact the UCP or the Institute in Ostroh at either diaspora@uosa.uar.net or ataman@ostroh.uar.net.

Finally, the Center of Humanitarian Co-operation with the Ukrainian Diaspora at Hohol State University, in conjunction with several other bodies, will be sponsoring a conference in Nizhyn from 21–24 June 2006 with the somewhat unwieldy title: “The Ukrainian Diaspora: Searching for Historical Perspectives, Analyzing Immigration Patterns, Creating Cultural and Artistic Achievements, and Understanding the Contribution of Educational Institutions” The Center had earlier hosted a diaspora conference in 2005, with the proceedings already published (see the “Publications” section for details). It plans to publish the papers from this gathering as well. Proposal submissions can be made up to 1 June 2006. For more information, contact the UCP or the Center in Nizhyn at diaspora@ndpu, 1diaspora1@list.ru, or (04631) 2-41-62.

The Saskatchewan Ukrainian Historical Society will hold another one-day “In Baba’s Trunk” conference on Saturday, 18 March 2006, at the All-Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Saskatoon. The sessions will focus on cemetery preservation and heritage sites. There will also be a launch for Saskatchewan’s Ukrainian Legacy—a travel guide to Ukrainian historic sites in the province (for more information on this, see our “Publications” section). For more conference information or registration, contact the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (306-652-5850, or uccspc@ucc.sk.ca) or event organizer Karen Pidskalny (306-664-0045, or kbpidskalny@sasktel.net).

Cossack Cowboys: The Ukrainian Experience in Alberta. This conference commemorating the centennial of the Province of Alberta was held from 17-19 November 2005 at the University of Alberta. Co-sponsored by the CIUS Ukrainian Canadian Programme, the University of Alberta’s Ukrainian Folklore Programme, and the Alberta Pioneers’ Association, it was a great success. Sessions were well attended, as were the book launches for the books by Dr. Manoly Lupul, Dr. Lisa Grekul, and the late Anthony Hlynka. At present there are no plans to publish the papers as all parties involved are occupied with other projects. However, presenters at the conference are going to be asked to submit copies of their papers so the UCP office to they can have them on file for reference purposes or possible future publication.

Last but not least, the Kalyna Country Ecomuseum Trust Society is planning to host a conference in the spring of 2007 that will include a day devoted to topics relevant to the Ukrainian history of rural east central Alberta. Details about submitting proposals for papers will be provided as soon as they become available.

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From the Centres

The Ukrainian Canadian Programme is in the process of updating and expanding its website with some new information and resources. The revised version should be up and running by late April.
Andrij Makuch, Jars Balan, and Orest Martynowych all gave papers on Ukrainian Canadian topics at the tri-annual conference of the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association held in Ottawa from 13-16 October 2005. They also used their time in the nation’s capital to conduct some primary research at the Library and Archives of Canada. A week later, Jars and Lisa Grekul gave papers on Ukrainian Canadian themes at the “Wild Words” conference held at the University of Calgary in celebration of Alberta’s centennial.

Organizational work has begun on a reading tour to promote Dr. Manoly Lupul’s recently published book, *The Politics of Multiculturalism: A Ukrainian-Canadian Memoir*. Dr. Lupul will be speaking to students at the University of Calgary on 30 March, and additional appearances are being planned for Winnipeg, Toronto, and other Canadian centres. Anyone interested in hosting a reading by Dr. Lupul, should contact either Andrij Makuch or Jars Balan.

Work is now being completed on the editing of Orest Martynowych’s manuscript, *Vasile Avramenko: The Life and Times of a Ukrainian Showman.* The work provides a comprehensive overview of the somewhat chequered career of the colourful and controversial choreographer, filmmaker and impresario. It is hoped to have the book in print by the fall of the 2006.

The UCP has also played a supporting role in bringing together an initiative to publish a collection of Alberta writing in Ukraine. The book is currently being compiled by writers Yuri Pokalchuk of Kyiv, who is visiting Canada, and George Melnyk of the University of Calgary. Tentatively titled “Love in Alberta,” it will be translated in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Canadian Programme would like to extend a special thank-you to the Alberta Ukrainian Heritage Foundation of Edmonton, for its generous donation of $25,000 toward our continuing work and the AHF’s commitment to provide additional funds in the coming years. The money is being earmarked for research and writing on the prominent role played by Ukrainian Canadian activists and organizations in Canada’s labour history.

The Ukrainian Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta has moved its Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives to HUB mall, a high profile location on campus. Dr. Natalie Kononenko’s website at [http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/uvp/](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/uvp/) and the Centre’s homepage at [http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ukrfolk/](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ukrfolk/) have both been significantly updated. Established and new resources include much Ukrainian Canadian content: a searchable catalogue for Ukrainian commercial recordings, photographs, fieldwork audio recordings, material culture, ritual, and Ukrainian Canadian weddings. Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky’s team project “Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies,” with some 800 hours of new interviews about prairie life (Ukrainian, French, German, English roots), has recently been completed (see [http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/local_culture/](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/local_culture/)).

The Grant MacEwan College-based Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre's director, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, has been involved with the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko's Avramenko project. A major aspect of his activity consists of working in a consultative capacity with Ukrainian dancing groups in order to establish objectives and priorities for the future Avramenko Fund for the advancement of Ukrainian Dance in Canada.

In another project, the National Avramenko Centennial Committee is currently touring four copies of an exhibit dealing with the life and work of Vasile Avramenko. The exhibit is the Ukrainian Canadian contribution to the celebration of the centennials of the establishment of Alberta and Saskatchewan as provinces. The tour is sponsored by Canadian Heritage and the
Shevchenko Foundation. The UCP has also participated in a consultative capacity in this multifaceted undertaking.

On Thursday, 4 May 2006, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education will be hosting its thirteen annual “Kyiv Konnection” fund-raising banquet in support of URDC. The keynote speaker is author Myrna Kostash, whose latest book, Reading the River: A Traveller’s Companion to the North Saskatchewan River, was published in December by Coteau Books. Tickets can be reserved by contacting Alice Chumer at chumera@macewan.ca or phoning (780) 497-4374.

The Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a commemorative concert on 26 March. The programme will feature the Olexander Koshetz Choir of Winnipeg performing Koshetz arrangements for songs drawn from a variety of cultures, including French Canadian, Afro-American, Scottish, Indian, Hawaiian, and Ukrainian. The of University of Manitoba Women's Chorus is also on the bill, and will perform the North American premiere of the cantata Mazeppa (1862) by Irish composer Michael Balfe. The event has already been sold out.

The work of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage has benefited this year from the assistance of the first recipient of the PCUH Centennial Scholarship, Serhiy Kostiuk. Mr. Kostiuk is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. programme in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. He has a Candidate of Sciences degree from the Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University (2004) and an MS degree from Georgia State University in the USA (2003). His Ph.D. thesis is focused on social capital within ethnic communities in Canada, including the Ukrainian Canadians. His research interests also include Ukrainian-Canadian relations and Ukraine’s domestic and foreign policies.

The PCUH’s annual Mohyla Lecture was held on 4 November 2005. This year, Dr. Roman Petryshyn, director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, spoke about “Innovations in Ukrainian Canadian Community Development: An Institutional Response.” The PCUH’s publishing house, Heritage Press, is currently preparing his presentation for publication. For more information please contact the PCUH director, Dr. Natalia Shostak (natalia.shostak@usask.ca, or 306-966-8958).

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Resources

Robert B. Klymasz recently completed a checklist of “University Graduate Dissertations Produced from 1925 to 2005 Relating to the Ukrainian Experience in Canada” as a report for the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba. It can be accessed electronically at the Centre’s Web site: <www.umanitoba.ca/centres/ukrainian_canadian>.

The “Martha Bielish: Giving Rural Women a Voice” episode of the Mother Tongue television series, which aired on The Learning Channel several months ago (and was shown at the “Cossack Cowboys” conference in Edmonton) is available for purchase on both DVD and VHS. Contact information in this regard can be obtained at <http://www.mothertongue.ca/contact.php>.

Our readers might be interested in checking out one or both of the following Newspapers online:
• Novyi shliakh/New Pathway, which is now posting materials at <http://www.infoukes.com/newpathway/>.

• The Ukrainian Weekly, which has occasional Ukrainian-Canadian pieces, although it has not had a resident Canadian resident reporter for many years now: <http://www.ukrweekly.com>.

Publications—New and Forthcoming

We are pleased to announce that Manoly Lupul’s *The Politics of Multiculturalism: A Ukrainian-Canadian Memoir* has been released by CIUS Press. Cost: $34.95 (paper) or $69.95 (cloth); ISBN: 1-894865-01-4 (paper) or 1-894865-00-6 (cloth). It can be ordered on-line at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/cius/publications/books/politicsofmulticulturalism.htm>. We also have the pleasure of announcing that Lisa Grekul’s *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada’s Ukrainians* is now finally available from the University of Alberta Press., Cost: $34.95; ISBN: 0-88864-452-3. Both titles had been mentioned in earlier editions of “Field Notes” as forthcoming.

The proceedings of last summer’s “diaspora” conference in Nizhyn have been published as a special issue of *Ukrains’kyi vymir* (Vol 4, in 2 books). A fair number of articles on Ukrainian-Canadian themes are included there. The number of copies published is quite low (ie, 200), but the UCP has made provision to get some deposited in several Canadian universities.

Specialists in Women’s Studies, Labour History and Canadian culture in the interwar period, will all want to look up recently published article titled “Robitnytsia, Ukrainian Communists, and the ‘Porcupinism’ Debate: Reassessing Ethnicity, Gender and Class in Early Canadian Communism, 1922-1930.” Authored by Joan Sangster, who teaches working-class and women’s history at Trent University, it can be found in the Fall 2005 issue of *Labour/Le Travail* 56, the Journal of Canadian Labour Studies, pp. 51-89.

An updated and revised version of the *Jars Balan* article “Voices from the Canadian Steppes: Ukrainian Elements in Andrew Suknaski’s Poetry,” is to be published shortly in a collection of critical essays devoted to the Saskatchewan poet. Also included in the volume will be a paper by Lindy Ledohowski. More details will be provided once the critical study, which is being assembled by Rob McLennan for Guernica Press, is available.

Making its debut on 18 March 2006 will be *Saskatchewan’s Ukrainian Legacy: A travel guide to the cultural and historical sites in the Ukrainian bloc settlement communities*. This will be a 52-page travel guide that will list some 300 sites of interest. It is an undertaking of the Saskatchewan Ukrainian Historical Society and will be launched at the group’s “In Baba’s Trunk” conference (mentioned in the “Conferences” section). The guide will be distributed gratis throughout the province. People who wish a copy of the guide, but live outside the province, should contact the Saskatchewan UCC (uccspc@ucc.sk.ca).


Another brand new book of interest is *Body Traffic*, which has just been published by Edmonton’s NeWest Press. Co-authored by Alex Domokos and Rita Y. Toews, it is described as
a “multi-layered mystery that travels from the mean streets of Kyiv to the equally mean streets of Winnipeg.” The plot centres on the trafficking of East European women to North America for the purpose of prostitution, with a side-story on the business of illegal donor trading. The main characters include: an undercover RCMP officer named Stan Boyko; Sonja Sepsik, a Ukrainian victim of a prostitution ring operating in Manitoba; and someone named Taras, “a veteran of the Second World War who is hiding a terrible secret from his past.” It all sounds very mysterious….

Also fresh of the presses is the bilingual anthology **Poezohrafiia: Suchasna zorova poeziiia ukrains’koi movoiu / Poezographia: Contemporary Visual Poetry in Ukrainian.** Compiled and edited by Tatiana Nazarenko, and published by Rodovid in Kyiv, it features original work by three Ukrainian-Canadian authors: Jars Balan, Brian Dedora and Andrew Suknaski. The book is available through Rodovid Publishing House in Kyiv, ISBN 966-7845-22-2.

Finally, a revised and expanded edition of the memoir/travelogue **Rozdumy na mosty z dvobichnym rukhom** (Reflections on a Bridge with Traffic Travelling both Ways) has recently been published in Kyiv. It is co-authored by Stanislav Lazebnyk and Olha Havura, long-time employees of the former Ukraina Society in Kyiv. More details will be provided in a subsequent issue of Field Notes.

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**This and that…**

The first **Kobzar Literary Award** for Ukrainian-Canadian literature was given out on 2 March 2006 at a gala banquet in Toronto. The prize was shared by Laura Langston, of Victoria, B.C., for *Lesia’s Dream* and Danny Schur, of Winnipeg, for *Strike! - The Musical*. The other short-listed contenders included Lisa Grekul for *Kalyna’s Song* and Larry Warwaruk for *Andrei and the Snow Walker*. The next award is to be presented in two year’s time in March 2008. Our congratulations to all of the nominees and the winners. For more information on the Kobzar Literary Award, see [www.kobzarliteraryaward.com](http://www.kobzarliteraryaward.com).

For an account of the award ceremony see <http://www.infoukes.com/newpathway/10-2006_Page_1.htm>.

The 2006 edition of the **Kalyna Country Visitor’s and Events Guide** has now gone to print, and will be available for distribution by the end of March. This year’s theme is “multicultural Kalyna Country,” and the guide features an article by Jars Balan on the many Poles from eastern Galicia who also homesteaded in Canada’s oldest and largest Ukrainian bloc settlement. The Kalyna Country Trust Society is about to significantly expand its tourism-oriented website with an educational section, which will include many articles of specific interest to Ukrainian Canadianists.