

24 July 2009

International Conference Features Ukrainian Catholics and Orthodox

An international conference on Eastern Christians in the Habsburg Monarchy to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, on 11–12 September 2009 will offer extensive coverage of Ukrainian religious life in Galicia, Bukovyna, Transcarpathia, and in the North American emigration from 1772 to 1918.

The Research Program on Religion and Culture of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Wirth Institute of Austrian and Central European Studies, both at the University of Alberta, have joined forces to organize this scholarly symposium. Participants are coming from Britain, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, and the United States.

Professor Paul R. Magocsi of the University of Toronto will deliver the opening address, surveying the history of Eastern Christians in the Habsburg Empire. Roksolana Kosiv of the Lviv Academy of Art will speak on Ukrainian banners (*khорuhvy*), which is also the topic of her recent book. Natalia Dmytryshyn, also of Lviv, will talk about sacral embroidery in Galicia. Father Peter Galadza of the Sheptytsky Institute at St. Paul University in Ottawa will discuss Aleksander Bachynsky's translation of the psalter.

University of Winnipeg professor Andriy Zayarnyuk will examine references to Eastern Christianity in Lviv's public space at the turn of the twentieth century. Olesia Semchyshyn-Huzner of the Lviv Academy of Art will present the sacral painting of Modest Sosenko.

Joel Brady, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, will reveal the connections between Ukrainian immigration to America and Greek Catholic conversions to Orthodoxy in Austria-Hungary, and Professor Frances Swyripa of the University of Alberta will describe how wayside shrines were transplanted from Europe to the Canadian prairies.

One session will be entirely in the Ukrainian language. Bernadett Puskás of the Nyíregyháza Institute in Hungary will discuss Ukrainian sacral art in Eastern Slovakia. Hannah Skoreyko of Chernivtsi National University will speak about difficult relations between Orthodox and Catholics and between Romanians and Ukrainians in Bukovyna.

In addition to the scholarly papers, other Ukrainian-related events planned for the conference are: a showing of Dani Stodilka's film, *A Kingdom Reborn: Treasures from Ukrainian Galicia*; the presentation of John-Paul Himka's new book, *Last Judgment Iconography in the Carpathians* (University of Toronto Press), by Professor Franz Szabo, director of the Wirth Institute; and a concert of liturgical music performed by St. George's Parish Choir, under the direction of Irena Tarnawsky.

For further information on the conference, please contact John-Paul Himka, director of the Research Program on Religion and Culture of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (jhimka@ualberta.ca), or the Wirth Institute (780 492-2716).