



## МАТЕРІАЛИ ДО БІОГРАФІЇ МИХАЙЛА ЗУБРИЦЬКОГО

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## MATERIALS TOWARD A BIOGRAPHY MYKHAILO ZUBRYTS'KYI

Ksenya KIEBUZINSKI

Vasyl' Sokil, compiler and editor. *Materials do biohrafii [Materials Toward a Biography]*.

2016. Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi: *Zibrani tvory i materialy [Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi: Collected Works and Materials]*, editor-in-chief, Frank Sysyn, edited by Hryhorii Dem'ian et al., vol. 2, Vydavnytstvo «Litopys», 2013—. 616 pp.

Having spent twenty-five years answering reference and research queries, many of them relating to factual details about members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia and professional class, I can attest that there is a serious need for a comprehensive academic biographic reference work listing famous and lesser-known individuals — Ukrainians as well as representatives of other nationalities — who lived and worked in the territories of present-day Ukraine. However, given the slow progress of similar endeavours — for example, *Dictionnaire de biographie française (Dictionary of French Biography)*, which started appearing in 1929, is now only up to the letter *L*; and the Polish equivalent, *Polski słownik biograficzny (Polish Biographic Dictionary)*, begun in 1935, is up to the letter *Ś*, with an anticipated completion date of 2030 — even better would be the creation of a freely accessible, crowd-sourced biographic portal. In compiling the biographies of notable individuals and families who lived in Ukrainian-ethnographic territories, one could do worse than begin with an entry on the Greek Catholic clergyman and scholar Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi (1856-1919).

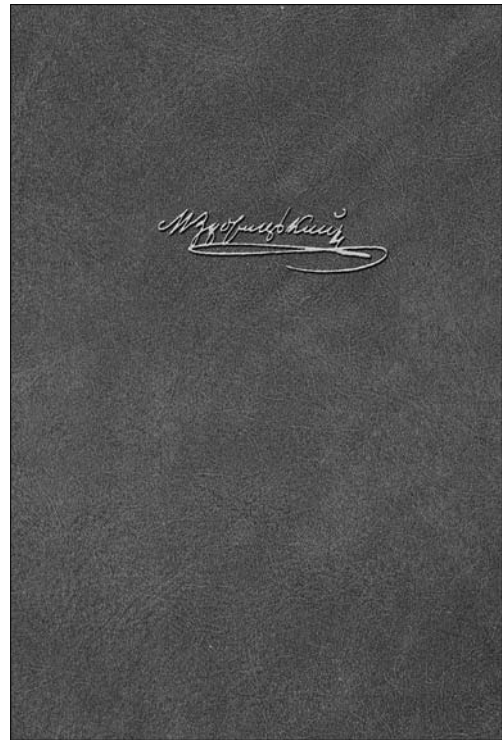
Who was Zubryts'kyi? He was born of petty-gentry stock in Kindrativ, not far from Turka. He completed his gymnasium studies in Drohobych, his theological studies in Lviv, and his seminary studies in Przemyśl. He was ordained a priest in 1883; however, the collection of documents under review — *Materialy do biohrafii (Materials Toward a Biography)*, volume 2 of *Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi: Zibrani tvory i materialy (Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi: Collected Works and Materials)* — emphasizes, above all, his role as a historian, ethnographer, and, from 1904, full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Zubryts'kyi contributed 345 articles to leading newspapers and journals of his time, such as *Dilo (The Deed [Lviv])*, *Zoria (Star [Lviv])*, *Bat'kivshchyna (Fatherland [Lviv])*, *Zhytie i slovo (Life and Word [Lviv])*, and *Zapysky Naukovoho tovarystva im. Shevchenka (Annals of the Shevchenko Scientific Society [Lviv])*. These writings included scholarly articles on nineteenth-century Galicia and on the Boiko region, particularly on the local history, material culture, and folklore of the latter; and they also presented source documents collected from the villagers and clergy of the Boiko region. Zubryts'kyi published articles regularly — several per year — from 1884 until the outbreak of World War I. Quite remarkable was the fact that he undertook his research and wrote his manuscripts while serv-

ing as a pastor, 218 East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies for thirty-one years, in Mshanets — a remote community 32 kilometres (southwest) from the closest large city, Sambir; 9 kilometres from the nearest train station in Ustrzyki Dolne; and 14 kilometres from the post office in Lutowiska. Mail could be sent and received only twice a week. Lviv, the capital of Habsburg Galicia and Lodomeria, was an eight-hour journey one way. Zubryts'kyi had to plan his trips there carefully, so that they would not interfere with his pastoral duties, and for the sake of economy, he would often try to return on the same day.

The reader of this volume follows Zubryts'kyi's life story through carefully presented selections of documents, compiled and edited by Vasyl' Sokil of the Institute of Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. These documents include necrologies and reminiscences by Zubryts'kyi's contemporaries and his son Petro; a previously unpublished autobiography, written in 1896, along with the diary that Zubryts'kyi kept from the time of his arrest in September 1914 up until May 1915 — approximately the halfway point of his exile in Carniola — and a photo reproduction of a notebook containing extracts from his readings and references to his publications; dozens of Zubryts'kyi's letters to Volodymyr Hnatiuk, Mykhailo Hrushevs'kyi, Ivan Franko, and other prominent Ukrainians, together with letters and annual reports to the Prosvita Society documenting the activities of the Mshanets reading room and co-operative; facsimiles of personal documents (baptismal certificate, enrolment records, school report cards, and the like); articles about Zubryts'kyi's scholarly and clerical activities; and a full, annotated bibliography of Zubryts'kyi's works.

The biographic material as a whole in this volume reveals that Zubryts'kyi's life was guided as much by fate as by hard work. His birth order left him without prospects for an inheritance — he was the younger, by eighteen years, of two surviving sons — so his father encouraged him to pursue an education. Then, after Zubryts'kyi's gymnasium studies had been interrupted by obligatory military service, he was, luckily, discharged in 1877, though unfortunately on account of his brother's untimely death. Zubryts'kyi's clerical appointment to Mshanets was probably secured largely thanks to his wife: he served as an assistant to her grandfather Anton Nazarevych from 1883 to 1888. Later, when

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Zubryts'kyi was faced with internment in the inhumane conditions of the camp in Thalerhof, where three thousand prisoners died, fortuitous circumstance redirected him into exile in what is present-day Slovenia. His luck ran out after he was arrested for a second time by Polish authorities in November 1918, for openly supporting the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR);

he was released quickly, but his health declined, and he passed away five months later.

From the documents written by Zubryts'kyi, we have a record of the books that he read and the individuals who most influenced him — a history of ideas of the time, including those of German, Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian political thinkers and writers. This information, combined with the material that Zubryts'kyi deposited in the library of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (incidentally, a review of the acquisitions ledgers relating to his donations would have been a wonderful addition to this volume), constitutes a rich source for the study of Zubryts'kyi's socio-intellectual views and those of his contemporaries. What one will not discover about Zubryts'kyi in this volume is anything much about his personal religious practice or spiritual beliefs. His pastoral duties focused more on the economic and social wellbeing of his community. In addition, we get little sense of what kind of husband Zubryts'kyi was to his wife, Ol'ha (née Borysevych), a trained educator, and what kind of father he was to their four children. He barely mentions them in his writings, and we learn about them only through the scholars who

contributed essays to this volume. At the same time, however, Zubryts'kyi's sons clearly held their father in high regard, and they preserved his archival legacy under difficult circumstances — through two world wars and the Soviet period.

This second volume in the anticipated three-volume collection of works and materials about Zubryts'kyi is a worthwhile contribution to biographic studies of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century eastern Galicia. It is also, in its presentation, a book lover's tome. The publisher, Vydavnytstvo «Litopys», has produced a beautiful book in terms of its choice of paper, font, layout, binding, colour-photo reproductions, and endpapers (the latter depicting a cadastral map of Mshanets). The editorial team, which includes editor-in-chief Frank Sysyn (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta) as well as the late Hryhorii Dem"ian (Institute of Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), deserves praise for the incredibly informative and well-researched footnotes and annotated bibliographic citations. From these alone, a scholarly biographic dictionary or portal could be initiated.