

The Odyssey of V. Lypyns'kyj's Archives

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The odyssey of the personal and family archives of Vjačeslav Lypyns'kyj is eventful and dramatic, as was the life of their owner and collector.

Vjačeslav Lypyns'kyj showed an interest in and aptitude for collecting archival materials as an eighth-grade student at the First Kiev Gymnasium (1901–1902). He continued to develop that interest during his university studies in Cracow (1902–1907) and in Geneva (1907–1908), and then pursued it when living again in Cracow and in Zakopane (1910–12), at Rusalivs'ki Čahary in the Uman' region (1912–14), and in Poltava (1915–17).

Lypyns'kyj's archival materials were stored first at the family manor of the Lypyns'kyjs (Lipińskis) at Zaturci in Volhynia and then, from 1912, at the personal estate that Vjačeslav inherited from his mother's brother, Adam Rokicki, at Rusalivs'ki Čahary. It was said at the time that Lypyns'kyj's library and archives at Rusalivs'ki Čahary were among the largest private collections in history and political thought in the Ukraine.

In 1915 the family manor at Zaturci was completely devastated because it was located on the line of protracted fighting between Austro-German and Russian army units. Family and personal archival materials were destroyed by fire and ruin, along with the estate buildings. In the manor's park, only tree trunks scorched by artillery fire remained. Vjačeslav's own estate at Rusalivs'ki Čahary was robbed and burned down by Ukrainian rebels in April 1918, already after the arrival of the German army in the Ukraine and three weeks before the proclamation of the Hetmanate.

The losses, especially that of the library and archives at Rusalivs'ki Čahary, where the manuscript of a four-volume history of the Ukraine ready for publication had gone up in flames, were a great blow to Lypyns'kyj. Even ten years later, in a dedication to his parents of a planned publication in Polish on Ukrainian political themes, Lypyns'kyj expressed pain at the recollection: "To the dearest memory of my beloved Parents, Kazimierz and Klara, née Rokicka, Lipiński, and to the memories of the House in which I was raised and which was destroyed by a war of capitalists and a rebellion of nomads, I am dedicating this fruit of the work, thought, and aspirations of my whole life—Wacław Lipiński."

In July 1918 Hetman Pavlo Skoropads'kyj appointed Lypyns'kyj ambassador of the Ukrainian state to the imperial court in Vienna. From the beginning of his ambassadorship, Lypyns'kyj collected archival materials and a library. The manuscripts then assembled—his unpublished works, diaries, correspondence, records, notes for his memoirs, materials of the Vienna Embassy, and miscellaneous materials—are now almost all gathered, and form one of the largest archival collections at the W. K. Lypynsky East European Research Institute in Philadelphia. It is significant that only Lypyns'kyj's archival materials created and collected outside of the Ukraine have survived.

Many persons took part in the preservation of Lypyns'kyj's archival treasures. They include the metropolitan of Lviv, Andrej Šeptyc'kyj; the metropolitan of Philadelphia, Konstantyn Bohačevs'kyj; the primate of Austria, Cardinal Theodor Innitzer; and Professor Philip Moseley of Columbia University. Indeed, the preservation of Lypyns'kyj's émigré archives has a history of its own.

In an entry dated 5 November 1929, Lypyns'kyj recorded in his diary that Metropolitan Šeptyc'kyj had arrived that morning by taxi from the airport in Graz (Styria), at Badegg, Lypyns'kyj's residence in the Styrian mountains. Šeptyc'kyj had talked with him on various subjects of mutual interest, and had asked to purchase Lypyns'kyj's correspondence for the National Museum in Lviv, which the metropolitan had founded. By mutual agreement the correspondence was to be turned over to the museum, but only after Lypyns'kyj's death.

Somewhat later, in May 1931, Lypyns'kyj, now in critical health, was obliged to commit himself to the Wienerwald sanatorium near Vienna, at considerable expense. He wrote to Metropolitan Šeptyc'kyj, on 16 May, requesting a loan of \$500. If he were unable to repay the money, he proposed to turn over to the National Museum in Lviv manuscripts of his unfinished works and his notes on a variety of subjects. The metropolitan accepted the proposal readily.

On Saturday morning, 6 June 1931, Lypyns'kyj left for Wienerwald, accompanied by his brother, Włodzimierz, a physician in Luc'k. On June 14, having fought heroically with death for eight days, he succumbed.

Lypyns'kyj's death raised the question of how to divide his estate, especially his archives, now owned in part by Metropolitan Šeptyc'kyj.

The designated executor of Lypyns'kyj's will was Myxajlo Savur-Cyprijanovyč, his loyal, longtime secretary. Vjačeslav's library was immediately taken by his brother, Stanisław, to Volhynia, where it would be destroyed during the war, in 1939–40. In accordance with the decision of Cyprijanovyč, the Reverend Mitrate Myron Hornykevyč, plenipotentiary of

Metropolitan Šeptyc'kyj and then parish priest at the St. Barbara Church in Vienna, took possession of not only all of Lypyns'kyj's correspondence, unfinished works, and notes, but also his diaries, the materials of the Vienna Embassy (in copies), many small fascicles, and the notes Lypyns'kyj had taken to write his memoirs.

Informed about the transfer, Šeptyc'kyj decided, after some reflection, not to transport the archives to Lviv. He had a premonition that the wake of the Russian Revolution would reach Galicia—which, of course, did happen, first in 1939–41 and then again in 1944. The metropolitan appointed the Reverend Myron Hornykevyč custodian of the archives, and ordered that they be stored in the parish hall of the St. Barbara Church in Vienna.

According to Lypyns'kyj's will, his archives were to become available for use only ten years after his death. That tenth anniversary came during the Second World War, which ended with the occupation by the Soviet Red Army of not only Galicia, but of all Eastern Europe and a large portion of Central Europe, including parts of Austria and its capital, Vienna. The approach of the Red Army posed a serious threat to Lypyns'kyj's archives. Father Hornykevyč was aware what consequences would result if the Soviets found political archives in the parish building. His hasty search for another location led to the primate of Austria and archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Innitzer, who agreed to relocate Lypyns'kyj's archives in the cellar of his cathedral church, St. Stephen's, where the archives of the Vienna archdiocese were also located.

In the meantime, on 13 April 1945, the Red Army occupied Vienna and agents of the Soviet secret police started to operate. Investigators summoned Father Hornykevyč and inquired where Lypyns'kyj's archives were. At the same time it became known that Soviet agents were frequently visiting the cellar of St. Stephen's, where they were particularly intrigued by a pillow-covered door off the corridor. That news alarmed Cardinal Innitzer, who quickly sought a different location for Lypyns'kyj's archives. Having found it, he called Father Hornykevyč, saying that he would celebrate a service for the safe transfer of the archives on the next day and asking Father Hornykevyč to do the same at St. Barbara's Church.

The new location was the State Archives in Vienna, or Staatsarchiv. But it would not be easy to transport boxes with Lypyns'kyj's archives there, because Soviet patrols were roaming the streets of Vienna day and night, stopping and checking transports.

Cardinal Innitzer hit on the idea of transporting the boxes in trucks belonging to the Viennese archdiocese. The trucks had been transporting food for children throughout the city every day. It was widely known that the archdiocese was helping children with provisions at several dozen food

distribution centers in Vienna. The cardinal also knew that the Soviet patrols had become used to the trucks and rarely stopped them. He took the risk, and the operation succeeded. Nobody betrayed the secret transfer and relocation.

Father Hornykevyč was forced to flee from Vienna because Soviet investigators threatened him with arrest unless he provided the information they wanted. Cardinal Innitzer found him refuge at a monastery in Upper Austria near the town of Traunstein. I lived as a refugee not far from that monastery, which gave me the opportunity to pay frequent visits to Father Hornykevyč and to learn about the Lypyns'kyj archives.

My story thus far of the archives' odyssey has been based largely on information obtained from Father Myron Hornykevyč. He provided me with the address of his brother, the Reverend Dr. Teofil' Hornykevyč, a permanent resident of Vienna, who knew about the archives and became the decisive figure in their later rescue.

My correspondence with the Reverend Teofil' Hornykevyč was established a few months after my arrival in New York in 1949, and again in 1953, when I moved to Philadelphia. I fretted over the thought that every day increased the danger of the archives' capture by the Soviets. Living in a new country, in completely new circumstances, I felt helpless, and yet I pondered the question of what to do about the archives. The idea came to mind that I should seek the help of some American university or private archival institution.

In the spring of 1952, Dr. Ostap Kotyk-Stepanovyč and I went to see Professor Philip Moseley of Columbia University, whom my companion knew from Prague. We told him the story of the Lypyns'kyj archives and proposed that Columbia University acquire them from the Austrian Staatsarchiv through the mediation of an American representative in Vienna. Professor Moseley was visibly interested in the matter, but asked for two weeks' time to check the proposal with university authorities.

The result of Professor Moseley's consultation was essentially positive, but the university administration required that at least one important Ukrainian social organization or the metropolitan of Philadelphia submit a written statement agreeing to the acquisition of the Lypyns'kyj archives by Columbia University. Dmytro Halychyn and Roman Slobodian agreed to provide such a statement from the Ukrainian National Association when the rescue of the archives was imminent. Columbia University proceeded to arrange the transfer, only to come up against the resolute refusal of the director of the Staatsarchiv to either sell or give the archives to anyone, because they had been placed in the Staatsarchiv by Cardinal Innitzer on deposit for Metropolitan Šeptyc'kyj.

In this stalemate what remained was only to obtain permission from the Staatsarchiv director to microfilm the Lypyns'kyj archives in their entirety, at our expense. Only Father Teofil' Hornykevyc could make the arrangements, because he had contacts with influential circles in Vienna. Also, he was trusted by Cardinal Innitzer, who could assist in the undertaking.

Although the Soviets officially withdrew from Austria in 1955, the political atmosphere there remained tense, so that caution and circumspection seemed well advised. The plan to microfilm the Lypyns'kyj archives depended on assuring the personal safety of Father Teofil', on relaying information overseas despite the absence of reliable postal services, and on the delivery of funds through trusted persons.

Finally a good opportunity presented itself in the form of the departure of Reverend Dr. Volodymyr Gavlič from New York via Rome to Vienna, where he was to become priest of St. Barbara's parish. Through him I passed a long letter to Father Teofil'. There followed a long wait for Father Gavlič's return, and Father Teofil's answer. It came in the summer of 1962: Father Teofil' needed \$1,500 for the work to begin. The wait for another good opportunity ensued. Unexpected help came from Metropolitan Kostantyn Bohačevs'kyj in Philadelphia, who agreed to pass money to Father Teofil' through the Nunciature in Washington. The money was collected, without any publicity by a small group in Philadelphia who shared Lypyns'kyj's ideas, by January 1963.

Microfilming started in the spring of 1963. The work was done three times a week by a retired microfilm operator. Everything in the archives, down to Lypyns'kyj's medical prescriptions, was microfilmed. The work was directed by Father Teofil', whom the Staatsarchiv took on as an aide. Due in part to the illnesses of Father Teofil' and the microfilm operator, the operation took more than two years to complete.

In the meantime Father Teofil' managed to establish a postal connection with me through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vienna and the Austrian Embassy in Washington. Not only Father Teofil's letters to me and mine to him, but also rolls of microfilms went by diplomatic post.

In 1965 the last rolls of microfilm of Vjačeslav Lypyns'kyj's archives arrived. That provided the inspiration for the foundation and subsequent activity of the East European Research Institute named in honor of Vjačeslav Lypyns'kyj.

W. K. Lypynsky East European Research Institute

Translated from the Ukrainian by Bohdan A. Struminsky