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## In Memoriam

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### Jacob P. Hursky, 1924-1995

On February 28, 1995 Dr. Jacob P. Hursky, former Chairman of The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Syracuse University and long time member of The American Name Society passed away at his home in DeWitt, New York. He was 71.

Dr. Hursky was born in Zoldaky, Ukraine — a town proud of its kozak ‘cossack’ and military heritage. At an early age he showed a keen interest in historical and Ukrainian thematics, an interest which was not fully nurtured nor developed until after the conclusion of World War II. At the end of the war, the Hursky clan found themselves, along with countless others, in a Displaced Persons’ Camp in Ausburg, Germany. In 1945 they moved to Munich where Jacob (*Jakiv* in Ukrainian) began his scholarly education in earnest. At The Ukrainian Free University under the tutelage of such noted scholars as Shevelov, Doroshenko, Biletsky and Rudnyćkyj, he developed his style and methodology for in-depth research, along with a sense of “academic purpose.” He studied there between the years 1946 and 1949, eventually earning a Masters Degree in Slavistics. Upon arriving in the United States, Hursky settled in Philadelphia and studied at The University of Pennsylvania where he earned his Masters Degree and Doctorate in Slavic and Baltic Studies (1951) while simultaneously teaching at nearby Dickenson College. His dissertation, *The Patronymic Surnames in Ukrainian* remains for Ukrainian onomastics a classic investigation.

From 1954 through 1955 he taught Russian at Pennsylvania State University. In 1956 he joined the faculty of Syracuse University, where he was Chair of the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department from 1976 to 1989.

Hursky published several articles in *Names* and introduced an onomastic twist into many of his lectures, whether they were in language, Slavic cultures and civilizations or comparative linguistics. His grasp of the importance of socio-linguistic influences and

historical perspective were important in understanding the onomastic depth he sought and which he required.

Hursky was a member of many scholarly societies and organizations, including the American Name Society, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, the Bulgarian Studies Association, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society. At the time of his death he was Vice President of UVAN, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of the Auditing Committee of the Ukrainian Free University (1976-1987), as well as a member of the Academic Advisory Council on Ukrainian Studies at Harvard (1968-1975). From 1976 through 1981 he was Head of the Linguistics Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Also, he was faculty advisor to the Ukrainian Students' Club at Syracuse University.

Throughout his academic career and well into retirement, Dr. Hursky continued to present lectures and teach courses, as well as edit and publish. He is well-remembered for his participation in summer lecture series and classes at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich; the Kievan-Mohyla Academy in Kiev, Ukraine; and the Ukrainian Studies Summer Seminars at Harvard University. His monumental editing of the *Anniversary* publication honoring Juryj Shevelov's 80th birthday, and the volume honoring Hryhoryj Kytastyj will stand as examples for future scholars.

Dr. Hursky is survived by his wife, Valentina; two daughters, Alexandra and Tatiana; his father, Panteleymon; his brother, Peter; and nephews and nieces. Funeral services were from St. Luke's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Syracuse with interment at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox National Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

The Jacob P. and Valentina S. Hursky Ukrainian Graduate Fellowship Fund has been established at Syracuse University to assist future scholars in Ukrainian and Slavic Studies. To contribute, please make donations to the above at Syracuse University, 820 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, New York 13244.

May his Memory remain Eternal!

Stephen P. Holutiak-Hallick, Jr.  
Duluth, Georgia