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## In Memoriam

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### Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnyćkyj, 1910-1995

The world onomastic community lost a giant on October 19, 1995. The passing of J. B. Rudnyćkyj has deprived Ukrainian onomatology of its spirit, soul, and energy. Rudnyćkyj died in Montréal, Canada after a brief illness, six weeks before his 85th birthday.

Dr. Jaroslav Bohdan Rudnyćkyj was born in Peremyśl, a town then in the Austrian part of Ukraine, on November 28, 1910. He spent his early childhood and formative years in the city of Stryj. He matriculated at the University of Lvov in western Ukraine, where he also completed his Masters and Doctoral studies, receiving his PhD in 1937. He was associated with the University of Berlin from 1938 to 1941. During World War II he was on the faculty of Charles University in Prague, and in the immediate post-war years he taught in Heidelberg and also at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich. In 1949 he and his family immigrated to Winnipeg, Canada where he was the founding professor of the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba. He was chair of that department from 1949 until his retirement in 1977.

Rudnyćkyj's contributions to onomatology, Ukrainian linguistics, lexicology, bibliographic research, Canadian public life (through the Bilingual and Bicultural Commission), Ukrainian exile politics, Slavic studies, and education are so valuable that to discuss only a few would do injustice to his varied interests, initiatives, inventiveness and serious scholarship. He was literally a perpetual-motion machine, with a mind and personality that challenged and inspired many, while he accepted greater challenges himself. At the time of his passing many projects lay unfinished in his Ottawa office. To gain an appreciation of his person and his scholarship (nearly 3000 publications) I would direct you to the following reference works: *Repertorium Bibliographicum, 1933-1983*, its *Addendum, 1984-1995*, *J. B. Rudnyćkyj and the Growth of Ukrainian Onomastics: An Onomastic Bibliography, 1935-1995*, as well as the twelve issues of *Rudnyćkiana* (1985-1995).

Rudnyćkyj can rightfully be considered the one scholar who fully nurtured and developed Ukrainian onomastics, both in Ukraine and abroad. His interest in toponomy, anthroponomy, and sociolinguistic

influences on onomastics was present throughout his career. His *The Name Ukraine*, *Ukrainian-Canadian Placenames*, *Manitoba Place Names*, and *Winnipeg Street Names* are standard references. He was a pioneer in onomastic bibliography; especially noteworthy are the bibliographies published by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. His series *Onomastica* (1951-75) was the precursor to the journal of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, *Onomastica* (now *Onomastica Canadiana*). I would be remiss if I did not mention his important work *Etymological Formula in Onomastics* (1967), which provided a foundation for his life's long work *The Etymological Dictionary of The Ukrainian Language* (1962-82). The use of the formula developed in the earlier work greatly expanded the scope and definition of etymological research. In the *Dictionary* the addition and dating of Ukrainian surnames to the definitions of words investigated had tremendous impact on Ukrainian linguistics, since its historical chronology provided proof of the legitimacy of Ukrainian, a language maligned for years by a number of Rudnyčkyj's contemporaries. With his sponsorship the University of Manitoba became the first Canadian university to accept theses on onomastic topics. Under his leadership, Ukrainian onomastics matured to the point where Ukrainian surname dictionaries were produced as well as many other works dealing with Ukrainian names both within and beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Rudnyčkyj's flair for being an active organizer, leader, and cheerleader for scholarly organizations is legendary. Wherever and whenever onomatologists gathered, Rudnyčkyj was there. He was a member of every onomastic organization. He had the rare distinction and honor of being present at the founding of a number of onomastic organizations, including the American Name Society and the Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences (now the Canadian Society for the Study of Names). He was present at the first worldwide Onomastic Congress, in Paris in 1937 and a delegate to the United Nations Commission on Geographical Names. His benevolent personality and leadership style led to his frequent terms of service as an officer in onomastic and other organizations. He was president of the American Name Society (1958), president of the Canadian Linguistic Association (1958), president of the Canadian Association of Slavists (1959), president of the Canadian Branch of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences (1955-64), president of the Ukrainian Mohylo-Mazepian Academy (1978-83) and president of the Ukrainian Language Association (1982).

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A philologist and comparative linguist, Rudnyćkyj loved words and was drawn to dictionaries. Besides his major *Etymological Dictionary*, he co-authored *A Ukrainian-German Dictionary* (1943) and *A Spelling Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language* (1979). Other works include *G: A Proscribed Letter in the Soviet Union* (1970), *Ukrainian Exile Idiolect* (1981), and *Lysjanskyj's Hawaiian Dictionary of 1804* (1994). He never failed to include onomastic data in these publications.

Throughout his career and well into his retirement Rudnyćkyj continued to demonstrate his interest and scholarship in onomastics. He presented lectures, gave speeches and taught courses. After retiring from the University of Manitoba he was guest lecturer at the University of Ottawa (1977-80), presented papers at ANS and CSSN meetings, and developed and taught a course entitled "Ukrainian Onomastics" in his native Ukraine. Much of his time after "retirement" was spent as the Chargé d'Affaires of the Ukrainian National Government in Exile (1978-83). For the past few years he was writing his memoirs about this time in his life. Recently he represented the exile government as it returned its post-World War I mandate to the newly freely-elected president of Ukraine. At the time of his death he was coordinating efforts to form a Canadian branch of the Ukrainian University affiliated with the Vatican.

I am sure that much will be written about the many contributions Rudnyćkyj made to onomastics, linguistics, and Ukrainian studies. There is no better way to close this tribute than to echo the words of Kelsie Harder, who recently wrote: "Rudnyćkyj [was] not only a great scholar, but...one who [was] always ready to contribute his time and intelligence to activities of his colleagues" (*Names* 43: 249). Suffice to say, this is tribute to a scholar with style.

J. B. Rudnyćkyj was laid to rest on October 25, 1995 in the Côte des Neiges Cemetery in Montréal, Canada. He is survived by his wife, Marina, son Zhdan, daughter Inka, and four grandchildren. The family requests that donations be sent to the J. B. Rudnyćkyj Research Fund or to the J. B. Rudnyćkyj Distinguished Lecture Foundation at the University of Manitoba. Correspondence should be addressed 5790 Rembrandt Ave., #404, Montréal Canada H4W 2V2.

May his memory be eternal!

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