

Ukrainian Onomastics II

THE UKRAINIAN CONTRIBUTION TO ONOMASTIC SCIENCES 1954–1965*

YAR SLAVUTYCH

ONOMASTIC SCIENCES IN UKRAINIA during the Stalin period were virtually non-existent. The works of pre-revolutionary scholars such as M. Maksymovyč, M. Sumcov, I. Franko and others, which occasionally were concerned with onomastics, were never republished there. Moreover, the available copies of these works were usually withdrawn from the libraries, since they were not in accord with the views of the Communist Party. A few toponomastic publications which appeared in the 1920's, valuable in terms of content but rather unsystematic, were labeled as nationalistic and banned by the Soviet authorities in the 1930's. In point of fact, V. Kordt's *Materialy do istoriji kartohrafiji Ukrajinny*, published in 1931, could be regarded as the swan-song of onomastic studies in Ukrainia. In the succeeding twenty years nothing appeared in Ukrainian in this field: only one article (in Russian) on Ukrainian and Russian surnames was listed in the bibliography for the years 1934–1956.¹ The fact that even this article appeared in Russian illustrates the effectiveness of the Russianization policies of the Government at that time. In 1949 and later some attempts were made to institute research in onomastic sciences,² but these were limited only to the drafts of certain projects.

With the resulting policy of de-Stalinization following the death of Stalin, Ukrainian scholars again resumed work in the onomastic sciences. Thus the period of stagnation came to an abrupt end. A program of field work concerned with toponymics was drawn up in

* Paper read at the Annual Meeting of *ANS* on Dec. 30, 1965 in Chicago, Ill.

¹ *Doslidžennja z movoznavstva v Ukrajin'skij RSR za sorok rokov*, Kyjiv, 1957, p. 300.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 177–78.

1954 by the Academy of Sciences in Kyjiv.³ At this time K. Cilujko published an article, "Toponimika Poltavščyny,"⁴ and later conducted field work on the toponymics of the Dnieper region in 1955. Other scholars and graduate students benefitting from the "thaw" plunged into research projects, and their results were soon published. *Movoznavstvo*, Vol. XIV, consisting of eleven articles on various aspects of Ukrainian toponymics, appeared in 1957. It is regarded by many scholars as the first and major publication in this field.

The following years were unusually productive. The bibliographical book, *Slovjans'ka filolohija na Ukrajinì, 1958–1962*, has a chapter on toponomastic publications listing sixty articles and books which had appeared during the preceding five years. In 1963–65 this number almost doubled. A conservative estimate, based on materials reaching the West, would be that *Ukrajins'ka onomastyka*, a bibliography which is about to appear in Kyjiv,⁵ will list over 100 articles and at least a dozen books and monographs appearing in Ukraine over the last decade. If this is the case, one would be obliged to admit that a distinct revival in the field of Ukrainian nomenclature has taken place.

The impressive quantity of Ukrainian publications on onomastic sciences was to a great extent the fruit of three conferences held in 1959, 1962, and 1965 in Kyjiv, the capital of Ukraine. At these conferences numerous interested scholars presented papers and took part in extensive discussions. Also represented were scholars of other Soviet republics and various East European countries. The deliberations and activities of the participants of the first conference led to the creation of a professional organization. The seventeen-member Ukrainian Onomastic Committee of the Academy of Sciences in Kyjiv was established in 1960 and was headed by Professor K. K. Cilujko.⁶ Among the tasks which the Committee set itself was the publication of a huge *Hydronymic Atlas of Ukraine*, a voluminous *History of Cities and Villages of the Ukrainian RSR*, and

³ K. K. Cilujko, *Korotka prohrama zbyrannja materialiv do vyvčennja toponimiky*, Kyjiv, 1954.

⁴ *Poltavs'ko-kyjivs'kyj dialekt – osnova ukrajins'koji nacional'noji movy*, Kyjiv, 1954.

⁵ *Literaturna Ukrajinà*, Nov. 30, 1965, p. 4.

⁶ *Pytannja toponimiky ta onomastyky*, Kyjiv, 1962, p. 233–4.

the compilation of various dictionaries of names, surnames, and geographic names.⁷

My investigation of the material published to date reveals that the interests of Ukrainian scholars are far-ranging. First, they are doing research in the field of Ukrainian names, surnames, and place-names and are painstakingly investigating the origins and the peculiarities of the formants of these names. In a short paper like this, it is impossible to deal with all of the problems raised and solved by the researchers. I will, however, indicate the most important findings and achievements of Ukrainian scholars in toponomastics.

1. In his monograph, A. A. Burjačok traces the origin and historical development of Ukrainian names pertaining to the family as a unit.⁸ The equivalents for "father," "mother," "cousin," "daughter," etc., are discussed and broadly compared with those of other Slavic and non-Slavic languages. The depth of this study is attested to by the author's dealing with nearly 300 printed and archival sources. This is a highly scholarly and commendable publication.

2. L. L. Humečka dedicates herself to the word stock of Old Ukrainian.⁹ Her investigation of the most typical Ukrainian proper names in *-o*, like *Myxajlo*, *Senko*, *Volodko*, *Radko*, reveals that these were very common in legal deeds as early as the fourteenth century.¹⁰ If the author were permitted to use the manuscripts of earlier centuries, her finds would be even more extensive. Unfortunately, Ukrainian manuscripts of the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries, with few exceptions, have been exclusively used in the research of Old Russian. The official Soviet view is that Ukrainian studies are valid only from the fourteenth century. Thus, in the U.S.S.R. the study of the earliest period in the development of the Ukrainian language has been the task of Russian scholars only. Needless to say, in many cases various aspects of the history of the language have been misinterpreted.

⁷ *Visti z Ukrajinny*, 1965, No. 14, April issue.

⁸ A. A. Burjačok, *Nazvy sporidnenosti i svojactva v ukrajins'kij movi*, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin's'koi RSR, 1961.

⁹ L. L. Humečka, *Narys slovolvorčoji systemy ukrajins'koi aktovoji movy XIV-XV st.*, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin's'koi RSR, 1958. She has recently published also a dozen articles on relevant topics.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 13, 14 and others.

3. O. B. Tkačenko extensively explains the origin and use of the suffix *-enk(o)*, one of the most common and typical onomastic formants in Ukrainian which is not found in any other language.¹¹ The formant *-enکو*, used to denote an offspring, dates back to the twelfth century, when the reduced vowels had already disappeared. L. L. Humečka establishes that *-enکو* was first recorded in 1480.¹²

4. Ju. K. Red'ko classifies about 200 types of Ukrainian surnames, discusses their formation and meaning, and compares them to those of other Slavic surnames.¹³ Of special interest and considerable importance is his article on the geographical distribution of the main types of Ukrainian surnames.¹⁴ He concludes that every fourth family in the central and eastern regions of Ukraine has a surname in *-enکو*, while surnames in *-uk*, *-juk* predominate in the western regions.¹⁵

5. In the field of toponymy, the greatest credit should be given to L. L. Humečka and O. S. Stryžak. Humečka thoroughly investigates the names of cities, villages, lakes, rivers, fords, roads, mountains, and regions listed in the legal deeds of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.¹⁶ Besides establishing the origin of the toponym, she usually devotes considerable attention to the semantic function of the formant. This well-documented study could serve as an example for others. Stryžak limits his research to the hydronyms

¹¹ O. B. Tkačenko, "Ukrajins'ki prizvyšča z sufiksom *-enکو*... (pytannja poxodžennja)", *Slovjans'ke movoznavstvo*, II, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin'skoji RSR, 1958, 38–53; "Prizvyšča z sufiksom *-enکو* ta sporidneni utvorenja," *Ukrajin'ska mova v školi*, 1958, No. I. See also Yar Slavutych, "Ukrainian Surnames in *-enکو*," *Names*, Vol. 10 (1962), No. 3, 181–86.

¹² L. L. Humečka, her review of *Slovjans'ke movoznavstvo*, II in *Ukrajin'ska mova v školi*, Kyjiv, 1960, No. 2, p. 70.

¹³ Ju. K. Red'ko, "Osnovni slovotvorči typy sučasnyx ukrajins'kyx prizvyšč. . .," *Filolohičnyj zbirnyk*, Kyjiv, 1958, 112–129. His five other articles on the related subjects are listed in *Slovjans'ka filolohija, 1958–1962*, Kyjiv, 1963, 114–115.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, "Heohrafija osnovnyx typiv ukrajins'kyx prizvyšč," *Pytannja onomastyky*, Kyjiv, 1965, 77–84.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 78. Cf. V. V. Nimčuk, "Ukrajins'ki prizvyšča z sufiksamy *-uk*..." *Ukrajin'ska dialektolohija i onomastyka*, Kyjiv: Naukova dumka, 1964, 194–210.

¹⁶ L. L. Humečka, "Toponimika v ukrajins'kij aktovij movi XIV–XV st.," *Movoznavstvo*, Vol. XIV, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin'skoji RSR, 1957, 10–28. See also her *Narys slovotvorčoji systemy ukrajins'koji aktovoji movy XIV–XV st.*, 1958, 34–75.

of the Poltava region.¹⁷ Using the etymological approach, the author indicates the sources in which a hydronym was recorded. Some 800 names are explained in this valuable monograph which, incidentally, attests the extremely varied topographical features of the region.

6. V. P. Petrov has published several interesting etymologies of the hydronyms *Stryj*, *Strypa*, *Struha* and others,¹⁸ the origins of which go back to the Indo-European word stock. The Slavic word root *str-* (cf. *struja* in Old Church Slavic, *strumin'* in Ukrainian, *strumień* in Polish – “stream”) and the Baltic word root *str-* (cf. *strauja* – “rapid,” *strāuts* – “stream” in Latvian; *Stradawn*, 1507, and *Strowange*, 1358, in Old Prussian) indicate a definite relationship to the Ukrainian hydronyms *Stryj* and others.¹⁹ It is a pity that the researcher, incorporating such rich material in many languages, has for some reason omitted J. B. Rudnyčkyj's brief article *Pro nazvu Stryj*, published in 1937 and reprinted in his *Studies in Onomastics*.²⁰ Rudnyčkyj, with a similar interpretation of *Stryj*, preceded Petrov by almost thirty years. One can only surmise that Ukrainian publications in the West are still unavailable to Soviet researchers.

Of additional interest is Petrov's broad treatment of the hydronyms of Ukraine in old Greek sources.²¹

7. A. I. Hensōr'skyj's well-documented study of the name “Ruś” was ready for publication in 1947, but only appeared in 1962.²² The author proves concretely that the name *Ruś* originally applied to Ukrainian regions, namely to those of Kyjiv and Perejaslav. This term was also the ethnonym for the Ukrainians, and only after the fourteenth century it began to be used in connection with “Mus-

¹⁷ O. S. Stryžak, *Nazvy ričok Poltavščyny*, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin's'koji RSR, 1963.

¹⁸ V. P. Petrov, “Hidronimija verxn'oho Podnistrovja; Stryj,” *Terytorial'ni dialekty i vlasni nazvy*, Kyjiv: Naukova dumka, 1965, 160–68.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 165.

²⁰ J. B. Rudnyčkyj, *Studies in Onomastics*, II, in the series *Onomastica*, No. 15, Winnipeg: Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, 1958, 44–47.

²¹ V. P. Petrov, “Hidronimy Ukrajinny za antyčnymi džerelamy,” *Ukrajin's'ka dialektolohija i onomastyka*, Kyjiv: Naukova dumka, 1964, 13.

²² A. I. Hensōr's'kyj, “Termin Rus' . . .,” *Doslidžennja i materialy z ukrajin's'koji movy*, Vol. V, Kyjiv: Vydavnytvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin's'koji RSR, 1962, 16–30.

covy" before the reign of Peter I. It is not surprising, therefore, that this valuable study was not published for fifteen years, and even then, one would suspect, in a rather revised version.

8. Of the topics which extend beyond Ukrainian studies, I should mention O. F. Ripečka's²³ article on Slavic elements in the toponymy of Mecklenburg; I. M. Železnjak's articles on Serbo-Croatian anthroponymy;²⁴ F. Bohdan's study on the proper names in Moldavian and Ukrainian legal deeds of the fourteenth century and later;²⁵ L. L. Humečka's brief, but elaborate article on Lithuanian proper names in Ukrainian legal deeds of the fourteenth century;²⁶ and J. O. Karpenko's study of Slavic-Romance interchanges in toponymy.²⁷

As mentioned previously, I have selected for brief evaluation only the most valuable papers and monographs which, in my view, are marked by their originality and their strictly scholarly treatment. Needless to say, my enumeration of the achievements of Ukrainian scholars could be extended. I should also mention that, in addition to the one hundred scholarly articles in the proceedings and other publications of the Academy of Sciences in Kyjiv, dozens of popular articles have been printed in various newspapers in Ukraine recently. It is obvious that, as well as conducting research, these scholars also popularize their findings in various mass periodicals.²⁸

Ukrainian scholars abroad are contributing greatly to onomastic sciences. V. Sičyns'kyj published his monograph on the toponym *Ukrajina* in 1948 in which he presented his etymology and the use of the term down through the centuries.²⁹ This publication was

²³ O. F. Ripečka, "Slovjans'ki elementy v toponimiji Meklenburga," *Slovjans'ke movoznavstvo*, Kyjiv: Vydavnytstvo Akademiji Nauk Ukrajin's'koji RSR, 1962, Vol. IV, 233-49.

²⁴ To mention only a few published in: *Doslidžennja z movoznavstva* Kyjiv, 1962, 77-93; *Terytorial'ni dialekty i vlasni nazvy*, Kyjiv, 1965, 147-60; *Ukrajin's'ka dialektolohija i onomastyka*, Kyjiv, 1964, 211-26; *Slavistyčnyj zbirnyk*, Kyjiv, 1963, 198-214.

²⁵ In *Slovjans'ke movoznavstvo*, 1961, Vol. III, 253-84.

²⁶ In *Doslidžennja i materialy z ukrajins'koji movy*, Kyjiv; Naukova dumka, 1964, 121-32.

²⁷ *Slavistyčnyj zbirnyk*, Kyjiv, 1963, 158-70.

²⁸ For an example, see *Molod' Ukrajinny*, 1965, which is read by high school and university students.

²⁹ V. Sičyns'kyj, *Nazva Ukrajinny*, Augsburg, Germany, 1948.

followed by several toponymic monographs in the series *Onomastica* launched by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1951, under the editorship of J. B. Rudnyčkyj, who had been pioneering in this field since the 1930's. The first three issues of the series dealt with the names *Ukrajina*, *Halyčyna* and *Volyn'*, and Canadian place-names of Ukrainian origin.³⁰ "Few people outside Canada realize the extent of the Ukrainian contribution to Canadian culture. But those who live in the West are very much aware of it," remarks Professor M. H. Scargill of the University of Alberta, Calgary, in his review of *Onomastica*.³¹ Professor Rudnyčkyj has established this fact with his studies of place-names of Ukrainian origin in Canada.

Of the other issues of *Onomastica*, I should mention specifically Rudnyčkyj's *The Origin of the Name "Slav"* (No. 21, 1961), *Geographical Names of Boikovia* (Nos. 23–24, 1962), W. Jaszczun's *The Term and Name "Brody"* (No. 29, 1965), S. Hordynśkyj's *Nazvy "rusyč'i" i "rusovyč'i"* (No. 25, 1963), E. Borschak's *Les noms de famille ukrainiens*, (No. 18, 1959), and M. Borovśkyj's *Ukrainian Topo- and Anthroponymy in the International Botanical Terminology* (No. 9, 1955). Of special interest is *The Term and Name "Canada"* by I. Velyhors'kyj (No. 10, 1955).

Scholars of non-Ukrainian origin have also been invited to contribute to Rudnyčkyj's series *Onomastika*. I would like to mention here B. Unbegaun's *L'origine du nom de ruthènes* (No. 5, 1953), W. Kirkconnell's *Canadian Toponymy and the Cultural Stratification of Canada* (No. 7, 1954), C. Meredith Jones' *Indian, Pseudo-Indian Place Names in the Canadian West* (No. 12, 1956). E. R. Seary's *The French Element in Newfoundland Place Names* (No. 16, 1958), R. MacG. Dawson's *Place Names in Nova Scotia* (No. 19, 1960), E. von Richthofen's *The Spanish Toponyms of the British Columbia Coast* (No. 26, 1963) and J. Nemeth *La Provenance du nom Bulgar* (No. 28, 1964). Thus, the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in Winnipeg has largely been responsible for the promotion of toponomastic sciences in Canada.

³⁰ J. B. Rudnyčkyj, *Slovo i nazva "Ukrajina,"* Winnipeg: UVAN, 1951, 131 p.; *Kanadijs'ki miscevi nazvy ukrajins'koho poxodžennja*, 1951, third enlarged edition – 1957, 93 p.; *Nazvy "Halyčyna" i "Volyn',"* 1952, 32 p.

³¹ *Names*, Vol. 8, No. 2, June 1960.

Of the publications of old manuscripts, much credit should be given to the University of Manitoba for its photostatic reprint of the oldest part of *Pomianyk of Horodyšče*, one of the most ancient Cyrillic monuments now located on this continent. This register of necrology containing personal names was written in Ukrainian between 1484 and 1737, discovered in 1902, and purchased by the University of Manitoba Library in 1951. In his foreword, Professor Rudnyčyj writes, "It is of great importance to the history of the Ukrainian language . . . especially in the field of anthroponymy."³²

Of those who have chosen Ukrainian names as the theme of their Ph.D. dissertations, honorable mention should be given Jacob P. Hursky, "The Origin of Patronymic Surnames in Ukrainian,"³³ (an excerpt of the actual dissertation, *Patronymic Surnames in Ukrainian*), and André de Vincenz, "Le nom de famille houtzoule."³⁴ In the Winnipeg Center of Onomastics headed by Prof. Rudnyčyj the following persons have completed their M. A. theses: R. B. Klymasz, *Canadianization of Slavic Surnames: A Study in Language Contact* (an excerpt of this thesis was published as "A Classified Dictionary of Slavic Surname Changes in Canada," Winnipeg, 1961), W. Zyla, "Anthroponymy [*An Analytical Study of the Surnames*] in the Kharkiv Register [Census] of 1666," I. Tarnawecky, "Anthroponymy in the *Pomianyk of Horodyšče of 1484*," M. Woroby, "Cossack Topographic Surnames of 1649," and M. Slipchenko, "Gogol's Proper Names."

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Although of comparatively recent appearance, Ukrainian onomastic sciences constitute a considerable part of this general field. The number of publications and, moreover, the scholarly approach to the subject prove that Ukrainian scholars, despite certain political restrictions in Ukraine and financial difficulties abroad, are not only measuring up to their confreres in other countries but are also making their own original and valuable contribution.

University of Alberta

³² *Pomianyk of Horodyšče*, edited by J. B. Rudnyčyj, Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1962, p. 3.

³³ *The Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States*, Vol. VIII, Nos. 1-2 (25-26), 169-90.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 191-205.