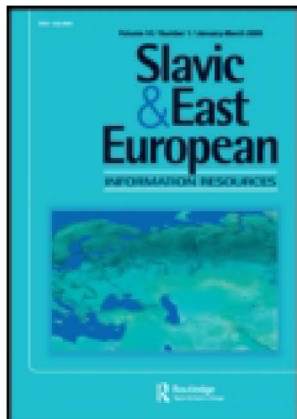


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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S RUSYN COLLECTIONS

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Background

Carpatho-Ruthenica refers to all materials in whatever language or form that deal in some way with Carpatho-Rusyns, or that are produced by individuals working within a Carpatho-Rusyn historical and cultural environment, which in today's world is located within borders of Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania. Immigrant Carpatho-Rusyn communities are found through the world, especially in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, USA, Canada, and Australia. This is partly because Carpatho-Rusyns have been described by several different names. The most popular among those are: Rusyns, Rusnaks, Ruthenians, Lemkos, Boykos, Hutsuls, Carpatho-Russians, Ugro-Rusyns, Ugro-Russians, and Carpatho-Ukrainians. *The Dictionary Catalog of the Slavonic Collection*, 2nd ed., rev. and enl., 1974, includes pre-1972 imprints divided into the following subject classifications: *Carpatho-Russian Language*, *Carpatho-Russian Literature*, *Carpatho-Russians*, *Ruthenia and Ruthenians*. Within these classifications there are several sub-classifications. These subject classifications also incorporate and dovetail with works dealing with Galicia and Ukraine. Hence, they can also be found under subject classifications *Ukrainians* or *Ukrainian Literature*. In 1994 the Library of Congress established the subject heading *Carpatho-Rusyns* (with see references from *Carpatho-Rusins*, *Carpatho-Russians*,

Carpatho-Ruthenians, *Subcarpathian Rusyns*, and *Ubro-Rusyns*). Lemkos continue to be covered separately using the subject heading *Lemky* (with see references from *Lemaky*, *Lemki*, *Lemkians*, *Lemkos*, and *Lemkowie*).

Resources

Three major subject headings appear in the NYPL Classic Catalog in modest quantities: *Carpatho-Rusyns* (189), *Carpatho-Rusyn Literature* (20), and *Carpatho-Rusyn Language* (28). It is important to point out that works on Carpatho-Rusyns have been occasionally assigned Ukrainian subject headings, and that according to present practice works on Ukrainians and Carpatho-Rusyns resident in the territory comprising the former Austro-Hungarian Empire up until 1918 are entered under one subject heading: *Ruthenians* (129). Lemko subject headings also appear in the NYPL's Classic Catalog in modest quantity: *Lemky* (125) and *Lemkivshchyna* (114). Works on the Lemko Region most often deal with Lemkos who before the resettlements of the 1940s formed a majority of its inhabitants. However, works dealing with Ruthenia (Czechoslovakia), Zakarpats'ka oblast' (Ukraine), and Prešovský kraj (Slovakia), not to mention Vojvodina (Serbia), may deal with other nationalities inhabiting these respective regions as well.

The main strength of the Carpatho-Ruthenica at the NYPL is in periodicals, as the library was one of only three institutions that received a full set of some 60 émigré periodical titles. Print originals were painstakingly collected and microfilmed in the 1970s during what is known as the Carpatho-Ruthenian Microfilm Project. The collection includes among others: *Amerikansky Russky viestnik* (1894–1952) and its successor *Greek Catholic Union Messenger* (1952–1976); *Svit* (1908–1982); *Pravda* (1917–1975); *Prosvita* (1917–1975); *Lemko* (1928–1938) and its successor *Karpatska Rus'* (1940–1969). This collection was supplemented with additional issues or titles microfilmed by the library from its own print collection, like for example the early years of *Pravda* (1904–1917) or with purchased print copies of titles like *Lemkius'ki visti* (1971–1979) and *Svobodnoe slovo Karpatskoj Rusi* (1959–1979). European Rusyn periodicals are quite scarce in American libraries. Therefore several titles purchased on microfilm are quite important: *Karpat* (1873–1880, 1881–1886), *Lystok* (1885–1903), *Svit* (Uzhhorod, 1867–1870), *Pidbirs'kyi dzvin* (1912), *Podkarpatoruská Revue* (1936–1938), *Podkarpatska Rus'* (1923–1936), *Svit* (Nowy Sącz, 1914), and *Zorja/Hajnal* (1942–1943). From its own print copies the library produced microfilm of *Nedilia* (1935–1938) and *Most mezi východem a západem* (1937–1938).

Important, although somewhat fragmentary, are resources of contemporary Carpatho-Rusyn periodicals including *Besida* (Poland, 1989–), *Carpatho-Rusyn American* (1978–1997), *Karpatska Rus'* (United States, 1993–2002), *The New Rusyn Times* (United States, 1994–1997), *Narodný novynký* (Slovakia, 1991–2011), *Nova dumka* (Croatia, 1973–1991), *Ruske*

slovo (Serbia, 1994–1996), *Rusyn* (Slovakia, 1990–2001), and *Rusyns'ka bysida* (Ukraine, 1997–2001).

Among scholarly and literary serial publication that are devoted to the history and culture of Carpatho-Rusyns, there are: *Materialy dlia Istorii Ugorskoj Rusi* (v. 1–7), *Naukovyi Zbornyk Tovarystva Pros'vita* (v. 1–2); *Carpatica* (v. 1–2); *Shvetlosti* (v. 7–43); *Naukovyi Zbirnyk Muzeiu ukrains'koj kul'tury u Svidnyku* (v. 1–21), *Zapysky naukovoho tovarystva* (v. 1–14), and *Annals of the World Lemko Federation* (v. 1–4).

In the mid-1990s a collection of 224 parish commemorative and jubilee books was microfilmed. They are mostly for parishes of the Byzantine Catholic Churches in the USA, attended primarily by Carpatho-Rusyns. These books should prove useful to scholars in fields such as church history, local history, Carpatho-Rusyn and generally Slavic studies, and sociology of religion.

In 1999 the NYPL received a part of the Bisaha/Viszlocky collection. Almost 200 publications are stored in 16 boxes and include both European and American imprints in a variety of Slavic languages as well as Hungarian. Subjects covered vary from grammars to astronomy and demonstrate the continuity and cohesion of the cultural life of Carpatho-Rusyn clergy, in this particular case, of the Rev. Michael Bisaha and the Rev. Alexey Vislocky. The other part of this collection went to the library of Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi (University of Toronto). The library has also purchased thousands of titles from the collection of the renowned Slavica collector of Lemko background, Paul M. Fekula. However, Carpatho-Ruthenica occupies a small portion of this collection, as is the case with another collection purchased by the library in the 1990s and cataloged under the title: Ukrainian Language Books on Literature, Poetry, Language, History, Social Life, Politics, Carpatho-Rusyns (109 books in 2 boxes).

The NYPL possesses a facsimile of the first school book for Carpatho-Rusyns living in the Kingdom of Hungary: Mihail Manuil Olshavski, *Elementa puerilis institutionis in lingua latina = nachalo pismen detem k nastavlenitiu na latinskom iazyke* (1746), as well as: *Grammatica Slavo-Ruthena* (1830) by Michael Luczkai, who argued for the use of Subcarpathian recension of Church Slavonic in the cultural life of Carpatho-Rusyns. Iosyf Hanulya was a conscious Rusynophile and foresaw the possibility of creating a Rusyn literary standard. His ideas were expressed in: *Hrammatyka dlia amerykanskykh Rusynov* (1918), and also in *Chytanka dliia amer.- [sic!] rus'koj molodezhy* (1935). A small group of Rusyns, who moved in the eighteenth century to Bachka (present day Serbia), first managed to develop their literary standard. Its rules are given in: Evfemiia Varga, *Moia persha knizhka: chytanka za I klasu osnovnei shkoly* (1965) and Mykola Kochysh, *Pravopys ruskoho iazyka* (1971). There is also the collection of 43 publications (11 primers, 13 grammars, 8 readers, 3 phrase books, and 8 dictionaries written for Carpatho-Rusyns), which was microfilmed for the library in the mid-1990s.

The originals are kept in the Episcopal and Heritage Institute Museum of the Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Passaic, West Paterson, New Jersey.

Interesting is a collection of various memoranda issued in the aftermath of World War I when the political future of the European homeland was decided: Victor P. Hladick, "The Brutal Polish Persecutions in Lemkowskaya Russia" (1919); "Memorandum of the Carpatho-Russian Council in America Concerning Eastern Galicia with Lemkowschina and Bukovina" (1921); and "Mémoire concernant la Russie subcarpathique territoire ruthène du sud des Carpathes" (1921).

There are also a good number of general histories, works dealing with pivotal historical events, biographies of Rusyn personalities, memoirs, works on religious developments, immigration, and Rusyns in America, as well as studies on Rusyn culture, literature, publishing activity, and examples of Rusyn literary works. Despite some challenges locating Carpatho-Ruthenica, the New York Public Library is a primary repository for the study of this small nation.

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Contributed by Bogdan Horbal