

November 27, 2021

Dear Fellow members of NTSh,

I write these words with a heavy heart because lately I have not followed the activities of our Society closely. I do not even know when we decided to initiate a New Series of Papers of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

As I prepare to vote in the upcoming elections at the ntsh, I am deeply troubled by issues lurking under the vast amount of literature I received from the slate of Dr. Halyna Hryn.

But first, I feel obliged to share with the voting members that a few years ago I resigned as the chair of the auditing committee. I shared my reason privately with Professor Grabowicz: I did not, and do not, consider it proper for members of the leadership of the Society to receive funds from the said Society. Being a veteran of earlier ugly community disagreements, I did not have it in me to initiate another one. I remained silent. Now, given the frantic activities of the current board before these elections, I reluctantly air my concerns.

Both Huri and NTSh have a significant, albeit only implied, outreach function, which entails an outlay of energy and time. The community that in large measure supports both NTSh and Huri expects us to descend from the ivory tower, which we are ready to do. But we often do so at the cost of our own scholarly activity.

For that reason, I am overjoyed that the current director of hori, Professor Serhi Plokhyyi, has been able to carve out time from his important and time-consuming administrative functions to publish very readable and welcome books on important issues in Ukraine's history. Otherwise, HURI's outreach programs have not been very innovative. Were Professor Plokhyyi to take the position of vice presidency of NTSh seriously, his HURI administrative, teaching, and research functions would surely suffer. The same is true for the overworked editor of the Harvard Journal of Ukrainian studies, President Halyna Hryn.

Thus, although the Hryn ballot includes scholars from other educational establishments, the upper slate is disproportionately Harvard heavy. And I don't even want to touch the HURI-Krytyka link.

Because of these considerations I will vote for the slate headed by Professor Alexander motyl.

Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak