

November 29, 2021

Dear Members of NTSh-A,

I am forwarding a letter which Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak requested that I distribute to those members of our Society whose addresses I have been able to gather. The present NTSh-A administration, being under the total control of the Hryn-Grabowicz slate, refuses to provide Alexander Motyl's team with an official list of addresses of the Society's members! Is the present Executive Board aware that such behavior is not in conformity with the law?

Martha's letter makes it easier for me to explain briefly why I greeted Alexander Motyl's candidacy for the President of NTSh-A with a sigh of relief and even enthusiasm. Alex is not only a distinguished scholar, recognized by the international academic community as one of the top political scientists in our day, but widely respected by his colleagues for his personal integrity and tact. His categorical refusal to participate in the shameful scramble for potential supporters by raising the status of new members to a higher level, is a clear testimony of this fact. I have worked with him on various projects in the past, usually initiated by the former Director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, our late colleague, Mark von Hagen. Mark always spoke of Alex with admiration, respect and even personal gratitude.

For similar reasons as those outlined by Martha, I too have been tempted to resign from the current Executive Board. If I remained a member of the Presidium during the decade of the Grabowicz-Hryn leadership, it was mainly because I knew that as a member of our Society's Executive, I would be in a better position to make sure that history and political science would not be completely overlooked by a Board consisting almost exclusively of individuals with a literary background! To some degree, I have been successful in my pursuit of scholarly balance, and justice, yet not without experiencing a great deal of mental anguish and, at times, even personal humiliation!

As the Director of the History and Social Sciences Section of our Society during the past decade, I considered it of utmost importance to mark the Centennial of Ukraine's struggle for independence with a scholarly conference with participants not only from USA but also from Canada and Ukraine. My request for the modest sum of \$3,000 to cover some of the expenses was unceremoniously denied. Both the then President (George Grabowicz) and the Vice President (Halyna Hryn) voted against this project! Those who may remember the outburst of activities within the American scholarly community

during the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution, must be stunned by the Grabowicz-Hryn behavior! Fortunately, I was able to find the necessary funds from other sources and in close cooperation of our colleagues at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as with the assistance of the Ukrainian Institute of America, I was able to organize two very successful conferences in 1918 and 1919. The papers presented at these two scholarly events represent a solid contribution to Ukrainian studies. Their publication, which is at the top of our team's agenda for the forthcoming year, will be welcomed by those with an interest in the period. In addition to this initial project, we plan to establish a closer working relationship with our NTSh colleagues in Ukraine, an area of opportunities neglected by our Society's leadership during the past decade.

The main problem with our current President is the fact that she has adopted Grabowicz's manner of thinking and acting to such a degree that she was able to convince herself that she is fully independent. Whenever I attempted to offer a suggestion that we make our Board more balanced by inviting highly qualified individuals with somewhat different opinions and world outlook, her usual response had been: "That would make Hryts (Grabowicz) angry!" Independent? A sad case, but unfortunately true.... If her professional duties would have permitted her to examine the publications which have been published under Grabowicz's name, she would see that they consist primarily of reprints or translations of his articles written during his long career. He begins his one and only monograph on Shevchenko the Mythmaker with archetypes and concentrates mainly on this subject in "Shevchenko yakoho ne znayemo" only to bring it up again in the new series of "Zapysky!"

In this note I have touched only the bare surface of the myriad of problems that during the past decade have plagued our organization. I am writing this in the hope that whoever is elected our next president, both Martha's and my concerns will initiate the necessary correctives which for the welfare of the Society must not be overlooked any longer!

With best wishes for the Holidays,

Anna Procyk,
Vice-President

P. S. Even though I have been duly elected as one of the Vice Presidents on the current Executive Board, from the day I joined Alexander Motyl's team, I have been ignored by the current President. There was only one exception: on July 9, I

was invited to an Executive Board meeting at which I was subjected to an ugly, vicious attack by Vitaly Chernetsky and had to witness the embarrassing antics of George Grabowicz! The reason for Chernetsky's attack and Grabowicz's soviet-style interrogation: my decision to join A. Motyl's team! Is the current President aware that we do not live in the USSR and that this type of behavior is not only unbecoming in an academic setting but could be subject to judicial prosecution? In this connection I might add that even though I am a member of the Editorial Board of the Society's *Buletyn*, the latest issue appeared without my knowledge! My name was brazenly removed from the journal's Editorial Board! Just like in Stalin's time, without warning or explanation, I became a non-person! Have Putin's political strategies and nefarious tactics penetrated our Executive Board's behavior even to a greater degree than they have touched recent American politics?!