

Zubryts'kyi, Mykhailo. *Zibrani tvory i materialy u tr'okh tomakh. Tom 1: Naukovi pratsi*. Title-page in English: *Collected Works and Materials. Volume 1: Scholarly Works*. L'viv: Litopys, 2013. Biographical essay by Frank Sysyn (in separate Ukrainian and English versions), Name and Place Indexes. Maps. Tables. Illustrations. 609 pp. ISBN 978-966-8853-29-6 (cloth).

Mykhailo Zubryts'kyi (1856-1919) was one of many village clerics attached to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Old Galicia of Western Ukraine. But while he catered to the spiritual needs of his parishioners, this priest also recognized their socio-political aspirations. Lending his support to the surge of Ukrainianism that characterized his era, the pastor tapped into his love of the written word to access and salvage an array of nuggets hidden in the musty papers of church archives; moreover, with equal respect for the living word, he turned himself into an oral historian and recorded the lifestyle, traditions, lore and material culture of the villagers he served. With remarkable results the enthusiastic Reverend Father sidestepped the authoritarianism and backwardness that marked his milieu to uncover the extraordinary wealth of socio-historical material that lay before him, – material that gave expression to his people's search for recognition – material to justify and hopefully dignify their growing sense of ethno-cultural distinctiveness.

Zubryts'kyi's campaign to salvage his heritage led him to publish his findings in a variety of Ukrainian-language newspapers and journals. In the volume under review here, many of these scattered pieces are brought together for the first time. The selection features forty-one items that span a period of twenty-six years. Together they present a remarkable entry into the world of concerns and attitudes that dominated the life and times of a singular clergyman. Arranged chronologically these pieces begin with a historical anecdote published in 1886 about a Ukrainian priest stationed in Vienna whose superior talents attracted the attention of none other than the visiting Tsar of Russia himself (Alexander I); the latter's attempt to lure the priest to Russia was rebuffed by the Austrian Emperor (Franz I) who declared his own need to retain individuals of such high caliber.

This initial piece is followed by a string of forays into village culture. These constitute an impressive ethnography composed of a dizzying gamut of subject matter ranging from peasant architecture (including windmills), to non-agrarian occupations (such as shepherds, clerics, military conscripts, and millers), apparel traditions (with special attention to footwear and hair styles), domestic crafts (Zubryts'kyi's typology of coffin-making is possibly unique), alimentation, tobacco usage and trafficking, land ownership, myths and beliefs, dialectical language, folksong and folk narrative, seasonal practices, calendar holidays, customs, rituals and much more.

On rare occasion, Zubryts'kyi departs from objective reportage and reveals a true concern for the welfare of his flock. For example, in his piece on the evils of tobacco, the Reverend Father mentions how, from his position of privilege, he “often spoke against chewing tobacco when hearing confessions and delivering homilies” (268). Unfortunately, more insights of this nature are missing from the writings that are contained in this first volume.

The final piece in this collection (dated 1912) presents a statistical tabulation of grassroots economics in Father Zubryts'kyi's beloved village of Mshanets'. The introductory notes are especially meaty if only for his attention to the role of such marginal groups as Jews, Roma, and emigrants (generally headed for America).

Unfortunately, this encyclopedic compendium has no subject index to access directly the goldmine of information collected by Father Zubryts'kyi. To fully appreciate this work, a

reading knowledge of Ukrainian and other languages (especially Latin, German, and Polish) are mandatory: this priest was an accomplished polyglot.

Robert B. Klymasz
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada