



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New illustrated CIUS publication on excavations at Ivan Mazepa's court in Baturyn

11 June 2013—For the past twelve years, Ukrainian and Canadian archaeologists and historians have conducted excavations in the town of Baturyn, Chernihiv oblast, Ukraine. The project has been sponsored by the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta, the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America, and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto. The renowned historian of the Hetmanate, former director of CIUS, and director of the Kowalsky Program, Professor Zenon Kohut, heads this undertaking. The late poetess Volodymyra Wasylyshyn and her husband, the artist Roman Wasylyshyn of Philadelphia, have been generous patrons of the historical and archaeological research in Baturyn. The Baturyn Canada-Ukraine archaeological expedition is based at the National University of Chernihiv.

From 1669 to 1708 Baturyn was the capital of the Cossack state, attaining its greatest development during the rule of the distinguished Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687–1709). In alliance with Sweden, Mazepa led a revolt seeking to liberate central Ukraine from increasing domination by Moscow. In 1708 Tsar Peter I retaliated by razing Baturyn to the ground. Russian troops annihilated the Cossack garrison and the town's civilian population (a total of eleven to fourteen thousand people) in order to suppress the rebellion with a ruthless display of terror.

Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750–64) restored Baturyn shortly before the abolition of the autonomous Cossack polity by the absolutist Russian Empire in 1764. Subsequently, the former hetman's capital lost its importance and steadily declined.

The former glory of Baturyn is captured in a new, richly illustrated booklet by Zenon Kohut, Volodymyr Mezentsev, Volodymyr Kovalenko, and Yurii Syty, *Sadyba Ivana Mazepy u Baturyni: Rozkopky 2011 roku* (The Court of Ivan Mazepa in Baturyn: The 2011 Excavations), Toronto: Ukrainian Echo, 2012, 28 pp., in Ukrainian with an English résumé. The booklet, printed on glossy paper, is illustrated with fifty colour pictures. This elegant historical and archaeological study, written for a general readership, has been published with the support of the Kowalsky Program (CIUS) and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto.

The booklet presents the work of Ukrainian and Canadian archaeologists and historians who have been conducting research on Baturyn. It also acknowledges the generous sponsors, benefactors, and other supporters of this project in North America. The booklet provides a brief historical survey of the hetman's capital at the height of its prosperity under Mazepa, going on to cover its total destruction in 1708 and subsequent restoration by Hetman Rozumovsky. The siege

and storming of the town are described on the basis of hitherto little-known contemporary Swedish sources.

On the basis of new historical and archaeological research, the authors examine the construction of Mazepa's principal residence, along with the chancellery and treasury of the hetman and the Cossack troops, in the Baturyn suburb of Honcharivka before 1700. They go on to describe the plundering and destruction of these buildings by tsarist troops in 1708. Presented here are the results of excavations in 2011 of the remnants of Mazepa's ambitious three-storey masonry palace, a domestic church, living quarters, and service buildings at his court, as well as of a brick house located within the former Baturyn fortress. Finds of fragmented artistically ornamented stove tiles (*kakhli*) and refined imported tableware used at the palace; Polish-Lithuanian, Swedish, and Russian coins; and the founder's plaque from the court church; as well as the unique ceramic icons that decorated several ecclesiastical edifices commissioned by the hetman in the Chernihiv region are discussed in detail. The emblem depicted on some of these tiles has been identified as the coat of arms of his wife, Hanna Mazepa (d. 1702).

These archaeological finds attest to the wealth and high level of aesthetic appreciation prevailing at the hetman's court, as well as to the adaptation there of the fashions and customs of Western aristocratic palaces. They also reveal the impressive standard of local crafts and the extent of Baturyn's commercial and cultural contacts with Central and Eastern Europe and the Ottoman Empire at the turn of the eighteenth century. On the basis of recent research, the booklet shows the distinctive adornment of the palatial and religious architecture, ceramic relief sculpture, and heraldic and sacral art of Mazepa's era, as well as the stimulating influences of Western, Kyivan, and Chernihiv baroque culture on Baturyn.

The work presents some results of a physical anthropological analysis of the remains of the town's seventeenth- and eighteenth-century residents unearthed during excavations at the site. These have considerably supplemented our historical and archaeological research on Baturyn's population and yielded new data about the casualties of the assault in 1708.

Portraits, aerial photos of the town, and photos of the citadel's restored fortifications, hetman's palaces, noteworthy archaeological finds, and public commemorations of the victims of the Baturyn tragedy are included in the publication. There are several computer photo collages of the palace and other excavated buildings of the hetman's court in Honcharivka, as well as a layout of this complex as it existed before its destruction in 1708. The booklet also contains computer reconstructions of the original view of some ceramic armorial emblems and the icon that embellished the palace and churches in Baturyn and Chernihiv endowed by Mazepa. Several photographs of terracotta bas-reliefs from ecclesiastical and monastic edifices funded by the hetman in the Chernihiv region are presented.

The booklet will be of interest to the general public and scholars alike. It is available for \$8.95 and can be purchased from CIUS Press in a number of ways: online by credit card via a secure Internet connection at www.ciuspress.com, by e-mail (cius@ualberta.ca), by telephone (780-492-2973) or fax (780-492-4967) or by mail: CIUS Press, 430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2H8. Outside Canada, prices are in US dollars.

This summer, the Canada-Ukraine expedition will continue excavating the remnants of the palace, church, and other structures at Mazepa's household, as well as searching for new graves of victims of the sack of Baturyn in 1708. Benefactors who wish to support this research and the

publication of its results are kindly invited to send donations to: Professor Zenon Kohut, Director, Kowalsky Program, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2H8. Cheques from Canadian residents should be made payable to: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Memo: Baturyn Project. American donors are requested to issue cheques payable to: University of Alberta Foundation USA Inc., Memo: CIUS Baturyn Project. Tax receipts will be issued to all donors in Canada and the United States, and donors will be gratefully acknowledged in related publications and public lectures.

For more information about the research on Baturyn, readers may contact Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev, executive director of the project (tel.: 416-766-1408; e-mail: v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca). In Ukraine, questions may be directed to Yurii Syty, leader of the Baturyn archaeological expedition at Chernihiv University (tel.: (46-2) 774-296, e-mail: yurisytyi@gmail.com).

Volodymyr Mezentsev
CIUS, Toronto

Photos: (1) Booklet cover; (2) Restored fortifications of the citadel of the Baturyn fortress, with the Resurrection Church and the first hetman's residence and military treasury, 17th century. Aerial photo by S. Chynin. Baturyn National Preserve; (3) Palace, church, and the other known structures at Ivan Mazepa's household in Honcharivka (ca. 1700). Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev; drawing and computer collage by S. Dmytrienko, 2011; and (4) Broken heraldic glazed ceramic tile (*kakhlia*) from Mazepa's palace stove. Excavations of 2011 in Honcharivka. Computer reconstruction by W. Sydorenko, using photo by V. Mezentsev.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) is a leading centre of Ukrainian studies outside Ukraine that engages in and support research and scholarship in Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian studies. If you would like more information on the Institute, please visit our website at www.cius.ca, facebook page at www.facebook.com/canadian.institute.of.ukrainian.studies?ref=hl or contact Dr. Bohdan Klid at (780) 492-2972; cius@ualberta.ca.

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