



CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF
UKRAINIAN STUDIES

Канадський інститут українських студій

GIFTING OF THE HRUSHEVSKY COLLECTION

2024


THE EVENT

On 21 February 2024, marking two years of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies gifted 10 sets of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's ***History of Ukraine-Rus'*** to First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska's "Ukrainian Bookshelf" project.

CIUS, in collaboration with the **University of Alberta**, the **Embassy of Canada to Ukraine**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**, the **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine**, and the National University of **Kyiv-Mohyla Academy** made the presentation in the heart of historic Kyiv.


[About the Bookshelf Project](#)






Only through access to Hrushevsky's work in an English edition could the international community come to understand the place of Ukraine in world history.

The *History of Ukraine-Rus'*, whose last volume was written in the 1930s, is the most comprehensive account of the ancient, medieval, and early modern history of the Ukrainian people. Written by **Ukraine's greatest modern historian, Mykhailo Hrushevsky**, *History of Ukraine-Rus'* remains unsurpassed in its use of sources and literature. In the development of the Ukrainian national movement, it remains as the pre-eminent and definitive scholarly statement that Ukrainians constitute a nation with its own historical process.



The English publication of the full *History of Ukraine-Rus'* serves as a basis for studying Ukrainian history to the mid-seventeenth century and as a tool for examining the thought around Ukrainian national revival and the views of one of its greatest leaders.

At a time when Putin's Russia is maintaining a genocidal attack on Ukraine and denying that Ukraine even has a history and a culture, Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine-Rus'* provides an authoritative refutation. The Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research, a unit of CIUS based in Toronto, laboured for 3 decades to produce the translated edition as an example of **the best Ukrainian scholarship available to the international community**, enabling a deeper understanding of the roots of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people through the writings of their greatest historian.



ІСТОРІЯ
УКРАЇНИ-РУСІ

ТОМ ДЕСЯТИЙ

(РОКИ 1657—1658)



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



A message from President Flanagan



Watch via the link
above or the QR
code



AN IMPORTANT MOMENT

First Lady of Ukraine
Olena Zelenska:

"Thank you to the Embassy of Canada to Ukraine, Embassy of Ukraine to Canada, and Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies for presenting today the English-language ten-volume History of Ukraine-Rus' by Mykhailo Hrushevsky. These ten sets will have an important place on Ukrainian bookshelves worldwide. And thus will protect both our authentic history and the free future."

[Watch here](#)





CIUS Director Natalia Khanenko-Friesen on the importance of gifting the *History of Ukraine-Rus'* to First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska's Ukrainian Bookshelf project:

"How do you respond to claims by the foreign invader that you and your country have no identity or history of their own, and that everything you own and have built belong to him? Ukrainians have been fighting for their future for the last ten years, and Hrushevsky's History of Ukraine-Rus' is a key intellectual weapon in this struggle.

Gratitude is extended to Mrs. Zelenska, the Embassy of Canada to Ukraine and Ambassador Nataalka Cmoc, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and our academic friends and partners, including University of Alberta President Bill Flanagan, for your participation in this momentous occasion."

Clockwise from top left: Serhii Plokyh, Director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute; Frank Sysyn, Director of the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research, CIUS; Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, Director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies; and Yaroslav Hrytsak, Director of the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Ukrainian History and Society (CIUS) at Ukrainian Catholic University and Lviv Franko National University.



**FIRST LADY OF
UKRAINE
OLENA ZELENSKA**

“Hrushevsky radically changed the imperial focus, opening the history of an entire nation to the world and to itself. And today, when Russia is again trying to rewrite history and erase Ukraine from it, Professor Hrushevsky’s work stands once again in defence of facts and historical truth.”

**PROFESSOR
YAROSLAV
HRYTSAK**

“Навіть, якщо Путіна не посадять за будь-що інше – а цього воєнного злочинця точно є за що садити – то варто, щоб світ його засудив за паплюження історії.”

**MYCHAILO WYNNYCKYJ,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE**

“Наш ворог не просто веде геноцидну війну проти України, він заперечує сам факт існування українців, як носіїв власної історії і культури. Англійський переклад «Історії України-Руси» Михайла Грушевського – авторитетне спростування брехливих російських тез. Розповсюдженню друкованої правди про вкраїнство потужно допомагає ініціатива Першої леді України Олени Зеленської «Українська книжкова полицка». Дякуємо їй за це і сподіваємося, що ініціатива масштабуватиметься і далі включатиме твори Грушевського. Під час презентації видання відбулася ще також непересічна подія для української освіти: підписання угоди про співпрацю двох провідних освітніх центрів України й Канади – Національного університету «Києво-Могилянська академія» і Канадського інституту українських студій Альбертського університету. “Добре робити історію важніше, ніж гарно писати її”, написав Грушевський у 1918 році. Це заклик до українців сьогодні в усьому світі: Робімо історію разом!”

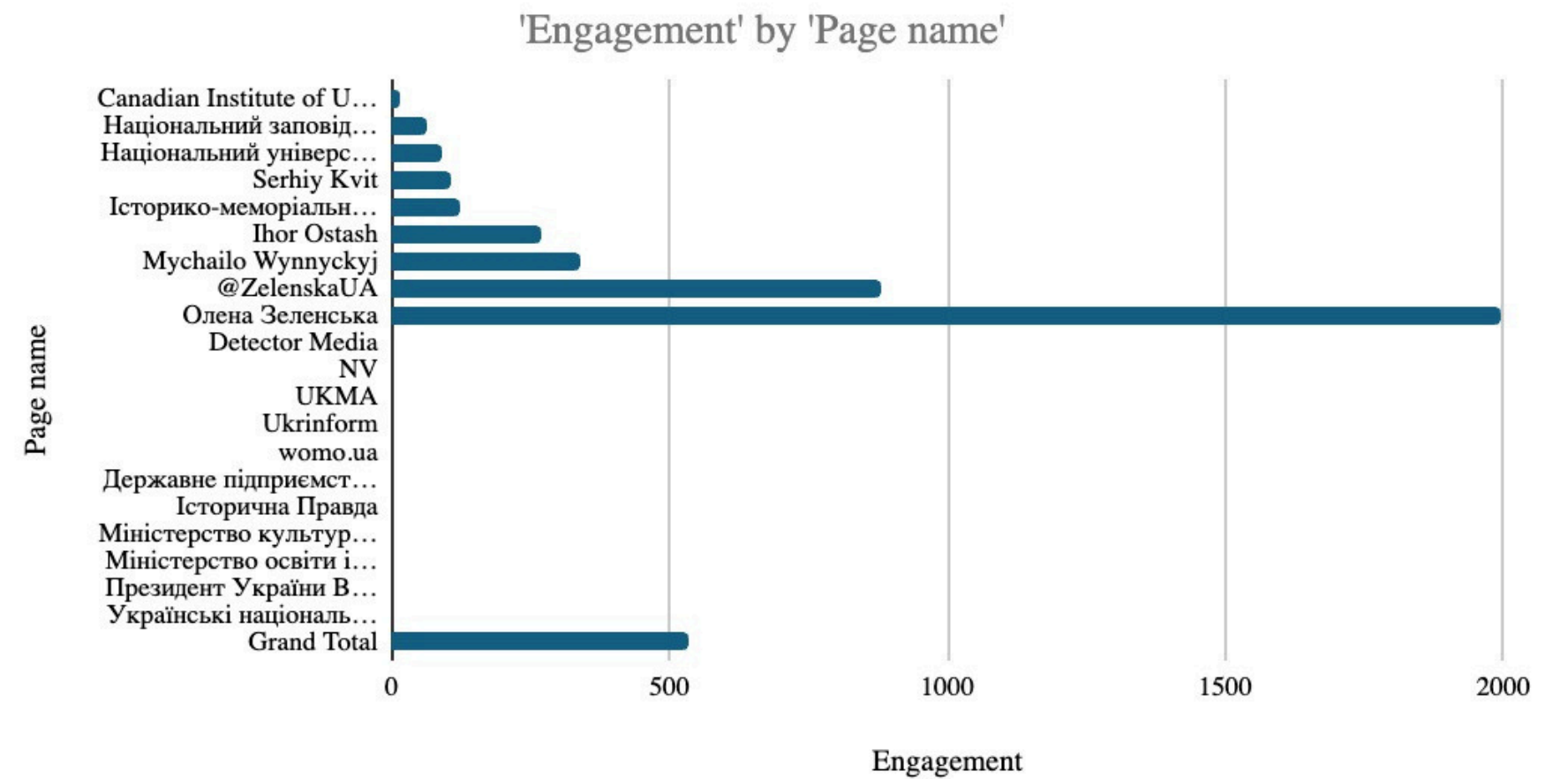
MEDIA TRACTION FROM THE EVENT

International Data:

TOTAL REPOSTS	TOTAL LIKES	TOTAL ENGAGEMENT
556	337	5,235

CIUS Data:

UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITS	TOTAL LIKES	TOTAL ENGAGEMENT
545	721	10,000+



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies is proud to work with partners in Ukraine and around the world.

At the Hrushevsky presentation event, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between two leading Ukrainian studies institutions — signed by Serhiy Kvit, Rector of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, Director of CIUS — forging a new partnership for future projects.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY



CONTINUING THE WORK — WASHINGTON

On 11 July 2024, First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska accompanied President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky during his visit to Washington for the NATO Anniversary Summit and the conference of the U.S.-Ukraine Partnership in Education and Science.

CIUS Director Natalia Khanenko-Friesen presented a full set of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's ***History of Ukraine-Rus'*** to members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and conference participants as a continuing part of First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska's "Ukrainian Bookshelf" project.





"First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska's 'Ukrainian Bookshelf' project is a powerful weapon in Ukraine's battle against the Russian invader. CIUS is very pleased to be able to contribute with our annotated English-language edition of the definitive history of the Ukrainian people by Ukraine's greatest modern historian."

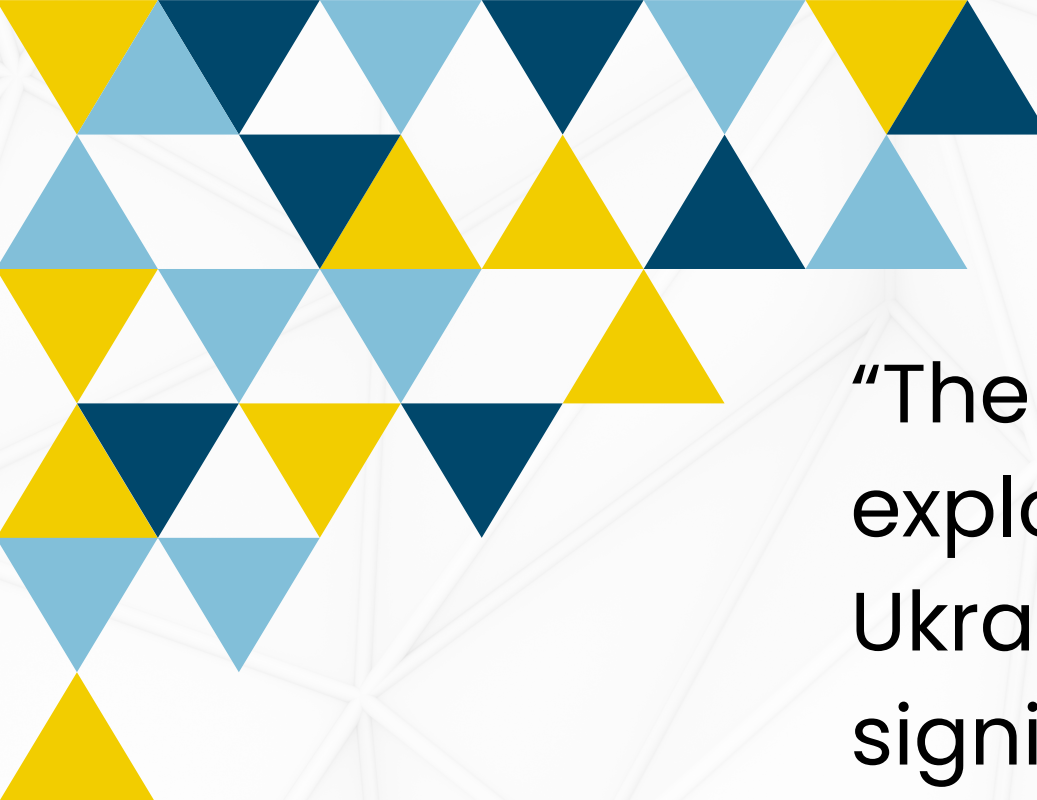
Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen,
CIUS Director

CONTINUING THE WORK — QUEBEC

On 31 October 2024, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine **Andrii Sybiha** took part in the ceremony of donating the English edition of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine-Rus'* to the **National Library and Archives of Quebec** (BAnQ) as part of First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska's "Ukrainian Bookshelf" project in Canada.

The "Ukrainian Bookshelf" at BAnQ was opened in February 2024 with a set of children's literature in Ukrainian. BAnQ's Ukrainian collection includes more than **350 Ukrainian books** in Ukrainian and French, and now it proudly includes the translated Hrushevsky collection.





“The *History of Ukraine-Rus'* is a monumental scientific work that explores the historical roots of Ukraine as an independent state and Ukrainians as a distinctive nation. This publication has particular significance and symbolism today in the context of Ukraine's struggle for independence against unprovoked Russian aggression.”

“In Soviet times, just reading this book could land you in jail. Today, thanks to the initiative of First Lady Olena Zelenska, the English edition of the *History of Ukraine-Rus'* allows us to convey the truth about Ukraine to the whole world, to return to Ukraine its true history, stolen by Russian imperialism.”

Andrii Sybiha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine



GRATITUDE

“These new donations to BAnQ’s ‘Ukrainian Bookshelf’ provide the Ukrainian community and Quebecers with privileged access to Ukraine’s rich literary and historical heritage.”

Marie Grégoire
Director General of the BAnQ

Read more here:



OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Hrushevsky's work was banned in the USSR from the 1930s to the end of the 1980s. In 1989, the Peter Jacyk Centre at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies worked with Ukraine to reprint the original Ukrainian-language edition of the *History of Ukraine-Rus'*, starting in 1991 with **100,000 copies** of volume 1.

Special gratitude is extended to the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation and its president, Nadia Jacyk, for their continuing support of this project, as well as to myriad donors who enabled all 10 volumes in 12 books to be translated and fully annotated. This has taken years of work for **150 scholars across 13 countries**. The full set is now available in print from CIUS Press. We are also pleased to announce that Volume One of the English-language edition has been digitized and can be accessed through the CIUS Press website.



[Online edition](#)





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*Building Ukrainian studies
for a better future.*



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