

Canadians lead Ukraine translation

THE WORK generally considered to be the most important Ukrainian history written to date is becoming available to English speakers through the efforts of a team of international scholars co-ordinated by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

The massive 10-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus'* was written – in Ukrainian – by Mykhailo Hrushevsky during the early years of this century. Hrushevsky's history was banned by the Soviets in Ukraine, however, in the 1930s, and the author was forced into Russia, where he died in 1934 under mysterious circumstances. Vigorously researched and broad-ranging, the work, which documents the history of Ukraine and its people from ancient times to the mid-17th century, was republished in 1991 after Ukraine regained its independence. But until now, it hasn't been available in an English translation, says Maxim Tarnawsky, director of the University of Toronto-based Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) Press.

In September, CIUS Press published the first of the 10 volumes. Subtitled "From Prehistory to the 11th Century," the book was a com-

plex publishing project that began eight years ago and involved eight international scholars who had to verify 1,500 bibliographic sources in 30 different languages, with many incomplete citations. One translator – New York-based Marta Skorupsky – even had to study classical Greek to translate Hrushevsky accurately. Scholars from Canada, the United States, Britain, Ukraine, and Poland are now working on the next nine volumes, the first of which is scheduled to go to press in 1998.

Because the total cost of the project is expected to amount to approximately \$6-million, the institute – which also has office space at the University of Alberta – has turned to a variety of funding sources: The first volume was sponsored by Petro and Ivanna Stelmach of Mississauga, Ontario, and four other private donors are sponsoring subsequent volumes by contributing \$100,000 each. Washington's National Endowment for the Humanities has also contributed \$60,000 (U.S.). Contributions from Toronto philanthropist Peter Jacyk, matched by the Alberta government, have also supported the project. *Carol Toller*