

Mykhailo Hrushevsky. *History of Ukraine-Rus'*. Vol. 8. *The Cossack Age, 1626–1650*. Translated by Marta Daria Olynyk. Edited by Frank E. Sysyn with the assistance of Myroslav Yurkevich. Edmonton and Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 2002. lxxv, 808 pp.

There were, are, and undoubtedly will be among us mere mortals, who struggle to cope with day-to-day problems, persons of genius, noted for their outstanding contributions. One such genius was Mykhailo Hrushevsky (1866–1934), a renowned Ukrainian historian, statesman, publicist, writer, and social activist. It can be said, without fear of contradiction, that his greatest contribution to his countrymen was the ten-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus'*, which shows that Ukrainians are a separate nation and possess their own history. His *History*, in Frank E. Sysyn's view, "is the major statement of a historian of

genius," which "in breadth and erudition ... still has no equal in Ukrainian historiography, and its examination of many historical questions remains unsurpassed" (Introduction, vol. 1, p. xli).

Each volume of Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine-Rus'* must be analyzed in two parts: the historical work of the author himself and the labours of scholars comprising the Hrushevsky Translation Project. With regard to the first part, Hrushevsky's work is characterized by objectiveness and painstaking care for detail. He is not afraid to point out problems relating to the principal hero of this volume: "[Bohdan] Khmelnytsky's personal biography is as short on concrete verifiable facts," he writes, "as it is immeasurably long on the legends that enveloped him hard on the heels of his first appearance in the broad arena, making him the beloved hero of all kinds of tales and fictions, and later of works of poetry and belles-lettres as well" (p. 376). He also refers not too kindly to Adam Kysil: "In the meantime, our homegrown Machiavelli had written Khmelnytsky a special little tract, in which, from the treasure house of his great wisdom, he suggested various cunning methods for carrying out the king's salutary advice" (p. 547). His readers will find long citations from official documents, private correspondence and even epic songs. Perhaps one of the reasons why Hrushevsky's *History* reaches only the year 1676 was his over-fondness for primary sources in the text, footnotes, and appendices: they finally overwhelmed him and made it impossible to complete his magnum opus.

With regard to the second part, members of the Hrushevsky Translation Project are responsible for the appearance of this masterful work in the English language. It should be noted that the entire project started as Frank E. Sysyn's dream. He had to convince many people that it was viable and needed, as some individuals were not too happy with Hrushevsky's "populist" interpretations; others were more interested in spending the funds on new research by young scholars. Moreover, he had to find the resources for translation and publication and to assemble a team of international scholars, specialists in the area covered by each volume. Thanks to his dedication, drive, and optimism, the Hrushevsky Translation Project was launched and has already shown great success. The first volume of the *History* was published in 1997, the seventh, in 1999, and the eighth, in 2002.

The pattern, adopted by the Hrushevsky Translation Project, can only be described as ideal. In volume 1 readers can find a general introduction relating to the entire ten-volume *History of Ukraine-Rus'*. Each volume has a general editorial preface, containing information about geographic and personal names, transliteration, quoted excerpts, editorial emendations, annotations, bibliography and index. Each volume also has an introduction by a consulting editor. In the case of this volume, Frank E. Sysyn provides a detailed, perceptive and invaluable analysis of the "Crucial Epoch," comprising the Cossack period from 1626 to 1650, from the Krukove Campaign to the Treaty of Zboriv (pp. xxxi-lxix). The book also contains other very valuable additions: maps, a glossary of terms, translations consulted, and tables of hetmans and rulers. It should be noted that Hrushevsky's bibliography was expanded and up-to-date titles have been added in bold print with a different font than the original text. For those who are interested in the problems of translation, it can be said that, on the whole, Marta Daria Olynyk managed to do very well, considering the minefields and pitfalls of the text she had to overcome.

There are several matters needing editorial attention in the glossary. The heading *het'man* (*hetman*) will only confuse readers (p. lxxi); it should be rewritten to make clear

that grand and field hetmans existed for both the Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; that is, four military offices. Moreover the spelling of the following offices should be corrected in the forthcoming volumes, as the proper Polish forms are *podkanclerzy*, *podwojewództwi* and *podstarości* (p. lxxiii). Are *kanclerz* (p. lxxi) and *pieczętarsz* (p. lxxiii) two different offices? While generally the diacritics are fine, there are problems—eyesores—with the letters ą and ę. The main surprise for me was the reappearance of “Jakub Śmiarowski” (p. 506) instead of Bartłomiej Śmiarowski, and “Stanisław Lubowidzki” (p. 355) instead of Jan Franciszek Łubowicki. They were wished *requiescant in pace* twenty-three years ago in *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* (vol. 5, no. 1 (1981): 114 n. 2 and 115–16 n. 7); yet, they have managed to reappear once again. Finally, although there is a note relating to the formal personal names (p. xxxix), the editors do not explain why some have a Polish form, while others, a Ukrainian form.

The period under review continues to interest both Polish and Ukrainian historians, as is evident from the various titles that have been published in recent years. The following primary sources deserve to be noted: “Korespondencja Prymasa i Senatu z czerwca-listopada 1648 roku. Bezkrólewie. Chmielnicki. Elekcja,” *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne*, 55 (1987): 203–301; *Ruska (Wołyńska) metryka: Knyha za 1652–1673 rr.* (Ostroh, 1999); *Ruska (Wołyńska) metryka: Reiestry dokumentiv Koronnoi kantselarii dlia ukrainskykh zemel (Wołynske, Kyivke, Bratslavskoe, Chernihivskoe voievodstva 1569–1673)* (Kyiv, 2002); and *Pamiętniki Filipa, Michała i Teodora Obuchowiczów (1630–1707)* (Warsaw, 2003). The more important biographies, monographs, and compilations are: Witold Biernacki, *Żółte Wody-Korsuń 1648* (Częstochowa, 2000; Warsaw, 2004); Henryk Litwin, *Napływ szlachty polskiej na Ukrainę 1569–1648* (Warsaw, 2000); Serhii Plokhyy, *The Cossacks and Religion in Early Modern Ukraine* (Oxford, 2001); Maciej Franz, *Wojskowość Kozaczyzny Zaporoskiej w XVI–XVII wieku* (Toruń, 2002); Antoni Mironowicz, *Kościół prawosławny w dziejach dawnej Rzeczypospolitej* (Białystok, 2001); Eugeniusz Janas and Witold Kłaczewski, *Urzednicy województw kijowskiego i czernihowskiego XV–XVIII wieku: Spisy* (Kórnik, 2002); Valerii Smolii and Valerii Stepankov, *Bohdan Khmelnytsky* (Kyiv, 2003); Tadeusz Górski, *Flotylla kozackie w służbie Jagiellonów i Wazów* (Gdańsk, 2003); Tomasz Ciesielski, *Sejm brzeski 1653 r.: Studium z dziejów Rzeczypospolitej w latach 1652–1653* (Toruń, 2003); and *Pereiaslavska rada 1654 roku: Istoriohrafiiia ta doslidzhennia* (Kyiv, 2003). The Lviv Branch of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine has published works of historical cartography: *Boplan i Ukraina* (Lviv, 1998), *Kartohrafiiia ta istoriia Ukrainy* (Lviv, 2000), *Istorychne kartoznavstvo Ukrainy* (Lviv, 2004), and *Spetsialna karta Ukrainy Gioma Levassera de Boplana 1650 roku* (Kyiv and Lviv, 2000), which includes the facsimile reproduction of the large eight-sheet Beauplan map of Ukraine.

Reviewing what has been accomplished, one hopes that members of the Hrushevsky Translation Project will continue their much-needed scholarly work. Readers of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine-Rus'* are eagerly awaiting the publication of the next volume.