

## Ms. Coll. 00578

### Mykhailo Sytnyk Papers

[textual records, graphic material]

**Scope:** 1939-1982

**Bulk:** 1946-1959

**Size:** 2 boxes, 56 files

**Source of Acquisition and Processing:** The Mykhailo Sytnyk Papers were given to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, by Mrs. Volodymyra Luczkiw in September 2009. Her husband, the late John Luczkiw, helped compile and edit an anthology of Sytnyk's poetry.

**Language:** Ukrainian.

**Terms of Access:** Available for faculty, students, and researchers engaged in scholarly projects.

**Location:** Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

**Processing information:** Processed in 2010 by Nadia Zavorotna.

### Biography

The Mykhailo Sytnyk papers focus on the life and activities of the Ukrainian poet. Mykhailo Vasylovych Sytnyk (pseudonym: Mykhailo Chmuryj) was born on June 6, 1919 in the village of Vasylkiv in the Kyiv gubernia. He completed his studies at the Gorky Pedagogical Institute in Kyiv. In 1937 he began publishing in Kyiv and Kharkiv journals, including, among other publications, *Molodyi Bilshovyk* and *Literaturnyi zhurnal*. During the German occupation of Ukraine, he served an editor of *Litavry* (1942), and also published two poetry collections, *Vid sertsia* (From the Heart, 1942) and *Novi obrii* (New Horizons, 1942). As a postwar refugee in Germany, Sytnyk published the well-received collections *Vidlitaiut' ptytsi* (The Birds Fly Away, 1946), and *Zaliznychyi storozh* (The Railway Guard, 1947), a narrative poem about wartime Ukraine. Sytnyk immigrated to the United States in the early 1950s, where he settled first in Detroit, working for the newspaper *Prometei*, and then in Chicago. He continued to write and published in émigré journals, including over 160 poems and a few feuilletons. A posthumous edition of his poems *Tsvit paporoti* (Flower of the Fern) appeared in 1975, with a bibliography of his works compiled by John Luczkiw. Sytnyk died unexpectedly in Chicago on August 21, 1959.

### Scope and content

The collection consists of correspondence between Sytnyk and his mother in Ukraine, whom he found in the last years of his life; other relatives in Ukraine; and his

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wife Hanna Cherin. The letters from Volodymyr Vynnychenko, a writer and political leader, forms the large part of the correspondence. The collection also includes some of Sytnyk's personal documents.

The collection also includes many photographs of Sytnyk. They were taken when he was living in L'viv, Kyiv, Germany, and the United States. He was photographed with famous Ukrainian literary figures, such as, for example, Iurii Kosach and Iurii Klen (pseud. of Oswald Burghardt).

The collection also contains Sytnyk's publications. These include two of his manuscripts, and a number of clippings of his poetry published in different periodicals. The collection also includes many articles about Sytnyk.

In addition, the collection consists of material collected by John Luczkiw for a collection of Sytnyk's poetry entitled *Tsvit paporoti* (Flower of the Fern). Luczkiw compiled the bibliography of Sytnyk's works that was incorporated into the publication.

### **Organization of materials**

The collection is organized into six series: biographical records, correspondence, publications, photographs, bibliographical materials, and miscellaneous.

I. Biographical records: A. Identification documents; B. Recommendations.

II. Correspondence: A. Correspondence from Volodymyr Vynnychenko to Mykhailo Sytnyk; B. Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin; C. Correspondence from Hanna Cherin'; D. Other correspondence to Sytnyk.

III. Publications: A. Sytnyk's publications; 1. Published: 2. Unpublished:  
B. Publications about Sytnyk.

IV. Photographs: A. Portraits; B. Sytnyk's parents; C. Youth; D. Crimea; E. Kyiv; F. L'viv; G. Hanna Cherin and their daughter; H. Germany; I. United States; J. Different people; K. Unidentified.

V. Bibliographical materials: A. Correspondence; B. Notes.

VI. Miscellaneous. A. Unidentified letters; B. Unidentified manuscript; C. Postcards; D. Colour title design; E. Notes.

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### **Description of series**

#### **I. Biographical records: A. Identification documents; B. Recommendations.**

The series consists of three of Sytnyk's personal documents (under the name Chmuryj): the Certificate of Identity issued by the Ukrainian Emigration Committee in 1945; the Workbook (ID) for the Foreigner [Arbeitsbuch für Ausländer] issued in 1943 in Germany; the Identity Card in French issued in 1945 in Constance. Also the series consists of documents asking for a permit to the Sytnyk and his wife to be transferred from one refugee camp to another.

#### **II. Correspondence: A. Correspondence from Volodymyr Vynnychenko to Mykhailo Sytnyk; B. Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin; C. Correspondence from Hanna Cherin'; D. Other correspondence to Sytnyk.**

The series contains correspondence between Sytnyk and many others, dated from the 1940s till his death. The series consists of letters from Volodymyr Vynnychenko to Sytnyk, written from 1948 to 1951, as well as one to Vynnychenko from Sytnyk. The series includes many letters between Sytnyk, his mother, and other relatives. Also, the series contains correspondence with his wife, Hanna Cherin. A large part of the series consists of letters written to Sytnyk by different people, such as the writers Iurii Kosach and Ostap Hrytsai, the journalist Ievhen Onatskyi, and the composer Hryhorii Kytastyi, from 1940 to 1950.

#### **III. Publications: A. Sytnyk's publications; 1. Published: 2. Unpublished: B. Publications about Sytnyk.**

The series contains Sytnyk's poetry published in a variety of publications. It contains two of Sytnyk's manuscripts: "*Liudoidka*" and "*Mesnyk*". The series also includes many articles about Sytnyk.

#### **IV. Photographs: A. Portraits; B. Sytnyk's parents; C. Youth; D. Crimea; E. Kyiv; F. L'viv; G. Hanna Cherin and their daughter; H. Germany; I. United States; J. Different people; K. Photographs of Sytnyk (unidentified).**

The series consists of photographs of Sytnyk in the different periods of his life. There are some portraits of him, as well as photographs from Ukraine, Germany, and the United States. In addition, the series contains many photographs of members of Ukrainian communities.

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### **V. Bibliographical materials: A. Correspondence; B. Notes.**

The series includes correspondence to and from John Luczkiw, as well as notes, related to Luczkiw's work on the bibliography of Sytnyk's works, published in an edition of his poems *Tsvit paporoti* (Flower of the Fern).

### **VI. Miscellaneous. A. A manuscript; B. Postcards; C. Colour title design; D. Notes and addresses.**

The series consists of an identified manuscript and several postcards. Also, the series includes a colour title design for one of the Sytnyk's book, *Tsvit paporoti*. It also has some notes with different addresses, including Haryna Cherin' (then Pankiv.) The series includes a financial invoice.

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### Mykhailo Sytnyk Papers

#### I. Biographical records: A. Identification documents; B. Recommendations.

Box	File	Title	Date
1	1	The Workbook (ID) for the Foreigner [Arbeitsbuch für Ausländer] issued in Germany	1943
1	2	The Certificate of Identity issued by the Ukrainian Emigration Committee	1945
1	3	The Identity Card in French in Constance	1945
1	4	Other documents	1945-1947

#### II. Correspondence: A. Correspondence from Volodymyr Vynnychenko to Mykhailo Sytnyk; B. Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin; C. Correspondence from Hanna Cherin'; D. Other correspondence to Sytnyk.

1	5	Correspondence to and from Volodymyr Vynnychenko to Mykhailo Sytnyk	1948-1951
1	6	Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin	1958
1	7	Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin	1959
1	8	Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin	1959
1	9	Correspondence from Sytnyk's mother and his cousin	1959
1	10	A letter to Hanna Cherin'	1949
1	11	Correspondence from Hanna Cherin'	1952-1953

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Box	File	Title	Date
1	12	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1947-1949
1	13	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1950
1	14	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1950
1	15	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1952
1	16	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1953
1	17	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1954-1955
1	18	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1957
1	19	Other correspondence to Sytnyk	1958
1	20	Unidentified correspondence	n.d.

### III. Publications: A. Sytnyk's publications; 1. Published: 2. Unpublished: B. Publications about Sytnyk.

1	21	Sytnyk's poetry	1946-1956
1	22	Sytnyk's poetry	1957-1959
1	23	Sytnyk's poetry	n.d.
1	24	Typescript of Sytnyk's " <i>Mesnyk</i> "	1948
1	25	Sytnyk's article in <i>Ukrains'ke slovo</i>	1955
1	26	Sytnyk's memoirs	1956
1	27	Typescript of Sytnyk's " <i>Liudoidka</i> "	n.d.
1	28	Articles about Sytnyk	1942-1947

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<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	29	Articles about Sytnyk	1952-1957
1	30	Articles about Sytnyk	1959-1969
1	31	Articles about Sytnyk	n.d.

**IV. Photographs: A. Portraits; B. Sytnyk's parents; C. Youth; D. Crimea; E. Kyiv; F. L'viv; G. Hanna Cherin and their daughter; H. Germany; I. United States; J. Different people; K. Photographs of Sytnyk (unidentified).**

2	1	Portraits of Sytnyk	1953, unidentified
2	2	Photographs of Sytnyk's parents	unidentified
2	3	A photograph of Sytnyk at the age of 12 years old	1932
2	4	A photograph of Sytnyk in Crimea	1940
2	5	A photograph of Sytnyk with Iemets and Mel'nyk in Kyiv	1942
2	6	Photographs of Sytnyk with Iaroslav Slavuntych, Sosulia and Lobovyi in L'viv	1943-44
2	7	Photographs of Sytnyk with Hanna Kuzhil' and their daughter	unidentified
2	8	Photographs of Sytnyk in Germany	1945-46
2	9	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in Germany	1947
2	10	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in Germany	unidentified

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Box	File	Title	Date
2	11	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in the United States	unidentified
2	12	Photograph of Sytnyk with his friends in the United States	unidentified
2	13	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in the United States	unidentified
2	14	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in the United States	unidentified
2	15	Photographs of Sytnyk with his friends in the United States	unidentified
2	16	Photographs of Sytnyk	n.d.
2	17	Photographs of Sytnyk	n.d.
2	18	A photograph of Sytnyk and his friend	n.d.
2	19	Photographs of different people	1940-1948
2	20	Photographs of different people	1940-1948

### V. Bibliographical materials: A. Correspondence; B. Notes.

2	21	Correspondence related to the bibliography of Sytnyk's works	1970
2	22	Luczkiw's notes related to his work on the bibliography	1970



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<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>VI. Miscellaneous. A. An unidentified manuscript; B. Postcards; C. Colour title design; D. Notes and addresses.</b>			
2	23	An unidentified manuscript	1949
2	24	Postcards	n.d.
2	25	Colour title design of Sytnyk's book	1960
2	26	Notes and addresses	1954-1959
2	27	A financial invoice	1958

Source for administrative histories and biographies: *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, ed. Volodymyr Kubijovic (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984-2001); *Ukraïns'ka mala entsyklopediia*, ed. Ievhen Onatskyi (Buenos Aires, 1961); Sytnyk, Mykhailo. *Tsvit paporoti. Poezii*. (Toronto: Vyd-vo "Moloda Ukraïna", 1975).