

Authorship:

By Lana Babij and Anastasia Leshchyshyn, with the assistance of Daria Glazkova; under the auspices of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC), in collaboration with the digital platform provider Our Digital World (ODW).

Acknowledgements: HREC

The Directory project was conceived by Lana Babij and developed under the auspices of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. In 2018, HREC research associate Anastasia Leshchyshyn joined the project, serving as the technical liaison with our very capable initial web designer Greg Zholdak as we worked to develop a presentation format. HREC entered a partnership the following year with Our Digital World (ODW), a non-profit organization that supports digital stewardship of community cultural heritage.

Anastasia took on research and development of the Nikolai Bokan collection component. In 2020, HREC assistant Daria Glazkova joined Anastasia in working on the Bokan component and took on increasing responsibility for a range of tasks across the entire project.

It was a dream team: Anastasia applied amazing organizational skills, vision, and intellect in a way that seamlessly enriched the project's development; Daria, just finishing her BA at University of Toronto, applied vital translation skills as well as keen insights and a remarkable adaptability for mastering new skills wherever needed. HREC Executive Director Marta Baziuk was always available for ideas, discussion, and hours of editing – without ever being intrusive. The project would not have been possible without her warm and enduring encouragement, faith, and support.

Finally, I wish to thank HREC for providing the opportunity, and ultimately a home for this Directory. In 2016 and 2017, I received grants from HREC to pursue the research needed to build the base of the project. But in the end, this online, ever-evolving Directory required a host. HREC is the only scholarly institution in North America solely devoted to the topic of the Holodomor; moreover, in its brief existence, it has proven consistently its dedication to open, rigorous scholarly discourse and research, and promoting standards-driven education based on evidence. I am proud and grateful that HREC has accepted this Directory as a feature of its online presence.

Acknowledgements: Web presence

After our initial web developer went on to other opportunities, Marta Baziuk and Anastasia Leshchyshyn attended a seminar organized by OurDigital World (ODW), which collaborates with

libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and community groups to create sustainable digital collections. After this fortuitous meeting with its executive director Loren Fantin, our team entered into a partnership with ODW, which has meant joining hundreds of other historical archives in North America through a common standards-based network. Of critical importance is the VITA Toolkit, <http://vitatoolkit.ca/>, an ODW service providing customizable web-based design, data management and support. We are particularly thankful to Jess Posgate, ODW Project Coordinator, and the Vita Toolkit team for their very attentive, cheerful and expert assistance all along the way.

Acknowledgements: Research

Several years ago, “a friend of a friend” invited me to examine a few dozen original photos from the 1920s famine in Russia, a collection passed on to her family from someone who had once known the photographer, Isaiah Liberman. Viewing these photographs – many of which I recognized as used to represent the 1930s famine in Ukraine – was pivotal in my seeking to learn more about authentic photo-documentation of the Holodomor.

My inspirations and unsuspecting mentors along this journey have been Roman Procyk, formerly of the Ukrainian Studies Fund at Harvard, who gently educated me across several years of emails on matters of authenticity and related scholarship; the late Nigel Colley – a tenacious sleuth, creator of the Gareth Jones website, and Gareth Jones’ nephew; and Marco Carynnyk, an uncompromising scholarly researcher.

The Alexander Wienerberger collections in this Directory were made possible through collaboration with his great-granddaughter Samara Pearce. We met via email, thanks to Andrij Tkach, who was working on a Rhea Clyman Holodomor documentary at the time. Ms. Pearce has been incredibly generous with her knowledge and resources and continues to be a fierce advocate for Holodomor awareness and Wienerberger’s vital photographic contribution, incorporating his work in her own haunting photographic collages about Russia’s current war in Ukraine.

Josef Vogl’s seminal biographical study of Alexander Wienerberger’s vital role in visually documenting the Holodomor served as the cornerstone to my own work. Bohdan Klid, Director of Research at HREC, introduced me to Mr. Vogl, who in turn was most generous in sharing information and in fact-checking my initial essay drafts. Johann Weißensteiner of the Diocesan Archive of the Catholic Archdiocese in Vienna advised on the Archive’s Holodomor-related holdings and arranged for high quality scans of the complete Innitzer album; his successor Johanna Kößler provided additional bibliographic assistance.

More recently, I have had the distinct pleasure of exchanging research findings with investigative journalist Dmytro Dzhulay. Our conversations point to exciting new avenues of Wienerberger and related Holodomor photo-documentation research.

Most of the research on Whiting Williams would have been impossible without access to the extensive archive of his personal papers housed at the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) Research Library in Cleveland, Ohio. I am most grateful to the kind and attentive assistance of Ann Sindelar and Vicki Catozza and the entire WRHS staff.

Likewise, I am indebted to Jenny Abbe Moyer, who responded with interest and encouragement regarding our project and generously shared several high definition copies of photographs from The James Abbe Archive.

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I am indebted to scholars Jars Balan, Randall Bytwerk, Serge Cipko, Paolo Fonzi, Mykola Horokh, Bohdan Klid, Vasyl Marochko, Orest Martynowych, Elena Osokina, Marina Schmieder, Roman Serbyn, Ihor Shuyskiy and his fellow researchers Olena Dmytrieva, Nataliia Tripytina, Liudmyla Rovchak; Irena Skubii, Roman Wysocki, and Oksana Yurkova, who personally answered my often naïve questions, informing and educating me about topics in this Directory that would have been very difficult to know otherwise. Sophia Isajiw inspired with her wisdom, her questions, and her patience - I will always be grateful. I am also very grateful to Larissa Babij for hunting down important materials in Ukraine, reading through some early drafts, and other helpful assistance.

In 2018, I had the honor of participating in the three-day Holodomor Visualization Roundtable *Візуалізація епохи Голодомору*, organized by the Holodomor Research and Education Centre (Kyiv), where I introduced the Photo Directory concept in my presentation on “Forbidden

Photographs.” The symposium was richly informative as well as a wonderful opportunity to meet numerous scholars in Ukraine doing groundbreaking work in the field, several of whom I have since corresponded with on matters related to the Directory: Liudmyla Hrynevych, Director of the Holodomor Research and Education Center in Ukraine; Mykola Horokh, Nataliia Levchuk, Oleksandr Maievskiy, Ihor Shuyskiy, Iryna Skubii, Oksana Yurkova.

Thank you to Valentina Kuryliw, Education Director at HREC, for inviting me to speak at the 2017 HREC Holodomor Education Conference, where I was able to touch upon the challenges of “reading” the photo-documentation of suffering.

I received invaluable translation assistance from German to English from Milanne Hahn, Nina Sakun, Melania Kuzma and Josef Vogl, and from English to Russian, by Daria Glazkova.

My husband Eugene and daughters Larissa and Natalie were wonderful supporters all along the way, and as opportunities arose, cheerfully participated in my Directory research adventures. My love and gratitude are without bounds.

Lana Babij

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