



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major gift from Golemba Fund supports students at Lviv University

29 May 2012—The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies has recently received a very generous gift from a bequest of \$450,000 from the estate of Natalia Golemba of Toronto, Ontario. The establishment of the Bohdan and Natalia Golemba Endowment Fund in May 2012 allowed CIUS to create the Bohdan and Natalia Golemba scholarship at the University of Alberta for students in their third to fifth years of study and for graduate students at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv who are enrolled in law or humanities programs. The new fund will enrich the Student Exchange Program, which has been in existence at CIUS since 2006, and will also benefit Lviv students who wish to study or conduct research at the University of Alberta. All applicants for the scholarship must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English, French, or German and maintain a high academic standard.

Bohdan Yaroslav Golemba was born on 20 August 1908 in Kolomyia. Natalia (née Shpikula) was born in Kopychyntsi near Ternopil on 12 January 1913. They met at a cooperative in Kopychyntsi where they were working. The Golembas married before fleeing to Poland during the war. From 1939 the young couple lived in Gdańsk, Poland, until they came to Canada in 1959 to join the rest of Natalia's brothers and sisters (she came from a family of nine children).

Having settled in Toronto, Bohdan worked as an accountant and real estate agent, while Natalia worked as a cashier at an IGA store. Bohdan loved to collect stamps and developed an impressive collection. Natalia embroidered beautifully and made artificial flowers and wreaths. "Most of the time," recalled Natalia's niece Nadine Shpikula, "they recounted stories of fleeing during the war and of how Ukrainians were discriminated against by Poles, Germans, and Russians."

Traumatized by their wartime experience, the Golembas were devoted to Ukraine and sought to assist their ancestral homeland by promoting education. Toward the end of her life, Natalia sponsored students from her native Kopychyntsi. Their posthumous gift will always remind us of their sacrifice, generosity, and efforts to make a difference in the lives of young people. Bohdan passed away on 26 February 1997, and Natalia on 8 October 2005.

Photo: Bohdan and Natalia Golemba.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) is a leading centre of Ukrainian studies outside Ukraine that conducts research and scholarship in Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian studies. If you would like more information on the Institute, please visit our website at www.cius.ca or contact Dr. Bohdan Klid at (780) 492-2972; cius@ualberta.ca.

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