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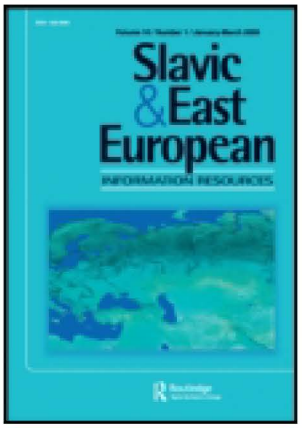


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# Guide to East European Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area

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## THE HERITAGE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

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### Background

The Most Reverend Michael J. Dudick, DD (1916–2007), Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Passaic, New Jersey, collected books and art since taking over the diocese in 1968. He formally created the institute in 1972, and in 1986 it was moved into a new building, occupying part of the Episcopal residence and Diocesan center in West Patterson (now called Woodland Park), New Jersey. After Bishop Dudick's retirement in 1995, new acquisitions have been insignificant

### Resources

The museum part of the institute includes some 200 icons, of which 40 percent are of Russian origin, 20 percent Greek, the rest being distributed among Carpatho-Rusyn, Macedonian, Melkite, Serbian, Syrian, and Ukrainian origin. The oldest of them are from the sixteenth century while about 20 percent are from the second half of the twentieth century. Works originating from schools of professional painters are present in the collection alongside popular and folk art. Other visual materials include about 150 paintings and lithographs hanging on all floors in the chancery, along the corridors as well as in various offices and rooms. More than 60 are by accomplished Carpathian artists such as Boitech Boretskyi (1910–1990), Iosyf Bokshai (1891–1975), Adalbert Erdeli (1891–1955), Miklosh Shuba (1880–1944), Adalbert Marton (1913–2005), Zoltan Zoltesz (1909–1990), and Andrii Kotska (1911–1987). Ethnographic materials in the museum represent ethnic groups living in the Carpathian region: Rusyns, Hungarians, Slovaks, and Ukrainians. Full traditional ethnic dresses are displayed on manikins. Other items include aprons, basket covers, bedspreads, blouses, vests, trousers, bonnets, hats, dolls, crocheted handwork, handcrafted chests, shrines, handkerchiefs, tablecloths,

towels, etc. Some of the pieces are from the late nineteenth century. Sacred art is exhibited on both floors of the chancery including altar lamps, church banners, censors, crosiers, crosses, crucifixes, episcopal crowns, omophoria, pectoral crosses, rings, and 36 antimensia of Carpatho-Rusyn, Serbian, Greek, Russian, and Ukrainian bishops. Some of them date to the early eighteenth century.

As of the mid 1990s the library had a total of 12,355 volumes, 2,184 volumes of some rarity, and about 100 current periodicals. Fewer than 3,000 titles have been cataloged, but the rest have been organized on the open shelves into broad categories, such as art, church service books, homiletic works, literature, etc. The collection includes four titles from the seventeenth century (three published in L'viv, one in Moscow); 24 titles from the eighteenth century (13 in L'viv, six in Pochaiv, two in Kiev, and one in each Moscow, Chernivtsi, and the Univ Monastery); and 14 titles from the nineteenth century (seven in L'viv, three in Buda, one each in Moscow, Chernivtsi, and Przemyśl). Among these there are *Psaltir* (Moscow, 1615), *Osmoglasnik* (L'viv, 1644), *Molitvoslov* (L'viv, 16680, *Apostol* (Kiev, 1738 and L'viv, 1772), and *Chasoslov* (L'viv, 1792). In general, bibles, commentaries, concordances, and psalters are represented by works in Church Slavonic, English, Czech, Slovak, and other languages. Some titles are in multiple copies while several large gospels are bound in metal covers with ornate cartouches. There are also catechisms, numerous service books primarily in Cyrillic script dating back to the late nineteenth century, as well as ritual books on marriage, baptism, burial services, and ordination; service books transliterated into the Latin script; lives of saints; and Rusyn and Hungarian homilies. Some 30 items are prayer books in original bone and ivory bindings published by Greek Catholic Church in Eastern Europe and America. There are older and modern general works on religion, with many titles in Czech, Hungarian, Russian, Rusyn, Slovak, and Ukrainian. Music is represented by music notational publications, Divine Liturgy chants, hymns, folksongs, as well as works on the history of music. Histories of various parishes can be traced in some 275 jubilee books. History of Carpatho-Rusyns is described in a number of general reference works. There is also a collection of some 42 language books written for Carpatho-Rusyns.

The archival collection includes diocesan materials, the personal collections of individuals who have donated their materials, such as Father John Livia Plaks (1899–1986), thousands of musical scores, documents on the conflicts concerning celibacy, documents relating to the history of the institute, and vertical files related to church affairs. One hundred fifty videos, numerous slides, recordings (among them 240 LPs, 500 cassettes, and CDs) document various conferences, religious celebrations, Divine Liturgies, anniversaries of individuals and churches, and church choirs and other musical rendition of religious songs. There are also pictorial records of individuals who have been active in the Eastern Catholic Churches and of

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groups attending various events in Europe and America. There is also a small collection of material on the Greek Catholic Union.

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*Contributed by Bogdan Horbal*

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