

The City as a Political Pawn Urban Identities in Chişinău, Černivci, Lviv and Wrocław

Edited by Bo Larsson

Basics

DOM
publishers

WAYS OF LIFE AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN ČERNIVCI:

1918–1940

IHOR PIDUBNYI

uments, the cultural essence and
logical value of the centenary park
ally appreciated.

professional architects knew
“People’s Garden” (Volksgarten
ina Publică) in Černivci was
n 1830 according to the design of
e first “Honorary Conservators”
y, architect Andreas Mikulicz, ar-
f the City Hall and several other
monuments. In the difficult years

War II, it was possible not only
ve the cultural value of the city’s
historical park, but also to sup-
and even expand it territorially.
a the fact that in the twenty-first
the architectural heritage of
has been globally recognised, the
s of the city’s historical and cul-
ues express not only the universal
value, but also the social signifi-
of the heritage in the spatial struc-
ne modern urban environment as
uable experience in maintaining
inuity of traditions in relation to
al memory of different historical
and political eras.

The annexation of Bukovyna by the Kingdom of Romania greatly changed the status of Černivci as it became part of another nation. World War I evidently hampered the economic development of the city and, despite its newly acquired status as a municipality, the importance of the city diminished and its role in the region changed. The city’s political life also underwent changes as the local political organisations adapted to the political parties within the framework of Romania’s parliamentary model. The fighting on political and, occasionally, ethnic grounds reflected the problems facing Romanian society as a whole in the 1920s and ‘30s and was a response to that ‘changing world’. However, the national composition and way of life of the people of Černivci (Romanian: Cernăuți) did not change under their new rulers.

According to the only census conducted during the interwar period, in 1930, the population of Černivci then numbered 112,427. The ethnic composition of the population was as follows: 42,592 people of Jewish heritage (in the region as a whole there were 45,327 registered Jews). This left Romanians, in whose kingdom the city was, in second place with 30,367, followed by Germans (16,359), Ukrainians (11,130) and Poles (8,986). The remaining minorities consisted of Russians (1,521), Hungarians (568), Czechs and Slovaks

(226), Bulgarians (78), Serbs (29), Greeks (11), Armenians (59), Turks (30), Gagauzes (19) and Roma (15). There were 103 people of other ethnicities and 334 people who failed to register their ethnicity⁶³.

The situation regarding native language was somewhat different: 32,731 people spoke Yiddish, Romanian was spoken by 29,123 people, German by 26,223, Ukrainian by 12,754 and Polish by 8,403. Hungarian was the mother tongue of 590 people, Russian of 1,835, Serbian or Croatian of 23, Bulgarian of 57, Czech and Slovakian of 141, Greek of 8, Armenian of 32, Turkish of 48 and Romani of 12, while one person had Albanian as their first language. There were 61 speakers of other tongues and 385 people failed to register their native language⁶⁴. Despite the variety in languages spoken in the city there was a certain stability in the social order as well as the way of life.

LIVING CONDITIONS

World War I and the Rumanian invasion of Černivci (Austrian: Czernowitz) took place in a period of chaos and worsening living conditions. On 4 November 1918, M. Witner wrote about the events in Černivci; “Anarchy, dissoluteness, robbery, shooting everywhere. No law, no protection, no authority.”⁶⁵ To compound matters, inflation was rife, with one cubic

metre of firewood costing 55 crowns, even if one could acquire it in early November 1918. Winter came very early that year, and, according to M. Witner, other difficulties reared their heads – food shortages, poverty and beggary, xenophobia and a general depression among the population⁶⁶.

The establishment of Romanian rule in the region did not bring with it any particular changes to people’s living conditions. The social-democratic newspaper *Vorwärts* compared the cost of living on the eve of the war and in 1919. It was calculated that, for a family of four people, food and fuel that had cost 23 crowns in 1914 had risen to 350 crowns by 1919.⁶⁷ On the tide of rising prices and inflation, in 1920 the Romanian authorities began to exchange currency, even stamping Austrian banknotes with the state seal. During this period there was much fraud, with considerable sums of in crowns illegally brought to the region and stamped with fake seals and used to smuggle grain and flour. According to V. Rusnak, those people who smuggled these goods marked them up by 50–100%; however, conditions were favourable for the regions included in newly established Poland as there was considerable interest in abandoning the Austrian currency and replacing it with German marks and, later, the Polish zloty. The authorities finally took some measures against smuggling in August 1920,

The City as a Political Pawn

Urban Identities in Chişinău, Černivci, Lviv and Wrocław

Edited by Bo Larsson

Basics

DOM
publishers

CONTENTS

.....	4
.....	5
RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	9
..... (Larsson)	24
..... ovina	24
.....	28
.....	47
.....	65
.....	84
MENT BEFORE WORLD WAR II (Bo Larsson).....	107
.....	107
.....	148
.....	209
..... concerning interwar urban environment	283
.....	323
ERS	332
ARCHITECTURE UP TO WORLD WAR II.....	339
..... and meaning in Černivci (Julia Lienemeyer)	339
..... Černivci during the interwar and post-war periods	348
..... of times and epochs (Svitlana Bilenkova)	348
..... Černivci: 1918–1940 (Ihor Piddubnyi)	355

POST-WAR URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
Chişinău – urban development and city planning (Anatolie Gordeev).....	
Interwar and post-war urban structure plans for Chişinău: a comparative study (Tamara Nesterov, Andrei Vatamaniuc).....	
The sovietization of Černivci, the implications for its residents and post-soviet development (Vasyl' Kholodnyts'kyi)	
Urban planning and preservation policies on post-war Černivci (Iryna Korotun)	
City growth concepts in urban planning projects in Lviv in the 20th and 21st centuries (Vitaliy Shulyar).....	
Comments on urban planning in relation to cultural heritage in Lviv (Bo Larsson)	
The urban environment of Wrocław in the context of history and memories (Elzbieta Przesmycka)	
Comments on urban planning and the preservation of cultural heritage in Wrocław during the socialist and post-socialist era (Bo Larsson)	
SELECTED RESULTS OF SURVEYS AND INTERVIEWS.....	
Attitudes among intellectuals in Chişinău to the protection of multi-ethnic cultural heritage (Bo Larsson).....	
The preservation of the cultural heritage of Černivci as viewed by students at Černivci National University (Tamara Marusyk, Svitlana Herehova)	
Commemorating a multicultural past in a post-migration city: attitudes to the commemoration of German and Jewish cultural heritage in the city of Wrocław (Barbara Pabjan)	
Memorials as a place of memory in Wrocław (Paweł Czajkowski).....	
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES.....	
AUTHORS	
NOTES.....	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
INDEX	
Index of persons	
Index of places, localities and historical events	
FIGURE SOURCES.....	

and monuments, the cultural essence and dendrological value of the centenary park were actually appreciated.

Surely professional architects knew that the "People's Garden" (Volksgarten or Gradina Publică) in Černivci was created in 1830 according to the design of one of the first "Honorary Conservators" of the city, architect Andreas Mikulicz, architect of the City Hall and several other famous monuments. In the difficult years of World War II, it was possible not only to preserve the cultural value of the city's famous historical park, but also to supplement and even expand it territorially.

Given the fact that in the twenty-first century the architectural heritage of Černivci has been globally recognised, the indicators of the city's historical and cultural values express not only the universal cultural value, but also the social significance of the heritage in the spatial structure of the modern urban environment as an invaluable experience in maintaining the continuity of traditions in relation to the historical memory of different historical periods and political eras.

WAYS OF LIFE AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN ČERNIVCI: 1918–1940

IHOR PIDUBNYI

The annexation of Bukovyna by the Kingdom of Romania greatly changed the status of Černivci as it became part of another nation. World War I evidently hampered the economic development of the city and, despite its newly acquired status as a municipality, the importance of the city diminished and its role in the region changed. The city's political life also underwent changes as the local political organisations adapted to the political parties within the framework of Romania's parliamentary model. The fighting on political and, occasionally, ethnic grounds reflected the problems facing Romanian society as a whole in the 1920s and '30s and was a response to that 'changing world'. However, the national composition and way of life of the people of Černivci (Romanian: Cernăuți) did not change under their new rulers.

According to the only census conducted during the interwar period, in 1930, the population of Černivci then numbered 112,427. The ethnic composition of the population was as follows: 42,592 people of Jewish heritage (in the region as a whole there were 45,327 registered Jews). This left Romanians, in whose kingdom the city was, in second place with 30,367, followed by Germans (16,359), Ukrainians (11,130) and Poles (8,986). The remaining minorities consisted of Russians (1,521), Hungarians (568), Czechs and Slovaks

(226), Bulgarians (78), Serbs (29), Greeks (11), Armenians (59), Turks (30), Gagauzes (19) and Roma (15). There were 103 people of other ethnicities and 334 people who failed to register their ethnicity⁶³.

The situation regarding native language was somewhat different: 32,731 people spoke Yiddish, Romanian was spoken by 29,123 people, German by 26,223, Ukrainian by 12,754 and Polish by 8,403. Hungarian was the mother tongue of 590 people, Russian of 1,835, Serbian or Croatian of 23, Bulgarian of 57, Czech and Slovakian of 141, Greek of 8, Armenian of 32, Turkish of 48 and Romani of 12, while one person had Albanian as their first language. There were 61 speakers of other tongues and 385 people failed to register their native language⁶⁴. Despite the variety in languages spoken in the city there was a certain stability in the social order as well as the way of life.

LIVING CONDITIONS

World War I and the Rumanian invasion of Černivci (Austrian: Czernowitz) took place in a period of chaos and worsening living conditions. On 4 November 1918, M. Witner wrote about the events in Černivci; "Anarchy, dissoluteness, robbery, shooting everywhere. No law, no protection, no authority."⁶⁵ To compound matters, inflation was rife, with one cubic

metre of firewood costing 55 crowns if one could acquire it in early 1918. Winter came very early that year according to M. Witner, other people reared their heads – food shortages and beggary, xenophobia and depression among the population.

The establishment of Romania in the region did not bring with it particular changes to people's living conditions. The social-democratic newspaper *Vorwärts* compared the cost of living at the eve of the war and in 1919. It calculated that, for a family of four, the cost of food and fuel that had cost 23 crowns in 1914 had risen to 350 crowns by 1919. In the tide of rising prices and inflation in 1920 the Romanian authorities introduced an exchange currency, even stamping their new banknotes with the state seal. During this period there was much fraud, with considerable sums of money being brought to the region and stamped with fake seals and used to smuggle goods. Flour, for example, was sold at 100% above the price. People who smuggled these goods were fined them up by 50–100%; however, conditions were favourable for the regions of newly established Poland as they had a considerable interest in abandoning the Austrian currency and replacing it with German marks and, later, the Polish zloty. The authorities finally took measures against smuggling in August

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Octav, *Sistematizarea oraşului Chişinău*. In: *Revista de arhitectură şi viaţa*, ianuarie, nr.1, 1943.

1952, Fondul Minist. Lucrărilor Publice. reg.9, d. 1943.

Ф., Несетерова, Т., Паскаръ, Е. Реконструкция историко-географического ландшафта довоенного Кишинева. In: „Identităţile Chişinăului”, ediţia a IV, Chişinău: Arc, 2018.

Alexandra, Ungureanu, Ramona. *Octav Doicescu, proiect pentru Chişinău*. In: *Urbanismul. Revista Nouă*, 2015, nr.19.

Кин, А., Шойхет, С., Эльман И. Архитектура Советской Молдавии. Москва: Стройиздат, 1987.

Paul. *Fapte trecute şi basarabeni uitaţi*. Chişinău: Universitas, 1988, p. 330.

Т., Tamara. *Etapele de devenire urbană a Chişinăului*. In: *Historia Urbana Sibiu*, 2006, nr. 2. Monitor. Chişinău, 1939.

Central Archives, the 1357 Fund, the Inventory of the Ministry of Public Works and Communications.

Central Public Construction Directorate. Construction Department. the year 1940. The systematization plan of Chisinau arch. Octav Doicescu and G. Ghiulamila.

THE SOVIETIZATION OF ČERNIVCI, THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS RESIDENTS AND POST-SOVIET DEVELOPMENT

VASYL' KHOLODNYTS'KYI

1940 was a momentous year for Černivci and its inhabitants, rapidly bringing to an end the traditional society and urban culture and fundamentally changing people's way of life. The secret agenda behind the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939 stated that Germany would not interfere with the actions of the Soviet Union towards Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, including Černivci. On 26 June, Molotov presented an ultimatum to Gheorghe Davidescu, Romania's ambassador to Moscow, demanding the evacuation of the Romanian military and administration from Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the Herţa region. On 28 June 1940, the Red Army entered the territory of Northern Bukovina and Bessarabia and, at approximately five o'clock in the afternoon, Černivci came and under Soviet control.

The Romanian forces offered no real resistance and, although the Soviet takeover was achieved by military force, the city was handed over by the mayor peacefully and without bloodshed. This process is further described below. That same evening, a 22-strong Communist Party cadre authorized by the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Ukraine (CC CPB (b)), led by Ivan S. Hrušec'kyj', immediately set about installing a Soviet government, preparing new business structures and generally Sovietizing the region. In the following months, July and August 1940, this group grew rapidly at the expense of local leaders, including local communists, as trusted party workers were seconded to Černivci from the eastern regions of Ukraine, tasked with rapidly implementing and reinforcing Soviet rule,

Party policy and Marxist-Leninist economic structures in the city and in the region as a whole.

The Communist Party took the lead in this work, having a monopoly of power in the Soviet Union and the leading role in bringing about societal change. On 4 July 1940, the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) approved the Černivci District Committee of the CP (B), headed by Secretary Ivan S. Hrušec'kyj and comprised of E.M. Olhovs'kyj (Second Secretary), M.S. Konyk (Secretary of Personnel), V.T. Cane and S.H. Nikitin



Ivan S. Hrušec'kyj, head of Soviet rule, 1940-41.



Entry of the Red Army in Cernăuţi/Černivci, 28 June 1940.



Central square after the Soviet takeover in 1940.