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International Conference on Armenian-Ukrainian Relations

Held in L'viv, Ukraine

Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan

The international conference on Armenian-Ukrainian relations, sponsored jointly by the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada; the Ukrainian Catholic University in L'viv; and the Institute of Ukrainian Archeography of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, L'viv Branch, was held in L'viv, Ukraine, from 28 to 31 May, 2008. The conference was made possible with academic planning and contribution as well as financial support by the sponsoring organizations.

Twenty papers were read by scholars from Armenia, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine on various aspects of Armenian-Ukrainian relations over the past five hundred years. The papers covered such aspects as the administrative structure and privileges of Armenian communities in Ukraine, social realities, cultural influences, church and religion, identity and literature, and art and architecture. Many of the papers were based on archival materials or took a fresh look at the field, at once reflecting an on-going lively interest, and one of the major goals of the conference: to shed new light on the Armenian-Ukrainian relations.

Originally conceived by Kevork B. Bardakjian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Frank Sysyn of the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research, both of whom chaired sessions and acted as discussants, the conference was an important step towards realizing one of the fundamental and long-standing elements of the mission of the Armenian Studies Program at Michigan to act as a catalyst for promoting and fostering Armenian Studies in various parts of the world. It is hoped that the precedent set in L'viv will evolve into a pattern of periodically held conferences.

The papers will be posted on the websites of both the Armenian Studies Program and the other sponsoring organizations at the same time as plans are developed to publish the proceedings as a volume in English.