Oleh Pavlyshyn. ***Ievhen Petrushevych (1863-1940): Iliustrovanyi biohrafichnyi narys.*** [Ievhen Petrushevych (1863-1940): Illustrated Biographic Sketch]. Lviv: Manuskrypt-Lviv, 2013. 400 pp. Illustrations. Bibliography. UAH 102,60, paper.

Ievhen Petrushevych is one of the most controversial figures in modern Ukrainian history. He was the self-proclaimed "dictator" (whatever that meant at the time) of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic; a propagator of Western Ukrainian separatism; a hesitant supporter of the Galician Army's *volte-face* in joining up with Denikin and the Bolsheviks; and, finally, a Sovietophile. And all of this positioned him for most of his political life (one cannot really speak of career) on the wrong side of mainstream Ukrainian opinion. Such a person is a worthy subject for biographic treatment. The book under review is very interesting, but it is not, exactly, the type of biography that a reader might expect.

Petrushevych came from a clerical family (like most nineteenth-century Galician intellectuals). He was a lawyer by profession but abandoned his practice quite late in life to become engaged in politics. He took part in the Galician Diet and Austrian parliament—he was one of the "young nonconformists" who, without being a socialist, opposed the "couloir methods" (114) of conservative Ruthenian politicians. It was rather *faute de mieux* that he became the head of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Representation in Vienna in September 1917, after the old National Democratic and Radical leaders were compromised following the proclamation of the Kingdom of Poland in 1916 and Iuliian Romanchuk resigned from his position as leader of the Representation.

Petrushevych was in Vienna at the time of the inception of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) in October/November 1918. Nevertheless, he was largely responsible for the creation of the Ukrainian National Council (UNRada) and became its first president. But he did not assume leadership locally, remaining instead in the Austrian capital. On 2 January 1919, he was re-elected president of the Ukrainian National Council; this remained his only legitimate, undisputed title after the First World War. The "reluctant" (163) decision to unite the ZUNR with Symon Petliura's Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR) ended up being on paper only, and after the expulsion of the ZUNR Army from Galicia, Petrushevych proclaimed himself dictator of the ZUNR in June 1919.

Following this, Petrushevych lost nearly all of his earlier allies, as well as friends. Furthermore, the unexpected 1923 decision of the Great Powers to hand Galicia over to Poland; the expulsion of Petrushevych from Austria; the reduction of the ZUNR government-in-exile to two apartments in Berlin, which were financed, in part, by the USSR; Petrushevych's cooperation with

Volume III, No. 2 (2016) DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.21226/T2S59M

Ievhen Konovalets', followed by their mutual enmity; and Petrushevych's hostile relations with all of the different factions of the Ukrainian National Democratic Alliance (UNDO) left Petrushevych lonely and poor, even more so in the 1930s, when he became seemingly less enthusiastic about the USSR. This biography could have tried to explain Petrushevych's tragic fate, developing a portrait not only of his personality, but also of his role in the network of Ukrainian nationalist organizations. It could have also explained, at least in part, why Ukrainian politics were so unsuccessful during the interwar years. Instead, the book presents many interesting facts but provides little analysis. And, in the end, the figure of Petrushevych remains shrouded in mystery—that is, not his political life but his personal life.

This book has both positive aspects and certain drawbacks. On the plus side, it contains many illustrations, most of them fitting in thematically with the information on respective pages. In addition, there are many photographs, with accompanying short biographies, of people relevant to the story, to the history of the ZUNR, or to the history of Ukraine, in general. Thus, the book is partly a concise encyclopedia of Western Ukrainian political figures. However, there is no index of these entries. And a second drawback: Pavlyshyn makes use of numerous archival documents and memoirs but does not provide any footnotes. This is a pity, because mentions of Petrushevych in archival sources are widely scattered and not easy to find.

Nevertheless, Oleh Pavlyshyn has written a good book. The reader gets a fine impression of Galician Ukrainian politics between the *fin de siècle* and the 1930s. At times, though, Petrushevych the man gets lost in the shuffle. In the first chapters, he and his family are present and lively; later, the reader encounters a history of the emergence and decline of the ZUNR (which, indeed, is interesting), but only sporadic descriptions of its prominent leader—its first and only president. Only a couple of individuals from his entourage have fleshed-out personalities: Father Verhun (who also fraternized with the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists [OUN] in Berlin) and Volodymyr Bandrivs'kyi (Petrushevych's contact with the Germans and the USSR). Of course, there are reasons for this: it seems that Petrushevych kept his cards close to his vest and that he was old-fashioned, stiff, and not very sociable. Thus, it is difficult to write a lively biography about a person who is not very lively.

In any event, this book is worth reading. Although Pavlyshyn approaches Petrushevych with sympathy, he does not shy away from pointing out the negative aspects of Galician and émigré politics and has not written a hagiography. This alone sets a welcome standard.

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