

Romana M. Bahry. *Dr. Wladimir Sylwester Kindraczuk: Forgotten Chemist of Łańcut and Pioneer of Probiotics; Discoverer of the Probiotic Bacterium *Bacillus carpathicus* in Hutsul Huslanka / Dr. Włodzimierz Sylwester Kindraczuk: Zapomniany aptekarz miasta Łańcuta i naukowiec-pionier probiotyki; Odkrywca probiotycznej bakterii *Bacillus carpathicus* w huculskiej huślance.* Polish translation by Leszek Puchała, preface by Roman Plyatsko, 2018. xxiv, 346 pp. Illustrations. Map. Glossary of Names. Extended-Family Charts. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$59.95, paper.¹

Romana M. Bahry's book about her grandfather Wladimir Kindraczuk (1882-1969), a Galician chemist and apothecary, is a biographic/genealogical study incorporating political context for the period. Bahry's primary motivation in her effort was the desire to bring Kindraczuk into the spotlight as the discoverer of the probiotic bacterium contained in the *huslanka* produced by the Hutsuls (he named this bacterium *Bacillus carpathicus*). Kindraczuk published an article about it in *Österreichische Molkerei-Zeitung (Austrian Dairy Journal [Vienna])* in 1912. In the 1930s, the bacterium was rediscovered by Jadwiga Supińska and Eugeniusz Pijanowski from Warsaw, and today, they are cited as its discoverers—wrongly so, according to the author of this book. Bahry is not a historian; she is a specialist in literature and an associate professor at York University in Toronto. But her work was largely inspired by family sentiment. This undoubtedly contributed to an uncritical approach toward the history of her family—it would be difficult to expect otherwise. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning that Bahry's research work on her grandfather's life also served as a form of therapy and refuge during her illness. She accessed her sources during her many trips to Poland, Ukraine, and Austria, starting in the 1970s.

The book under review is bilingual (English and Polish), and the two versions are separated by shared endnotes (189-211), a bibliography (212-32), and an index (233-40). The book contains extended-family charts (xx-xxiii) and a glossary of names (xviii-xix). The preface (ix, 247) was written by Roman Plyatsko from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The text is richly illustrated with scans of the documents that Bahry found, and it includes many family photographs.

The book consists of an introduction, five chapters, and an English translation of Kindraczuk's article about *Bacillus carpathicus* (in an appendix,

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183-88; see also 339-44). The book does not follow a chronological order typical of historical works, nor does it resemble an academic monograph. The introduction (1-13, 253-63) does not discuss the state of research or methodology but describes the author's professional career, the grants that she received, and her research trips. The starting point for the reconstruction of Kindraczuk's life is his scientific discovery, and this is the central topic of the biography. In chapter 1 (15-48, 265-82), Bahry lists all of the citations of Kindraczuk in German, Western European, and American medical periodicals from the first half of the twentieth century. She notes that only Polish literature on the subject does not mention Kindraczuk's research. In attempting to explain the reason for this, she focuses on describing the realities of her grandfather's world. She outlines the history of Galicia, which was ruled by Austria following the partitions of Poland, and she discusses Lviv, where Kindraczuk was educated and started his brief scientific career. She claims that strained Polish-Ukrainian relations in Galicia at the turn of the twentieth century led to Kindraczuk's departure for Vienna to undertake research and the production of his most important scientific work in German. Bahry cites the high tensions during the election campaigns of 1895 and 1897; the strikes of Eastern Galician peasants; the trial of Myroslav Sichyns'kyi for the murder of Andrzej Potocki, the viceroy of Galicia; and the conflict regarding the language of instruction at the University of Lviv as factors that spurred Kindraczuk, who was open about his Ruthenian-Ukrainian ethnicity, to leave Lviv. We cannot rule out this possibility, but the author does not back up her thesis with sources, basing it, rather, on general statements taken from a limited body of literature on the subject.

Chapter 2 (49-82, 283-97) describes Kindraczuk's background and childhood. Again, Bahry shows the situational context for her genealogical reflections, trying to paint a multi-dimensional picture of Galicia. Thus, apart from giving information about Kindraczuk's ancestors, she also mentions interesting figures of Galician literary and economic life, although they do not have much to do with the book's topic. At the same time, the author's genealogical findings are important because they show Kindraczuk as a representative of a culturally mixed community. His father was a Greek Catholic, his maternal grandparents were Polish and German, and he himself married a Pole.

Chapter 3 (83-138, 299-316) offers interesting regional information. Kindraczuk's scientific career was interrupted by World War I, and in 1915, he took over an apothecary in Łańcut, which he ran until 1944. He was known as a diligent pharmacist who sometimes offered his services charitably. Kindraczuk's special contribution was a memorial that he founded to honour the soldiers of the Ukrainian People's Republic who had been interned in a detention camp in Łańcut—approximately two thousand of those men died

in an influenza epidemic. The memorial, destroyed during the Communist era, was, fortunately, recently rebuilt. Toward the end of World War II, Kindraczuk had to flee Łańcut after unknown perpetrators plundered his house, physically attacked his wife, and almost shot him. The Kindraczüks, an ethnically mixed family, were warned to leave. In this and the following chapter, Bahry tries, as she did before, to contextualize her grandfather's situation through descriptions of political events of the time and the increasing Polish-Ukrainian conflict.

Chapter 4 (139-58, 317-22) describes the last years of Kindraczuk's life (1944-69), which were spent in emigration. In 1944, he went to Graz. After that, he went to the American zone of occupation in Salzburg and, finally, to the United States. He became a Canadian citizen in 1960, when he was 78 years old. He spent the last years of his life in Canada, having reunited with the rest of his surviving family. However, his doctoral degree was not acknowledged, and he could not practise his profession.

The final chapter of the book (chapter 5 [159-82, 323-38]) is the most personal. It is not based on scholarly literature or sources. Here, the author has gathered her own memories of Kindraczuk as well as the recollections of other family members.

The weaker part of the biography is the author's attempt to provide historical context. The work contains quite a few errors and inaccuracies. For instance, the First Partition of Poland had no relation to the Seven Years' War (29, 272); the concordat between the Holy See and the Austrian Empire was signed not in 1863 but in 1855 (in 1863, Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic bishops signed a *concordia* in Lviv, which was later approved by the pope [76, 295]); and Karol Wojtyła became pope in 1978, not in 1979 (95, 301). I would argue that it was not socio-political unrest (43, 280) but definitely economic and existential factors that were behind the emigration of Ruthenian peasants from Eastern Galicia (after all, Polish peasants from Western Galicia also emigrated). A person's religious denomination did not necessarily "automatically" (45, 281) decide their national identity (in Kindraczuk's case, Ukrainian identity as a member of the Greek Catholic Church). We know of the scientific careers of many Greek Catholics who chose a Polish identity (*gente Rutheni, natione Poloni*). Furthermore, Bahry does not explain her speculation that the alleged Soviet attempt to send Kindraczuk to Katyń in order to murder him (which did not happen) was related to his arrest by the Gestapo (169, 330). And unfortunately, the topic of Kindraczuk's service in the Polish army is not addressed at all. Bahry's genealogical and strictly biographic findings about Kindraczuk and his family are much more valuable. The effort that she has put into reconstructing family connections and following Kindraczuk's educational path is clearly evident.

While the English portion of the book is very carefully edited, I do have reservations about the quality of the Polish text. The translation seems rough, and it is full of errors in punctuation and spelling (especially with regard to capitalization). Not only has the text not been properly proofread but it also lacks literary refinement. In addition, some terms have been mistranslated in the historical descriptions.

Despite these shortcomings, Bahry's book is a valuable study on a forgotten figure from the Polish-Ukrainian border region: a scientist, apothecary, and emigrant. Contemporary historiography is dominated by the conviction that there was a decades-long conflict between the Polish and Ukrainian ethnics in their shared border region that ended in tragedy during World War II and resulted in the ultimate separation of the two nations. The bloody events meant that the history of many mixed-ethnicity families who lived in harmony despite their ethnic background (like Kindraczuk family) became unjustifiably forgotten. In this context, it is significant that the author recollects her grandfather's refusal to adhere to the Banderites' demand to murder his wife on account of her being Polish. Although in Communist Poland and Soviet Ukraine the centuries-long multi-ethnicity lost its prevalence owing to deportations, the Kindraczuk family in emigration preserved the micro-world of old Galicia, where different nationalities could live not only *side by side* but also *with* one another. Undoubtedly, there are many other positive figures from the Polish-Ukrainian border region about whom monographs have yet to be written and whose conciliatory points of view are still unknown. However, without the involvement of descendants holding valuable documents and photographs, the realization of such publications seems unlikely. Bahry's work on Kindraczuk's biography, therefore, can be treated as an inspiring example of such a genealogical initiative.

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Work Cited

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