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*I.S. Borovyk, N.V. Okunevych*

## HOUSE-SHIP OF CHERNIVTSI

Department of the foreign languages  
(scientific adviser – tutor O.O. Makovska)

Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Holovna and Sholem Aleichem crossroad is one of the most beautiful places in Chernivtsi, Chernivtsi's trademark, where the 1st brick house in the city was built. People who remember the Austrian period in the history of our city call it "shifa" (from German – «das Schiff»). Built in the form of a ship in 1780 "shifa" served as "general's house", a residence of the governor general.

There is a legend of its construction: there lived two brothers who were sincerely in love with sea. One was the captain and the other successful financier (in another version – the two brothers were captains). They both hadn't got families and children, so having retired they decided to settle together in incredible, worthy house – a house-ship. Brothers travelled throughout the empire in search of the necessary places – and finally found it in Chernivtsi, at the crossroad of two busy streets. The house-liner did not belong to any architectural style, its form was the most important element for brothers. High-lantern tower served for the mast. The bow contained lion's head, and even griffins (allegory of vigilance, necessary at sea). Dolphins and even algae reminded of water elements.

Paradoxically, the lion became the wettest creature in

"shifa": pure drinking water poured from its pharynx into the fountain cup. In Romanian times it was the only place in the town where one could drink for free.

The brothers lived on the second floor, there were two bridges there, two helms and two steering wheels. Every morning they came outside for morning exercises and on holidays they put parade uniform on and stood at the helm.

Original architectural style of the house will not leave indifferent any guests. Narrowed facade, like the ship's nose, directed to the south; deck on the second floor as an open and spacious balcony and a small tower that resembles a mast, of course, create an image of a shipbuilding masterpiece.

The place quickly became very popular, "shifa" portraits were pictures on all sets of cards. Opposite it there was a beautiful park with sculptures, a favourite meeting place of people who lived in Chernivtsi. The park was so clean that many people indulged in pleasure to walk on grass barefoot. Another neighbour of the house-ship was a Romanian booth of oil traders.

This site remains one of the most visited, interesting and lively places in the city.

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*M.R. Van, N.V. Romashkin*

## CHERNIVTSI ARCHITECTURAL VARIETY

Department of the foreign languages  
(scientific adviser – tutor O.O. Makovska)

Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Chernivtsi is one of a few cities undoubtedly considered to be a pearl of architecture. The historic site of the old part of the city is represented by an integral and almost untouched ensemble of the 19th – the beginning of the 20th centuries, famous for its stylish secession buildings created by the Otto Wagner's Vienna School representatives of the Modernist Style.

In the development of Chernivtsi architecture of the 19th century two periods can be distinguished with the 1840s as a turning point. The first one, the period of European architecture in general, is characterized by the total domination of Classicism. Since 1840s in some city buildings the Italian Renaissance features have been traced more often than those of Classicism. That transition is noticed in artistic and aesthetic look of Chernivtsi City Hall: its facade is in the best Classicism traditions while the tower bears the Renaissance motifs.

In the middle of the 19th century the other period in the city architecture started. It was characterized by an eclectic domination, particularly by the late Classicism, Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Baroque. The outstanding representative of that period was Josef Glavka, a Czech architect.

At the end of the 19th – the beginning of the 20th centuries the modernist style known as the Viennese Secession prevailed in Bukovyna as a part of Austro-Hungary. Chernivtsi historic downtown can be hardly imagined without stylish secession buildings erected by the design of the prominent Austrian architect Otto Wagner's students and apprentices. Since the 1920s

Chernivtsi has been built in the Art Deco and the Constructivism.

Nowadays Chernivtsi buildings are considered to be the distinctive landmarks along with the architectural attractions in Vienna, Prague and Paris. Some of these magnificent buildings have been distinguished as 'Chernivtsi Seven Wonders' comprising: 1) the former Residence of Bukovynian and Dalmatian Metropolitans, built in 1864-1882 and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List; 2) the Olga Kobylanska Academic Music and Drama Theatre that has adorned Theatre Square since 1905, a creation of the Viennese architects Felner and Helmer; 3) the Armenian Catholic Church built in 1875 according to Josef Glavka's design; nowadays there is the Organ Hall of the Chernivtsi Philharmonic Society there; 4) the City Hall with the facade built in Classicism with the tower built in the Renaissance style, has been on Central Square since 1847 and has invariably remained the seat of the municipal government; 5) the Art Museum building erected in 1901 as the Savings Bank office, has been recognized as one of the most prominent landmarks in the modernist style; 6) Svyato-Dukhivsky Cathedral built during 1844-1866 in the late Classicism style; the author of the design was the Viennese architect Real; 7) the wooden St. Mykolai Church built in 1607 is the oldest architectural landmark in Chernivtsi.

So, on the territory of the city there is a large number of architectural places of a national significance, which has turned the city into one of the main tourist attractions in Western Ukraine.