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M.A. Zadorozhna

PHILHARMONIC SQUARE IS THE MUSICAL PEARL OF CHERNIVTSI

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

Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

In due time residents of the city called this square Melplatz, which meant Flour Square. People used to sell flour products on this square. It had been a guarded area before as at the end of the 18th century a powder warehouse, military barracks and even a prison were situated here.

In the middle of the 19th century this place turned from a suburb into a central part of the city. The prison and the warehouses were replaced and the square began to look like a typical central part of a European city.

The construction of the former five-storey Bristol Hotel started out on the background of low level square buildings. Now its rooms are functioning as a dormitory for the students of Bukovinian State Medical University, but one of the points of local government program is to replace the dormitory.

The fence surrounding Bristol Hotel is restored according to the standard of the thirties of XX century.

The central building of the square to the right is the one which gave the name to it. It is the edifice of the Regional Philharmonic Society. In 1876-1877 music lovers made donation for the construction of the concert hall of the Ukrainian Musical Society, which promoted the development of great cultural traditions of our land. This society supported the development of the Ukrainian national art and organized concerts of world famous singers and musicians. The most significant music stars of XIX century gave concerts here. They were such famous

people as Fedir Shaliapin, Enriko Karuzo, Solomia Krushelnyska, Artur Rubinstein, Mykola Lysenko and others.

Such well-known Ukrainian ensembles as “Smerichka” with Nazarii Yaremchuk and Vasyl Zinkevych as its soloists and “Chervona Ruta” with Sofia Rotaru as a soloist worked at this Philharmonic Society. Actually the tours of world popular stars in the city and the tours of the previously mentioned music groups in our country made much of a profit for the Philharmonic Society.

The brightest Diva of Chernivtsi Jewish Theatre, who played on the stage of our Philharmonic Society in the sixties of XX century, was Sidi Tal (the real name Sorele Birkental, (08.09.1912 – 17.08.1983). Leonid Utiosov and Arkadii Raikin were impressed by the performance of this actress from Chernivtsi. Solomon Mikhels was the first to suggest recording of her acting to preserve such treasure for future generations. The performances of the Jewish theatre (the last one in Ukraine closed in 1950) in which she acted were always greeted like special events in the city. The glory of Sidi Tal was unsurpassed during the Romanian and Soviet times : she was awarded the Honoured Artist of the USSR.

In 2010 we celebrated the 70-th anniversary of the foundation of Chernivtsi Philharmonic Society. The extensive restoration of the building was carried out and the building began its second life.

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I.O. Zakharchuk

CENTRAL SQUARE

Department of the foreign languages
(scientific adviser – sen. tutor L.I.Pochinok)

Bukovinian State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Chernivtsi is situated in the upper reaches of the Prut River, in the Northern part of the historic region of Bukovina. The city has a lot of historic places which have always been attractive to many foreign tourists. One of the sightseeings is Chernivtsi squares.

Central Square embodies central Chernivtsi, though the city centre in the past was located in the crossroads of present-day B.Khmelnyskyi and Ju. Haharin Streets. Central Square has been the heart of the city for nearly two centuries. It is the place where all main streets start from. They are Holovna, Universytetska, Ruska, I. Franko, O. Kobylanska Streets.

As the government bodies of the city changed in the process of history, so did the name of Central Square. Until 1918 the Square was known as “Ringplatz” or “Market Square”. During the Romanian rule the square assumed the name of “Piata Uniri” which stands for “Reunion Square”. Starting from 1945 the Square was called “Red Square”. On March 9, 1949 the City Council of Chernivtsi took a decision to rename the Square into Central Square.

In 1786 Josef II visited Chernivtsi. He wanted to set up a square where a market and fairs could be held, and it was four years later - in 1790 - when the first fair was

arranged in Central Square. The creation of present-day city architecture began in the late 18th and early 20th centuries. It was at this time that the modern City Hall building was erected and the square became a place where the public would gather in front of the local city authorities. Historically, the City Hall has always been the location of administrative power for the ruling Austrian, Romanian and Russian Governments. Today, one can see the Ukrainian flag and the National Emblem on its walls.

The building itself was designed by Andreas Mykulich and built in the style of classicism in 1843-1847. The most fascinating features of the City Hall building are its two magnificent clocks. The main clock is to be found on the building's grand tower, and the other, which adorns the facade was a gift from Anton Kokhanowskyi, a city councilor for 42 years.

On November 12, 2004 a new tradition was born in our city. At 12:00 a.m. a trumpeter, who can be heard in many parts of the city symbolically appears on the balcony of the City Hall and performs the folk song «Marichka».

Near the city hall there is the Art Museum. It was designed by Hyubert Hasser, a pupil of Otto Wagner and built after the project of the architect Aizenberg in Vienna secession style in 1900-1901. On its main facade