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## THE PEOPLE OF THE FINNISH-PERM ETHNIC GROUP IN UKRAINE

The Kyiv Cultural Society of Finnish-Perm Peoples (KCSFPP) was founded in April, 1996 as a public, non-commercial organization. Its basic purpose is the preservation of customs and traditions of Finno-Ugric peoples.

The society represents cultural interests of Finno-Ugric diaspora (except for Hungarians) in Ukraine. The chairman of the society is Nadiia Iefymyshch (Fedoseieva). Membership in KCSFPP fluctuates. The Kyiv branch of the society counts 25 active members. There are branches in Kryvyi Rih, in Crimea, in Sumy, in Kharkiv, in Donets'k.

KCSFPP is a member of the Council of National Companies of Ukraine (part of the Congress of National Minorities). In 1998, KCSFPP became the member of the M.Kastren Society in Finland.

The Kyiv society takes part in the organization of conferences and seminars concerning the problems of national minorities in Ukraine. In 1998, it was one of the initiators of the all-Ukrainian conference "Social Protection of National Minorities" (chairman – Nadiia Iefymyshch). In March 1998, during the pre-election campaign, the society took part in a round table session entitled "Formation of a Civil Society". The head of the Information Department of the society, Rostyslav Martyniuk, delivered a report on the national epos of the Erzia, "Mastorava," at the international conference "Kalevala: The Finnish Contribution to European Spirituality," which was held in May 1999. It was the first presentation of the epos of the Finno-Volga people in Ukraine.

The society actively presents information in the Ukrainian mass-media, for example in the Kyiv newspapers "Khreshchatyk", "Ukrains'ke Slovo", and "Ukraina Moloda", in the Sumy newspapers "Hrono" and "Orfei", in the Rivne newspaper – "Nash Biznes", in the international magazine of Ukrainian emigrants "Shliakh Svobody." It publishes analytical articles about the life of the Finno-Ugric diaspora in Ukraine, on the national-political movement of Carelians, Erzia, Marries, Moksha in the Russian Federation. In October 2001, the society published an analytical article "The Finno-Ugric chronicle" in the weekly journal "Shliakh Peremohy." In April 2001, KCSFPP delegated its member for participation in the opening of the Information Center of the Finno-Ugric Peoples "Komiinform" in Syktyvkar (Komi Republic). Rostyslav Martyniuk was elected a member of the Coordination Council of "Komiinform" in Ukraine. Information regarding this event appeared on the following TV-channels: UT-2 and "TV Tabachuk". In 1988, the newsletter of the Society "Ukraine" was first published, the web site ([www.kominarod.narod.ru](http://www.kominarod.narod.ru)) was created, the public library of KCSFPP was opened (it contains about 200 books in the Komi-Perm, Finnish, Estonian and Moksha languages). The first contribution to the library was made by the Ambassador of Finland in Ukraine, Marty Isoaro, and by the corresponding member of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Orest Tkachenko.

In 2000 – 2001, the society took part in the organization of Ukrainian research expeditions to concentration camps in Karelia where during communist rule Ukrainian, Finnish, Udmurt cultural workers were executed. Rostyslav Martyniuk took part in the memorial actions of the Karelian government.

In April 2002, members of the society took part in the international campaign for the protection of the rights of the Mari people to be educated in their native language in the Republic of Maria El. The Informational Department of KCSFPP organized a series of interviews with politicians and leaders of the Finno-Ugric diaspora in Ukraine.

The majority of members of the organization are women, who in 1997 created an all-women group "Suomi" within the KCSFPP. The aim of this group is to promote resolutions on social-psychological adaptation within modern society and to introduce principles of gender equality.

In the first year the group became a member of the Female Consortium of CIS-USA in Ukraine, of the WFM (Women Leaders of National Minorities) at the Council of Europe. Members of the group participated in international forums and seminars in Kyiv, Alushta, Stockholm, Budapest, Strasbourg, and Moscow.

KCSFPP supports contacts with the Society for the Rescue of the Ersia Language headed by Ryabov (Mordovia Republic), with the National-Cultural Autonomy Besermies of Udmurtiya, with the Polar Society of Maris of "Maria El" (Republic of Komi), with the Komi-Permyaks Publishing House in Kudymkar, with the all-Mari

Council “Mar Kanash”, with the Society “Maria Ushem” (Maria El’s Republic), with the Petrozavodsk Society “Memorial” (Karelia), with the Kargumyat Municipal Museum of Belomor-Baltic Channel (Karelia), with the Saransk Art Museum (Republic Mordovia), with the Estonian Institute in Tallinn, etc.

According to the national census of 1989, the following representatives of Finno-Ugric peoples live in Ukraine: Vepsians – 169; Estonians – 4202; Izhorians – 9; Karelians (including Tver) – 2276; Komi – 3959; Komi – Permyaks – 2146; Livonians – 6; Mansi – 37; Mari – 7368; Moksha and Erzya (mordvins) – 19332; Udmurts – 8583; Finns-Suomi and Finns-Ingermanlands – 1086; and Khanty – 91. The total being 68,578 persons.

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## **НАРОДИ ФІНО-ПЕРМСЬКОЇ ЕТНІЧНОЇ ГРУПИ В УКРАЇНІ**

*В статті висвітлюється діяльність Київського товариства культури народів фіно-пермської етнічної групи. Товариство представляє культурні інтереси діаспор фіно-пермських народів, які проживають в Україні. Відкрити відділення Товариства у м. Кривий Ріг, в Криму, в Сумах, Донецьку, Харкові.*

*Київське товариство бере участь в організації заходів з проблем життєдіяльності етнічних громад України. Створено громадську бібліотеку, в якій представлені книжки українською, комі-перм'яцькою, російською, фінською, естонською та моксианською мовами.*

*При Товаристві створено жіночий клуб “Суомі”. Його мета – вирішення питань соціально-психологічної адаптації в сучасному суспільстві та гендерні дослідження.*

**Iryna KOLODUK**  
**Київ**

## **ZORIANA BOLTAROVYCH – A RESEARCHER OF UKRAINIAN FOLK MEDICINE**

It is impossible to examine folk medicine without considering the works by Zoriana Evhenivna Boltarovych, the researcher who made a great contribution to the study of this subject. Though she was interested in a number of themes in Ukrainian ethnology, and published the monograph “Ukraine in the Research of Polish Ethnographers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century” (1976), most of her time and strength was spent researching folk medicine which she saw an integral field of traditional folk culture. As a result of her prolonged work she gathered a large and, in many cases, unique body of original material. Boltarovych supplemented her field work with numerous archival sources, data from publications and specialized literature. These materials are focused not only on the folk medicine of Ukrainians, but also considered the folk medicine of many other nations<sup>1</sup>.

Z. Boltarovych researched folk medicine in certain regions of Ukraine and published a series of articles and scholarly works<sup>2</sup>. Two of her articles “Folk Medicine of Ukrainians in Polissia” and “Folk Medicine and Veterinary Medicine”<sup>3</sup>, she wrote together with the Belarus’ researcher L. Minko. These articles reveal the researcher’s interest in the specific aspects of Polissia’s folk medicine that are tied to the region’s social, economic and cultural development, as well as way of life, which fostered the preservation of traditions, including those associated with folk medicine.

The author researches such topics as the species of plants used in folk medicine, the methods of the production of plant medicines, medical substances of animal and mineral products, and the use of water and fire in medical magic. Relating the traditions, legends and popular beliefs that are connected with the gathering of medical herbs, their conservation and medicinal preparation in Polissia, the author recognizes similarities with other regions of Ukraine and even broader Slavic territories but focuses on distinguishing characteristics. For example, she highlights the use of plants characteristic for Polissia, such as acorus, marsh’s mud, mushrooms, Polissia melissa, buckwheat