

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Melnyk family fonds (MSS 405, A 13-60, TC 181)

---

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.1 Printed: January 08, 2020

Language of description: English

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

330 Elizabeth Dafoe Library

Winnipeg

Manitoba

Canada

R3T 2N2

Telephone: 204-474-9986

Fax: 204-474-7913

Email: [archives@umanitoba.ca](mailto:archives@umanitoba.ca)

<http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/>

<http://umlarchives.lib.umanitoba.ca/index.php/melnyk-family-fonds-2>

# Melnyk family fonds

## Table of contents

---

Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	4
Notes .....	5
Series descriptions .....	5
, RECORDS OF IRENE AND JOHN MELNYK, 1926-2008 .....	5
, RECORDS OF IRENE MELNYK [196-?], 1965, 1967 .....	6
, MELNYK FAMILY - PERSONAL RECORDS 1926-[197-?] .....	6
, JOHN AND IRENE MELNYK - CORRESPONDENCE 1940-2008 .....	6
, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS [195-?]-2008 .....	7
, ARTS AND CULTURE 1935-2008 .....	7
, RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH MATERIALS 1926-[198-?] .....	7
, PUBLICATIONS [193-?]-1989 .....	8
, JOHN MELNYK - SCRAPBOOK 1944-1945 .....	9
, RECORDS OF EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK 71.5, .....	9
, EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) SYTNYK - SCRAPBOOKS [193-?]-[197-?] .....	9
, RECORDS OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS 1884-1968 .....	10
, EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) SYTNYK - "RIDNA SHKOLA" - UKRAINIAN NATIONAL SCHOOL [193-] .....	11
, EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK - CORRESPONDENCE [193-?]-1987 .....	12
, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS [193-]-[196-] .....	13
, EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK - PERSONAL RECORDS 1935-1989 .....	13
, Audio/visual recordings and photographs, [198-?] - [199-?] .....	14

## Summary information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Melnyk family fonds
<b>ID:</b>	MSS 405, A 13-60, TC 181
<b>Date:</b>	1926-2008 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1.3 m of textual records; 6.25 cm of audio-visual records (2 audio cassette tapes; 2 video cassette tapes and 6 photographs).
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Language:</b>	Russian
<b>Language:</b>	Ukrainian
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Created by Marta Dabros, December 2013. Quality checked by Mary Grace Golfo-Barcelona on 07 June 2017. Revised by M. Horodyski (January 2020).
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	One audio cassette was separated from the manuscript collection and relocated to the tape collection (TC 181).

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

---

### Note

Stefan Sytnyk, 1897 – 1989 . Stefan Sytnyk was born in Ternopil, Ukraine in 1897, one of five children. He worked as a skilled tradesman in his early years, and drove trains during the First World War. In 1926, he immigrated to Canada, followed by his wife Eugenia one year later; together they settled in Winnipeg where they would live for the rest of their lives. At first, Stefan worked for the railroad, but he had an entrepreneurial bent so after a few years, he and his wife, assisted by their only child Irene, opened a grocery store in Winnipeg's North End which they operated until the early 1940's. Supported by this business, Stefan began acquiring what became an extensive collection of rental properties throughout Winnipeg which he determinedly maintained himself even well into his eighties! Through his lifetime of hard work and frugal living, Stefan supported his wife's extensive activities in the Ukrainian community and built a foundation for the future financial security and success of his family.

Eugenia Sytnyk, 1900 ? – 1975 . Eugenia Sytnyk was born in Ternopil, Ukraine. She became interested in community work very early in life, organizing women's groups, cooperatives and schools, and serving with the Red Cross during the First World War She followed her husband Stefan to Canada in 1927, settling with him in Winnipeg where they had their only child Irene one year later. Eugenia continued her involvement in community work, teaching school, editing women's and children's pages of Ukrainian newspapers and helping Ukrainian immigrants adapt to life in Canada. She became a founding member of the Ukrainian Women's League as well as of the Organization of Ukrainian Women of Canada and also

took on executive positions with a wide variety of local and national Ukrainian organizations, including the Canadian Ukrainian Committee (women's division) and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. Eugenia was recognized for her many years of service to the Ukrainian community with the Shevchenko Medal for Meritorious Service at the ninth Congress of Ukrainians in Canada, and the City of Winnipeg Community Service Award medal.

John Melnyk Sr., 1916 – 2009. John Melnyk was the elder son of Mykola and Palagia who immigrated to Canada from Ukraine and met and married in Winnipeg. From an early age, John was drawn to the piano, studying it enthusiastically from 1924 to 1938 first with Maria Kekishivna (a pupil of Anton Rubinstein), Leda Omansky, and finally Beryl Ferguson under whose tutelage he earned his Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music, London in 1935. He became a well-known performer in Winnipeg, participating in the Saturday Night concert series sponsored by the Men's Music Club of Winnipeg, performing live-to-air broadcasts for CBC, touring Western Canada with up-and-coming Canadian musicians, and accompanying touring international artists on their Canadian appearances. He also composed three preludes, a sonata, a concerto, and two sets of variations, all for piano and all unpublished. In later life he settled into teaching which he continued well into his eighties. Twenty-four of his students won the Aikins Memorial Trophy as top instrumentalist in the Manitoba Music Festival, with which he was associated for over 70 years. That festival now annually awards the John Melnyk trophy and bursary for the best performance of a piano concerto.

Irene Melnyk, 1928 – 2012 . Irene was the only child of Ukrainian immigrants Stefan and Eugenia Sytnyk. She grew up helping her parents in their store, accompanying her mother to community meetings, participating in Ukrainian groups and taking piano lessons from John Melnyk whom she married in 1948. Irene was then attending the University of Manitoba from which she received a Bachelor of Science in 1950. Shortly thereafter her two sons were born, and she devoted herself wholeheartedly to raising them, yet still found time to teach Ukrainian and Sunday school, publish two Ukrainian primers with her friend Nadia Pip, as well as teach piano in her husband's burgeoning studio and publish a scale book for beginners with him. As her sons grew older, Irene turned her energies and love of learning to holistic health. She opened a health food store under the Shaklee organization, studied extensively at the Moreau Institute of Natural Healing, and also earned credentials in Physical Health, Natural Nutritional Sciences and Natural Therapeutics among others. She became a respected reflexologist and teacher, serving on the Reflexology Association of Canada (RAC) board of directors for several years; RAC awarded her a lifetime membership in 1997 and recognized her as Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2006.

## **Custodial history**

This collection was transferred to the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections by John Melnyk Jr. in 2013.

---

## **Scope and content**

---

The fonds consists of the records of John and Irene Melnyk, as well as the records of Eugenia (Ievheniia) and Stefan Sytnyk, Irene's parents. Both John and Irene and Eugenia and Stefan were very active in the Ukrainian community in Winnipeg and beyond.

The fonds is separated into three series and multiple sub-series. The first series contains the records of Irene and John Melnyk and is organized into eight sub-series.

The second series contains the records of Eugenia and Stefan Sytnyk, Irene Melnyk's parents. The records reflect Eugenia's deep involvement in a number of Ukrainian Canadian national and women's organizations, as well as in the creation of the Ukrainian national school in Winnipeg. This series is organized into six sub-series.

The third and final series is the audio/visual and photograph collection, and consists of 2 audio cassette tapes, 2 video cassette tapes, and 6 photographs.

---

## Notes

---

### Title notes

### Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions governing use

Users must abide by relevant copyright legislation.

### Finding aids

A finding aid can be downloaded by clicking on the "Download" link under "Finding Aid" on the right hand side of the screen.

### Related material

Archives of the Ukrainian Canadian Experience: <https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/archives/archivalcollections/ukrainian>

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

---

## Series descriptions

---

### RECORDS OF IRENE AND JOHN MELNYK

Date: 1926-2008 (date of creation)

Physical description: 12.5 cm

<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
<b>RECORDS OF IRENE MELNYK [196-?], 1965, 1967</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Irene Melnyk and Nadia Pip - Ukrainian language primer: "Navkolo Nas" - Winnipeg 1967			1 1
	File - Irene Melnyk and Nadia Pip - Ukrainian language primer: "Bukvar" - Winnipeg 1965			1 2
	File - Irene Melnyk - Ukrainian language children's instructional materials (alphabet, practice sheets) [196-?]			1 3
<b>MELNYK FAMILY - PERSONAL RECORDS 1926-[197-?]</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - John and Irene Melnyk - Address book [195-?] - [197-?]			1 4
	File - Mykola Melnyk - Paybook 1926			1 5
	File - John Melnyk (Ivan Mel'nyk) - Music School - Concert - Den' Bat'ka; Articles and newspaper clippings written/ collected by Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1946-1948			1 6
<b>JOHN AND IRENE MELNYK - CORRESPONDENCE 1940-2008</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				

<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - John and Irene Melnyk - Correspondence from various sources 1940-2007			1 7
	File - Correspondence from Peter (Petro) Bolechywsky Boyan to John and Irene Melnyk 1985			1 8
<b>NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS [195-?]-2008</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Newspaper clippings [195-?]-2008			1 9
<b>ARTS AND CULTURE 1935-2008</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Concert and choir programs - Winnipeg performances 1935-1985			1 10
	File - Arts and culture community events - Winnipeg - Programs and brochures 1951-2008			1 11
	File - Arts and Culture community events - Outside of Winnipeg - Programs and brochures 1966-2008			1 12
	File - Ukrainian arts and culture - various materials [198-?]			1 13
<b>RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH MATERIALS 1926-[198-?]</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - John Melnyk's Prayer book - "Ukrains'kyi Pravoslavnyi Molytvennyk" - Winnipeg 1926			2 1

	File - Religious icon prayer cards - Winnipeg [196-?]-[198-?]			2 2
	File - Religious instructional booklets - Sunday School material - Ukrainian- Greek Orthodox Church of Canada, Winnipeg [197-?]			2 3
	File - Religious instructional material - Sunday school lessons (in Ukrainian) 1969, [197-?]			2 4
	File - Church bulletin, St. Mary the Protectress Cathedral - "Kvartal'nyk, Ukrains'koho Pravoslavnoho Bratsva, Soboru Sv. Porkovu", Winnipeg [196-?]			2 5
	File - Biographical info, Passports, certificates 1927-1948			2 6
<b>PUBLICATIONS [193-?]-1989</b>				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Woman's World Magazine - "Zhinochyi Svit" 1975, 1977, 1981, 1982			3 1
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Review April 1942			3 2
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Federation of Canada Inc. 1968			3 3
	File - "Visnyk" - Vol. III - No. 2 - World Congress of Free Ukrainians 1976			3 4
	File - "Biuletyn" - "The Bulletin" - Ukrainian Canadian Committee 1977, 1985, 1987, 1991			3 5
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Committee 1978, 1979			3 6
	File - Newsletter of the Manitoba Ukrainian Arts Council Summer 1989			3 7
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko - 25th Anniversary Annual Report 1988			3 8
	File - "Forum" - A Ukrainian Review - No. 70, Spring 1989 1989			3 9
	File - Ukraine - Promotional material [198-?], 1944			3 10
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Cookbooks [197-?], [19-?]			3 11
	File - Europe, Ukraine [193-?], 1940, [196-?]			3 12
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Map of Metropolitan Winnipeg October 1968			3 13



**JOHN MELNYK - SCRAPBOOK 1944-1945**Physical description: 4.5 cmPublication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - John Melnyk - Scrapbook 1944-1945			4 1
	File - English language board game - "Check Your Answers"	1964		4 2
	File - Ukrainian language game - "Abetka" - published by the Ukrainian School in Winnipeg [196-?]			4 3

**RECORDS OF EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK 71.5**Physical description: 0.72 mPublication status:

published

**File / item list****EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) SYTNYK - SCRAPBOOKS [193-?]-[197-?]**Publication status:

published

**File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk Scrapbook 1 [193-?]-[197-?]			4 4
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk Scrapbook 2 [195-?]-[197-?]			4 5
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk Scrapbook 3 [195-?]-[197-?]			4 6
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk Scrapbook 4[195-?]-[197-?]			4 7
	File - Eugenia and Stefan Sytnyk - Certificates of Naturalization, International Certificates of vaccination 1932-1970			5 1a
	File - Eugenia and Stefan sytnyk - Biographical info (Certificates, Transcripts, etc.) 1920-1930			5 1b

## RECORDS OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS 1884-1968

Publication status:

published

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Federation of Canada Inc. - Letter from National Executive 1968			5 2a
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization, Winnipeg - Ievheniia Sytnyk - Newspaper clippings, articles			5 2b
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Committee - Ievheniia Sytnyk's speech at the 3rd Congress (KUK) 1950			5 3
	File - Pioneers of Ukrainian Women's Movement in Stanyslavovi (1884) - Biography of O. Kysilevs'ka, by Ievheniia Sytnyk			5 4
	File - Olena Simenovych-Kysilevs'ka - President of World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (SFUZhO), Editor of "Zhenocha Dolia" and "Svit Molodi"			5 5
	File - Journal - "Svit Molodi" - Olena Kysilevs'ka, Editor 1935, 1937			5 6
	File - Ukrainian Patriotic Organization (OUN) [195-?], 1965			5 7
	File - Ukrainian National Women's League of America, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization (SFUZhO) - Resolution "V hordii zhalobi" 1954			5 8
	File - Ukrainian National Federation (UNF) - Ukrains'ke Natsional'ne Obeiednannia Kanady (UNOK) - Resolution 1947, 1952, 1967			5 9
	File - Ukrainian Canadian War Veterans' Association - Donations 1966			5 10
	File - World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (SFUZhO) - Articles vy O. Kysilevs'ka, L. Vitoshyns'ka, N. Ishuk			5 11
	File - World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations - Bulletin "Ukrainika v Svit," No. 1 1965			5 12
	File - Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (im. Olha Basarab); Circulars; Retrospective 1939, 1957-1958, 1966			5 13

	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Committee - Reports, Circular 1959, 1963	5 14
	File - Ievheniia Sytnyk - Speeches, articles	5 15
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization, Winnipeg - Ievheniia Sytnyk's Speeches, articles; Ol'ha Basarab	5 16
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization (OUK) - Ol'ha Basarab	5 17
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization, Winnipeg - Ievheniia Sytnyk, Olena Kysilev'ka	5 18
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization, Winnipeg - Ol'a Kobylans'ka (includes clippings from "Zhinocha Dolia" - O. Kysilevska, Editor)	5 19
	File - Orhanizatsiia Ukrainok Kanadii (OUK) - Newspaper clippings; buttons; guestbook for Ievheniia Sytnyk 1955, 1959, 1968	5 20
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization, Winnipeg - Natalia Kobryns'ka (includes clippings from from "Zhinocha Dolia"; O. Kysilevs'ka, Editor)	6 1
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization - Lesia Ukrainka, Marko Vovchok	6 2
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization - OUK - Vira Babenko	6 3
	File - Ukrainian Women's Organization - Shevchenko, Franko, Basarab, Shashkevych	6 4
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization - Announcements 1939-1955	6 5

### **EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) SYTNYK - "RIDNA SHKOLA" - UKRAINIAN NATIONAL SCHOOL [193-]**

Publication status:

published

#### **File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk - "Ridna Shkola" - Speeches, notes [193-?]			7 1
	File - "Ridna Shkola" - Concert programs - handwritten notes, students' notes [193-?]			7 2

	File - "Ridna Shkola" - Den' Matery [193-?]	7 3
	File - "Ridna Shkola" - Concert for Ukraine - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk - Teacher, Ukrainian National Schools of Canada 1933	7 4
	File - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk - "Ridna Shkola" - Taras Shevchenko Concert - Taras Pastushok" Children's Play [193-?]	7 5
	File - Journal - "Svit Dytyny" 1933-1935	7 6

## **EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK - CORRESPONDENCE [193-?]-1987**

### Publication status:

published

### **File / item list**

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Correspondence to Stefan and Eugenia Sytnyk 1971-1987			7 7
	File - Correspondence to Stefan Sytnyk 1982-1985			7 8
	File - Correspondence to Stefan Sytnyk 1976-1987			7 9
	File - Correspondence - Janina Matusiak to Stefan Sytnyk 1983-1987			8 1
	File - Correspondence - S. Sencov 1970-1985			8 2
	File - Correspondence - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk to Ukrainian Canadian Women's Organization 1946, 1949			8 3
	File - Personal correspondence - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1957-1971			8 4
	File - Correspondence - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1927-1958			8 5
	File - Correspondence - Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk to Anna Franko Kliuchko (Ivan Franko's daughter) 1947-1948			8 6
	File - Correspondence - Olena Kysilevs'ka to Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1927-1948			8 7
	File - Correspondence - Olena Kysilevs'ka to Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1949-1956			8 8
	File - Correspondence - Mykhailo Sharyk to Eugenia (Ievheniia) Sytnyk 1966-1967			8 9

	File - Correspondence - Eugenia and Stefan Sytnyk - correspondence 1965-1975, 2000	8 10
	File - Orysia Melnyk 1966-1967	8 11
	File - Eugenia Sytnyk - correspondence 1968-1969	8 12
	File - Ukrainian Canadian Congress - E. Sytnyk -Notes, re: correspondence of Shevchenko gold medal. 1968	8 13
	File - World Federation of Ukrainian Womens' Organizations - Correspondence 1953-1968	8 14
	File - Eugenia Sytnyk - Invitation to visit Canada for her niece, L. Borodiuk 1970	8 15
	File - Eugenia and Stefan - Biographical info - correspondence, notes 1920-1939	8 16

### NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS [193-]-[196-]

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Clippings from Journals - "Zhinochyi Svit," "Nashe Zhyttia" [196-]			9 1
	File - Various articles from "Narodne Slovo" ("National Word") newspaper, Pittsburgh, re: Ukrainian Women's Movement [194-]-[195-]			9 2
	File - Newspaper clippings from "Nashe Slovo," Pittsburgh 1943			9 3
	File - Newspaper clippings from "Nashe Slovo," Pittsburgh 1944			9 4
	File - Newspaper clippings from "Narodne Slovo," Pittsburgh 1941-1945			9 5
	File - Newspaper clippings; various articles 1932-1966			9 6

### EUGENIA (IEVHENIIA) and STEFAN SYTNYK - PERSONAL RECORDS 1935-1989

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Levheniia Sytnyk's prayer book - "Moitvennyk dlia Ukrain'skoi' Molodi" 1935			9 7

	File - Levheniia Sytnyk - Obituary, newspaper clippings featuring obituary and memoriam 1975	9 8
	File - Stefan Sytnyk - Obituary 1989	9 9
	File - Various postcards (mostly from Ukraine) 1950?-197?	10 1

### Audio/visual recordings and photographs

Date: [198-?] - [199-?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 audiocassette tapes; 2 VHS tapes; 6 photographs.

Access points:

- sound recordings (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Audiocassette - Carols by the Boyan Choir and Sobor Christmas broadcasts	1967-1970 1958-1959		1 1
	File - Audiocassette - Songs - Petro Bolechiwsky Boyan - Ukrainian Opera Singer, Heroic Baritone	1988		1 2
	File - Photographs with family and Ukrainian organizations	1922-1986		1 3
	File - Videotape - Dytachyi' Khor "Ptashenia" Dyr. Halyna Arlamova	1998		1 4
	File - Videotape - "Koshetz Choir in Prague" [199-?]			1 5