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**METROPOLITAN ANDREI SHEPTYTSKY**  
**HIS LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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Рим 1984 Rome  
ТОРОНТО - TORONTO



*Metropolitan Andrew before the First world war - 1914.*

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## INTRODUCTION

As I begin this narrative I have before me the words of the Evangelist and Apostle Luke who began his Gospel with the words: "*Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. And so, because I have carefully studied all these matters ... I thought it good to write an orderly account for you.*" (Lk. 1, 1-3). To this time several biographies of Metropolitan Andrei have been published. A contemporary of the great Metropolitan, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Slipyj, wrote his biography after "*studying his life thoroughly*" and interviewing members of the Metropolitan's family and servants of old. This biography is a detailed account of the Metropolitan's childhood and youth. It was published in *Bohoslovia*, a theological quarterly. After the Metropolitan's death authors in the diaspora also compiled comprehensive biographies, the ones of I.B. of Brazil, Dr. Stephan Baran and Dr. Hryhory Prokopchuk of Germany, who published theirs in German; Dr. Lonhyn Cehelsky of the U.S.A., Sr. Ursula Maria Schuver, O.S.B. of Holland in

Dutch; the Rev. K. Korolevsky in French; the Rev. Postulator Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.S.S.R. of Canada. Others like the Rev. J. Jean, O.S.B.M., the Mitred Archpriest J. Perridon, and Volodymyr Doroshenko also published valuable reminiscences of him. These biographers, most of whom were contemporaries of the Metropolitan and witnessed many of the events of his life, reported them as they occurred, citing the testimony of witnesses who were still alive and remembered them.

Taking example from them, I also, as an eyewitness, felt compelled to prepare a short biography of the great Metropolitan who educated me, who ordained me and who for many years was my bishop.

As a young student, I was a member of a high school honor guard standing in the courtyard of St. George's Cathedral when I first glimpsed Metropolitan Andrei as he proceeded past us on his way to his enthronement ceremony. From that moment on, I was never far away from the great Metropolitan. As seminarian and then as priest, I often saw him and spoke with him. Later, as a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter, I lived at St. George's and saw him almost everyday. Then in the summer of 1944 as I left Lviv before the approach of the Soviet army, I bade farewell to him for the last time.

The situation at that time did not permit me to

pay my final respects to my great teacher and superior. And so, let this modest sketch of his life, serve as my unpaid debt of gratitude to him.

In the diaspora now we are deprived of the Metropolitan's works and the materials and sources that have bearing on his life, and the people who could inform us about him. And so the composition of a complete biography of Metropolitan Andrei can only remain a noble desire.

The life of the great Metropolitan ended in an "*aura of holiness*". He was reputed to be the most significant figure in the period of Ukraine's struggle for national independence. The process of canonizing Metropolitan Andrei in the ranks of the saints of Christ's Church, and the just necessity for entering his name in the record of Ukraine's illustrious men, demand that we assemble all he had accomplished in the fields of Ukrainian Church and cultural life, and reveal it to the world.

The biography of Metropolitan Andrei will only then be complete when its title reads: **The Life of Saint Andrei, the Great Metropolitan of Galicia**. Until then anything written would be merely incidental if future hagiographers are to provide a complete picture of the man. That is why I limit this account of the Metropolitan's life to a review of its highlights. Therefore, I could merely prepare a canvas upon which others might embroider the vir-



tues, ideals and accomplishments of this great man to perpetuate his memory for a grateful nation. This brief outline of (Metropolitan Andrei's life is my reminiscence of him and my personal) expression of gratitude to him for having trained and ordained me, and for being my bishop over many years.

V.L.