

James Adams, "Discord, accusations taint human rights museum debate," *The Globe and Mail*, April 15, 2011, available online, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/discord-accusations-taint-human-rights-museum-debate/article1987877/>

Discussion following the article between Professor Emeritus Roman Serbyn, Universite de Montreal (initially anonymously under the pseudonym "Semperveritas"), Karyn M. Ball, Professor, University of Alberta (KMB47), Lubomyr Luciuk, Professor, Royal Military College, and Per Anders Rudling, Post-doctoral fellow, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/discord-accusations-taint-human-rights-museum-debate/article1987877/comments/>

Semperveritas

6:22 PM on April 16, 2011

From James Adams' article, one could get the impression that it was John-Paul Himka who originated and organized the Open Letter of the international brigade of self-righteous intellectuals. It was unfortunate that Professor Himka did not direct James Adams to the real instigator of the project, who was in fact his pupil in the study of Ukrainian nationalism - Anders Rudling. Swedish-born Dr. Rudling studied in Edmonton with Professors Himka and Marples and is now a post-doctoral Fellow in the History department of Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald. To his credit he has such publications as "Organized Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Ukraine: Structure, Influence, and Ideology," (a particularly nasty and mendacious "study" in which the author did not even bother to interview the leaders of the Jewish community, presumably the first interested in the purported problem. A forthcoming study is called "Schooling in Murder: Hauptmann Roman Shukhevych of Schutzmannschaft Battalion 201" .

All this information, and more, can be found in the presentation of Rudling's project by fellow signatory, David Hirsh, Goldsmith College,

University of London. This can be found on the website of "Engage":

<http://engageonline.wordpress.com/2011/04/08/no-place-for-a-gallery-on-the-holocaust-in-the-new-canadian-museum-of-human-rights/>

The presentation of the project by Hirsh reveals the ultimate goal of the Open Letter: denounce the "crimes of the [Ukrainian] nationalist", who have fallen into the "temptation to emphasize the crimes of the Stalinists and to de-emphasize the crimes of the nationalists," not least amongst them, stresses the author "was help given to the Nazi movement in perpetrating the Holocaust." The zeal with which Rudling tries to paint Ukrainians nationalists, and the community of which they are a part, reminds us of the 1980s, when the Soviet Union and its Canadian allies did exactly the same thing. Only this time we have an international brigade of young self-righteous scholars.

Hirsh explains that it was Rudling who has, with colleagues, written the letter and is now asking scholars and academics to sign. It doesn't seem that the the signatories were provided with any detailed explanatory material about the museum, but were expected to rely on the initiator's word. Not that they needed the material, since the drafters of the letter had no intention to discuss the purported mission of the institution. Rudling's helper appears to be Catherine Chatterley, director of the newly found Institute for the Study of Antisemitism. This lady is already known to Winnipeggers for her vehement defense of the stand-alone Holocaust gallery in the CMHR. The publicity surrounding the controversy over the museum may give the two young post-docs a certain notoriety and help secure them permanent jobs. But at what price to their intellectual integrity.

L Luciuk

9:04 AM on April 16, 2011

Neither UCCLA nor the UCC have ever objected to the inclusion of the Shoah (Holocaust) in this publicly funded national museum and claiming otherwise is a calumny. Where the two organizations differ is on how the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-33 in Soviet Ukraine (the Holodomor) should be represented. UCCLA wants all 12 of the 12

CMHR galleries to be thematic, comparative & inclusive. A gallery dedicated, for example, to the theme of 'Genocide' would therefore include the Holocaust, the Holodomor, and the many other acts of genocide and crimes against humanity that have befouled human history. Inclusion in such a gallery does not imply 'equality' (each story is different) nor would each exhibit necessarily be of precisely the same size (and all displays in every gallery will have to be revised, reconsidered and updated routinely in order to enhance the CMHR's pedagogical utility and ensure high visitor return rates).

As Canadians rightly have no say in the contents or governance of national museums in the USA, UK, Russian Federation, Israel, Germany, France or even Ukraine, the opinions of those who do not live nor pay taxes here are of little affect. As for the handful of Canadians who drafted this epistle their spokesperson, Mr Himka, is on record as insisting that the Holodomor was not a genocide. I accept a contrary position, that of Dr Raphael Lemkin, the 'father of the [UN] Genocide Convention,' who identified this famine as part of 'a classic example of a Soviet genocide' directed against the Ukrainian nation, a view endorsed by the Government of Canada, which officially recognized the Holodomor as a genocide in 2008. I feel no need to apologize for embracing the findings of Dr Lemkin or of the Government of Canada and refuse to accept the anti-democratic yelp that those of us who disagree with Mr Himka and friends "should stay out of the debate." That line exposes his lot for what they are.

KMB47

1:35 AM on April 16, 2011

Why are you so surprised, Roman Serbyn? Why attack Dr. Per Rudling, who is fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, and German, and who has devoted many years of research to examining the archives and testimony pertaining to the crimes committed by the OUN and UPA? As one of the signatories of the open letter, I can assure you that I support an open and honest confrontation with the historical record, which is why those who have a vested interest in denying or obfuscating the role of Ukrainian nationalists in the mass murder of Jews and Poles do not have a legitimate voice in a debate about the representation of human rights. I suspect that Canadian WWII

veterans and their families would not be pleased to know that their tax dollars have paid your salary as a professor and funded your obsessive activism in defense of the UPA and the Galician division of the SS. There are records of your statements to the effect that membership in the SS is no cause for shame. While I strongly believe that Canadians should be talking about how to represent Canada's relationship to the history of human rights, I also hope that people will recognize that Roman Serbyn and Luciuk have vested interests in diminishing the Holocaust's significance because they want to deflect public attention from Ukrainian nationalist involvement in genocide. If readers of this newspaper would look into their backgrounds, it would become immediately clear that Serbyn's and Luciuk's interventions in this campaign are not based on a desire for fair representation, but on fanatical, life-long investment in denigrating a genocide that they blame on its victims.

This comment has violated our Terms and Conditions, and has been removed.

P Rudling

1:22 PM on April 16, 2011

Here, it may be important to remind the readers about the reasons for the debate. Lubomyr Luciuk's UCCLA sent out postcards which presented the supporters of the Holocaust exhibit as fat pigs with bullwhips, presenting the Holocaust exhibit in the CMHR as a tool of domination and oppression. The postcard was sent out to several Jewish organizations, caused deep offense and were widely perceived as being anti-Semitic. Now, had this been an isolated incident, it could perhaps been dismissed as yet another example of bad taste and poor judgment. Therefore, some intellectual background to Luciuk's activism. For decades, Luciuk has been involved in apologetic representations of the wartime activities of the Ukrainian extreme right. On July 4, 1983, in the OUN paper Homin Ukrainy, Luciuk defended the Ukrainian Waffen-SS Division Galizien, a deeply anti-Semitic organization under the command of Heinrich Himmler, whose officers were trained in the Dachau concentration camp, took personal oaths to Adolf Hitler, and units of which partook in war crimes, the most infamous one being the slaughter and burning of the Polish village of Huta Pieniacka on February 28, 1944. Luciuk maintains that

"membership in the Division has never been regarded as a cause of shame." The Ukrainian Waffen-SS veterans in Canada are constituent members of the UCC, under the euphemism The First Division of the Ukrainian National Army. They were saluted by the UCC last Remembrance Day. Last January, the UCC proposed recognition of the veterans of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and its armed wing the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (OUN and UPA). The OUN was the leading Ukrainian fascist movement. It endorsed the Führerprinzip, totalitarianism, anti-Semitism, terrorism, and racism. Its leaders enthusiastically endorsed the Holocaust and its members organized pogroms in Western Ukraine in 1941. In 1943-44, the UPA murdered around 100,000 Polish nationals and thousands of Jews in Volhynia and Galicia. Last year, the UCC wanted the OUN and UPA veterans recognized in Canada. Whereas Luciuk endorses a narrative of diminishing or denying the crimes of the Ukrainian nationalists, he is very fond of linking communism and Soviet crimes to Jews. As late as April 2, 2011, in the Winnipeg Free Press, Luciuk mused on the overrepresentation of Jews in the Communist party, "and particularly in its secret police and Gulag concentration camp system." As if the people who took part in the Stalinist system of government did so as Jews. The idea of the Jewish communists is a cornerstone in the Ukrainian nationalist tradition. It should be remembered that it was for their alleged association with communism the OUN(b) in 1941 demanded their extermination.

When Luciuk now is trying to down-play the maliciousness of his campaign in a language that appeals to fatuous pluralist inclinations, Canadians need to be reminded of the reasons for the concerns of these now 103 scholars.

Sempveritas

2:52 AM on April 17, 2011

Per, get a life.

Your hatred is eating away at you. Only a sick mind could see Jews in the postcard with the Animal Farm illustration, and "the Holocaust

exhibit in the CMHR as a tool of domination and oppression."

Get a hold of yourself!

P Rudling

3:39 PM on May 1, 2011

"Neither UCCLA nor the UCC have ever objected to the inclusion of the Shoah (Holocaust) in this publicly funded national museum and claiming otherwise is a calumny." Lubomyr Luciuk, "Focusing on our atrocities," Winnipeg Sun, May 2007, 11: "Isn't [the Canadian Museum for Human Rights] good for Manitoba? That depends. Most of us pay taxes....Without welfare, or "operational funding" as the bureaucrats call it, the Asper project won't happen, in part because there is no demand for yet another Holocaust museum committed largely to recalling the horrors that befell one tribe during the Second World War. This boondoggle's boosters don't care. They're spending your money, not their own.... If our taxes must underwrite this "national museum" why can't its backers give straight answers to simple questions? For example, how much permanent space will be given to Canada's "aboriginal holocaust" and will that theme be afforded more, or less, area than the Shoah? Why not focus primarily on Canadian issues like the plight of the Acadians, the injustices of the Chinese Head Tax, or what happened to Ukrainians during Canada's first national internment operations? Will tragedies like the Holodomor, the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, arguably the greatest act of genocide in 20th century Europe, deserve mention, shouldn't non-Canadian stories be treated elsewhere, in this case in Ukraine? And since only a nut would deny the Holocaust, why is more than a quarter of this museum's space still dedicated to a horror treated in dozens of centres across North America and, of course, in Israel?...[S]ome politicians are so intent on sucking up to media moguls that they don't hesitate about throwing your money around, hoping to get serviced. ...Dr Lubomyr Luciuk is with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association."

Discussion following the article

James Adams, "Ukrainian association tells foreign scholars to stay out of museum debate," *The Globe and Mail*, Thursday April 21, 2011. Available online, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/ukrainian-association-tells-foreign-scholars-to-stay-out-of-museum-debate/article1992769/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/ukrainian-association-tells-foreign-scholars-to-stay-out-of-museum-debate/article1992769/comments/>

Sempveritas

8:23 AM on April 22, 2011

In the story on the open letter, three prominent scholars were mentioned as signatories: Sir Ian Kershaw (U.K.). Christopher Browning (U.S.A.) and Yehuda Bauer (Israel). These names presumably add weight to the letter. However, the question that should be asked is how familiar were these experts, not just with their own fields of study, where they have a well established international reputation, but with the essential issues surrounding the museum. If Gail Asper can claim that the Canadian scholar Michael Marrus is "unaware" of the developments around the museum (National Post interview, 19 April), then how "aware" and informed were the scholars in U.K, U.S.A., and Israel? Of course, these people could have been informed by the drafters of the letter: the initiator of the project Per A. Rudling and several of his helpers who participated in the drafting of the letter. But I'm afraid that their information would be of the kind found in the personal attack against me by Karyn M. Ball (one of the signatories) whose posting had to be removed from the the Globe and Mail comments. My point is that I doubt that the eminent scholars were probably not properly informed and relied on the honesty of the person(s) who approached them. Their signature of the letter was quite unfortunate. What the article does not explore is why a

number of eminent Canadian scholars, who are much more knowledgeable about Ukrainian and Jewish affairs and the the CMHR debate than their foreign colleagues, did not sign the letter. As for foreign scholars, I am not saying that have no right to get involved in Canadian questions that deal with human rights. After all, human rights are universal, and the organizers of the CMHR have the ambition to set up a unique centre of learning that would attract scholars and students from around the world! What I'm saying is that when they do gets involved, they should at least first acquaint themselves with the fundamental issues.

P Rudling

8:50 AM on April 22, 2011

Come on, Roman Serbyn, when attacking others, at least have the courage to sign with your own name.

L Luciuk

10:54 AM on April 22, 2011

Funny how those who want to censor Canadians won't post UCCLA's reply to their anti-democratic mutterings about who "should stay out of the debate" about the proposed contents and governance of a Canadian museum.

Sempveritas

12:23 PM on April 22, 2011

I don't attack, Per A. Rudling! I criticize, where criticism is warranted, and I do it from the position of semper veritas. You should address your accusation to your helper Karyn M. Ball, who attacked me on another Globe story (17 April), and her vicious attack had to be removed. Actually it is too bad that the attack was pulled, because by the time a saw it I just had the time to copy it but not to answer it.

You might like to know that I did write a letter some two months ago, signed it with my own name, and sent it in a staggered fashion of a week apart to four newspapers, beginning with the Globe. In it

explained that an alternative approach to the museum (similar to what professor Marrus later stated in his letter and interview) would be more in keeping with the declared intention of the museums organizers (an IDEAS museum focused on human rights) would be a truly unique museum (there are many Holocaust museums but no museum dedicated exclusively to human rights) and would actually bring more glory to the Asper family and to the Jewish community than just another Holocaust and Human Rights museum. Three newspapers, including the Globe, didn't even acknowledge reception of my article, and one said "thank you, but no, thank you". My letters along the same line of argument were also ignored. And yet I sent my article to several Canadian historians and they all agreed with its contents and thought it should be published. My conclusion is that our newspapers prefer to continue to publish reports on the skirmishes of the "battle for the genocides" engaged by the CMHR with the UCC and the UCCLA. This is more fun than writing about human rights. It must sell newspapers, or at least attracts readers to their online editions. I was very happy to see professor Marrus's letter in the Globe and his interview in the Post. They were proof that my approach was neither unrealistic nor unfeasible. That is why I have been quoting him a lot, and I see that others do it as well. You notice that professor Marrus did not sign your open letter. And you did not have the courage and the arguments (not to attack him but) to even comment on his approach. Only two persons tried to discredit professor Marrus without, however, challenging his ideas (!), but since their swipes were in other newspapers, I don't know if I'm allowed to discuss it here. My challenge to you: give us your assessment of what was wrong with professor Marrus's analysis and suggestion.

P Rudling

2:33 PM on April 22, 2011

I am not interested in debating anonymous signatures. As a professor emeritus and lobbyist for the UCC, at the very minimum, that you should confirm your identity and appear with full name, Roman.

Sempveritas

4:19 PM on April 22, 2011

I think it is clear to everyone who is interested in the identity of Sempveritas that he is Roman Serbyn, who taught history at the University of Quebec in Montreal from 1969 to 2002, now retired but still active in research, some publishing and giving papers at conferences. I also edit Holodomor Studies. Funny that your helper Karyn M. Ball had no problem identifying me. The trouble was that someone fed her a lot of lies which she posted on the Globe (pull, to my disappointment). She, however, did not have the courage to answer my email to her in which I asked if it was her. I sent you my analysis of the your open letter (first draft with many typos, but with my basic ideas sufficiently clearly expressed). You did not deign to reply. I have corrected the errors and could send you the updated version - will you reply to it? If I really wanted to attack you, I could do it by analyzing your publications on Ukrainian subjects, especially the one we discussed at the Ottawa conference, a few years ago. But the subject of discussion here is not the your or my publications, but the CMHR. I think that you simply have no valid arguments to counter what I write about the right approach to a HUMAN RIGHTS museum and you use the excuse of my "anonymity" to avoid a discussion. Now that I have confirmed that Sempveritas is Roman Serbyn, will you have the guts to discuss in the open? I think more people would be interested in our discussion if it were not so difficult to find the article on the internet.

P Rudling

7:17 AM on April 23, 2011

"Now, when I know whom I am talking to, I would like to ask you, Roman Serbyn, for an apology for the public statement you made in this forum a few days ago.

"Per, get a life. Your hatred is eating away at you. Only a sick mind could see Jews in the postcard with the Animal Farm illustration, and 'the Holocaust exhibit in the CMHR as a tool of domination and oppression.' Get a hold of yourself!"

I did indeed perceive this statement, made under pseudonym, as a personal attack, and quite a notch below the standards I have come to expect from a professor emeritus. A public apology would be appreciated."

This comment has violated our Terms and Conditions, and has been removed.

KMB47

9:40 AM on April 25, 2011

Youtube clip of the establishment of the 14th Waffen-SS Division "Galizien" in Lviv, July 1943.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u176O2ogYMA&feature=related>

This comment has violated our Terms and Conditions, and has been removed.

Semperveritas

4:36 PM on April 25, 2011

@KMB47, alias Karyn M. Ball, professor, English and Film, U of Alberta, What's with the insinuations with the YouTube. What is it supposed to prove? I would suggest you also look at this one: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o5j0jkKKag&feature=related> On the 52nd second you will see a farewell party of a group of recruits and their girlfriends in the opening to a train wagon. Note what the recruits wrote on the wagon: "Slava Ukraini!" and "Hutsul's'ka ...". And in case you are not as gifted in languages as your friend Per A. Rudling, the words mean "Glory to Ukraine!" and "Hutsul..." (we don't see the rest of the message). It shows that these boys were Ukrainian patriots, and not what you are trying to make them out to be. By the way, your friend Rudling does not like people who hide behind pseudonyms, how about letting the world know who KMB47 is, Karyn M. Ball? A scholar who doesn't have the courage to argue openly, with her real name?! How unprofessional!

P Rudling

3:58 AM on April 26, 2011

Of course, "Slava Ukraini" was the salute of the Ukrainian fascists, the OUN. OUN regulations from 1941 stipulated it should be carried out with the right arm raised "a little to the right, a little to the top over the head." Vasyl Veryha affectionately reminiscence how he, in the officer school for the Waffen-SS Galizien in KZ Dachau responded "Slava Ukraini" to the Nazi salute "Heil Hitler." Apologists for the Waffen-SS who do not read German may be well advised to think twice before making insinuations regarding the linguistic abilities of internationally recognized Holocaust scholars. As long as Roman Serbyn, under pseudonym can accuse colleagues of being "unprofessional," having "sick minds," of being "malicious," and tell them to "get a life," whereas requests for an apology from colleagues who sign with name are being removed for "violating the terms and conditions" of the Globe and Mail, this is obviously not the right forum for this discussion.

Sempveritas

10:04 AM on April 26, 2011

@Per A. Rudling and his defender KMB47. It is your defender who hides behind the anonymous KMB47. I have stated that Sempveritas is Roman Serbyn. And I explained that I wrote under that pseudonym made up of two Latin words to reflect the spirit in which I participate in discussions. You undoubtedly know Latin and know their meaning. Unfortunately "semper veritas" is not your motto, and the opposite is demonstrated in this paragraph of yours: "As long as Roman Serbyn, under pseudonym can accuse colleagues of being "unprofessional," having "sick minds," of being "malicious," and tell them to "get a life," whereas requests for an apology from colleagues who sign with name are being removed for "violating the terms and conditions" of the Globe and Mail, this is obviously not the right forum for this discussion." I already wrote that I wish it had not been remove because I did not get a chance to expose and answer it. The comment that was removed was not signed with a name but with a code "KMB47". Your brave defender and cosigner of the open letter did not dare state publicly her real identity. That's your first lie. You complain that colleagues (there was only one!) who demand an

apology are unjustly removed. There are only three ways that a comment can be removed, as far as I know: 1) by the author, 2) by the Globe on a complaint of abuse, 3) by the Globe on its own initiative. I suspect that KMB47 removed it herself when she realized that her posting will not advance her career, if not the opposite. Or she may have done so on the advice from someone from your group, who realized that it was compromising the reputation of your group. The mendacious part is in the claim is that there was a demand for apology. There was no such claim from KMB47. I have saved the attack and could print it, but I'm afraid that this posting would be removed. Your citing of Vasyl Veryha's answering a Nazi salute with a response "Slava Ukraini" demonstrates just the opposite of what you want it to mean. It just meant that while the German slogan praised Hitler, Veryha demonstrated his own loyalty not to Hitler but to Ukraine. It is not enough to quote documents; a historian must try to understand them. That is the difference between a historian and a propagandist. You are right that the comment section of the Globe is not an appropriate place for the discussion of complex issues. But the more serious problem is that you are not really interested in a serious discussing of the issue at stake. The fundamental question with regard to the CMHR is what should be the conceptual and physical centre of the museum: universal human rights or a specific human wrong (the Holocaust). This is the question that your open letter avoids and replaces with a Soviet-style anti-Ukrainian attack.