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Book Review: *Zhorna: Material Culture of the Ukrainian Pioneers* By Roman Paul Fodchuk

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Zhorna: Material Culture of the Ukrainian Pioneers. By Roman Paul Fodchuk. Calgary, AB: University of Calgary Press, 2006. xxi + 156 pp. Illustrations, photographs, maps, glossary, notes, references, index. \$34.95 paper.

For Roman Paul Fodchuk the *zhorna*, or stone quern mills, symbolically represent the hardships early Ukrainian pioneers in Alberta experienced and successfully overcame while adapting to their new life. The book covers a broad range of the material culture topics—from pioneers' clothing and house utensils to house building and agricultural technology. Throughout its six chapters, the author presents the pioneers' chronological "becoming" through the lenses of material culture objects, both those brought with them at the end of the 19th century and also objects made in Canada.

The opening chapter, "The Journey," describes how peasants from the Hapsburg Empire, namely from the Bukovyna, Halychyna, and Transcarpathia—all ethnographic regions of contemporary Ukraine—traveled to Canada and settled on homesteads. "Surviving," the following chapter, portrays the challenges the newcomers faced during their first two years. Here, the author specifies the types of tools and possessions Ukrainians brought to the New Country. Reflective of Old Country crafts, those tools, many of them wooden, would gradually become obsolete in Canada and vanish.

Chapter 3, "Building the Little House on the Prairies," is dedicated to the dynamics of securing shelter upon arrival—temporary *burdei* at the beginning and then permanent wooden and mud-plastered houses. Each of these reflected the folk architecture of the ethnographic region from which its inhabitants came. Fodchuk describes in detail the traditional process of building a house, as well as its interior. In "One Hundred and Sixty Acres" (chap. 4) he describes the yearly farm cycle, outlining how traditional materials, tools, methods of farming, and gardening were adapted to the new climate and sociocultural surroundings, and noting that Ukrainians tended to duplicate Old Country practices whenever possible.

"Other Tasks" (chap. 5) describes fencing, oil production, manufacturing of clothing, and creating a system of roads. These tasks were no less important than farming and implied the use of traditional tools and techniques as well. "Food/Celebrations" (chap. 6) depicts particular seasonal festivities and the traditional dishes Ukrainian pioneers enjoyed.

Fodchuk's book is more than an encyclopedia of the material culture of the newcomers. It includes a range of other issues such as the history of Ukrainian immigration

to Canada and Ukrainian cultural heritage, the idea and implementation of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village near Edmonton, and the religious history of the Ukrainian pioneers in Canada. It is further enriched by rare photographs and gorgeous drawings illuminating the time and material culture gone by and accompanied by terms and descriptions in vernacular dialects that Ukrainian settlers spoke more than a hundred years ago. To make the material more illustrative and lively, the author presents it through his own memories and those of other Ukrainian pioneers.

Roman Paul Fodchuk's monograph would be valuable reading for students of Ukrainian culture, folklore, and also a wider audience interested in pioneer life on the Canadian Prairies. **Svitlana P. Kukharenko**, *Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta*.