

*Quest-Tour
City of Prominent
Figures*

Chernivtsi, the pearl of Bukovyna, is a city that has always captivated and charmed visitors. Its majestic architectural landmarks, ornate temples, historical squares, cozy streets, and mysterious courtyards create an enchanting atmosphere.

The city's old town, built during Bukovyna's time as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, is particularly stunning. This historic center features streets and buildings valued not only for their architectural beauty but also for the stories of remarkable individuals who lived and worked there.

This small city on the Prut River has given the world many famous personalities. It has been home to celebrated figures from Ukrainian and other national cultures, who made significant contributions to the fields of history, economics, culture, medicine, literature, and the arts.

We invite you to take a quest tour through the streets of Chernivtsi and learn about the life paths of prominent figures of our city:

1. **Anton Kochanowski** Mayor of Chernivtsi.
2. **Yosyp Moyseyevych Elgiser** Honored Artist of Ukraine, composer, pianist.
3. **Joseph Alois Schumpeter** One of the most prominent sociologists and economists of the 20th century.
4. **Gregor von Rezzori** Austrian writer, journalist, screenwriter, actor.
5. **Joseph Schmidt** Renowned Jewish opera singer.
6. **Erwin Chargaff** Biochemist, professor at Columbia University.
7. **Karol Mikuli** Professional composer, music educator, and renowned pianist.
8. **Paul Celan** The most significant European lyric poet of the post-war period.
9. **Georg Drozdowski** German-speaking poet, prose writer, playwright, journalist, translator, and actor.
10. **Raimund Friedrich Kaindl** Historian of global significance, a renowned scholar and researcher.



1. In just a few decades of the 19th century, Chernivtsi, once a remote province of the Austrian monarchy, was transformed into a city comparable to European capitals. Schools, cultural institutions, multi-story buildings, hotels, and restaurants were constructed. Streets were paved with cobblestones, water and sewer systems were installed, electricity was connected, and the first tram line was launched. Significant landmarks like the post office, the philharmonic hall, the theater, and the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus were built. The city also saw the establishment of a school for architects and builders and the Directorate of Savings Banks (now the Art Museum). This extensive urban development took place during the tenure of **Anton Kochanowski** as mayor. He was affectionately called the "father" or "loving dad" of Chernivtsi. His 42 years of service were closely tied to the City Hall. Anton Kochanowski was first unanimously elected mayor of Chernivtsi in 1866. His tireless efforts to elevate the city's stature led to his re-election two years later—and then four more consecutive times. After his initial terms, he became the vice-marshal of the Bukovinian Sejm while remaining a member of the city council. In 1887, Kochanowski was re-elected as mayor and held the position for another five terms. Grateful for the trust placed in him, he personally financed a new clock for the City Hall tower as a gesture of appreciation to the citizens of Chernivtsi.

Task: On Central Square, locate the building where Kochanowski lived with his family. The facade is adorned with two balconies, one of which is famously known as "Kochanowski's balcony."



2. **Joseph Moissejowitsch Elgiser**, a pedagogue, pianist, and Honored Artist of Ukraine, has a legacy deeply connected to Chernivtsi. In 1961, while still studying at the Kyiv Conservatory, he was teaching at the Chernivtsi Music College, where he worked for over 50 years, mentoring a generation of pianists. His performances were celebrated in Chernivtsi, Kyiv, and internationally in Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Austria, and Italy. In his later years, Elgiser gave 27 solo concerts spanning a repertoire of 443 works, performed entirely from memory. For these accomplishments, he received UNESCO's Gold Medal and the title "Golden Name of World Culture." Alongside his performance career, he was an accomplished researcher and author of several textbooks. He also passionately worked to revive the forgotten names of Bukovinian artists, amassing a remarkable collection of rare sheet music. One of his significant artistic contributions was the musical cycle "I Am a Bukovinian."

Task: Find Joseph Elgiser's name on the "Avenue of Stars" in Chernivtsi.



3. Chernivtsi has forever etched its place in the history of global economic science thanks to the world-renowned economist, historian, and sociologist **Joseph Alois Schumpeter**.

At the age of 26, Schumpeter, together with his wife, came to Chernivtsi and assumed a position as an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law and State at Franz Joseph University. He became the sole lecturer in economics.

During his brief tenure at the university, Schumpeter produced his groundbreaking work, *The Theory of Economic Development*, a foundational text in economic thought. Concepts such as entrepreneurship, innovation, econometrics, and economic development, which are integral to contemporary political and economic discourse, were first described by Schumpeter. His theories on innovation, economic cycles, and the application of mathematics in economics laid the foundation for modern economic theory.

In honor of this reformer and globally renowned scholar, the Schumpeter School of Innovation was established in Chernivtsi in 2021. Additionally, Chernivtsi boasts the largest collection of Schumpeter's scientific works, surpassing those of Harvard, Tokyo, and Berlin. These are preserved at the Scientific Library of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.

Task: Locate the library on Lesia Ukrainka Street.



A native of Chernivtsi, **Gregor von Rezzori** achieved global fame as a journalist, screenwriter, author of 25 German-language books (two of which focus on Chernivtsi and

Bukovyna), artist with works stored in Chernivtsi museums, and actor who appeared in 22 films, including alongside Brigitte Bardot. Despite his extensive travels, von Rezzori consistently returned in thought – or in person – to Chernivtsi, proudly identifying as a native of the city. He described himself as a man "dreaming of a lost homeland," and indeed, Bukovyna was a constant presence in his life, whether he was in Romania, Italy, Germany, Rhodes, or the United States. His family villa, located at 38 Aksenina Street, remains a hallmark of Chernivtsi's heritage. Constructed in the interwar period, the building retains its original features, including old window frames and wooden Romanian blinds.

In 2020, a monument to Gregor von Rezzori was erected in Chernivtsi near the Scientific Library of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.

Task: Look for Gregor von Rezzori's monument at 4 Lesia Ukrainka Street.



5.

In 1914, **Josef Schmidt** moved to Chernivtsi with his parents. As a boy, he joined the choir of the Chernivtsi Synagogue. At the age of 12, Schmidt performed publicly for the first time, later joining the choir on tours with German opera groups. His exceptional talent opened the door to a remarkable career in the arts. He performed in operas in Berlin, Vienna, and Brussels and embarked on extensive tours across the U.S., Mexico, Cuba, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

In 1933, Schmidt starred in the acclaimed film *A Song Goes Round the World*. That same year, he gave two concerts in Chernivtsi at the Musical Society Hall, now the Regional Philharmonic. His voice, often compared to the legendary Enrico Caruso, captivated audiences worldwide.

Today, Schmidt's legacy is celebrated through various dedications: a square in Vienna, a street and music school in Berlin, and a memorial plaque on his former residence. On December 23, 1990, a memorial plaque was unveiled in his honor at the former Temple (central synagogue) in Chernivtsi, marking the place of his artistic ascent.

Task: Look for Josef Schmidt's memorial plaque at Universytets'ka Street.



6.

The discovery of the structure and genetic role of DNA was the most significant achievement of 20th-century biochemistry. This groundbreaking accomplishment is closely associated with the name of biochemist and Columbia University professor **Erwin Chargaff**, who was born in Chernivtsi. He grew up as a very inquisitive child, displaying many talents and excelling at the gymnasium. At the age of 9, his father's bank went bankrupt, forcing the Chargaff family to move (what they thought would be temporarily) to Vienna. The city of his birth left a lasting impression on Erwin Chargaff, who described it as a "city of greenery where science was in the air." Reflecting on his native Chernivtsi, he wrote, "Never in my life have I encountered such vibrant greenery as in the city of my childhood—Chernivtsi."

Erwin Chargaff entered the world of science primarily through his fundamental research on the structure and functions of nucleic acids. Today, nearly everyone knows about Chargaff's rules. Erwin Chargaff will be remembered as a world-class scientist, journalist, and a remarkable, vibrant personality. The name of this brilliant biochemist is forever etched in golden letters in the history of world science.

Task: To find the memorial plaque dedicated to him, search for it on the façade of the building on 28 Chervnya Street, where Erwin Chargaff lived until 1914



On October 20, 1821, **Karol Mikuli**, a talented future student of Chopin, was born into the family of an Armenian merchant in Chernivtsi. He inherited his musical talent from his mother, who was his first piano teacher. Later, he was taught by a private tutor, the Polish pianist Oskar Kolberg. Karol studied music under Chopin and Reber in Paris from 1844 to 1846, after which he returned home. The composer lived in Chernivtsi, traveled across Bukovyna and Bessarabia, and recorded Ukrainian, Romanian, and Moldovan folk songs, dances, and rituals. Karol Mikuli published a complete collection of Chopin's works in 17 volumes, released in Leipzig in 1879. He was one of the founders of the first public library in Chernivtsi, established in 1852, and was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Franz Joseph Order. Thanks to his friendship with Mikuli, in May 1847, Chernivtsi had the honor of hosting concerts by the brilliant Hungarian pianist Franz Liszt, who performed two major concerts at the "Moldavia" Hotel, owned by Karol's father, Jakob von Mikuli.

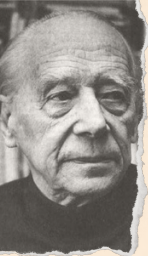
Task: The building with Karol Mikuli's memorial plaque is located at the corner of Mikuli Street and Sholem Aleichem Street.



The renowned German-speaking poet **Paul Celan**, born in Chernivtsi in 1920, is widely regarded by literary critics as one of the finest European lyrical poets of the post-war period. His poetic sensibility and literary taste were impeccable. Celan's life spanned 50 years, marked by transitions between Chernivtsi, Bucharest, Vienna, and Paris. For 15 years, he dedicated himself to the rigorous craft of poetic translation. As a gesture of gratitude to France, his adoptive home, he translated the works of Paul Valéry and Arthur Rimbaud into German. Paris not only welcomed the solitary foreigner but also granted him literary recognition and fame, securing his place in the world of great literature. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the most prestigious prize in German-language literature, the Georg Büchner Prize (1960). His work has become a focal point for scholars worldwide, with hundreds of significant monographs and thousands of academic articles published in recent decades, attempting to delve into and interpret his "metapoetry" and "hermetically encoded lyrics."

In Ukraine, his legacy is honored through Celan readings and commemorations. In Chernivtsi, this global literary figure is celebrated with the Paul Celan Literary Center on Olha Kobylianska Street, a bust on Holovna Street, and a memorial plaque on the building where he once lived.

Task: Find the building on Panas Saksahanskyi Street where Paul Celan resided.



9. An Austrian of the old school, with all the distinctive traits of biography, upbringing, manners, psychology, and mentality—that's how one might describe **Georg Drozdowski**, a native of Chernivtsi. His education included the Catholic School of St. Mary, the boarding school of the Teacher's Institute, and the Second Ukrainian-German Gymnasium. Theater and literature became the true passions of his life.

In the 1920s, following the closure of the German theater in Chernivtsi by the Romanian authorities, he organized an amateur group and staged a series of theatrical performances under the title "Chernivtsi Chamber Performances," in which he acted and served as the repertoire director. In 1940, Drozdowski faced forced deportation from Chernivtsi to Germany as an ethnic German. After World War II, he settled in the historic Austrian city of Klagenfurt, which reminded him in some ways of Chernivtsi. Perhaps not coincidentally, Klagenfurt later became a sister city of Chernivtsi. In 1984, his book "Back Then in Chernivtsi and Around: Memories of an Old Austrian" was published.

As suggested by its very title, this work is about Bukovyna, reflecting the region as remembered by the writer through the eyes of the heart. In the German People's House in Chernivtsi (53 Olha Kobylanska Street), a museum hall dedicated to Georg Drozdowski has been established.

Task: A memorial plaque is installed on the building where the writer lived. Look for it on Taras Shevchenko Street.

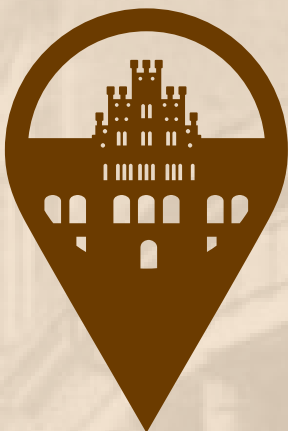


10. In 1866, in a family of German settlers, in a house located on Novyi Svit Street, was born a world-renowned historian, researcher of Ukrainians in Bukovyna, Galicia, and Transcarpathia — **Raimund Friedrich Kaindl**. During his later school years, Kaindl became fascinated with German studies but was also deeply interested in folklore, ethnography, and history. He traveled across Bukovyna, collecting materials and publishing over 300 scientific works

and monographs about Chernivtsi and Bukovyna.

The residents of Chernivtsi remain grateful for his monumental 1908 work, History of Chernivtsi, published for the city's 500th anniversary. Kaindl is also remembered for ensuring the university remained in Chernivtsi during World War I when the rectorate planned to relocate it under Russian occupation. His opposition kept the university in the city, preserving one of its most iconic landmarks.

Task: Find the Kaindl family house on Taras Shevchenko Street, where a memorial plaque honors the distinguished historian, ethnographer, educator, and civic leader.



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