The creation in 1873 and activities until 1944 of the first unofficial Ukrainian Academy of Sciences – the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv – are described. The transformation of the Society from literary into scientific one (1892) and its heyday under the leadership of M. Hrushevsky (1894-1913) are presented. The organization of the Society, as well as of its sections and commissions, is reviewed; its scientific, publishing and cultural-educational activities are considered. The most significant scientific achievements of the members of the Society and the international scientific relations, in particular, the foreign scientists’ engagement are pointed out. Information on the work of the Library and Museums of the Shevchenko Scientific Society are provided; special attention is paid to the fate of the Society’s book and manuscript collections during and after World War II.

Keywords: Shevchenko Scientific Society, Lviv, history of science