Although he was born in France, much of John Hrycko’s heritage is Eastern European. His parents, Peter and Sophie Hrycko, are of Ukrainian and Polish descent. In 1938, they moved to France, where they lived for 11 years. In 1949, after John’s birth, the family came to America, entering the country through Ellis Island.

John is currently president of Dowagiac Commercial Press, Inc. At Notre Dame, he is a member of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society. His two oldest daughters, Noelle and Elizabeth, are Notre Dame graduates, and his youngest daughter, Robin, is a graduate of Saint Mary’s College.

Providing increased possibilities for materials support in Eastern European studies, the John Hrycko Family Endowed Collection is an indispensable part of this rapidly developing discipline at Notre Dame. Since its establishment in 1991, the Hrycko Endowment has supported the Hesburgh Libraries’ acquisition of major periodicals in Eastern European studies. Notre Dame researchers now have convenient access to thousands of official and authoritative reports of the political, social, and economic affairs of modern Poland and its role in Cold War politics. Other materials acquired through this endowment include retrospective monographs on Eastern Europe, which cover a broad spectrum of ongoing scholarship in the area, and copies of current, limited-run publications arriving directly from publishers on a blanket-order basis.

The Hrycko family also supports an endowment in French studies and the John Hrycko Family Endowment Fund.