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Discussion in the Field of Literary Studies “From the Baroque to Postmodernism: The Problem of the Author”

On the 25th and 26th of February 2020, T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU), H.F. Kvitka-Osnovianenko Ukrainian Language and Literature Faculty, Leonid Ushkalov Department of Ukrainian and Foreign Literature and Journalism, Ukrainian Language Department, Ukrainian Studies and Applied Linguistics Department, and the Laboratory of Hryhorii Skovoroda's Literary Heritage Studies in H.S. Skovoroda Educational and Research Institute (H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University) organised the international academic conference “From the Baroque to Postmodernism: The Problem of the Author”. The convention was held to honour the memory of an eminent literary scholar, Professor Leonid Ushkalov, who passed away unexpectedly a year ago.

At the opening of the conference, welcome speeches were given by Ivan Prokopenko, habilitated doctor of pedagogy, professor, an academician of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, and the Rector of H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University; Kostiantyn Holoborodko, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and the Dean of H.F. Kvitka-Osnovianenko Ukrainian Language and Literature Faculty; Rostyslav Melnykov, PhD in philology, associate professor, and the Head of Leonid Ushkalov Department of Ukrainian and Foreign Literature and Journalism. The Director of T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of

NASU, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and academician Mykola Zhulynskyi's greeting letter addressed to the conference participants was read by his deputy, Mykola Sulyma, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, an academician of NASU, and the Head of the Old Ukrainian Literature Department at T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU.

During the plenary session, comprehensive presentations were given by Tetiana Bovsunivska, habilitated doctor of philology, a professor in the Foreign Literature Department of the Philology Institute at Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University ("Poet as a Transcendent Mediator in Romanticism"); Ihor Nabytovych, habilitated doctor of philology, a professor in the Slavic Literary Studies Department at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland ("Contrasting Cultural Thought Patterns of Ukraine and Russia in Mykola Lazorskyi's novel *Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovskiy*"); Yurii Peleshenko, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and a leading researcher in the Old Ukrainian Literature Department at T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("Characteristic Features of the Poetics of *Sermon on the Deceased* by Hryhorii Tsamblak"); Oleh Rarytskyi, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and the Head of the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature and Comparative Studies at Ivan Ohienko Kamianets-Podilskyi National University ("Volodymyr Svidzinskyi in the Aesthetic Field of the Sixtiers' Movement: Problems of Sociality and Immanent Essence of Art"); Lukash Skupeiko, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and leading researcher in the Classical Ukrainian Literature Department in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("Author's Individuality and a Formation of Early Modernist Literary Discourse in Ivan Franko's Studies"); Mykola Sulyma, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, an academician of NASU, and the Head of the Old Ukrainian Literature Department in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("L.V. Ushkalov as Hryhorii Skovoroda's Commentator").

The conference continued in four sessions, namely: "Problems of Ukrainian Literature in the Studies of Kharkiv Philological School and Professor Leonid Ushkalov", "Classical Ukrainian Literature: Narrative Autonomy of the Author", "Medieval Studies: The Author and Literary Canon", "Twentieth-Century Ukrainian Literature: The Author and Literary Character". The conference participants' presentations encompassed a great variety of topics. Being based on a detailed and careful analysis, the research papers presented at the conference offered convincing arguments; their conclusions were reasonable and valid.

Professor Leonid Ushkalov's literary studies, their subjects, methods, and approaches, were thoroughly analysed in the presentations given by Oksana Zosimova, PhD in philology (Leonid Ushkalov was her thesis advisor), an associate professor in the Department of Practice of Oral and Written English at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University ("The Baroque Motif 'Vanitas Vanitatum' as an Object of Literary Studies by Leonid Ushkalov"); Anastasiia Katiuzhynska, a student at the Philology Institute at Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University, and Oksana Slipushko, habilitated doctor of philology, a professor in the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature, Literary Theory and Creative Work at the Philology Institute at Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University ("Early Baroque Ukrainian Literature in Leonid Ushkalov's Scholarly Concept"); Olena Malenko, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and the Head of the Ukrainian Studies and Applied Linguistics Department at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University ("Personalized Discourse of Professor Leonid Ushkalov: Describing His Own Experience in the Quest for Self-Knowledge"); Hennadii Noha, PhD in philology and a senior researcher in the Old Ukrainian Literature Department at T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("Hryhorii Skovoroda's Letters as an Object of Leonid Ushkalov's Research Interests"); Olena Oleksenko, PhD in philology, professor, and the Head of the Ukrainian Language Department at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University ("L.V. Ushkalov about Hryhorii Skovoroda's Rhetorical Mastery").

The topics close to Leonid Ushkalov's research interests were covered in the presentations made by Archbishop Ihor Isichenko, habilitated doctor of philology, a professor in the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University ("The Traditional Image of Flame in the Poetic Code of *The Garden of Divine Songs* by Hryhorii Skovoroda"); Yuliia Hryhorchuk, PhD in philology and a junior researcher in the Old Ukrainian Literature Department at T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("The Image of Heart in the Context of Artistic Worldview of Hryhorii Skovoroda and Vira Vovk"); Dmytro Yesypenko, PhD in philology and a junior researcher in the Department of Shevchenko Studies in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("Ukrainian and Australian Literary Classics Editions: Textual Variation, Print and 'Digit', the Chicken and the Egg"); Roman Kyselov, PhD in philology and a senior researcher in the Old Ukrainian Literature Department in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("From which Bible did Meletii Smotrytskyi

Translate the Gospel Readings?"); Nataliia Levchenko, habilitated doctor of philology and a professor in Leonid Ushkalov Department of Ukrainian and Foreign Literature and Journalism at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University ("An Author or Exegete: The Problem of Creativity in Old Ukrainian Literature"); Tetiana Matvieieva, habilitated doctor of philology and a professor in the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University ("Kharkiv Philological School on the Nature of Creative Act: Vectors of Interpretation (on the material of the studies of the late 19th and early 20th century)"); Olha Matvieieva, PhD in philology, junior researcher, and an academic secretary of the Degree Committee in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU ("Panas Myrnyi's Creative Laboratory (on the material of his unfinished prose works)"); Olena Matushek, habilitated doctor of philology, professor, and the Head of the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University ("The Bible Codes of the Novel *Do Oxen Low, When Mangers Are Full?* by Panas Myrnyi and Ivan Bilyk); Hryhorii Savchuk, PhD in philology and an associate professor in the Department of History of Ukrainian Literature at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University ("Cinematic Elements in Vasyl Symonenko's Collection of Poems *Silence and Thunder*").

On the 26th of February, the conference began with the presentation of the bibliographical guide "*The Crown of My Mirrors That Know Everything...*": *The World of Literary Studies by Leonid Ushkalov* compiled by Professor Nataliia Levchenko. The book provides a listing of Professor Leonid Ushkalov's studies divided by genre.

The conference finished with the round-table discussion "Ukrainian Literature and Literary Studies: Contemporary Challenges and Topical Issues", which focused on the literature development tendencies and the prospects for literary studies. The speakers emphasised such issues as the need for the return of Ukrainian literary rarities; the need for the reinterpretation of Ukrainian classics; the need to clarify literary terminology and to systematise Ukrainian Literature studies under the auspices of the Coordinating Scholarly Centre in T.H. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of NASU by creating a unified database containing a listing of doctoral thesis topics.

Thus, in their discussion the participants of the conference "From the Baroque to Postmodernism: The Problem of the Author" focused on the main vectors of development of Ukrainian Literature and Literary Studies, considered the prospects for the integration into the European literary and academic world, and outlined the scope of further research.