

century were not so few. But none of them managed to rise to the top of respect and love of common people like Shevchenko did. In his works he radiated the virtue of great love, the ocean of tenderness and kindness at all those offended and the tragedy of an orphan or a widow was elevated by him to the level of the global tragedy. As Vadim Skurativskyi truly noted “the eternal grief of the masses in fact never had its literary mouth and did not break its silence until T. Shevchenko came”. Still there were some literary efforts but so timid and imitative as related to the dominant culture that they became “the toy of the lords” but not a grand art phenomenon and a national social challenge as Shevchenko’s creation was. It was Shevchenko who initially broke the millennial silence of the lower classes.

“Kobzar” marked a new democratic stage in the world literature because for the first time the entire social continents still unknown to the elite culture began speaking from its pages. And it was really a revelation. That is why “Kobzar” has a worldwide significance.

The works of the great national poet has enriched our literature with the variety of new themes and genres and adjoined it to the best achievements of the world literature. The most prominent Ukrainian writers such as Marko Vovchok, Panas Myrnyi, Ivan Franko, Pavlo Grabovskyi, Lesya Ukrainka and others followed Shevchenko’s way in literature.

Anyone who studies the creation of the great son of Ukraine inevitably gets convinced that Shevchenko’s literary activity has a global significance. The works of the great Ukrainian poet were translated into all Slavic languages as well as into many other languages of the world. The numerous memorials to T. Shevchenko erected in different parts of the world justify to the increasing international recognition and fame of the great Ukrainian poet.

TARAS GRYGOROVYCH SHEVCHENKO: HERITAGE AND LEGACY

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Taras Grygorovych Shevchenko was a Ukrainian poet, artist and humanist. His literary heritage is regarded to be the foundation of modern Ukrainian literature and, to a large extent, the modern Ukrainian language. Shevchenko also wrote in Russian and left many masterpieces as a painter and an illustrator.

Born in the serf family of Grygoriy Ivanovych Shevchenko and Kateryna Yakymivna Shevchenko (Boiko) in the village of Moryntsi, of Kiev Governorate of the Russian Empire (now in Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine) Shevchenko was orphaned at the age of eleven. He was taught to read by a village precentor, and loved to draw at every opportunity. Shevchenko went with his Russian aristocrat lord Pavel Engelhardt to Vilnius (1828–31) and then to Saint Petersburg.

He began writing poetry while he was a serf and his first collection of poetry, *Kobzar*, appeared in 1840 in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Taras Shevchenko was nicknamed *The Kobzar* after the publishing of this book. From that time on this title has been applied to Shevchenko's poetry in general and acquired a symbolic meaning of the Ukrainian national and literary revival.

The first publication consisted of a collection of eight works: " My thoughts, my thoughts, it is bad for me because of you ", " Perebendya ", " Kateryna ", "Poplar tree" , " Thought ", " Why should I have Black Eyebrows " , " To Osnovyanenko ", "Ivan Pidkova ", and " Taras's night " .

Taras Shevchenko has a unique place in Ukrainian cultural history and in world literature. His writings formed the foundation for the modern Ukrainian literature to a degree that he is also considered the founder of the modern written Ukrainian language (although Ivan Kotlyarevsky pioneered the literary work in what was close to the modern Ukrainian at the end of the 18th century.) Shevchenko's poetry contributed greatly to the growth of Ukrainian national consciousness, and his influence on various facets of Ukrainian intellectual, literary, and national life is still felt to this day. Influenced by Romanticism, Shevchenko managed to find his own manner of poetic expression that encompassed themes and ideas germane to Ukraine and his personal vision of its past and future.

In view of his literary importance, the impact of his artistic work is often missed, although his contemporaries valued his artistic work no less, or perhaps even more, than his literary work. A great number of his pictures, drawings and etchings preserved to this day testify to his unique artistic talent. He also experimented with photography and it is little known that Shevchenko may be considered to have pioneered the art of etching in the Russian Empire (in 1860 he was awarded the title of Academician in the Imperial Academy of Arts specifically for his achievements in etching.)

His influence on Ukrainian culture has been so immense, that even during Soviet times, the official position was to downplay strong Ukrainian nationalism expressed in his poetry, suppressing any mention of it, and to put an emphasis on the social and anti-Tsarist aspects of his legacy, the Class struggle within the Russian Empire. Shevchenko, who himself was born as a serf and suffered tremendously for his political views in opposition to the established order of the Empire, was presented in the Soviet times as an internationalist who stood up in general for the plight of the poor classes exploited by the reactionary political regime rather than the defender of the Ukrainian national idea.

This view is significantly revised in modern independent Ukraine, where he is now viewed as almost an iconic figure with unmatched significance for the Ukrainian nation, a view that has been mostly shared all along by the Ukrainian diaspora that has always remembered and honored Shevchenko.

ФІЛОСОФСЬКІ ЗАСАДИ ТВОРЧОСТІ ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКА

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Тарас Григорович Шевченко це Людина з великої літери, геній українського народу. Світоглядні засади великих людей – це та сама, духовна опора, на якій