

THE IMAGE OF HRYHORY SKOVORODA IN ART

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The honorable responsibility of artists is to respect the best representatives of Ukrainian people. For Hryhorii Skovoroda it was made by masters of a word, a sculpture, and a painting. The famous examples are such portraits and paintings as: the people listening a kobzar performing the song by Skovoroda by painter S. Vasylykivskiy, the graphic portraits of Skovoroda on the old engravings (anonymous without signature of engraver P. Mescheryakov, V. Mate), on lithography by Brukman, Zhuk, Uvarov, etc.

The most interesting portrait of Hryhorii Skovoroda is the one in Saint-Petersburg Public Library. Such features of face of Skovoroda as seriously, honor, thoughtfully although tired is worth to pay attention. H. Skovoroda is depicted as more old than on the previous portraits. This portrait was created shortly before his death when he already had 70 years old. According on the style of depiction, the materials and the condition the portrait can be considered as one of the oldest and well-turned one.

The most interesting monument to the philosopher is in Lokhvitsa, Poltava region, presented in 1922. The author is Ivan Kavaleridze. The monument to H. Skovoroda is a full-length sculpture installed on the granite plinth. The height of the monument is 4,17 meters. Skovoroda is depicted during a temporary rest. The ceremony of the monument presentation took place in Lokhvitsa on December, 22, 1922. The event was devoted to the 200-years' jubilee of philosopher's birthday. I. Kavaleridze was working with the cement but he created the illusion of stone. During that period the monument presented a good composition with the buildings around – museum, library and city theatre. But during the World War II the buildings of theatre and library was burned and the monument was damaged. That's why the new bronze monument to H. Skovoroda was installed in Lokhvitsa on November, 29, 1972 for the 250-years' jubilee of philosopher's birthday.

The monument to H. Skovoroda decorates Contractova Square in Kyiv. It was installed in the capital of Ukraine on March, 1, 1977. H. Skovoroda is turned to Kyiv-Mohylyanska Academy – the place where he spent several years. H. Skovoroda seems like coming back to his alma-mater. The author of this sculpture was also I. Kavaleridze. According on the project proposed by I. Kavaleridze H. Skovoroda was depicted barefoot, keeping armpit the Bible with the cross on his neck. This version

didn't like the authorities of Soviet Ukraine. The cross was removed, the philosopher took on the basts, and the Bible was changed for a bag so the original idea was destroyed. The monument became an integral attribute of Kyiv-Mohylyanska Academy. The students have a tradition to clean the monument on October, 14 (the Day of Academy). This good and symbolic action is called "pure Skovoroda".

The bust of H. Skovoroda was mounted in Chornukhy – the village he was born in Poltava region. The sculptor is M. Kogan. The bust is created of wrought copper (sizes: 1,45 X 1,35 X 0,95 meters) and installed on the labradorite plinth (sizes: 3,25 X 0,77 X 0,61 meters). On the center of the bust there is a copper belt with the sign "Hryhorii Skovoroda". The square around the bust is decorated with tile. On the left of the bust there is a memorial plaque in horizontal position. The first attempt to immortalize the memory about Hryhorii Skovoroda was made in 1914, but it was failed because of the war. The Memorial Estate of H. Skovoroda parents and the Local History Museum were opened in Chornukhy for 250-years' jubilee in 1972. Near the memorial complex the bust of H. Skovoroda by M. Kogan was installed.

The life and activity of H. Skovoroda was connected with Kharkov, that's why we have several monuments to our greatest philosopher. The monument to H. Skovoroda was mounted on the territory of H. Skovoroda National Pedagogical University of Kharkiv on Blucher str., 2, May, 27, 1992. The sculpture was created by I. Yastrebov of the sheet copper.

Another monument to H. Skovoroda of bronze was installed near the History Museum on Universytetska str., 10, on September, 3, 1992. The history of this monument was long and dramatic. The monument was created by I. Kavaleridze in 1971 for Podil in Kyiv. This version of monument was forbidden because of the Bible in the hands of philosopher. That's why it was mounted on Kobzar steep near the Monastery of St. Pokrova. The memorial plaque of H. Skovoroda on the territory of the Monastery of St. Pokrova was presented later.

The monument to H. Skovoroda by S. Gurbanov was presented on the territory of H. Skovoroda National Pedagogical University of Kharkiv 9 of October, 2012. The sculptor depicted H. Skovoroda as a man of exceptional features, poignant wit, always thinking. He wanted to present his internal world and to create his psychological portrait. Though the best monument to the great philosopher is an old oak tree in Skovorodynivka, under which H. Skovoroda liked to sit and to think so much.