

Nineteenth-century Ukrainian Literature

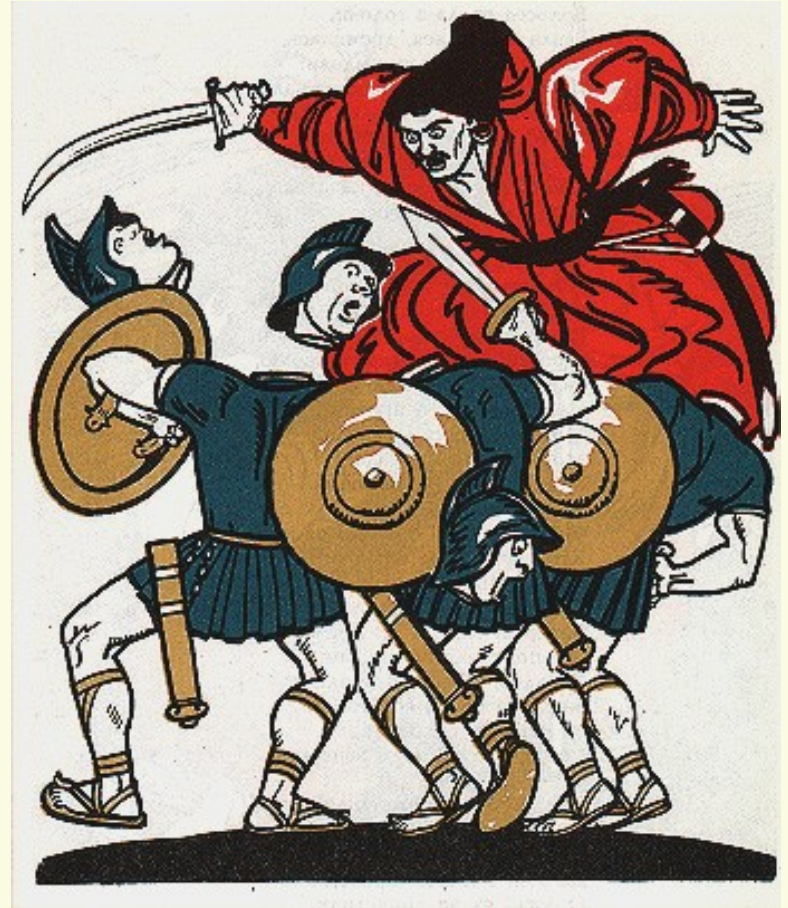
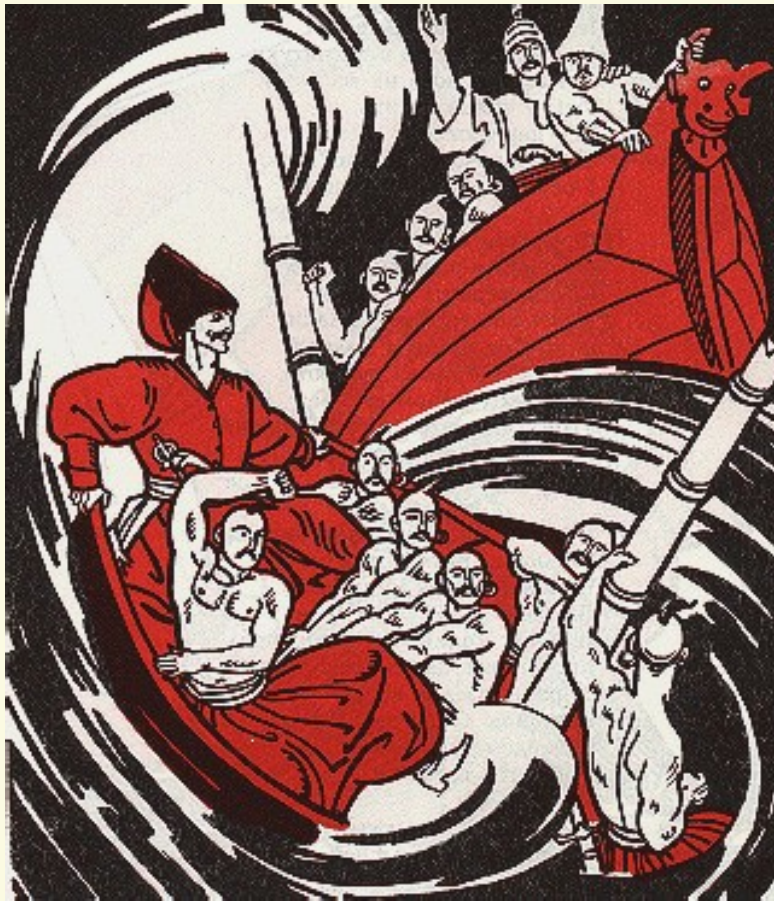
- Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838)
- Petty gentry from Poltava
- Travesty of Vergil's *Aeneid* (1798)
- Ukrainian vernacular
- Classicist theory of lit: high, medium and low
- Ukrainian Cossacks in series of fantastic and joyful adventures
- Destruction of Troy = destruction of Sich?
- Aeneas helps Romans becomes leading power?

L: Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838)

R: Illustration from travestied *Aeneid*



Illustrations from travestied *Aeneid*

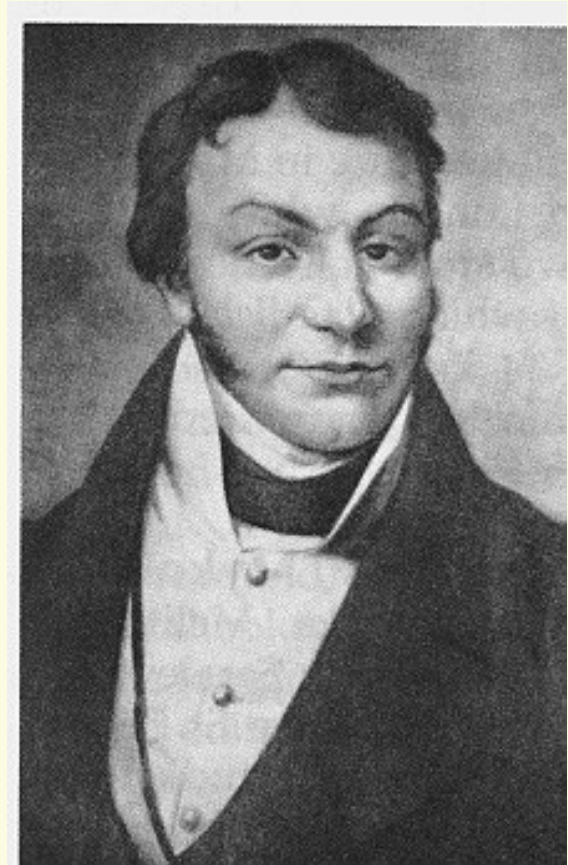


On the eve of Ukraine's national rebirth

- Kotliarevsky's *Aeneid* heralds national rebirth
- 19th c.: era of rebirth, or reawakening
 - Follows abolition of Ukrainian autonomy
 - Follows enserfment of peasantry
- New Ukrainian nobility & Orthodox hierarchy being integrated into imperial, Russian, culture
 - Intimidation and capitulation to inducements (careers; economic and social status).
 - Orthodox hierarchy stripped of independence; its foremost representatives serve in Russia proper
 - Become instruments of Russian policies
- Ukrainian classicism: an incomplete literature

Hryhorii Kvitka Osnovianenko (1778-1843)

- Nobleman from Sloboda Ukraine
- Founder of Ukrainian prose (1833)
- Extended use of Ukrainian to serious prose & serious subjects
- Sentimentalism: lack of social conflict; piety
- Use of ethnographic materials



Romanticism

□ Some Characteristics

- Opposed feeling to reason
- Irrationalism vs rationalism
- Living organism, not mechanism
- Dark and mysterious forces
- The unconscious
- Particular vs universal; national vs cosmopolitan
- Rise of nationalism in Europe

□ Literature

- Historical novel; romantic or Byronic poem
- Importance of language: people's spirit & world view
- Symbolism in poetry

Ukrainian Romanticism

- Contributed to awakening of young nations
- Encouraged interest in folklore, folk poetry, popular customs & the past
- Cossack past, especially appropriate
- Ethnographic material & folklore introduced
- Development of Ukrainian studies
- Ukrainian writers, especially poet Taras Shevchenko, close to the common people
- Broad use of folk poetry
- Begin to write in all genres

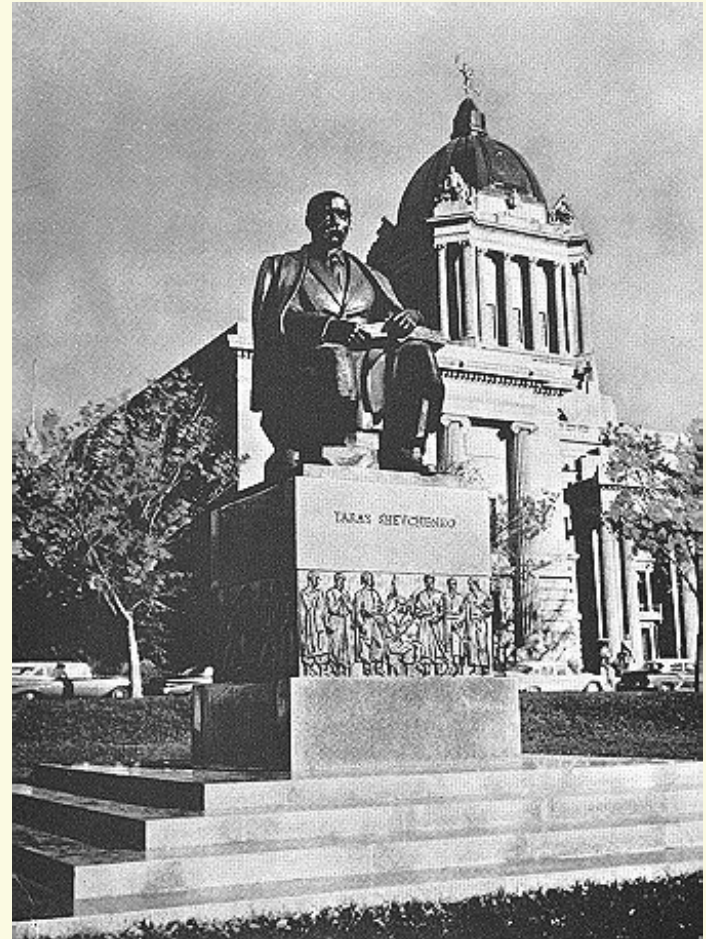
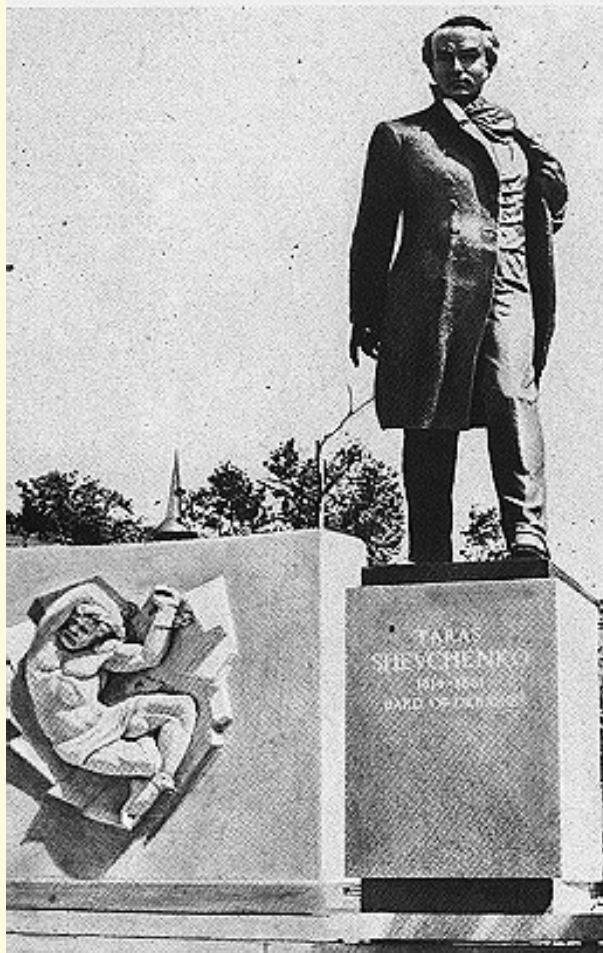
Question of Language

- Kharkiv Romantic School (1820s-30s)
 - Ballads & poems
 - Kharkiv University (1805 Vasyl Karazyn)
- Galicia: Ruthenian Triad.
 - Rusalka Dnistrovaia (1837: Nymph of the Dnister)
- Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol)
 - Dead Souls & Inspector General
 - Evenings on a Farm near Dikanka (1831)
 - Mirgorod (1835)
 - Taras Bulba

Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861)

- Significance in Ukrainian literature & development of Ukrainian national consciousness difficult to overestimate
- Boldly expressed a national self awareness & longing for independence that never had existed before
- National and social justice
- Regeneration and a moral rebirth
- Born a serf in 1814. Orphaned at young age
- Was his grandfather a haidamak?
- Witnessed Polish uprising of 1830

L: Monument in Washington, D.C.
R: Monument in Winnipeg, MB



Early Triumphs as Artist and Poet

- Moved to St. Petersburg
- Ivan Soshenko, Academy of Fine Arts
- Karl Briulov
- Shevchenko freed from serfdom April 1838
- Writes 1st poems (1837-38)
- First historical poem: Night of Taras (1838)
- First masterpiece: poem “Catherine”
- Kobzar (The Minstrel) 1840
 - single most important event in Ukrainian literature
 - Synthesis of Ukr. dialects & some Church Slavonic
 - Melodic folk rhymes & rhythms

Inside cover and title page of *Kobzar*



КОБЗАРЬ

Т. ШЕВЧЕНКА.

—*—

САМОНАУЧНОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ.

1840.

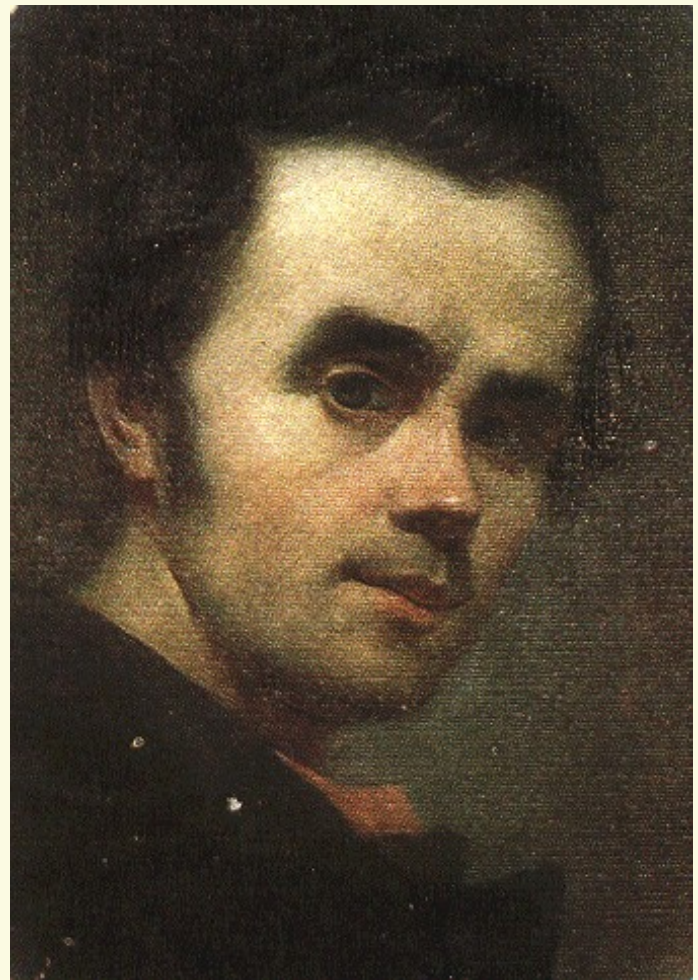
ВЪ ТИПОГРАФИИ К. ФОНЕРА.

L. Zhemchuznykov : Kobzar (1854)



L: Kateryna (1842)

R: Self Portrait (1840)



Maria (1840)



From Patriotism to Nationalism

- Beyond patriotism to nationalism
 - Transformation of ethnic group into politically conscious nation
- Logic of Shevchenko's argument
 - Ukraine enjoyed autonomy (Hetmanate & Zaporozhian Sich) in the 17th-18th centuries)
 - Historical heritage: requirement for nationhood
 - Revive old liberties because conditions intolerable
 - Primary blame for this placed on Russia
- Ukrainians: great enthusiasm; Russians belittle
- Long poem "Haidamky" 1841
 - Savaged by Vissarion Belinsky, Russian critic

First Visit to Ukraine: “The Dream”

- Visits Ukraine in 1843: historical sites
- Experiences again life of gentry & serfs
- Graduates 1844: *Pictorial Ukraine*
- Writes political poem, "The Dream"
 - Rebellious voice, with poetic power, against Russia
 - Attack on tyranny: exposes Russian state system
 - Alternates lyrical passages with political satire
 - Contrasts social degradation & natural beauty
 - Shows human unawareness of evil & complacency
 - Exposes & insults royal family
 - Assails Peter I & Catherine II for destruction of Ukraine's autonomy

H. Zakrevska (1843)

R: Family (1843)



Gifts to Chyhyryn (1843-44)



[B. Khmelnytsky's Church in]
Subotiv (1844)



Matchmakers (1844)



Village court (1844)



Second Trip to Ukraine

- Poem “To N.V. Hohol” 1844
 - Hohol laughs; he weeps
- 1845: 2nd trip to Ukraine
- Commissions to paint portraits of landowners
- Commissions to sketch historical monuments
- Writes “The Great Vault”, & criticizes Bohdan Khmelnytsky in "There Stands the Village of Subotiv”
- Shevchenko's nationalism motivated by liberal & universalist ideals

Pochaiv Monastery (1845)



“The Caucasus” (1845)

- Dedicated to Ukrainian landowner killed during military campaign against peoples of Caucasus
- Strong declarations in support of national self-determination
- Prometheus: symbol of oppressed peoples of the Russian Empire
- Notes people afraid of the consequences of speaking out against government's tyranny
- Russian imperialism ridiculed with extreme and bitter sarcasm

Russian Empire (19th century)



“To My Countrymen, in Ukraine and not in Ukraine, Living, Dead and not yet Born, My Friendly Epistle (1845)”

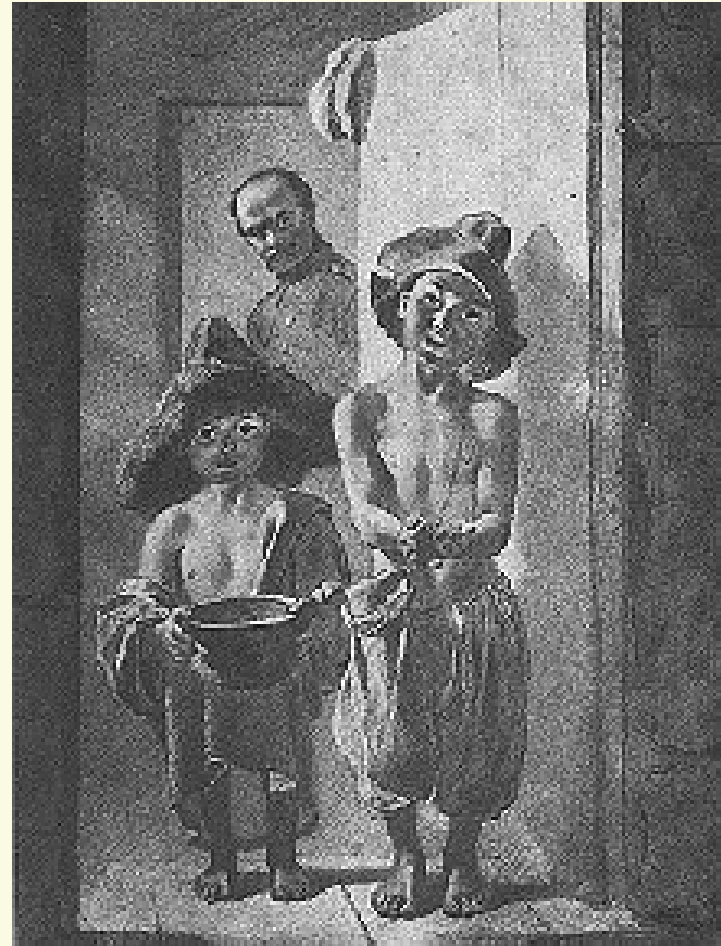
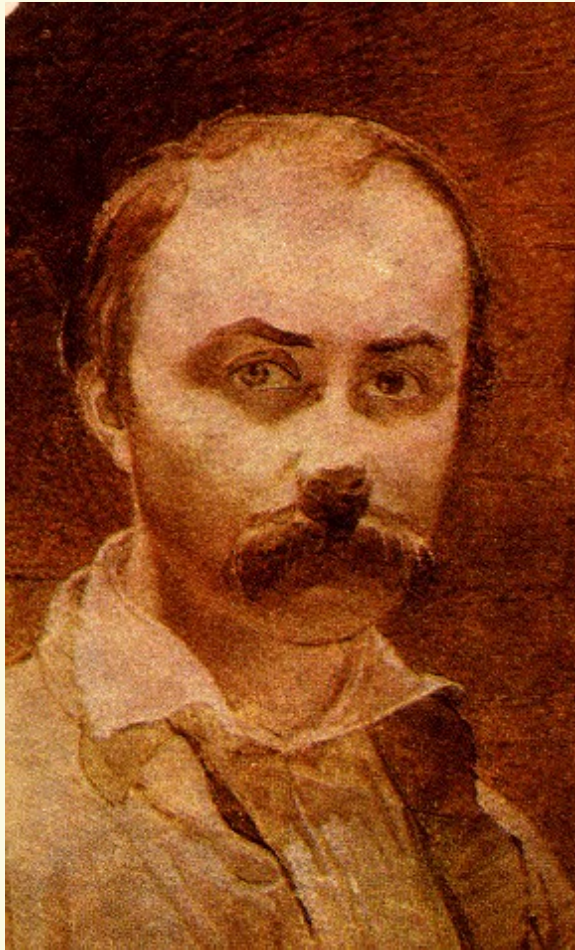
- Turns from past to the present & future
- Addresses directly his contemporaries, the landowners, whom he viciously satirizes
- They treat him well, but treat their serfs like slaves
- Implores them to be human or face the consequences of their wickedness
- Their chief error: acceptance of foreign ways, while caring or knowing little or nothing about own culture
- Expresses concern over chasm between the gentry & intellectuals, & common people
- Contains his greatest prophecy: a great social revolution would occur & destroy everything if upper & educated classes would not embrace less fortunate brothers

Cyrillo-Methodian Society & Arrest (1847)

- 1846: Shevchenko in Kyiv meets Mykola Kostomarov, a historian, & Panteleimon Kulish, a writer, historian & ethnographer
- Brotherhood of St. Cyril and Methodius.
- Democratic, Pan-Slavic federalism
- Shevchenko receives harshest sentence: indefinite exile & is forbidden to paint & write
- Writes defiantly "It's all the Same to Me"
- In exile, he wrote 4 little booklets of poems
- Some military commanders treat him humanely: allow him to paint & draw.

L: Self Portrait (1849)

R: Kazakh child beggars (1853-54)



L: Kulak (1855-56)

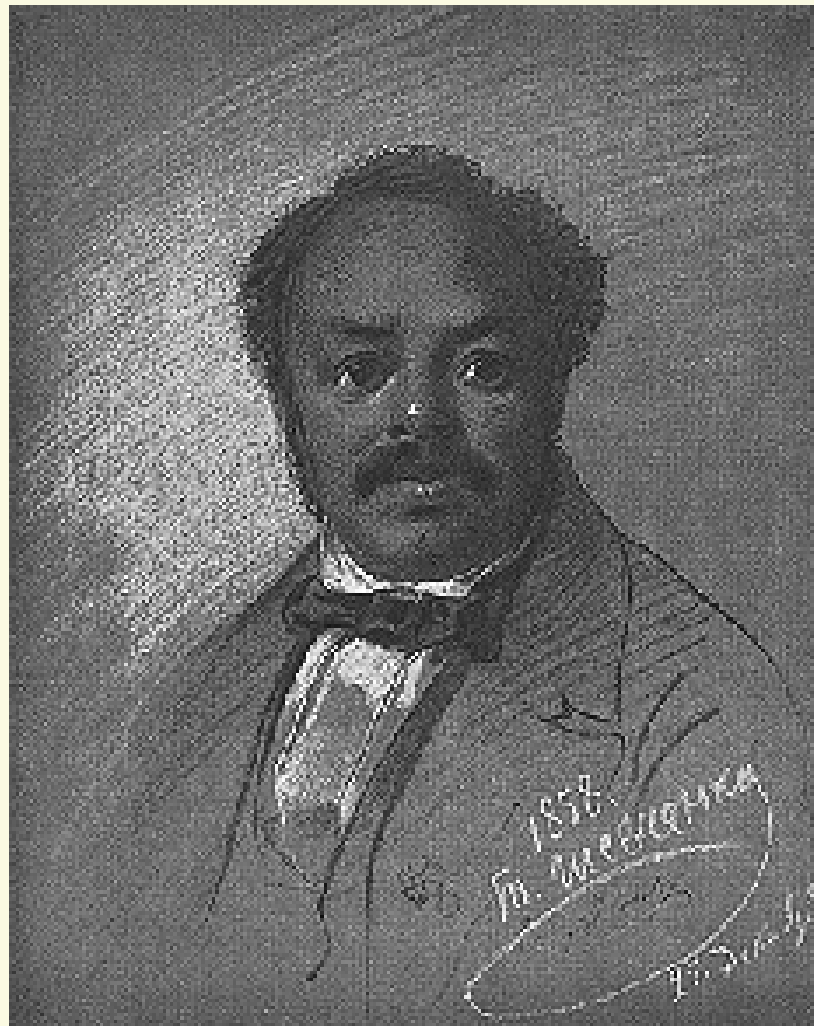
R: Kazakh Katia (1856-57)



End of Exile

- Tsar Nicholas I dies 1855
- Alexander II releases Shevchenko from military service in 1857
- Allowed to go to St. Petersburg in 1858
- Some of former Cyrillo-Methodians live there
- Shevchenko's fame in Ukraine had increased, not dissipated
- In St. Petersburg, he is greeted with great enthusiasm: welcomed & feted
- Shevchenko & Ira Aldridge

Ira Aldridge (1858)

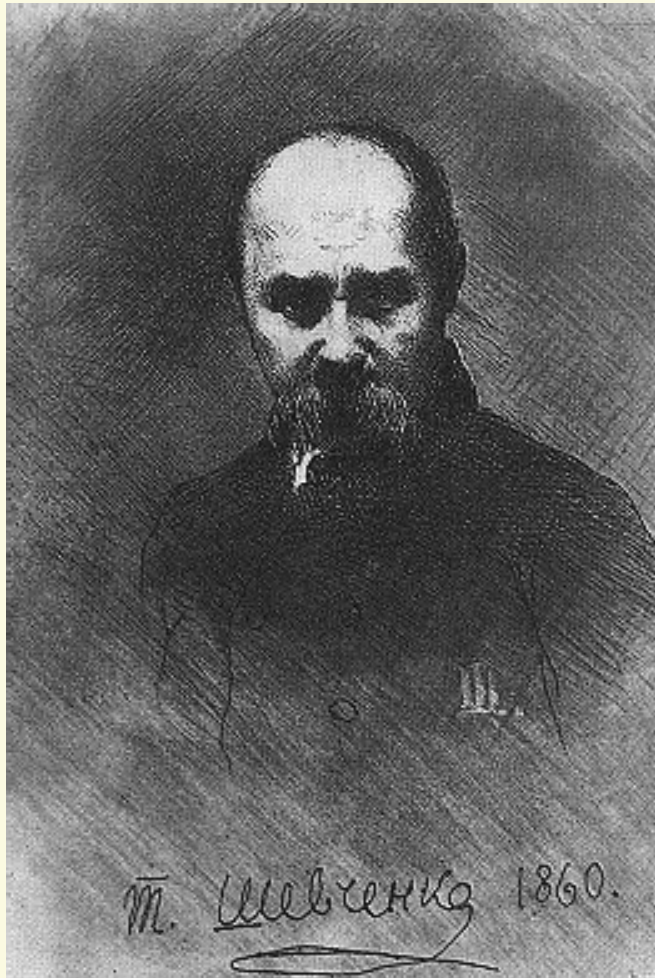


Shevchenko's Last Years

- Third & last visit to Ukraine (1859)
- Arrested & returns to St.Petersburg early
- Shevchenko's search for a wife
- 1859: Academician (or professor) at Academy
- January 1860: new *Kobzar* published
- Russian critics more favourable
- Prepares primer: Bukvar
- Poems on biblical themes: "Mary"
- Shevchenko's health deteriorates in 1860
- Dies February 26, 1861

L: Self portrait (1860)

R: Photograph (1860)

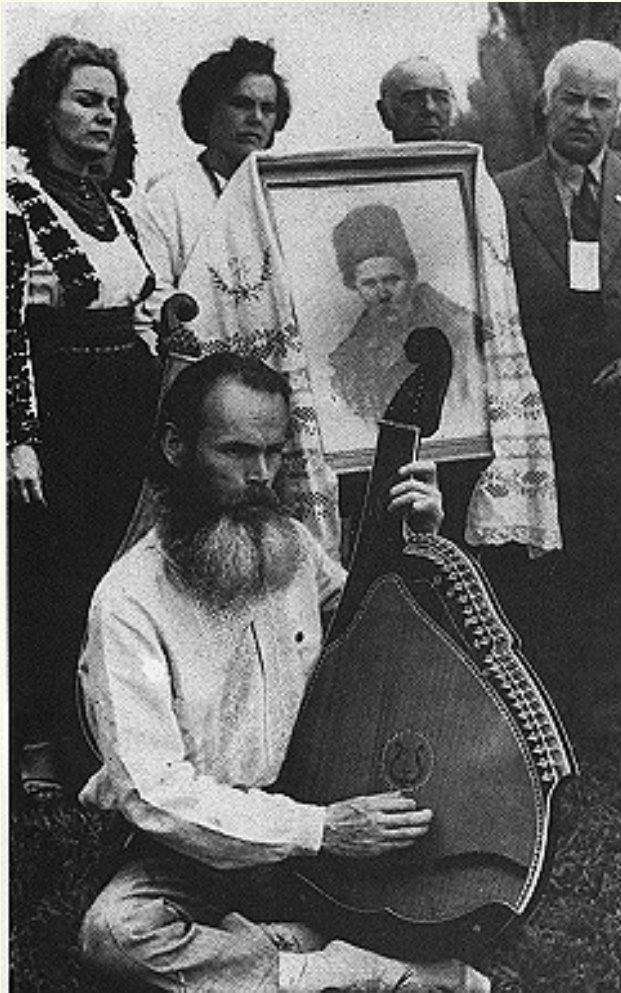


Burial & Aftermath: Some Final Thoughts

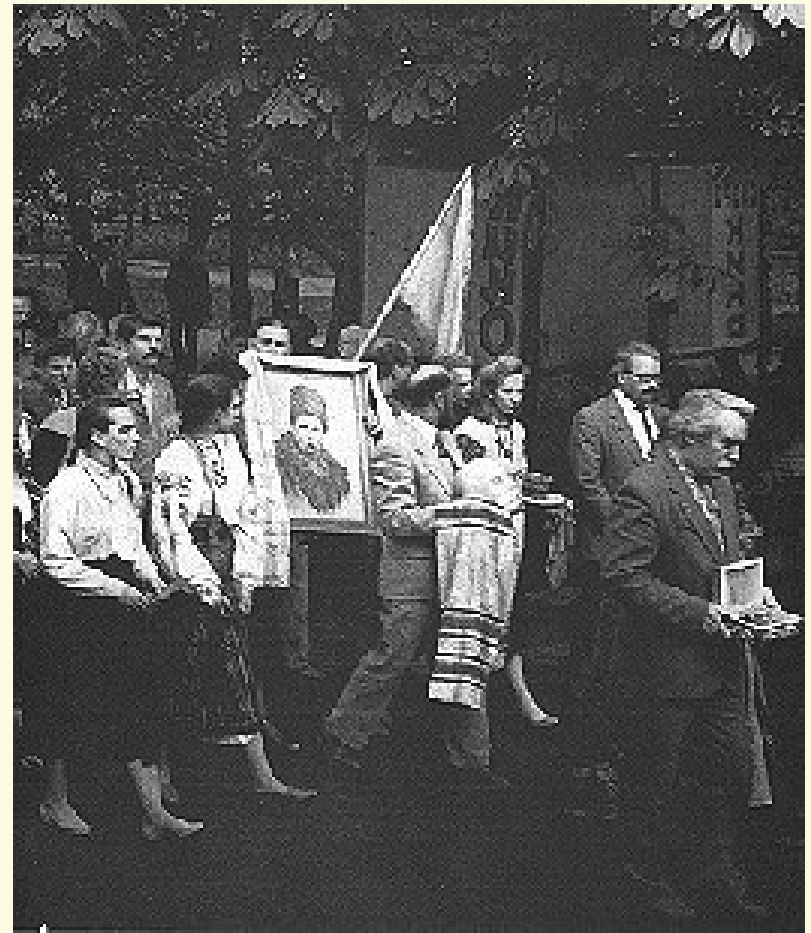
- Temporary resting place: St. Petersburg
- Final burial near Kaniv, Ukraine (May 1861)
- Becomes a national event
- Burial place becomes a pilgrimage site
- Poet seeking universal justice
- Defends rights of all seeking self determination & freedom
- Prophet-like figure, mercilessly castigating the wicked and strong
- Defended lot of lowliest: illegitimate, single mothers, serfs, & peoples under imperial yoke

L: Bandurist playing by portrait (1991)

R: Former president L. Kravchuk at Shevchenko burial site in Kaniv (1991)



L: Concert by Kyiv monument (May 1988)
R: Procession (May 1991)



Some final thoughts (cont'd)

- A very Christian poet: poem "The Neophytes"
- Opposed foreign domination, but did not harbour ethnic hatred
- Did not spare fellow Ukrainians from criticism
- *Kobzar*: secular, national & even spiritual Bible
- Reveals Eastern Europe's troubled, soiled & tragic past
- Shevchenko: harsh, but fair & honest
- Ukraine weakened by indifference, lack of stamina & selfishness of her own leaders
- Poetry reinvigorated Ukraine

Panteleimon Kulish (1819-97)

- Cossack family background
- Incomplete education
- Poet, prose writer, folklorist, historian
- Politically moderate, but fiery temperament
- Wrote *Black Council*, 1st historical novel
 - Challenge to Gogol's *Taras Bulba*
 - Described life in Ukraine after Khmelnytsky: disunity and fratricide; failings of all sides

Ivan Franko (1856-1916)

- Most important literary figure after Shevchenko
- Poet, prose writer, playwright, critic, translator, journalist, political leader, publicist, scholar
- Humble origins: student activist; arrested as socialist 1879
- Received Ph.D. in Philology 1893, University of Vienna
- Early poems: “Stonecutters” & “Eternal Revolutionary”



- Late poems: “Cain”, “Ivan Vyshynsky” & “Moses
- Moses: autobiographical
Concerns conflict bet. leader & the people; proclaims service to one’s people as ideal
- Realism: Early novels *Boa Constrictor* (1878) & *Boryslav is Laughing* (1881); *Zakhar Berkut* 1883)
- Extremely productive

Ivan Franko (cont'd)

- Politics: co-founds Ruthenian-Ukrainian Radical Party: wrote program (1890)
- Co-founds National-Democratic Party (1899); active until 1904
- Ethical socialist, not Marxist; views evolve; becomes more moderate
- Criticizes Marxism
- Wrote literature for children: *Fox Mykyta*
- From 1895, works almost exclusively as scholar-researcher in literature, ethnography, linguistics, economics, history
- Translated from 14 languages