



Dear Colleagues, Dear Readers!

We are proud to present the first issue of the *Kyiv-Mohyla Humanities Journal*, the first academic journal in Ukraine established on the principal of anonymous peer review. We are confident that having English as the working language of the journal and an anonymous peer review policy addresses two of the most longstanding and oft-discussed needs of Ukrainian scholarship in the humanities. The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has responded to the challenge and it is now up to us to define how fully Ukrainian scholarship in the humanities will be represented internationally in the academic world.

2014 marks the publication of our first issue and also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's national genius, Taras Shevchenko, which is reflected in the content of the issue. Noted Shevchenko scholar's Valeria Smilanska's article is included as Ostap Sereda's article and Anja Lange's reflections, which should make for interesting reading for both Shevchenko scholars and those interested in the great poet's work.

We are grateful to everyone who believed in our project by agreeing to serve on the journal's editorial board and to our reviewers, whose authority and presence in the project guarantees us high academic standards. We wish to express everyone involved a heartfelt expression of gratitude! Without your enthusiasm and good will the project would never have materialized.

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who submitted articles, understanding that they are sending them to a newly established and as yet unknown publication in the academic community. Thank you, our esteemed and valued authors! We are confident that our first issues will soon begin fulfilling their historical mission, and everyone who has contributed will feel pride in having taken part in the birth of a new forward-looking academic journal.

Thanks are due to our academic English-language Editor, Prof. Roman Veretelnyk, for his participation, as it is no secret that publishing a journal in English in Ukraine is a particularly complex and responsible task.

We are also grateful to our young editorial team headed by Managing Editor Olga Poliukhovych, who has guided every complex phase of the expert selection process and the editorial preparation of articles submitted for publication. Today marks their celebration too!

It is no secret that publication projects like ours that fully meet today's academic standards are not financed from the state budget of Ukraine, especially at such a difficult period as today's state of war. In such conditions the support of visionary sponsors is that much more appreciated. In our case we are pleased that our financial partner, who has become concerned with the needs of scholarship in the humanities, is NaUKMA graduate Serhiy Seheda (BA 1999, MA 2001), Managing Partner of the *EmCell* Cell Therapy Centre, to whom we express our gratitude.

We want to assure all our readers, authors and participants of the project that we will continue to adhere to high principles of relevance, judiciousness, independence, and objectivity, and will create the conditions necessary for the unbiased and productive interaction of differing views and opinions, which we may not share, but deserve dissemination by virtue of the high level of their scholarly presentation.

At the same time, we again invite all our colleagues, both in Ukraine and abroad, to join us in our exciting journey in the development of scholarly thought in the humanities in areas or at the intersections of literature, philosophy, history, and culture. Through our efforts let's join the international academic dialogue *hic et nunc*, here and now!

Sincerely,
Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Volodymyr Morenets