

A Few Words on the Occasion of Hryhorii Skovoroda's 300th Anniversary

Dear Readers, Colleagues, and Friends!

December 3, 2022, marked the 300th Anniversary of Hryhorii Skovoroda (1722–1794). This glorious occasion was to become the main event of the social, scientific, and cultural life of Ukraine in the current 2022, declared the year of Skovoroda by the Ukrainian Parliament. Many different events were planned for this year to honor the outstanding Ukrainian thinker – in particular, at the National University of “Kyiv–Mohyla Academy,” the successor of his Alma Mater, the famous Kyiv–Mohyla Academy.

But, unfortunately, everything planned was not destined to be. After all, 2022 was a year of terrible upheavals and severe challenges for Ukraine caused by Russia's full-scale armed aggression. In this war, the Russian state became not only a brutal terrorist that mercilessly razes cities and villages, maternity homes, schools, and cemeteries, killing the elderly, women and children, but also the one determined to fundamentally destroy Ukrainian culture and its various monuments. Hryhorii Skovoroda was also among the victims of the Russian invasion – its rockets destroyed the buildings of the National Literary and Memorial Museum of H.S. Skovoroda in the village of Skovorodinivka in Kharkiv region (May 7, 2022) and *H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University* (July 6, 2022). Moreover, even such a barbaric attitude towards one of the symbols of Ukrainian culture does not prevent some Russian authors and officials from their attempts to “appropriate” the figure and legacy of the thinker...

However, one cannot fail to notice the special symbolism of the fact that, despite all the terrible destruction caused by rocket strikes to both buildings, the monuments to Hryhorii Skovoroda, standing in the museum and on the University square, remained almost intact. The philosopher and poet, imperceptible to the world of lies, cynicism, and decay both during his life and beyond, became a symbol of the indomitability of Ukrainians, which surprises and fascinates the world.

The Anniversary articles included in this volume of *KMHJ* reflect a whole range of topics and problems, which testify to the important role of the figure and legacy of Hryhorii Skovoroda in the research of modern Ukrainian philosophers, historians, literary critics, linguists, cultural experts, and other representatives of humanities and social sciences. The proposed articles reveal little-known pages of the biography and creative activity of Hryhorii Skovoroda, as well as clarify and deepen modern humanitarian knowledge and social visions regarding the place and role of this outstanding personality in the history of Ukrainian and world culture. Special attention is paid to the analysis of Skovoroda's work in the context of European baroque and European philosophy, the sources and ideological origins of his works, current issues of Skovoroda studies and prospects for their development in Ukraine and the world.

We hope that the proposed volume will be useful to researchers as well as to everyone interested in the figure and legacy of the outstanding Ukrainian thinker.

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