

*Iurii Shevel'ov—uchora, s'ohodni, zavtra* [Iurii Shevel'ov—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow]. Edited by Volodymyr Kalashnyk et al., Maidan, 2014. 184 pp. Notes on contributors. Paper.

Iurii Shevel'ov's wide-ranging scholarly legacy requires deeper, multifaceted research within Ukrainian linguistics. Owing to the fact that there are only a few Western linguists currently researching the Ukrainian language, Ukraine has become the de facto centre of research into Shevel'ov's contributions to scholarship. *Iurii Shevel'ov—uchora, s'ohodni, zavtra* (Iurii Shevel'ov—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow) is a book recently published in Ukraine. It consists of a collection of scholarly presentations made in Kharkiv at an event held on 30 October 2013. The initiator of this event was Arsen Avakov, who is currently the minister of internal affairs of Ukraine. The aim of this book is concisely phrased: it “examines various aspects of the scholar's [Shevel'ov's] legacy (in linguistics, literary studies, and essay writing) as well as prospects for the proper appreciation of his contribution to the development of the humanities and Ukrainian society in general” (2).<sup>1</sup>

*Iurii Shevel'ov—uchora, s'ohodni, zavtra* opens with Volodymyr Kalashnyk's foreword “Na shliakhu do Iurii Shevel'ova” (“Approaching Iurii Shevel'ov”). Kalashnyk (the head of the organizing committee) explains that presentation events devoted to Shevel'ov's scholarly legacy began in Kharkiv in 1996; in 1999, Shevel'ov was granted an honorary doctorate by his alma mater. This book commemorates the 105th anniversary of Shevel'ov's birth. Around that time, in Kharkiv, attempts were made to establish a memorial plaque on the building where the famous scholar once resided; the local authorities subsequently destroyed this plaque. Thus, this book is a reaction, of sorts, to the unfortunate anti-Shevel'ov movement (of 2013-14) in Ukraine.

The book has an initial section of greetings, which includes the greeting of People's Deputy of Ukraine (at the time) Avakov (also the president of the Renesans Charitable Fund, which organized the presentation event). Avakov states: “It is sad that [Shevel'ov] this outstanding Ukrainian researcher, Slavist, linguist, literary historian, and theatre critic is so little known in the country whose language development has benefitted so greatly from his contributions” (5). Mykola Kniashyts'kyi, another people's deputy of Ukraine at the time, states in his greeting that, in his opinion, “Shevel'ov laid the foundation for [establishing] those values that are allowing us today to become a part of the general European community” (7). V'icheslav

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<sup>1</sup> All translations of quotations and essay titles in this review are mine.

Kyrylenko, people's deputy of Ukraine and head of the Committee on Culture and Spirituality of the Supreme Council of Ukraine (at the time; currently, he is the deputy prime minister of Ukraine), expresses in his greeting that he hopes that "the Kharkiv presentation event will become a good tradition and will help foster opportunities in linguistics and literary studies" (8). Following these greetings is a short, three-page biography of Shevel'ov, which was prepared by Kateryna Karunyk.

Next is an essay by Larysa Masenko—very likely the foremost present-day Ukrainian linguist—entitled "Iurii Shevel'ov v ukrains'komu movoznavstvi XX storichchia" ("Iurii Shevel'ov in Twentieth-Century Ukrainian Linguistics"). She states: "Shevel'ov can be considered the founder of Ukrainian sociolinguistics" (17). She also emphasizes the importance and impact of Shevel'ov's monograph *Ukrains'ka mova v pershii polovyni dvadtsiatoho stolittia (1900-1941): Stan i status (The Ukrainian Language in the First Half of the Twentieth Century [1900-1941]: Its State and Status, 1987; an English-language version was published in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1989)*. Shevel'ov's significance lies in the fact that "he ensured the continuity [tiahlist'] of the development of Ukrainian linguistics" (Masenko 18); thus, present-day Ukrainian linguists are able to still expand on Shevel'ov's thoughts and ideas. Masenko goes on to say: "This scholar researched linguistic phenomena in their inseparable connection with national history, culture, and identity" (19).

The next essay is by Liudmyla Tkach. She pursues the notion that Shevel'ov's main ideas are still making their way into the minds and hearts of contemporary Ukrainian linguists and into the consciousness of academic scholars, university instructors, social and political leaders, students, and the media (23-24). Tkach cites Shevel'ov's famous words: "The history of cultural ties between Ukraine and Russia is the history of a great, and still unfinished, war" (26). Tkach also highly praises Shevel'ov's attempts "to precisely reveal the role of various dialects of the Ukrainian language in the formation of its literary canon" (44).

The essay by Mykola Stepanenko, "Linhvistychnyi zmist lystiv Iuriia Shevel'ova do Oleksy Izars'koho" ("The Linguistic Content of Iurii Shevel'ov's Letters to Oleksa Izars'kyi"), is very interesting and highly professional in its approach. Ihor Mykhailyn's essay, "Komparatyvni vizii Iuriia Sherekha (Shevel'ova) v stosunku do ukrains'koi literatury" ("Iurii Sherekh's [Shevel'ov's] Comparative Visions Regarding Ukrainian Literature"), is well-researched and well-presented. The author praises Shevel'ov for having declared "the readiness of Ukrainians to communicate on a par with the world" (77). Next, Kalashnyk takes on the broad topic of Shevel'ov's view on Kharkiv.

Roman Tryfonov's essay, "Linhvokul'turni skladnyky indyvidual'noho movlennia Iurii Shevel'ova (na materialy ese ta lystiv)" ("Sociolinguistic Elements of Iurii Shevel'ov's Individual Manner of Expression [Based on Essays and Letters]"), sheds light on Shevel'ov's tremendous erudition, his grace and kindness in communication, his knowledge of world literature, and so on. Karunyk's essay, "Novoznaideni publikatsii Iurii Shevel'ova za 1941-1944 rr." ("Newly Discovered Publications of Iurii Shevel'ov for the Years 1941-1944"), illustrates the importance of these publications in the further development of Shevel'ov's style and depth of research (a problematic area of contemporary research in Ukraine). Serhii Vakulenko's essay, "Pereklad naukovoho dorobku Iurii Shevel'ova: zdobutky ta perspektyvy" ("Translations of Iurii Shevel'ov's Scholarly Works: Achievements and Prospects"), looks at Shevel'ov's translated works and works that have not yet been translated into Ukrainian (initially published in other languages, primarily English and German).

In the essay "Rehional'nyi vymir ofitsiinoi polityky pam'iaty u suchasni Ukraini: kharkivs'kyi variant (2010-2013)" ("The Regional Dimension of the Official Policy of Memory in Contemporary Ukraine: The Case of Kharkiv [2010-2013]"), Andrii Domanovs'kyi shows how the Party of Regions attempted to usurp the memory of World War II and to "copy the example of the official policy of memory regarding war that has been actively implemented by the Russian Federation" (133), imposing it on the population of the Kharkiv region. Domanovs'kyi relates Shevel'ov's dream about what the great scholar called "the third Kharkiv" (about Kharkiv being a very Ukrainian capital); this ideal was in sharp contrast with the actual Kharkiv, what Shevel'ov called "the fourth Kharkiv," a Russified "total province" (140-41).

In the essay "Problema kolaboratsii z natsystamy v radians'kii politytsi pam'iaty ta formuvannia mifiv pro Iu. Shevel'ova" ("The Issue of Collaboration with the Nazis in the Soviet Policy of Memory and the Formation of Myths about Iurii Shevel'ov"), Iryna Sklokina considers how the Soviet propaganda machine developed and spread the myth about Shevel'ov's collaboration with the Nazi regime. In the essay "Mii Iurii Shevel'ov—uchora, s'ohodni, zavtra" ("My Iurii Shevel'ov—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"), Ihor Muromtsev regards Shevel'ov as a "world-renowned encyclopaedist and humanitarian; a person who was persistent in introducing Ukrainian into scholarly and social circles; an anti-Soviet activist; a fighter for Ukrainian Ukraine throughout his entire life" (151-52), and he appeals for further, detailed study of Shevel'ov's diverse body of work. Mykola Zubkov's essay, "Iz dumok (pro) Iurii Shevel'ova" ("Some Thoughts [on] Iurii Shevel'ov"), is passionate and calls for the preservation and development of Shevel'ov's memory in contemporary Kharkiv and Ukraine.

Serhii Zhadan's "Netyypovi ukrainets'" ("Untypical Ukrainian") is a must-read essay. The reader will find brief information about the authors of the essays at the end of the book.

I would highly recommend this book to researchers in the West and Ukraine. It is fresh and new, and it contributes additional perspectives on Shevel'ov's diverse scholarly legacy. The book's only drawback is that it was published in small quantities—three hundred copies (a problem typical of many Ukrainian publications).

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