Ukrainian Literature in English
A Selected Bibliography of Translations
2000 –

Marta Tarnawsky


Translation of the novel Perverziia.


A free verse translation of all twelve songs of Ivan Franko’s poem Lys Mykyta, with additional material added. A compact disk with narration by Roman B. Karpishka accompanies the printed book.


A parallel text edition, Ukrainian and English. Text layout and design: Kostiantyn Kukushkin.

**Contents of the English language material:** Translator’s introduction (p.8-10). • Acknowledgments. • Poetry and destiny / Mykola Ilnytsky. Tr. by Olha Luchuk (p.21-27). • From the collection “At the Shores of the Eternal River” (1977): *** (The immortal diorama of memory). ● *** (The rain began to fall, and the day’s so shiny). ● *** (An emerald forest after the rain). ● A deadly pas de grace (The earth circles in a cosmic waltz). ● *** (The pine forest strums its strings). ● *** (At times I feel a strange sensation). ● *** (A thunderstorm. Fanciful ghosts of antennae). ● *** (Yesterday Blok came to visit me in the rain). ● *** (Ravens have bewitched the dawn). ● The summit of sorrow (At the foot of Sorrow is a grip of fear). ● *** (What did we have? Love and summer). ● A prologue again (I have today, I have a moment, I have eternity for me). ● From the collection “Uniqueness” (1980): *** (All that will be, already is or has happened on earth). ● Landscape from my memory (Just barely I touch a word with watercolor). ● *** (Behind the oven a gnome is champing). ● *** (How cold it is! The acacia is blooming). ● *** (Somewhere tenderness passed between us). ● *** (And the uniqueness of every moment). ● *** (The autumn day began with birches). ● *** (With great difficulty I suffered myself out with you). ● From the collection “Garden of Unmelting Sculptures”: *** (A shady spot, twilight, a golden day). ● *** (The storm was passing somewhere side-by-side). ● *** (With your eyes you told me: I love you). ● *** (I step out into the orchard, it’s black and meager). ● Watercolors of childhood (The River Dnipro, an old landing-stage, yellow shores). ● The monument to I. M. Soshenko (He died in passage. Korsun slept, indifferent). ● A terrifying kaleidoscope: at this moment someone somewhere has died). ● *** (I will listen to this rain. It steals up and clamors). ● *** (This isn’t a miracle, but a burning scent, this kind of love terrifies me). ● *** (Near the white tower there is a black tree. Sleep). ● From the collection “Selected Works” (1989): *** (I open the dawn with a treble clef). ● *** (In a wicked and cold world). ● *** (I step out into the night. To meet my fate). ● *** (Somewhere, they say, there is a mountain where birds do not sing). ● *** (And how can I forget you now?) ● *** (Nothing special has happened). ● From “Incrustations”: *** (It’s not quite democracy). ● *** (A terrifying violinist raised his bow). ● *** (It seems to me that music is cosmic). ● *** (I am surprised that in childhood nothing surprised me). ● *** (I dreamt of my grandmother. That she’s still alive). ● *** (Lakes stand in the cupped hands of valleys). ● *** (Dahlias on the Chornobyl road). ● *** (In my childhood I floated above dahlias). ● Translator’s notes.

A bilingual Ukrainian-English illustrated edition. **Contents of the English language material:** Yuri Andrukhovych: The head that used to fly. Tr. by Roman Ivashkiv. Ed. by Olha Luchuk and Michael M. Naydan. ● Michael M. Naydan: The poetry of Viktor Neborak: A conventional introduction. An unconventional introduction to a skyrocker poet or Lecture notes on Viktor Neborak and The Flying Head. ● Viktor Neborak: A few words from the author. Tr. by Olha Luchuk. ● **The Flying Head:** Genesis of the flying head (a show in verse): I. Metro fantasy (Color is still not space you try anyway to hew through). II. UFO (We called the landing boat “C-ATAS-TROPHE”). III. Metro fantasy (This is a body a murder a specter a hook). IV. Fantasy about a morning bus (Your time and space is bus number 20). V. Metro fantasy reflections (He sees himself before himself). VI. Metro. Versions (...Finally you get into the rhythm, vagrant...) VII. (The vertical glass is heavy and sharp). VIII. The flying head. A production self-portrait (... They assemble the flying head in my likeness in a mine). IX. The vertical (O Holy Virgin). X. (It rises up like a head). ● Stunning reincarnations (A lantern castle is raised above the earth at night). ● Nocturnes with mysterious herbs (an herbarium of melodies): I. The plot (To the touch the night is a treasure chest of mysteries). II. The gaze (I stepped out from the night. My eyes are thirsty). III. The castle (Come and meander in my garden). IV. (My farewell is like a black stone). V. The tapestry (Once again above me a dream grows). VI. A kiss (... And the aftertaste of death on lips). VII. Invited to the funeral of April is (everyone who wants to drink the last sky-blue). VIII. Viy. A variation (I speak above you (above the coffin) and to myself). ● *** (My lyric hero is a white-winged fellow). ● The Yaniv cemetery (We’re characters from The Odyssey who found themselves in imperfect circles). ● The case of the “Fall of Atlantis” (May recreations dissolved in the wind. They’re not there). ● Question and answer (What was real in winter?) ● Catching crabs (a speech) (—The water’s tailor—a damned nightingale). ● Monologue from a canine pretext (Fido’s hung himself—suicide-dog!). ● A drug-tympanum (a sonnet uttered by the Flying head) (- Paint a BABE naked BLUE). ● The urban god Eros (a variation on the theme of “Stunning Reincarnations”) (We’ll begin from the street. Eyes gleam cerulean blue). ● Headshaved (“Place your heads beneath the blade’s edge!”) ● Hair (It is wind in the captivity of). ● Waiting for Orysia (Not beings, not mechanisms). ● *** (Sixteen candles. She has a premonition). ● A cage with a lion (The lion is one who releases flowers of blood). ● A cage with a panther (You love to ogle skin). ● She (rap performance by Kids of the Queenie): 1. (I looked at her like at a thing). 2. (on the balcony you stand). 3. crazy lady (alone in the lilies you’re walkin’, walkin’). ● 4. (you got expensive eyes). ● 5. (she be one of a lot). ● The appearance of Pantagruel
the lesser (his substance—a rabelaisian body).

The fool (a card game) (a country of thirty six).

An itty bitty ditty 'bout Mr. Bazio (sung by Viktor Morozov) (He’s the holy spirit of philistine walls).

The spiritist seance (a ballad sung by Kost Moskalets’) (The table—a square abyss).

The performance of the rock band Lucifer (from the rock opera “What’s hiding in the darkness?”) (Dread-dread-yellow sorrow torment).

The thriller (a video clip) (I was invited to the Dnister Hotel).

*** (O roses-girls from music).

Rock and roll Olesia (performed by the “Neborak-rock-band”) (I’m a learned crow).

Eyewitness evidence (... The city celebration ignited and swallowed passions...)

*** (“Gentlemen guitarists! A few drops of the golden libation are left”).

A sonnet with a reddish cat (Along the fallen rustle, in a ray).

The eating of an apple (Five tentacles of my feelings).

The god Bacchus’s drinks: I. Beer (From the bottomless nomadic German stomachs). II. Wine (The peak—the marble maw of a lion). III. Liquor (All around the table are eyes, a motionless axis passes). IV. Cognac (An impetuous Latrec watercolor).

Coffee (Inspiration—is a bartender—at your service).

Three elegies (found in an empty bottle that contained an unknown beverage) I. (Winter has iced me in). II. (An orchestra of invisible men drags). III. (Movie theaters and train stations).

Water (ice) (Salt has surfaced on the blades of ice).

A pendulum (In Lviv—I’m the dreamwalker Odysseus).

Metro fantasy (The reflection disappears again you).

*** (The magical wave of dreams dissolved like morning fog).

From the collection Alter Ego: *** (there are mirrors and doors) / Tr. Jars Balan.

Genesis (Clothing evolves from a display-window to)/ Tr. Jars Balan.

Fish (cold-blooded beings) / Tr. Virrlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps.

Subjective point of view (Someday) / Tr. Virrlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps.

*** (what kind of a beast) / Tr. Jars Balan.

What he does (what he does) / Tr. Virrlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps.

*** (This is just silence) / Tr. Michael M. Naydan.

Supper (There were seven of us) / Tr. Jars Balan.

Novel (There will be a happy ending) / Tr. Virrlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps.

The land of lotus-eaters (He opens the door of oblivion) / Tr. Michael M. Naydan.

*** (I’ll be cheerful this evening) / Tr. Michael M. Naydan.

*** (Green sounds echo) / Tr. Mark Andryczyk with Yaryna Yakubyak.

Biographical notes. Acknowledgements. Contents.


Contents: Contents. A white bird: Raspberries (1. Blissful repose (In the raspberry time). 2. White silence (Beyond the hospital window). 3. End of the day (The maples darken)). Love letters: Junction without signposts (By the Dnipro river). Autumn letters (Under the geranium scented sun). Dark window (We met briefly). Hospital (A black crow follows me). Cold sun (While your eyes radiate sunniness). Sadness (We walked the night streets). Short summers: On the shore (On the shore). In my garden (White sails soared above the lake). Evening (Evening birds). Grieving for leaves: Lake and sky (On yellow autumn

The author’s own translations of her poems, with the assistance of Patricia Harvie.


Translation of the children’s story “Iakos' u chuzhomu lisi”.


Translation of the short story “Divchatka”.
About the Authors

Emma Andijewska (Emma Andiievs'ka) was born in Donetsk in 1931. She lives in Munich, Germany. She is well-known as a writer and as a painter.

Yuri Andrukhovych is one of Ukraine’s best-known authors. He was born in 1976. His most recent work is entitled Taimnytsia (The Secret, 2007). The poem “India” dates to 1994.

Volodymyr Drozd was born in 1939 near Chernihiv and died in 2003 in Kyiv. The stories translated in this issue date from the 1970s.

Ivan Franko is one of the most significant and prolific figures in the history of Ukrainian literature. He wrote poetry, prose, drama, and literary scholarship. He was born in Western Ukraine, then part of the Ausro-Hungarian Empire, in 1866. He died in 1916.

Vasyl Gabor was born in 1959 and lives in Lviv. He is the editor of a significant anthology of contemporary short prose entitled Pryvatna kolektsiia (Private Collection).

Oleh Hovda was born in 1964. He lives and writes in Lviv.

Iurii Ianovs'kyi (1902–1954) rose to prominence as a writer in the 1920s in Soviet Ukraine. “The Return” was written in the 1920s but was not published until long after the author’s death.

Taras Prokhas'ko was born in 1968. Before turning to writing he studied biology at Lviv University.

Valerii Shevchuk was born in 1939 in Zhytomyr. He now lives in Kyiv. Many of his works exemplify his interest in history.

Iryna Vilde was the literary pseudonym of the Western Ukrainian writer, Daria Polotniuk, nee Makohon (1907–1982).

Oleksandr Zhovna was born in 1960 in the Kirovohrad area, where he lives and writes today.
The Shevchenko Scientific Society is an organization of scholars dedicated to the advancement of Ukrainian studies. It is the oldest Ukrainian academy of arts and sciences, and its activities have formed a mainstay of Ukrainian scholarly and cultural life for over a century. Founded in 1873 in the city of Lviv, Ukraine, it was liquidated by the Soviet regime in 1939. The Society was reestablished in Western Europe and the United States in 1947, in Canada in 1949, and in Australia in 1950. In 1989 it resumed its activity in Ukraine.

The Society’s headquarters in the United States, located at 63 Fourth Avenue in New York City, include offices, lecture halls, and a specialized library and archives pertaining to Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora. Its membership of four hundred fellows and associate members is organized in six scholarly sections: Mathematics & Sciences, Medicine & Biology, Philology, History & Philosophy, Social Sciences, and the Arts. The Society’s publications in these fields comprise over 160 volumes. The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.A. is proud to add Ukrainian Literature: A Journal of Translations to its list of publications.