

Introduction

This issue of *Ukrainian Literature* has been a long time in the making. The delay is unfortunate but not entirely unexpected. A journal such as this is a labor of love and, like all non-commercial ventures, it is dependent on the available time of individuals who must complete the required tasks. In the case of this journal, those individuals are the journal's manuscript editor, Uliana Pasicznyk, and I. Our time is limited by our professional obligations which were too extensive to allow this issue to appear sooner.

This new volume of the journal appears three years after the first, just in time for the sixteenth anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Despite the delay in its appearance, I give my assurance that the journal is an ongoing publication that will exist for many years into the future. I sincerely hope that the publishers, the editorial board, our manuscript editor, and I will find the wisdom and the organizational skill not only to continue publishing the journal but to increase its frequency. Our plans for volume three call for it to appear no later than three years from now, perhaps sooner.

The first issue of the journal met with a mixed response. Some critics, misunderstanding biennial for semi-annual, complained that a second issue did not appear within six months. Oh dear! Other critics addressed our content. There were complaints that the selections in our journal did not reflect a particular taste or profile. This eclecticism is deliberate on our part, as I outlined in the introduction to the first issue. The editorial board and I do not dictate to translators: we encourage them to translate what they consider worthwhile. In our editorial decisions, we do not select a particular profile. We do not favor post-modernism, or short stories, or intellectual literature. Our aim is to reflect the wide array of Ukrainian literature—stretching across time, genres, themes, styles, and even quality. For a culture that is still seeking its rightful place, not only in the global community of readers but even within the borders of its own country, such an approach is the only one that can give an honest appreciation of the current state of affairs. The journal reflects Ukrainian literature not in its totality but in its particularities. It is my hope for this journal that readers who cannot read Ukrainian will find in it individual works that thrill them, move them, and speak to their feelings and desires, for that is the purpose of all literature, including the works that appear on these pages.

Many individuals have contributed in various ways to this journal and they all deserve credit. I thank the members of the editorial board for their

cooperation and shared expertise. I also thank the translators whose works appear in this issue for their extraordinary patience and commitment through the long process of preparing for publication. I especially thank Uliana Pasicznyk for her professionalism, patience, and personal support, which have played an enormous role in keeping me and this journal on track. Without her efforts, this issue of the journal could not have appeared.

Maxim Tarnawsky
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