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<https://doi.org/10.33989/pnpu.863.c3563>

LITERARY LVIV

Lviv is known to the world for its rich history, significant achievements in culture, education, and research, as well as for its location on the map of Europe. After all, it is here that logistics routes connecting continents and countries are concentrated. Lviv was founded by King Danylo around 1231-1235 (the first mention of the city dates back to 1256). Around 1272, the city became the capital of the Kingdom of Rus' (the Principality of Galicia-Volhynia). Shortly after the death of Prince Yuriy II, Lviv was ruled by the Kingdom of Poland for more than four centuries. In 1356, the city was granted Magdeburg rights.

Medieval Lviv was not only an important trade center but also a center of the Ukrainian and Polish national movements. After the collapse of Austria-Hungary in the fall of 1918, Lviv was for some time the capital of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic, the city survived the Ukrainian-Polish battle, and in November 1918 it was transferred to Poland. This transfer was officially approved by the international agreements of 1922-1923. During World War II, Lviv was captured by the Soviet Union and later by Germany. Under the terms of the Yalta Agreement of 1945, Eastern Galicia, and Lviv in particular, remained part of the Ukrainian SSR. In 1946, a population exchange took place between Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, which, together with the consequences of the war, significantly affected the population of Lviv. Since 1991, Lviv has been part of Ukraine.

The historic center of Lviv is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city has the largest number of architectural monuments in Ukraine. In 2009, Lviv was named the Cultural Capital of Ukraine.

During the Great War, after February 24, 2022, Lviv became the city that received the largest number of people fleeing Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine. Businesses from the occupied territories of Ukraine relocated here, and logistics that help the Ukrainian front are concentrated here. Lviv is also home to the largest humanitarian projects involving Ukraine's partners from around the world.

Lviv is a city whose writers have written extremely interesting pages in Ukrainian literature, and their works are included in the "golden fund" of world literature and culture.

Ivan Franko: "One of the Rusyns of Lviv"

Ivan Franko was born on August 27, 1856, in the village of Nahuyevychi, Drohobych county, Sambir district, Kingdom of Galicia and Volhynia, Austrian Empire. He died on May 28, 1916, in the city of Lviv, Dolytavshchyna, Austria-Hungary.

Ivan Franko is known to the world as a poet, prose writer, playwright, literary critic, publicist, translator, scholar, public and political figure. Doctor of Philosophy (1893), habilitated doctor (1895), full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (1899), honorary doctor of Kharkiv University (1906). Member of the All-Ukrainian Society *Enlightenment*.

FICTION THROUGH THE AGES

Ivan Franko's literary activity lasted over 40 years. Franko worked extremely fruitfully not only in the field of philology, but also as a historian, sociologist, political scientist, economist, and philosopher.

Ivan Franko wrote in Ukrainian (most of his texts), Polish, German, Russian, Bulgarian, and Czech, and authored several thousand works, more than 100 volumes.

During his lifetime, Franko published more than 220 books and brochures, including more than 60 collections of his original and translated works of various genres. He was one of the first professional Ukrainian writers, that is, he earned his living from literary work.

The writer lived in Lviv for forty years. Here he studied at the Faculty of Philosophy at Lviv University, which now bears his name. In Ivan Franko's works, Lviv streets and townhouses come to life, and he describes in detail the life of the townspeople and their family stories. To this day, the memory of Franko is still being preserved in Lviv. Many coffee shops still have the interior of that time, and the cobblestones of Lviv streets hold memories of Franko.

Ivan Franko published a number of poetry collections: *Semper tiro*, *From the Heights and the Lowlands*, *Faded Leaves*, *From the Days of Sorrow* and *My Emerald*. During his life, he published nineteen collections of prose texts: *Galician Patterns*, *From the Stormy Years*, *Seven Fairy Tales*, *When Animals Spoke*, *Fairy Tales for Children*, *Little Myron and Other Stories* etc. The most famous works of the writer are the drama *Stealing is not Happiness*, the fairy tale *Mykyta the Fox*, the stories *Cross Paths*, *Zakhar Berkut*, *Boryslav laughs* and others.

Franko's works were based on actual events and stories of his time. In particular, the author referred to the activities of the most active entrepreneurs of Galicia. Thus, in the story *Boa constrictor* the writer told the story of Robert Doms, a Lviv merchant, entrepreneur of German origin, public figure and philanthropist, founder and owner of oil and ozokerite mines. Robert Doms (1848) opened an industrial production of chicory coffee in Lviv.

Ivan Franko worked as a reporter for the newspapers *Dilo* and *Kurjer Lwowski* and was well aware of the story of the trial of Mrs. Weiss (1883), who in an unprecedented way demoralized local youth by attracting young girls to her private brothel located in Lviv on Skarbnivskoho Street (now Yosyf Slipoho Street). This lasted for twelve years, and was facilitated by local wealthy "lords." The comparison of the plot of the novel *For the Family Hearth* with real newspaper chronicles and trials is strikingly authentic. This work was filmed and was a great success with the audience. The story of the heroine of Ivan Franko's novel ends tragically with her suicide.

Ivan Franko's experience as a reporter gave him many extraordinary stories, from which he later developed impressive plots and created special characters. One of these works is the story *Fundamentals of Society* (1893-1895). The material for this story was a sensational trial in 1889, which Franko attended as a reporter. The landowner of the village of Kukizova, Maria Strzelecka, together with her son Oleksandr, sought to save the dilapidated estate and tried to kill and rob the wealthy priest Jan Tchurzhnyskyi. But the Strzeleckis belonged to a wealthy old noble family, so the entire society of the time, the court, and the press came to their defense. The court acquitted Maria and her son. Franko was so impressed by this story that he developed it into a novel. The author added a lot of fictional details to create more convincing and impressive reader experience. This story was also filmed in several series. The series *A Crime with Many Unknowns* was a great success with the audience.

Ivan Franko wrote the story *Zakhar Berkut* (full title *Zakhar Berkut. The Image of Public*

Life of Carpathian Rus in the Thirteenth Century) about the struggle of the Ukrainian Carpathian tribe against the Mongol invasion in the thirteenth century. The work was written in just a month and a half in 1882 and became one of the most successful novels in Ukrainian literature: in the 135 years since the novel was written, it has been reprinted in the original Ukrainian hundreds of times with a total circulation of over 5 million copies. At the same time, the story is one of the most famous works of Ukrainian literature abroad: the first translation into a foreign language appeared in 1889 (7 years after the original was published), and later it was translated into more than 20 languages.

Ivan Franko's story *Crossroads* (1900) is still known and popular today. The title of the work has a deep symbolism, as the fates of different people – representatives of different social strata, different professions, and nationalities (Ukrainians, Jews, and Poles) – intersect in the story. In addition to people, a wide variety of problems meet or intersect here: the relationship between Ukrainian peasants and intellectuals, the relationship between different social groups, the coexistence of power and subordinates. The poverty and despair of the peasants are shown in a sharp, sometimes cruel and naturalistic way. The author touches upon the problems of the judiciary in the early twentieth century, shows the drama of an ordinary Galician family that turned into a tragedy. Franko paid special attention to the difficult place of women in the society of that time.

Ivan Franko's character Mykyta the Fox is a well-known one. He is the hero of the fairy tales written by Franko: *Mykyta the Fox*, *The Painted Fox* (collection *When Animals Spoke*), as well as the satirical poem *The Animal Parliament* and others. The story was adapted into animated films produced in Ukraine in 1958 and 2007.

Stanislaw Hermann Lem: Literature and Foresight

The writer was born on September 12, 1921, in Lviv; died on March 27, 2006, in Krakow. Polish science fiction writer of Jewish origin. The most translated Polish writer. Stanisław Lem spent his childhood and adolescence in Lviv, which he described in his autobiographical book *The High Castle* (1966). He studied at the 2nd Lviv Gymnasium (now Lyceum No. 8 of the Lviv City Council, located at 2 Pidvalna Street). After graduating from the gymnasium (1939), the future writer, seeking to continue his father's profession, entered the newly established Lviv Medical Institute. The German occupation of Lviv in the summer of 1941 interrupted his studies.

While still a student, he published short stories in 1946, and in 1948 he wrote the novel *Transfiguration Hospital*, which he later included in the trilogy *The Lost Time*.

Lem mostly wrote classical science fiction about space travel, robots, and distant planets, as well as satirical and parodic works (*Cyberiad*, *Robot Tales*, *The Hunt* and *Repetition*). Lem did a lot in the field of essays, reflecting on the problems of his genre, and through them – on the ways of development of science, technological progress and, ultimately, of all mankind. He also wrote detective stories.

Perhaps Stanislaw Lem was the first science fiction writer to predict the end of paper books. This happened in 1961 in his novel *Return from the Stars*, 40 years before the first attempts to create e-books. Lem envisioned them as small crystals with memory that could be inserted into a device somewhat similar to a modern tablet. He called it an "opton." Today we call it

a Kindle.

Already in the early 50s, Lem suggested that to increase the efficiency of powerful computers, they should be united into a single network. In his *Dialogues* (1957), he called this direction of development quite realistic: the gradual accumulation of “information machines” and “memory banks” would lead to the emergence of “national, continental, and then interplanetary computer networks.”

Lem foresaw a future in which all people would have quick access to a giant virtual database, the “trionic library.” In his novel *The Magellanic Cloud* (1955), he talks about what we call Google today.

Wil Wright, the developer of *The Sims*, one of the most successful games of all time, has repeatedly said that Lem was his main ideological inspiration. *The Cyberiad*, a series of short stories, tells the story of two robotic engineers, Trurl and Clapavius. The described state in a box became a source of inspiration for Wil Wright, who created a game in which each participant can create his own virtual world.

Stanislaw Lem convincingly depicted virtual reality (the so-called “phantomatics”) in 1964, long before many Western futurists began to seriously discuss this idea. In particular, in his book *The Sum of Technology*, the science fiction writer describes a “phantom generator” capable of creating an alternative reality that is difficult to distinguish from the “original.”

Bohdan-Ihor Antonych: “A Kid with the Sun in his Pocket”

Ukrainian poet, prose writer, translator, literary critic. He was born on October 5, 1909, in the village of Novytsia, Kingdom of Galicia and Volhynia, Austria-Hungary. He died on July 6, 1937, in Lviv.

The writer was officially banned and became more widely known only in the mid-1960s. The poet’s work had a significant impact on contemporary Ukrainian poetry, as the author enriched philosophical lyrics with religious and cosmic motifs, added Lemko folklore and pagan symbolism. Antonych’s poetic style was greatly influenced by Omar Khayyam and Walt Whitman.

Antonych wrote prose works; he actively translated; he was the author of literary criticism and theoretical and literary articles. From 1928 to 1933, Antonych was a student at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv.

B.-I. Antonych introduced a mythosophical attitude to nature into his poetry, describing nature as full of images of Lemko paganism, a philosophical understanding of life, the laws of which are “the same for everyone.” Antonych’s poetry is rich in unexpected visual, color, and sound images, in unexpected pictorial and musical associations. His artistic perception of the world appears through the prism of music. Antonych’s poetry is a vivid example of Ukrainian modernism.

Bohdan-Ihor Antonych is the author of six collections of poetry: *Greetings of Life*, *Great Harmony*, *Three Rings*, *The Book of Lion*, *Rotations*, *Green Gospel*. Some of them were published after the artist’s death. In addition, Antonych left behind an unfinished novel, *On the Other Bank*, which became known from his drafts.

The poet’s poem *God was born on a sleigh* is performed as a well-known carol. It was first set to music by Ukrainian bandura player Vasyl Zhdankin.

On November 20, 2016, a monument to Bohdan-Ihor Antonych was unveiled in Lviv on Horodotska Street, in the park opposite the house where he lived.

Andriy Sodomora: “Master of Translation”

He was born on December 1, 1937. Graduated from Lviv University. D. in Philology, Professor of the Department of Classical Philology at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Member of the National Union of Writers of Ukraine, full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Winner of the Maksym Rylsky Prize, the Hryhoriy Kochur Literary Prize (2010), the Antonovych Literary Award, and the Mykhailo Vozniak Regional Prize. Honorary Citizen of Lviv (2012). He is a holder of the Order of Merit III degree.

Andriy Sodomora is the author of a large number of prose works: *Alone with the Word* (1999), *Anno Domini. The Year of God: Latin Inscriptions of Lviv* (2008), *Living Antiquity* (2009), *Tears of Things: Short Stories, Patterns, Meditations* (2010), *From Word to Heart, from Heart to Word* (2012), *Shevchenko's Garden and Franko's Field* (2015), *Aphoristic Essays* (2015), *Among the Lines of Both Old and New* (2023), *Under Another's Shadow* (2023).

Andriy Sodomora is an outstanding contemporary intellectual who discovered antiquity for the Ukrainian reader. He is known for his numerous translations into Ukrainian from Latin, Greek, and Roman works.

The writer studied at Lviv University at the Faculty of Classical Languages. However, at first he really wanted to enter the history department, but fate decided otherwise. According to the author, his first unexpected acquaintance with antiquity came through the interpretation of Mykola Zerov's texts. Andriy Sodomora began his translation career with the works of the Roman poet of the Golden Age, Horace. It was his poetry that the translator wanted to reproduce in Ukrainian. After his first successful attempts, Andriy Sodomora plunged into the whirlpool of translation.

The following famous Ukrainian writers studied at Lviv University: Markiyan Shashkevych, ethnographer and philologist, head of the Department of Ukrainian Literature and rector of the University Yakiv Holovatsky, historian and linguist Ivan Vahylevych, philosopher Petro Lodiy, Rostyslav Bratun, Dmytro Pavlychko, Roman Ivanychuk, Roman Fedoriv, Volodymyr Luchuk, Ihor Kalynets, and Iryna Kalynets.