

**Shevchenko Concert
Adelaide – 2017**

**«Шевченківський
Концерт – 2017»**

**Presented by Frank
Jaroslaw Fursenko**



Tribute to Taras Shevchenko



1814 - 1861



Taras Shevchenko



- Poet, writer, artist, ethnographer, folklorist and national bard of Ukraine.
- Born on 9 March 1814 in Moryntsi, Cherkasy region, Ukraine. Born into serfdom. Purchase his freedom in 1838.

- Studied art in the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, graduating in 1846.
- Published his first collection of poems, the *Kobzar*, in 1840.



- Arrested on 5 April 1847. Sentenced to a remote area of the Caspian Sea.
- Release in 1857. Not allowed to return to Ukraine.

- In 1860 the Academy of Arts recognized his mastery of engraving by declaring him an academician engraver.
- Died 10 March 1861 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- His remains were transferred to Kaniv in Ukraine.



Taras Shevchenko - the Artist



Shevchenko painted over 150 portraits



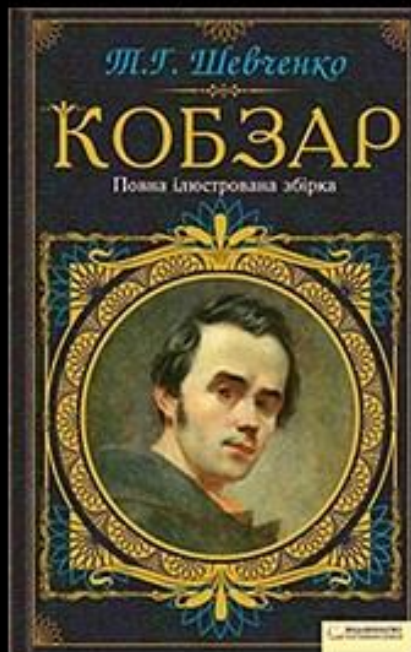


Shevchenko painted numerous landscapes and architectural monuments



Awarded 2 silver medals by the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg for his paintings before graduating. With *Kateryna* and *Gypsy Fortune Teller* – shown above - he introduced a new genre of painting.

Taras Shevchenko – the Poet



- The *Kobzar* – a collection of his poetry - marks the beginning of a new era in the development of Ukrainian literature and language.
- His famous poem, *Zapovit (Testament)*, has been translated into more than 60 languages.
- *Zapovit* has achieved a status similar to a national anthem amongst Ukrainians.

Taras Shevchenko – the Ethnographer



Despite its history, the Ukrainian language was remarkably uniform. Dialectic differences in Ukrainian were less than in German or British English.

The problem was the lack of a literary language based on the vernacular. It was slow to develop due to the prevalence of Old and Church Slavonic in its many various forms.

Shevchenko created the conditions that transformed Ukrainian literature into a fully functional modern literature.

Monuments to Taras Shevchenko



More than 600 statues located in prominent positions throughout Ukraine and many other countries.



In Ukraine, countless streets, squares, schools, learned societies and a university in Kyiv bear his name.



1884-1923 - Kaniv, Ukraine



Original monument marking Taras Shevchenko's grave - as pictured on an old postcard



Shevchenko National Preserve



First statue of Shevchenko in Ukraine's capital city.

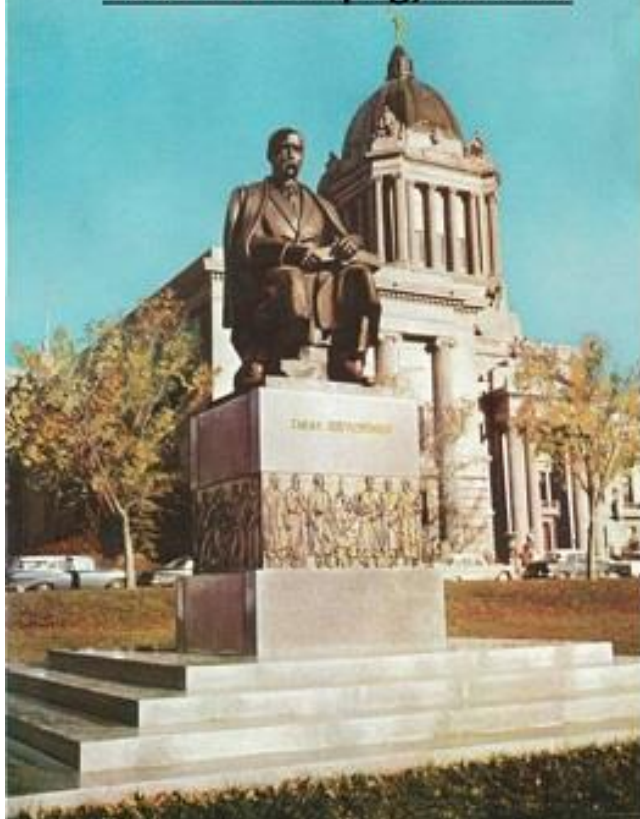
The unveiling was a major event attended by a large number of dignitaries.

On the eve of World War II the Soviet authorities who clearly understood what a powerful unifying figure Shevchenko was amongst Ukrainians tried belatedly to co-opt his name to serve Soviet propaganda.

Significant monuments to Shevchenko outside Ukraine

- Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Athens, Greece
- Bucharest, Romania
- Budapest, Hungary
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Encarnacion, Paraguay
- Minsk, Belarus
- Moscow, Russia
- Paris, France
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Prudentopolis, Brazil
- Ottawa, Canada
- Skopje, Rep of Macedonia
- Sofia, Bulgaria
- St. Petersburg, Russia
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Tbilisi, Georgia
- Vilnius, Lithuania
- Warsaw, Poland
- Washington, USA
- Winnipeg, Canada

1961 - Winnipeg, Canada



Unveiled by
John G. Diefenbaker,
Prime Minister of Canada,



Located in the grounds of
Manitoba's Parliament





1964
Washington
USA



Dwight G. Eisenhower the 34th U.S. President unveiled the monument



Harry Truman, the 33rd U.S. President was honorary head of the Shevchenko Monument Committee.



Extracts of speeches read at the opening ceremony

"I am pleased to add my voice to those honoring the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. We honor him for his rich contribution to the culture not only of Ukraine, which he loved so well and described so eloquently, but of the world. His work is a noble part of our historical heritage."

President John F. Kennedy, March 25, 1961



"He [Shevchenko] was more than a Ukrainian — he was a statesman and citizen of the world. He was more than a poet — he was a valiant crusader for the rights and freedom of men. He used verse to carry on a determined fight for freedom."

President Lyndon B. Johnson, 27 June 1964



1964 – Washington, USA - Addendum

George H. W. Bush, the 41st US President, at the President's news conference on May 6, 1992, recited Taras Shevchenko's words which are placed on the monument to the poet in Washington, D.C.



William "Bill" J. Clinton, the 42nd U.S. president spoke about Taras Shevchenko and his literary legacy in a speech made at the White House on November 22, 1994 during the State Dinner for President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine.



1964 – Moscow, Russia



Unveiled on 10th of June, 1964 to commemorate Shevchenko's 150th birth anniversary.

This 14-metre monument is located on a square in front of the Radisson Royal Hotel – formerly called "Hotel Ukraine".





1967 – Curitiba, Brazil

Located on Praça da Ucrânia (Ukraine Square) in the city of Curitiba (pop: 1.8m) in the state of Parana. Unveiled by the Mayor of Curitiba, Omar Sabagga, representing the Governor of Parana.



1971 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Unveiled before 13,000 people including many leaders of Ukrainian organisations from North and South America and Europe. In attendance - the Canadian and U.S Ambassadors. Located in Third of February Park in Palermo, one of the most prestigious suburbs in Buenos Aires.

1976 - Encarnación, Paraguay



Unveiled by Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, President of Paraguay. Located in Gen. Alfredo Stroessner Square.



The Paraguayan Army Band played the national anthems of both Paraguay and Ukraine. Numerous flags of both countries adorned the square.

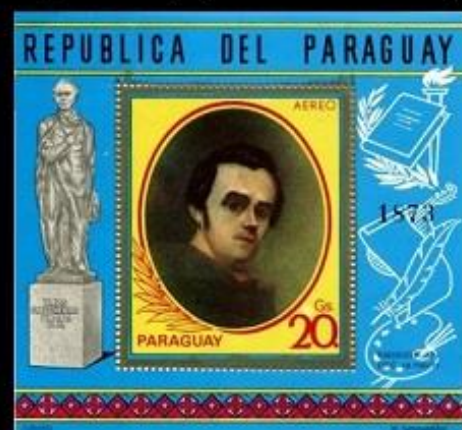
In attendance - the Mayor of Encarnación, the Governor of Misiones, a neighbouring Argentinian Province with a substantial Ukrainian community, and leaders of Ukrainian organisations from North and South America.

1976 - Encarnación, Paraguay - Addendum

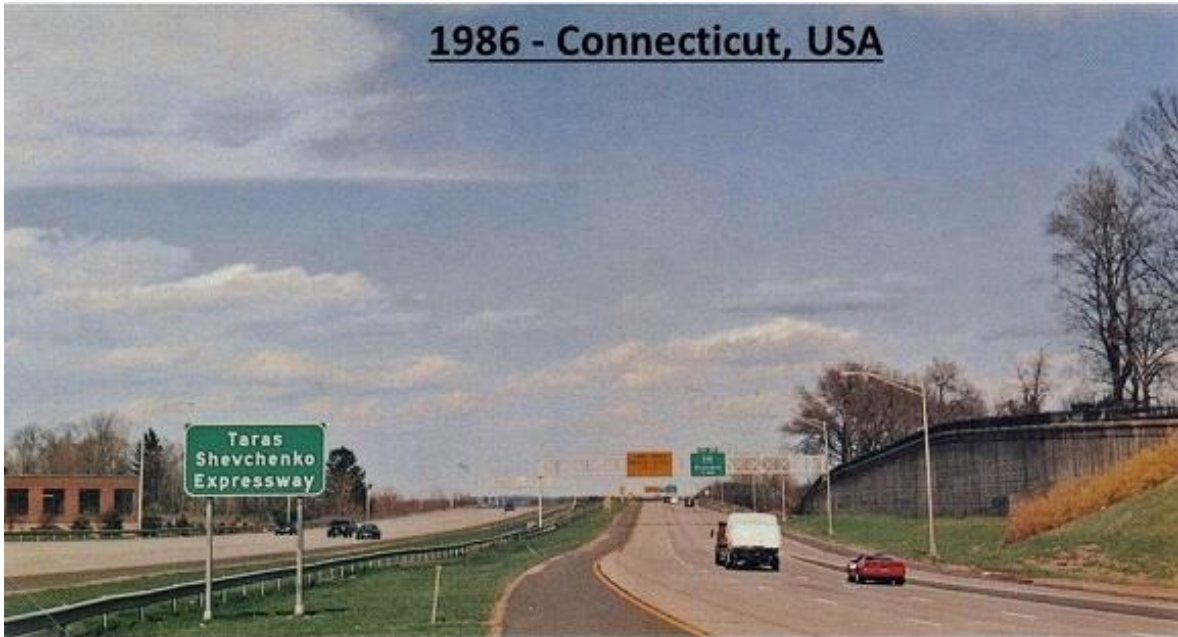
The Ukrainian community in Paraguay was small – several thousand – and mainly rural. They had very little political influence in Paraguay.

German-speaking Mennonites who had emigrated from Ukraine many years earlier had considerable political influence in Paraguay. It was their intervention that enabled the erection of a monument to Shevchenko and a commemorative postage stamp (issued in 1971) honouring Shevchenko.

Taras Shevchenko is a unifying figure amongst all people with a Ukrainian connection - even German-speaking Mennonites.



1986 - Connecticut, USA



The Taras Shevchenko Expressway connecting New Britain with Newington in the state of Connecticut was officially opened by William O'Neill, Governor of Connecticut and Senator Harper on 17 July 1986.

2000 - St. Petersburg, Russia



Unveiled by the Presidents of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma and Russia, Vladimir Putin.

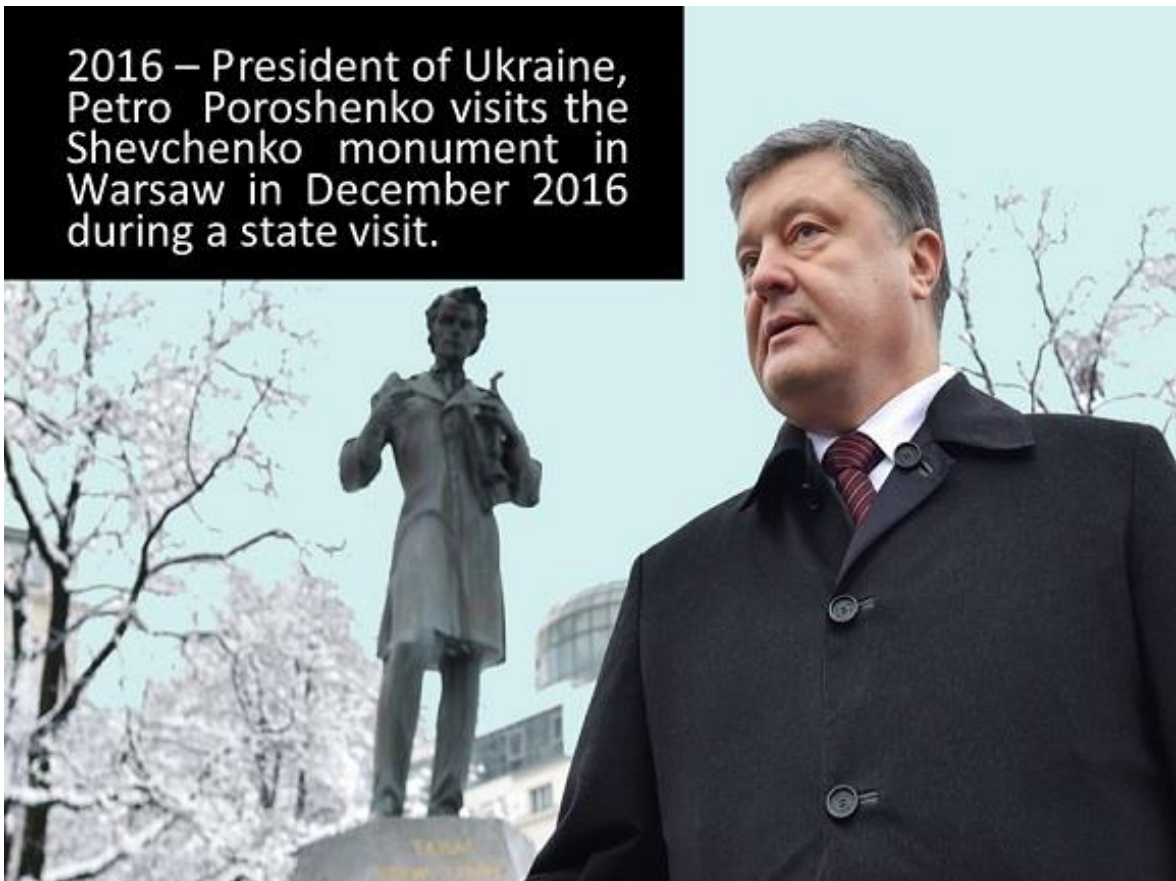


2002 – Warsaw, Poland



Unveiled by the Foreign Ministers
of Poland and Ukraine.
Located: Skwer Tarasa Szewczeni
(Taras Shevchenko Square)
500m from Belwederski Palace.

2016 – President of Ukraine,
Petro Poroshenko visits the
Shevchenko monument in
Warsaw in December 2016
during a state visit.



2002 – Minsk, Belarus



Unveiled by Oleksandr Omelchenko, a former Mayor of Kyiv, and Mykhail Pavlov, Head of Minsk municipality.

Located in “Степановском саду” (Stepanovsky Park) next to the Ukrainian Embassy.

A boulevard in Minsk is named after Taras Shevchenko – transliterated as ‘bulvar Šaučenki’ on Google maps.



bulvar Šaučenki

2002 – Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Unveiled by Leonid Kuchma, the President of Ukraine, during a state visit to Uzbekistan.

The mosaic titled “the Great Kobzar” forms a background to the monument.

Located on the premises of a school named after Shevchenko (110 Maktab), on Taras Shevchenko Street.



Taras Shevchenko Ko'chasi

2007 - Budapest, Hungary



Unveiled by the Presidents of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko and Hungary, Laszlo Solyom.



The park containing the statue was renamed Taras Shevchenko Square in 2013.



2009 - Prague, Czech Republic



Unveiled by the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko



Located in Kinsky Square.

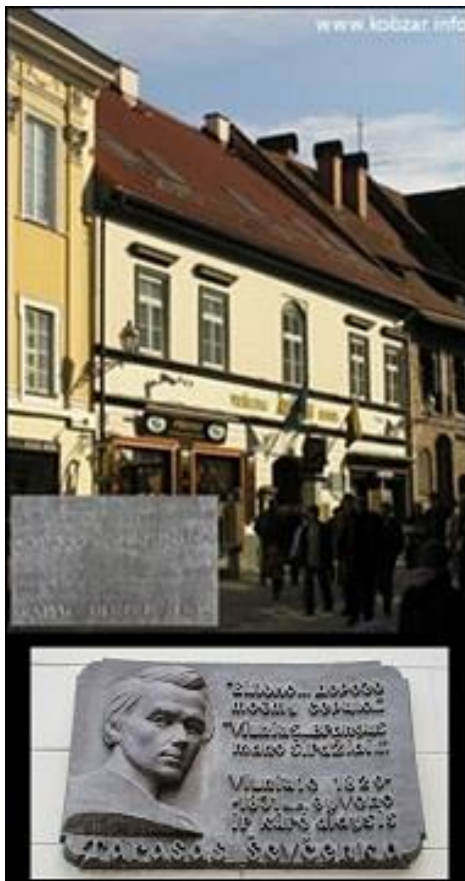


The first full and non-censored publication of Kobzar by Shevchenko was released in 1876 in Prague.



2011 - Vilnius, Lithuania

Unveiled by Irena Degutiene, Speaker of Seimas, twice acting Prime Minister of Lithuania and Volodymyr Lytvyn Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament)



Vilnius, Lithuania

Shevchenko lived and worked in 1829-31 at 10 Piles Street in Vilnius. A memorial plaque dedicated to the Ukrainian poet is located at the front of this house. A street in Vilnius is named after Taras Shevchenko.





1952 – Herestreu Park, Bucharest, Romania



2006 - Goudi district, Athens, Greece



2008 - Chaoyang Park, Beijing, China



2007 – Tbilisi, Georgia

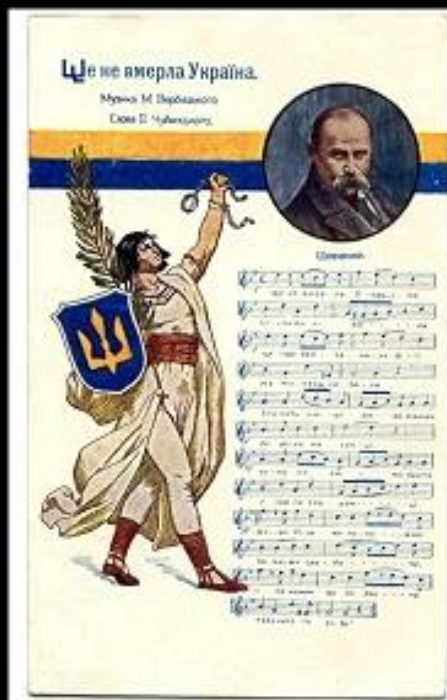


2009 - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia



2009 - Renaissance Square, Sofia, Bulgaria

Taras Shevchenko – the Legacy



Taras Shevchenko is a powerful unifying figure amongst Ukrainians, regardless of religion, political persuasion and where they live.

His monuments are often a rallying point for Ukrainians in times of turmoil or in times of celebration.

Taras Shevchenko is universally recognised as a symbol of Ukrainian inspiration for freedom.