

effectively put it out of reach (except for libraries) for the students who must now proceed with the detailed studies necessary to restore fully this richly gifted poet to his rightful place in the history of Russian verse.

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LEKTSII Z ISTORII UKRAINS'KOI LITERATURY (1798–1870). By *Mykola Zerov*. Edited by *Doreen W. Gorsline* and *Oksana Solovey*. Published for the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press, 1977. 271 pp. \$3.95, paper.

Publication of any of Mykola Zerov's (1880–1941) works is noteworthy, and this detailed historical survey of eighteenth-century Ukrainian literature therefore constitutes a major publishing event. The author held a unique position in the cultural life of the 1920s and 1930s. An outstanding Neoclassicist poet, eminent translator, literary critic and scholar, Zerov was also a most effective lecturer with a large following.

Lektsii represents one step in Zerov's plan to publish a textbook on the history of modern Ukrainian literature. In 1928–29, his students at Kiev University devoutly took notes of his erudite lectures and then submitted the text for his elaboration and editing. The censors allowed only three hundred copies of the work to be published in mimeograph form. After Zerov's arrest in 1935 and subsequent death in a Soviet labor camp, no copies of the manuscript could be found in the West until recently, when one appeared in Israel and led to this publication.

In his major works, *Nove ukrains'ke pys'menstvo* (1924), *Do dzherel* (1926), and *Vid Kulisha do Vynnychenka* (1929), Zerov presented studies of various segments of modern Ukrainian literature. In *Nove ukrains'ke pys'menstvo* and *Vid Kulisha do Vynnychenka*, he covered parts of the same period as in *Lektsii*, which primarily discusses the Classical and the Romantic periods from Kotliarevskiy to Fed'kovych. *Nove ukrains'ke pys'menstvo* provides a more analytic approach to the pre-Romantic works, and in *Lektsii* Zerov greatly extends its scope with a thorough discussion of the Romantic writers. *Lektsii* follows a periodization begun in *Nove ukrains'ke pys'menstvo*, which is presented in a historical setting, and includes a comprehensive stylistic analysis and a comparative approach to Slavic literary trends and works. Because it originated in the form of lectures, Zerov's methodology consists of introducing the reader to other leading literary critics' and historians' opinions, correcting some of their misconceptions, and then offering his own interpretations and criticisms.

Many critical works quoted by Zerov had to be written in Russian. The editors of *Lektsii* have supplied translations only of the lengthier quotations. *Lektsii* was initially aimed at readers trained in Russian as well as Ukrainian, but to contemporary readers without a knowledge of Russian, the numerous Russian quotations might prove to be too taxing and onerous. The quotations and poems presented from other literatures should have been translated. In view of the supplementary nature of *Lektsii*, if an English edition is considered, a coordination and incorporation of *Lektsii* with *Nove ukrains'ke pys'menstvo* and *Vid Kulisha do Vynnychenka* would be most advantageous.

Not unlike D. Čyževsky's *A History of Ukrainian Literature* (1975) and its Ukrainian edition (1956), the recent publication of Zerov's *Lektsii* is indeed a rare and priceless contribution to the basic study of Ukrainian literary history.

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