

Svitlana LUPIJ

Ph. D. in Art Criticism, professor, Chair of History and Theory of Art

LVIV SCULPTORS MONUMENTS TO TARAS SHEVCHENKO

Ukrainian people together with all progressive mankind solemnly celebrated the 175-th anniversary of T. Shevchenko birthday. Our people feel infinite love and a deep respect to Kobzar who is a thinker and a public figure, a citizen, an artist and a brilliant seer.

The image of T. Shevchenko occupies a place of honour in the Ukrainian art, first of all in sculpture. The monuments to T. Shevchenko which were unveiled during the XX th century in cities and villages of Ukraine including monuments in Lviv, became the place of worship, the symbol of indestructibility of freedom-loving spirit of Ukrainian people.

The monuments to T. Shevchenko in Lviv are extremely special. They have long and sometimes dramatic history of the Ukrainian people struggle for freedom and independence.

During hard Austrian-Hungarian times T. Shevchenko jubilees were celebrated as nationally holiday with meetings and concerts. I. Franko took the floor at a lot of such meetings. He proceeded T. Shevchenko`s affair of the liberation movement of Ukrainian people on a new stage. It was I. Franko who initiated the erection of the monument to T. Shevchenko in Lviv near the house of the scientific society named after T. Shevchenko.

The author of the bronze bust was a famous Polish sculptor K. Hodebsky. But the Austian administration did not permit its erection. For a long time they couldn`t get agreement with a place of a monument arrangement. In spirit of efforts of the progressive Ukrainian community the monument was not erected. Nowadays the bust is kept in the Lviv Museum of Ukrainian Art.

Monuments to T. Shevchenko appeared in Lviv region in 1911-1914. Chiefly they were busts erected on the pyramid-shaped pedestal bases like on his grave in Kaniv.

The first monument to T. Shevchenko in Lviv region was unveiled in village Lysynychny, nowadays Pustomyty region, on the 9

th of March 1911 on the occasion of the 97 th anniversary of the poet birthday.

In the ancient Zvenygorod (Pustomyivsky region) the monument to T. Shevchenko was unveiled on the eve of the 100 th anniversary of the poet`s birthday. This monument was solemnly unveiled on the 10 th March in 1914. In seven months in September 1914 the bust was taken away. The villager M. Martyniv hid it in his house. But in 1915 during the first world war both the house and bust were destroyed. In 1926-1927 at the years of Poland rule the village community decided to restore a monument to T. Shevchenko. The monument foundation has been already laid, when the Polish police made villagers stop their work, referring to an absence of the project.

To unveil the monument to T. Shevchenko in Zvenygorod became possible only on new historical conditions.

The dream of the villagers came true on the 9 th of March 1963 when the monument to the poet was unveiled in the village. The author of it was Lviv sculptor V. Odrehivsky.

In the village Horbachi (Pustomyivsky region) in March 1914 the monument to T. Shevchenko was unveiled on the occasion of the 100 th anniversary of the poet`s birthday. The author of the monument is T. Dzyndra. It is a bust on the stepped pedestral base. There is a cross on the facade side, below it there is a plate with prophetic poet`s words: "Ukraine will rise and dissipate the darkness of slavery".

To monument to T. Shevchenko in the village Zavadiiv (Strytsky region) has an interesting history. I. Franko initiated the monument`s erection. Money raised by villagers was not enough to interest ambitious Lviv sculptors in this commission. A sculptor A. Vydra from Striy created this monument almost disinterestedly. The monument was erected in 1914 on the plot which a villager P. Leshko gave for this purpose. The statue was installed on a 3-stepped pedestal. In 1939 the statue was taken down. A school teacher K. Shmidt hid it in his house and it was kept there till 1946 then the statue was reinstalled on the pedestal. In 1989 a new monument was unveiled in Zavadiiv. It was dedicated to the 175 th anniversary of the poet`s birthday. The author of the monument

is a young Lviv sculptor V. Odrehivsky who worthily continues the traditions of Lviv sculpture school.

The idea to create a monument to T. Shevchenko in Striy appeared in 1910. It was initiated by Ukrainian musical chorus society "Striy Boyan". The society raised money for a monument but it was decided to give money for a monument in Kyiv.

The history of the monument to the poet in Vynnyky is very dramatic. The first bust was unveiled here in 1903. The author of the monument was an unknown sculptor from A. Yavorivsky's studio. The bust stood there till 1919, but during the known military events Polish soldiers shot the bust with a machine gun. In 1923 the community of Vynnyky petitioned for the bust restoration. A specially formed committee was entrusted with raising money and petitioning for a permission to unveil the monument. The bust to T. Shevchenko was created by Lviv sculptor A. Koverko. On the 30th of May in 1924 the bust was unveiled. But it was not the only tribute to the memory of the great poet. In 1964 according to a project of three engineers of Vynnyky tobacco factory was made a wreath.

It consisted of 150 brass leaves cut by a smith V. Bashtevytsch. Lviv carver V. Stratiychuk engraved on the plate: "To the great poet and artist of Ukraine T. Shevchenko in honor of the 150th anniversary of his birthday from grateful Halichians". In Kaniv after this wreath went not only Lvivites but also Kyiv poets, writers and artists. Later on V. Kasyan, a participant of this jubilee solemnity wrote: I was happy that I went after our wreath to T. Shevchenko's tomb because this wreath is native, because it is from Halicia.

It is dear because it is extraordinary. This wreath will tell all museum visitors in Kaniv how one should love his motherland and his great poet.

In 1936 the villagers of Lubyane (Mykolaiv region) initiated unveiling of a monument to T. Shevchenko at their cost. The author of this monument was stonecutter J. Nykolyshyn. The monument composition has a pyramid form. T. Shevchenko was depicted in a hat. The pedestal was decorated with leaves and bunches of grapes. On the facade side of the monument such words were written:

"Burry me, then rise you up
And break your heavy chains
And water with the tyrants' blood

The freedom you have gained”.

Besides monuments to Kobzar, on the eve of the First World War a number of memorial plates were unveiled usually with such a call: rise you up and break your heavy chains. Such plate was fitted in the rock in the village Urych on the 30 th of June 1912. The memorial plate`s unveiling in Sambir was dedicated to the 100 th anniversary of the poet`s birthday. On this occasion the villagers of Dobryany (Striy region) planted oak trees in March 1914.

The first monuments to T. Shevchenko unveiled in Lviv region at people`s own will in grave conditions of foreign occupation is an expressive affirmation of their love to the poet and their understanding of his poetry.

The image of T. Shevchenko takes up an important place in a creative work of Lviv sculptors in the Soviet period. Analyzing monumental and easel composition one can see how gradually sculptors approached to the understanding of the poet, how they sought the means of embodiment in his image, the heroic and adamant soul of Ukrainian people.

The first monument to T. Shevchenko in Lviv region in the Soviet period was unveiled in 1940 in Boryslav. During the Soviet period 50 monuments were unveiled here (the most monuments were created in 1960s — 32 monuments, in 1950 s — 12, in 1970-1971 — 4, 1989 — 2). Such number of monuments can be explained both by celebration of two poet`s jubilee dates 1960 and 1964 and by general spiritual enthusiasm after the XX-th and XXII-nd congresses of the CPSU. By the way all 12 monuments to T. Shevchenko in 1950s were installed in the post Stalin period. The first one was unveiled in 1953 in Sambir on T. Shevchenko street. Another monument to T. Shevchenko created by Je. Dzyndra was unveiled in Sambir in 1954.

The authors of many monuments were V.P. Odrehivsky (in Radehiv, Hradivka, Soposhyn, Horodok), V. Skolozdra (in Skole, Lany, Slavske, PISOCHNE), Ja. Chayka (in Brodsky, Lopatyn), D. Krvavych (in Slovita), L. Lesyuk (in Volytsya — Hnizdychivska), V.V. Odrehivsky (in Zavadiv), B. Romanets` (in Davydiv). In Lviv not far from a secondary school № 63 there is a bust to T. Shevchenko created by Je. Mys`ko and Ja. Chayka.

On Lychakivsky street (Lviv) in 1956 a monument to the poet was created and installed by V. Odrehivsky.

All these monuments can be considered to be successful. But uniformity of form decisions excites a doubt. Under a form one should not understand only methods of plastic modelling but a complex of methods of art image creating. Very often the monuments are different from one another only that T. Shevchenko keeps a book in his left or right hand or that he is dressed in a long or short coat. Some monuments are almost similar, as for example the monument in the village Lopatyn (the author I Ja. Chayka, 1961) and in Rava-Rus`ka (the author is V. Borysenko, 1960). This figure of the poet is draped by the coat thrown over the shoulder and his empty sleeves produce unpleasant impression. The method of a thrown coat over the shoulder is borrowed as is generally known from classicism where by the way it was an element of figurative characteristic. With this method aristocratism of a heroic was emphasized but for a treating of a revolutionary poet`s image this method is irrelevant and it looks like anachromism. The poet is often depicted at an advanced age, dismal what is for some reason or other considered as a sign of inner concentration. First of all this is peculiar for busts which are deprived of emotional inspiration.

The most success in determination of the monumental image of T. Shevchenko gained those sculptors who conceived to correlate a literary idea of the monument with the plastic one. It is quite naturally that in sculpture the idea is realized first of all as a plastic idea. Thus D. Krvavytch in his monument to T. Shevchenko in Slovita (1965) treated the determination of an artistic image in a quite different aspect. The poet was depicted as a young man full of violent youthful energy. In his figure and in his look one can feel firmness and conviction of his rightness. The image of Kobzar is inspired with enthusiasm. The expressive composition, an active rythm of the silhouette convey the poet`s revolutionary purposefulness, dramatic effect of his struggle for freedom of his people.

Unfortunately in many towns and villages of our region there are still a certain number of copied busts which don`t have any artistic value. It is high time to substitute them by true artistic works using projects to the poet`s monument submitted to the competition in Lviv.

This year in Davydiv (Lviv region) the monument to Kobzar was unveiled (the author is V. Romanets). The sculptor used a successful method of a constructive determination of a good and complex plastic volume. The poet's figure appears as if from an unfolded book which completes the pedestal base. This gives a spacious expressiveness and compositional completeness to a monument. The image of young T. Shevchenko is inspired with romanticism. In this work the author managed to convey an expressiveness of the poet's face, a convincing gesture of the hands which point to the book. Looking at the monument one can feel how outer plastic movement, created by the unfolded wings of pages gradually going out, develops into inner emotional inspiration of powerful harmoniously linked volumes.

Soon in Lviv region another monument to T. Shevchenko will be unveiled (the author is V. Odrehivsky). One wants to hope that the monument to Kobzar will be installed in the centre of Lviv in the place where it should be.

Лупій С. Шевченкіана львівських скульпторів.
1990. — Вип. 1. — С. 36-42.

Анотація. У статті мова йде про пам'ятники Т. Шевченкові, створені львівськими скульпторами протягом ХХ ст. Розглядаються твори народних скульпторів, які встановлювали пам'ятники Кобзареві на Львівщині на гроші, зібрані сільськими громадами, та монументи, створені відомими львівськими митцями — Я. Чайкою, Є. Дзиндрою, В. Одрехівським, Д. Кравичем та ін.