

ЕPOCH-MAKING EDITION

Faculty at the Department of Ukrainian Literature at the Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, for the first time since 1953, has published a unique three-volume (four books) collection of works by the classic of Ukrainian writers Vasyl Stefanyk on the occasion of his 150th birthday which will be celebrated in May of 2021. The head of the editorial board of this publication and chair of the Department of Ukrainian Literature, Professor Stepan Khorob¹, assembled a team of Stefanyk scholars, researchers of Ukrainian literature, translators, and linguists to develop jointly the concept of this project with the goal of preserving the aesthetic and epistolary heritage of this great 20th century Ukrainian novelist. Teams formed for each volume and appropriate editors and authors of the scholarly apparatus were appointed. From the very beginning, each team sought out first editions of Vasyl Stefanyk's work (Department of Manuscripts and Textology of the Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature, Department of Archives of the Vasyl Stefanyk State Library of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Lviv), epistolary manuscripts, new archival materials and documents. The editorial teams sought to preserve the author's original style in all documents, be as comprehensive, faithful and accurate as possible by including all of his works without any reductions, corrections, misinterpretations, as corrective ones to the three-volume edition of the writer's legacy in 1949-1953, and other partial attempts of the last century. These principles are already reflected in the standard edition of the prose of the writer edited by Yuri Hamorak in 1948 and published in Regensburg by Ukrainske Slovo publishing house.

Having determined the format of the *The Collected Works of Vasyl Stefanyk*, the editorial board laid out of plan for the continuity and sequence of preparation for publication of each of the volumes. The first book of the first volume, compiled and edited by Professor Roman Pikhmanets, contains Stefanyk's biographical and autobiographical works, his poetry in prose, short stories, various editions and versions of his individual works (previously distorted by Soviet censorship), as well as unfinished works, little known journalistic and literary-critical articles of the novelist and materials from his speeches, greetings, and appearances. In extensive notes, the compiler specifies the time, place of publication of Vasyl Stefanyk's prose, his speeches, numerous appendices, as well as provides explanations of dialect words used by the writer in his texts. The volume concludes with a thorough afterword by the compiler entitled "The Metaphysics of Blood."

¹ Василь Стефаник. Зібр. тв.: у 3-х т. у 4-х кн. / редкол.: С.І.Хороб (голова) та ін. Івано-Франківськ: Місто НВ, 2020.

The second book of the first volume, compiled and edited by associate professor Yevhen Baran, systematizes the epistolary of Vasyl Stefanyk, a chronological index of his letters, as well as notes and appendices. It is worth noting that in this volume many letters (almost 400 of them) are published for the first time: the compiler found them in archives, in numerous publications from the last century, in private collections and in the holdings of the Stefanyk family in Lviv. The volume concludes with a capacious afterword by the compiler entitled "Vasyl Stefanyk: My Literature is in my Letters."

The second volume, compiled and edited by Professor Stepan Khorob, presents the works of Vasyl Stefanyk in foreign languages and includes translations of the writer's prose into different languages and at different times. First there is a corpus of translations into Slavic languages, beginning with Polish, the first foreign language to introduce the Ukrainian author to a European readership. Then a corpus of translations into Romance and Germanic languages as well as the most recent (2017) translations of Stefanyk's works into Chinese follows. Unfortunately, the compiler was unable to include translations in all languages due to limited space. This volume concludes with the afterword in Ukrainian and English, "Vasyl Stefanyk in Translation," in which the compiler offers a thorough commentary on Stefanyk as a translator, translations of the writer's works into other languages, and the specifics of foreign interpretation of Slavic, Romance and Germanic prose.

And, finally, the third volume is a lifetime collection of works by Vasyl Stefanyk. Its compilers, Professor Roman Pikhmanets and graduate student Ivanna Yurchuk, deliberately selected six collections of short stories by the prose writer, which were published during his lifetime. In this reprint, they have been restored and carefully systematized in chronological order. The compilers of all volumes consciously adhered to this principle. It should be added that each book features on its title page a portrait of Vasyl Stefanyk by different artist, starting with Vasyl Kasiyan, Olga Pleshkan and ending with Carpathian artists Volodymyr Loboda and Mykola Boechko; the first three books include a rich collection of illustrations including photographs and drawings from various periods.

Finally, it should be noted that such a rich and luxurious publication was made possible by the support of Rector Ihor Tsependa of the Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University and especially with the financial support of the regional council as a part of the "Celebration of the 150th anniversary of Vasyl Stefanyk in 2021." The publication of this four-book work by Vasyl Stefanyk is indeed a fitting start to the 150th anniversary of the writer.

Leonid Rudnytzky, Philadelphia, PA, USA