

## To the readers

The new issue of our journal presents a list of the current research topics of interest to the reader, and which deserve further discussion. Most draw attention to the role and place of literature in the discourse on the Russian-Ukrainian war, which is still going on in 2025. The journal has two traditional chapters – *Cultural and mass media studies* and *Literary studies*. It should be pointed out that such structuring is relative, as the articles published here are predominantly interdisciplinary. The Editorial Board admits that these articles address a wide range of issues, thus encouraging careful and multifaceted reflections.

In this issue, we publish research that emerged from the reports presented during the International Scientific Conference titled *Cultural resistance. Ukrainian studies in conditions of war*, which took place at our university on May 16–17, 2024. Organizing this conference proved an interesting and valuable experience for the Department of Ukrainian Studies in the Institute of East Slavic Philology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. It is important to mention that we also owe the success of the conference to our partners. Among these are the Slavistic Commission of the Poznań Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Viadrina Center for Polish and Ukrainian Studies of the University of Viadrina, Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine, and the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

The chapter *Cultural and mass media studies* includes four articles. **Joanna Bobula**, a researcher from Krakow, has dedicated her study to the outstanding scenographer Danylo Lider (1917–2002), who played a great role in the history of Ukrainian theatre in the 20th century. The author underlines his original aesthetic conception, providing a persuasive argument that Lider successfully realized his brave creative ideas in the difficult circumstances of social realism, and now his students are successfully continuing his aesthetic quest. Our regular author **Oksana Pukhonska** this time evaluates a documentary book by the American author Megan Buskey. It transpires that Buskey – as a descendant of European emigrants – wrote this book to answer the unspoken questions concerning her lineage, but in the process of implementing the idea, she herself learned about many taboo pages in the history of contemporary Ukraine. This allowed her to understand Ukrainian identity in a different way, which is assessed here from the temporal (generational), geographical, and mental distance.

The subject of **Myroslava Rudyk's** research is writer's blogs and their role in communicating with the readers. The author is convinced that in our time, dominated by digital technologies, writers should actively use all the resources available to them. The blog is a convenient form that facilitates communication with the readers, but also helps writers to express their civic position and to raise other topics of important to social and cultural life. It is obvious that the blogs of Ukrainian writers have become significantly more active during the current war. The logical conclusion of this chapter is **Lyudmyla Tarnashynska's** article *Culture as the antithesis of "world evil": transformation of challenges, questions, proposals*. Reflections on the essence of culture and its relationship to social evil did not arise by chance: the author is inevitably led to them by her emotional assessments of the war, which she personally experienced when deciding to stay in Kyiv. Tarnashynska takes as her basis the assessments of the prominent Ukrainian philosopher Serhii Krymskyi (1930–2010), as well as comments on some of his theses, and explains their relevance in modern conditions.

The second chapter of the journal consists of articles that represent research on literature. **Tetiana Belimova** from Kyiv University analyzes Yevhenia Kuznetsova's novel *The ladder* (*Drabyna*). The author evaluates this work as a "refugee novel", thus placing it in the discourse of refugee culture that emerged after 2022, when mass migration of Ukrainians to Europe occurred as a result of hostilities in their land. Military issues are also represented in a thorough article by **Olena Romanenko** from the same university. The subject of this work is diaries of the Russian-Ukrainian war. Evaluating a wide array of diary prose, the Romanenko suggests considering it in three aspects: 1) an autobiographical document, 2) a collective confession, and 3) an archive of memory. This is especially noteworthy, since there are currently no systematic works on war prose.

The article by **Yaroslav Polishchuk** offers an overview of the poetry which has become a response to the military events of recent years. He presents the great interest in this kind of literary creativity, identifies the reasons behind this, and also describes the main features of military poems. This poetry reflects not so much the realities of war as the borderline states of the psyche and existential experiences of the authors. **Antonina Tymchenko** develops this theme, recreating an image of one poet, namely Maksym Kryvtsov (1990–2024). The work of this author, who recently died in the war, became a symbol of youth poetry of the war. The researcher emphasizes the humanistic pathos of these poems.

The next two articles refer to prominent phenomena of Ukrainian literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. A young researcher from Lviv, **Dzvenyslava Senyshyn**, compares two classical figures in Ukrainian and Polish literature – Bolesław Prus and Ivan Franko. She compares the novels *The great noise* by Franko and *The out-post* by Prus, revealing their connection in the context of different aesthetic strategies – realism and modernism. **Vira Prosalova** and **Yaroslava Hryhoshkina** offer

an interesting perspective on post-war émigré literature. The researchers analyze the pseudonyms of Ukrainian writers who found themselves emigrating during World War II. They comment on the various motives that influenced the choice of pseudonyms: whether practical or patriotic. As some pseudonyms demonstrate, emigrants sought to preserve their national identity abroad.

The articles published in this issue of the journal expand the thematic range of modern Ukrainian studies. This is especially relevant in the context of Russia's ongoing military aggression against Ukraine, the goal of which is not only to occupy certain territories of this country, but also to destroy the basic humanitarian values of Ukrainian society. Educational and cultural institutions – universities, schools, museums, libraries – have been subject to total threat. Thus, Ukrainian studies are an important argument in the polemic with enemies who deny the meaning of the existence of Ukrainian culture. The materials we have published confirm this assessment.

*Yaroslav Polishchuk, Anna Horniatko-Szumilowicz*