

The literary and artistic upsurge of the 20s and early 30s of the twentieth century contributed to the emergence of a whole generation of artists who sought to shape a new Ukrainian culture, break down stereotypes, and overcome ideological restrictions. Literature, theater, painting, cinema, and music – all developed with unprecedented vigor, but this surge of creativity caused concern for the repressive system.

The Executed Renaissance is not just a historical period, but the tragic fate of an artistic generation whose freedom of thought and expression contradicted the dogmas of the Soviet totalitarian regime. The Kharkiv Slovo House, where prominent personalities lived, became a kind of symbol of the gradual liquidation of the Ukrainian intelligentsia.

Mykola Khvylovy (real name: Fitiliov, 1893–1933) was an iconic figure of this era, one of the founders of post-revolutionary Ukrainian prose, a poet and publicist. His career began with the poetry collections "Youth" and "Dawn Symphonies," but he gained real recognition as a master of the prose genre and an ideological publicist. The main motives of his work were the history of Ukraine, national identity and cultural development.

Khvylovy played a crucial role in shaping the literary environment of his time, becoming a co-founder and inspiration for the influential literary organizations Hart (a union of Ukrainian proletarian writers), Prolitfront (the Proletarian Literary Front), and the Free Academy of Proletarian Literature (VAPLITE). The academy brought together leading representatives of the Ukrainian intelligentsia, including

Commemorative coin

THE EXECUTED RENAISSANCE. MYKOLA KHVYLOVY



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Pavlo Tychyna, Yurii Yanovskyi, Mykola Kulish, Les Kurbas, and others.

The writer was sincerely concerned about the future of Ukrainian culture. His Ukraine-centrism and desire for independent cultural development came into sharp conflict with imperial policy. In the late 1920s, he and his associates were closely monitored. The arrests of his friends, including Mykhailo Yalovy, deeply affected the artist. The Holodomor (artificial famine) of 1932–1933 finally undermined his mental strength.

"YALOVY's arrest was the execution of an entire generation... For what? For being the most sincere communists? I just don't get it. First of all, I, Mykola Khvylovy, am responsible for YALOVY's Generation."

13 May 1933. Apartment No. 9 in Kharkiv's Slovo House. A shot was fired that ended the artist's life.

The death of 39-year-old Mykola Khvylovy became a symbol of the collapse of the ideals of Ukrainian national communism, the tragic end of an era of artists whose belief in their own ideals and creativity was incompatible with a totalitarian regime that sought to destroy any manifestation of independent thought and expression, turning art into a tool of propaganda and control.

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THE EXECUTED RENAISSANCE. MYKOLA KHVYLOVY

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Metal
nickel silver

Diameter
35.0 mm

Quality
special uncirculated

Edge
grooved

Mintage
up to 75,000