

**TARAS SHEVCHENKO; A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.
TRANSLATED FROM THE
RUSSIAN BY JOHN WEIR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649756841

Taras Shevchenko; a biographical sketch. Translated from the Russian by John Weir by Maxim Rylsky & Alexander Deutch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MAXIM RYLSKY & ALEXANDER DEUTCH

**TARAS SHEVCHENKO; A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.
TRANSLATED FROM THE
RUSSIAN BY JOHN WEIR**



TARAS SHEVCHENKO
Self-portrait, 1846 Oil

MAXIM RYLSKY, ALEXANDER DEUTCH

**TARAS
SHEVCHENKO**

A Biographical Sketch

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS
M O S C O W

Максим Рыльский, Александр Леонов

ТАРАС ШЕВЧЕНКО

Биографическая повесть

На украинском языке

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY JOHN WEIR
DESIGNED BY G. KLOTT

3948

52-112

100

100-112

1658103

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	7
CHILDHOOD	11
IN ST. PETERSBURG	17
THE POET	23
ARREST AND EXILE	49
FREEDOM ON A CHAIN	60
CALLING RUSSIA TO TAKE UP THE AXE	65
A GREAT PEOPLE'S POET	72



INTRODUCTION

Years and centuries pass, generations succeed one another, but great works of art remain, long surviving their creators, and the message they bring is fresh in each new age. The specific features of the life portrayed in them have long since become a thing of the past, but the ideas and thoughts of their authors are always directed towards the future, and in this lies their significance for the new generations.

The writings of the great poet of the Ukrainian people, Taras Grigoryevich Shevchenko, belong to that category of world-important works.

Not far from the ancient city of Kiev, on a green hill beside Kanev, stands the bronze figure of the poet. High above the Dnieper River his grave-mound rises on the spot where Shevchenko had dreamed of building a home for himself. The majestic monument faces the Dnieper, and as the motor vessel smoothly glides along the silver-crested waves, the passengers' eyes are glued to

the verdant hills and picturesque villages, and to the gigantic statue of the poet, lit up by the rays of the sun.

Truly, a poetic place was selected for the poet's eternal resting-place!

In 1845, when he was thirty, Shevchenko wrote in "My Testament":

*When I am dead, then bury me
In my beloved Ukraine,
My tomb upon a grave mound high
Amid the spreading plain,
So that the fields, the boundless steppes,
The Dnieper's plunging shore
My eyes could see, my ears could hear
The mighty river roar.*

In his mind's eye Shevchenko visualised the steep bank of the Dnieper. Endless fields stretch to the horizon, while below him clamour the waters of the broad river, its waves rising and hurling themselves at the bank with a roar. Then, rising above the rumble of the Dnieper's waves, voices full of wrath and hate are heard—the people rise up against their enslavers, they break their chains, and then, free, surge forward to a new, happy life. . . .

From the agitated heart of the inspired poet poured verses that were to become a behest to the people forever: