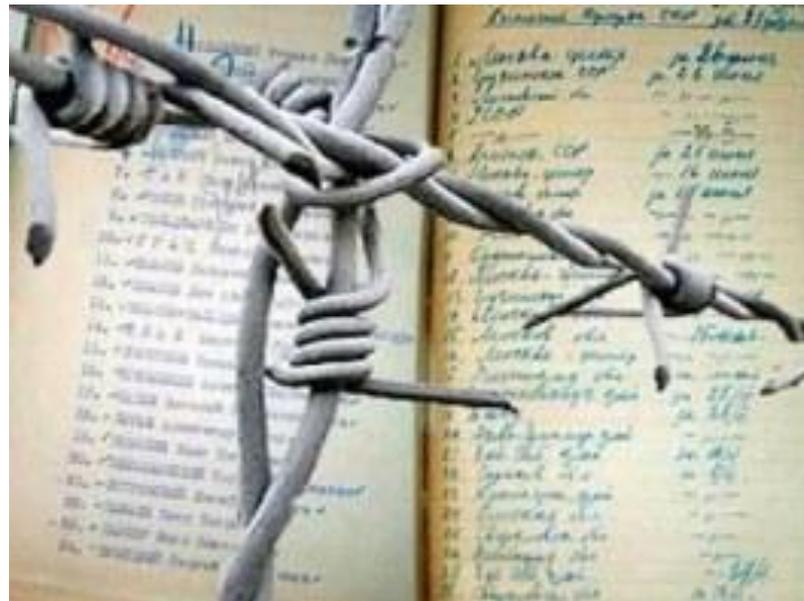


Hryhorij Kochur  
– one of the most  
prominent  
Ukrainian  
translators of the  
20th century

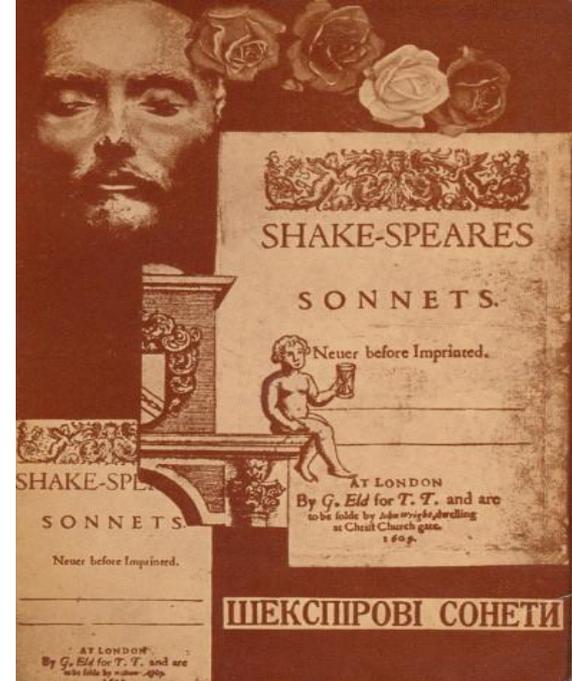


His translations span 26 centuries,  
three continents and almost 30  
literatures. The Soviets “awarded”  
him with 10 years in labor camps  
and the status of a dissident with no  
right to travel.

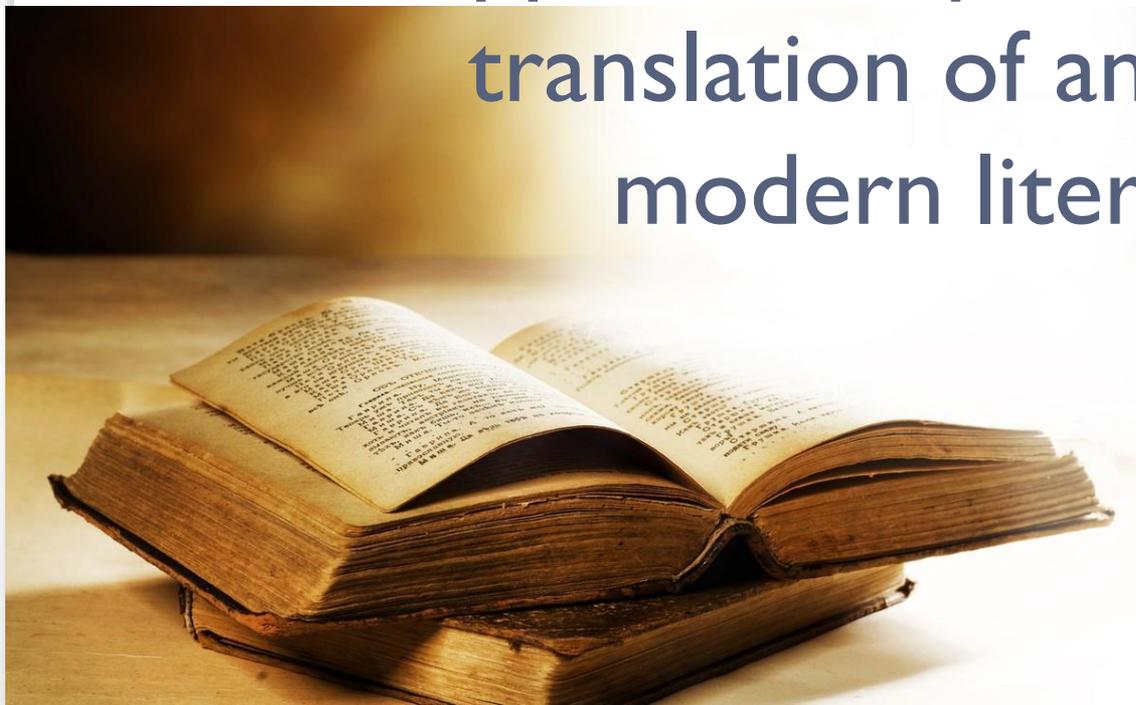


Hryhorij Kochur laid the foundation of modern Ukrainian history of translation.

His works such as "Shakespeare in Ukraine", "Dante in Ukrainian literature", "French literature in Ukrainian translations" and many others, aimed at forming a historical view of the translation process in Ukraine.



Hryhorij Kochur pursued the principle of Source oriented translation, providing maximum possible approximation reader to the original text. Moreover, he applied that principle in the translation of ancient and modern literature.





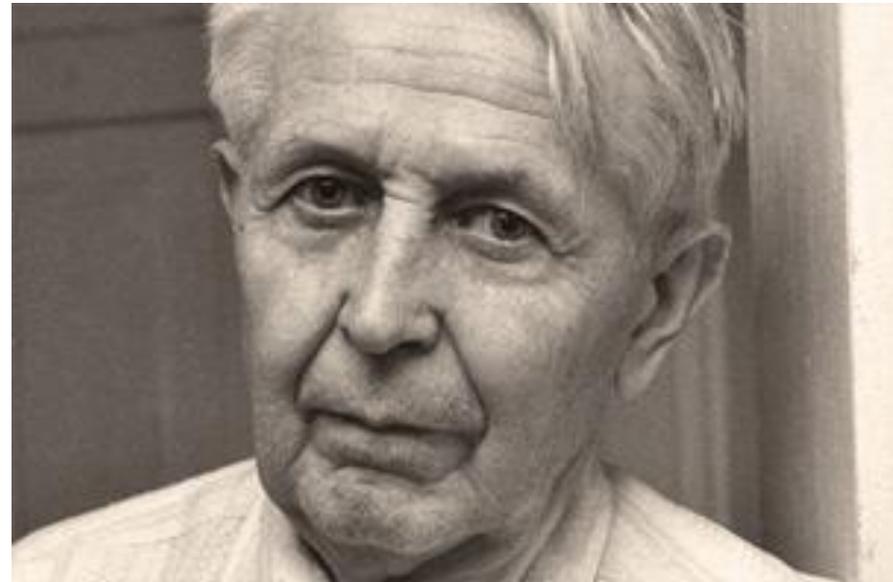
Kochur`s translation style can be characterized by utmost precision and concreteness of figurative language.

Щоб досягти того, чого не знаєте,  
Мусите йти дорогою незнання,  
Щоб знайти те, чого не маєте,  
Мусите йти дорогою зречення...  
(пер. Г.Кочура)

- In order to arrive at what you do not know  
You must go by a way which is the way of ignorance  
In order to possess what you do not possess  
You must go by the way of dispossession.

- T. S. Eliot

Kochur warned that translator should heed to the original, closely monitor language and critically estimate own translations. During the translation of particular writer, it is desirable to know all his works and biography. Also he calls to look into the dictionaries, where, in his idea, you can read as a fascinating story.



How many foreign languages did Kochur know? This question always intrigued the researchers who studied his heritage. According to his son, one day the master of translation became fed up with having to answer what he called a “self-promoting” question. So he sat down to write a list, counted 31 languages and categorically refused to discuss this issue anymore in the future.



Hryhorij Kochur posthumously received the Taras Shevchenko prize for book “The Second Echo”. The monetary prize was used to fix up his house in Irpin which now hosts the Hryhoriy Kochur Museum and remains the kind of translators’ Mecca it was in his lifetime.

