



Sights of Donetsk

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Mertsalov's Palm

Mertsalov's Palm isn't only a symbol of Donbass, the visiting card of Donetsk city. Mertsalov's Palm is an embodiment of spirit of Donetsk people, their aspiration to conquest the unattainable tops and solution of impracticable problems. The motto of Donetsk people "Possibility is proved by work", placed on the arms of Donetsk region always reminds that there is nothing impossible for the inhabitants of Donetsk region. And Mertsalov's Palm is superfluous confirmation of that.

The present symbol of Donbass was forged by the skilled craftsman from Donetsk, the smith of the Novorossiysk society Aleksey Mertsalov from an ordinary piece of a rail in 1896. In hands of the talented master faceless metal has turned into a graceful palm tree with thin branches and carved leaves.





- At first the original sample of forge skill was presented at the All-Russia exhibition in Nizhniy Novgorod, and in 1900 – at the Universal exhibition in Paris where the Palm got Grand Prix. Having returned to Russia, the forged masterpiece occupied a place of honor in the Mining Institute in St.-Petersburg. And, at last, after a century, in 2000, the Palm copy has been established in Donetsk. Now it is possible to see the Mertsalov's Palm in Pushkin boulevard, near the building of the Donetsk regional state administration or near the exhibition center "Expo-Donbass".

- Besides Donetsk the copies of Mertsalov's Palm are also established in Kiev, Lvov, Crimea, Moscow, Hanover, Ottawa, and its reduced copies are proudly tower over the 7 highest peaks of the planet such as the Everest, Elbrus, Aconcagua, the Mac-Kinli, Kilimandzharo, Mont Wilhelm, Mont Vinson. In grandiose plans is the establishment of copies of Mertsalov's Palm in more than 80 big cities and world capitals

The monument to stratonauts

In 1938 a new page should be entered in the chronicle of the Soviet astronautics. Four stratonauts – Y.Ukrainskiy, S.Kuchumov, P.Batenko and D.Stolbun – rose in the sky on board the Soviet stratosphere balloon (a balloon for flights in a stratosphere) to study influence of high-rise pressure on a human body. However the feat couldn't happen. After starting from an airfield in Moscow suburbs the apparatus failed at the big height – the oxygen equipment has failed. The stratosphere balloon wrecked, having fallen to a high-voltage line in Sherbakov Park in Donetsk. All crew was lost. In memory of the courageous aeronauts the bronze monument – a 2-meter figure of the stratonaut dressed in a high altitude pressure suit – was established on their burial place (on crossing Pushkin blvd. and 25-letiya RKKA ave.) that is nearby to an accident place. The instant as if has stiffened in proudly lifted head of the Soviet researcher of the sky, in his firm purposeful look and his scarf fluttering on a wind.



The monument to the student



Student's life of Donetsk city has found its reflection in the sculptural composition "Student" created on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Donetsk National University and the 25th anniversary of the creation of the economic-legal faculty. The memorable sculpture was worked at by the sculptors Nikolay Novikov and Dmitriy Ilyukhin. Peter Antipin supervised over the project.



Solemn opening of the monument took place on September, 6th, in 2007 in a courtyard of the new building of the economic-legal faculty of The Donetsk National University. That time the sculpture of the student standing full-length and leaning his knee and hand on a bench was presented. On the other side of the bench the textbooks on universal and constitutional law of Ukraine, mantle and hat lay. The new sculpture appeared to be to the students' taste; besides they confirmed the definitive sketch of the future sculptural composition. It also became an original talisman. Some legend has arisen among the students at once. They believe that if to touch the cloak on the eve of responsible examination, positive mark is guaranteed.

The monument to the recovered patient

The monument to the recovered patient is the embodiment of the cheerful scene from the Soviet silent movie «Holiday of saint Yorgen» cast in bronze. The swindler (the hero performed by Anatoliy Ktorov) orders to the hero of the comedy performed by Igor Ilyinskiy: «Recover, a blockhead!», – and he breaks a crutch at the knee. And this funny moment was embodied by the sculptors P.Chesnokov and Y.Baldin, who have modeled the patient leaving a hospital. The sculpture precisely copies the typical patient unless he is a little bit old-fashioned. The patient is dressed in a suit-three, with a kerchief in a breast pocket, and a tie. The patient is barefoot. Possibly, he so hastened home, that even has forgotten to put his shoes on. Even the height of the sculpture – 180 cm, differs nothing from medium height of the patients hastening in hospital on the same ladder. The monument has been established in front of the Donetsk regional traumatological hospital in 2001 being initiated by the head physician of the hospital Vladimir Klimovitskiy.





The monument to a steam locomotive



The real restored steam locomotive of the 9П series is established in front of the sheet-rolling workshop “Donetskstal”. The steam locomotive of this series has been started up last time in March, 1971, and since April of the same year all steam locomotives in the USSR have replaced with diesel locomotives. The monument is equipped by system which imitates locomotive movement, hooter and even steaming very plausibly.

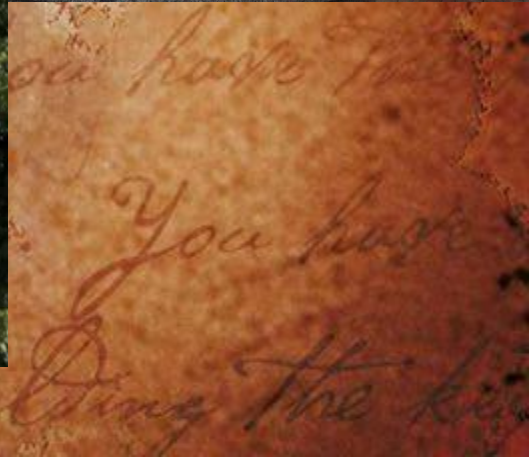


The monument to Anatoliy Solovyanenko

The monument to the outstanding opera singer, the tenor, lyric-dramatic actor Anatoliy Solovyanenko is established near the building of the Donetsk National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre. The place is chosen not by chance, because the career of our talented fellow countryman has begun with this theatre. The image in which the authors – sculptor A. Skoryh and the architect V. Vyazovski – represented the great tenor also chosen not by chance. Cast from bronze and covered by gold leaf Anatoliy Solovyanenko stands on the round-shape pedestal supported by the cylinders – symbolical theatrical columns; he is dressed in a concert suit of the Duke from the opera “Rigoletto”. It was the debut party of «the Donetsk nightingale», with which A. Solovyanenko at first performed on stage of the Donetsk theatre, and then went on tour about Spain. Due to the journalist who had published the article under the title «Mining duke», this honorable nickname stuck to the singer.

The monument to Anatoliy Solovyanenko

The monument was opened solemnly on May, 31st, 2002. The inscription in Ukrainian “Pride of Ukraine – Anatoliy Solovyanenko – “Mining Duke” is engraved on the pedestal of the monument.



The monument to Sergey Bubka



Life of the greatest sportsman-athlete, the 10-time world record holder, who set 35 world records in pole vaults, the champion of the Olympic games, the first-ever person who jumped above 6 meters, inseparably linked with Donetsk. Namely in this city in 1993 Sergey Bubka gained his main victory, having subdued the height in 6 meters and 15 centimeters.

Donetsk city authorities awarded the well-known athlete with the rank of the honorable citizen and immortalized him in bronze in vivo, having established a monument to the talented fellow countryman in 1999. The monument was worked at architect V. Buchek and sculptor N.Yasinenko. The figure of the sportsman who is going to pole vault, highly holding a pole, stands on a pedestal of symbolical height – 6 m and 15 cm. It's the record height subdued by S.Bubka. Height of the monument – 3,5 meters.

At the right knee of the sculpture there is a flying swallow. The monument is established in Artema street, near a regional sports complex "Olimpiyskiy".

The Donetsk Botanical Gardens

The Donetsk botanical gardens take the first place in Europe by its size, having stretched on territory of 262,2 hectares in eastern part of Donetsk, along the Bogodukhovskaya ravine. The park flora contains about five and a half thousand kinds of plants: more than 80 sorts of tulips, peonies and roses, more than 110 sorts of irises, about 40 sorts of lilies and asters, more than 50 sorts of orchids and other flowers. In the gardens there are more than 1 000 kinds of various trees: oaks, birches, a poplar, a fir, a larch.

The Donetsk Botanical Gardens

Live collections of the Donetsk Botanical Gardens keep 71 kind of the plants protected at the international level; 97 kinds of the plants enlisted in the Red Book of Ukraine; 88 kinds of the plants protected at regional level. Also in park it is possible to see plants, not typical for our lands.

In five greenhouses where conditions of tropics and subtropics are created, collections of tropical and subtropical plants of more than 1 500 kinds, versions, natural forms and cultivators are collected.





Thank YOU!

