**Globally Recognized Ukrainian Writers**

(by no means a comprehensive listing of a long Ukrainian literary tradition,

but a point of departure for any interested in learning more)

**Nestor the Chronicler** (1056-1106) b. Kyiv, d. Kyiv

**Hryhoriy/Grigory Savych Skovoroda** (1722-1794, foundational Ukrainian/Russian poet, fabulist, philosopher of Ukrainian Cossack origins) (Latin: *Gregorius Scovoroda*; Ukrainian: Григорій Савич Сковорода; Russian: Григо́рий Са́ввич Сковорода́) b. Chornukhy, d. Skovorodynivka (languages: Latin, Greek, Church Slavonic, Ukrainian, Russian)

**Ivan Petrovych Kotliarevsky** (1769-1838, regarded as the first modern Ukrainian poet & playwright, Ukrainian Cossack roots, fought within Russian Imperial Army during Russo-Turkish war) (Ukrainian: Іван Петрович Котляревський) b. Poltava, d. Poltava (renown parody of Virgil’s *Aenied*, purportedly translating but rewriting N. P. Osipov’s *Eneida Travestied*, recasting Trojans as Zaporozhian Cossacks destroyed by order of Catherine the Great)

**Nikolai Vasilyevich Gogol / Mykola Vasyl’ovych Hohol’** (1809-1852, Ukrainian writer of short stories, plays, novels, writing in Russian; recognized first as “regionalist” Ukrainian writer of tales included within *Dikanka*, *Mirgorod*, *Arabesques* collections, then as seminal Russian writer of Petersburg tales, *Dead Souls*) (Russian: Никола́й Васи́льевич Го́голь, Ukrainian: Мико́ла Васи́льович Го́голь) b. Ukrainian Cossack town of Velyki Sorochynsti within Russian Empire, d. Moscow

**Taras Svhevchenko** (1814-1861, foundational Ukrainian poet, prose writer, artist, public intellectual, political figure, folklorist, ethnographer, Ukrainian Cossack roots including brutal suppression and enslavement within Russian empire, born into serfdom) (Ukrainian: Тара́с Григо́рович Шевче́нко) b. Moryntsi (then within the Russian Empire), d. St. Petersburg, reburied in Chernecha Hora/Taras Hill near Dnipro (politically convicted/censored/exiled for writing poems in Ukrainian and promoting Ukrainian independence)

**Marko Vovchok** (pen name of Mariya Vilinskаya Markovych Zhuchenko, 1833-1907, renowned Ukrainian writer)

**Ivan Nechuy-Levytsky** (1838-1918, renowned Ukrainian writer) b. Stebliv, Ukraine, d. Kyiv, Ukraine

**Ivan Karpenko-Kary** (pen name of Ivan Tobilevych, 1845-1907, Ukrainian actor and playwright) b. Arsenivka, Bobrynets county, Kherson gubernia, d. Berlin

**Panas Myrny** (1848-1920, Ukrainian prose writer and playwright) b. Myrhorod d. Poltava (Ukrainian language writer of literary realism, innovative social novels and stories of ordinary life)

**Olena Pchilka** (real name Olha Petrivna Kosach, 1849-1930, Ukrainian publisher, writer, ethnographer, interpreter, and civil activist) (Ukrainian: Олена Пчілка)

**Ivan Franko** (1856-1916, Ukrainian poet, novelist, social & literary critic, translator, philosopher, ethnographer, political activist) (Ukrainian: Іван Якович Франко) b. Nahuievychi, Galicia, then part of Austro-Hungarian Empire, d. Lviv

**Olha Kobylianska** (1863-1942, Ukrainian modernist writer and feminist) b. Romania d. 1942 Chernivtsi, Ukraine

**Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky** (1864-1913, Ukrainian writer of ethnographic, impressionist, modernist stories and novels) (Ukrainian: Михайло Михайлович Коцюбинський) b. Vinnytsia, d. Chernihiv

**Vasyl Stefanyk** (1908-1918, influential Ukrainian modernist writer and political activist) b. & d. Rusiv, Ukraine (member of the Austrian parliament from 1908 to 1918)

**Lesya Ukrainka** (Larysa Petrivna Kosach, 1871-1913, Ukrainian poet, playwright, essayist, critic, activist, feminist and linguist conversant in 10 modern and ancient languages, daughter of a mother who was also a poet, activist for Ukrainian language, women’s movement….) (Ukrainian: Леся Українка/Лариса Петрівна Косач) b. Novohrad-Volynski, d. Surami, Georgia

**David** **Burliuk** (1882-1967, Ukrainian Russian-language poet, artist, illustrator and publicist, of Ukrainian Cossack and Belarusian descent) (Russian: Давид Давидович Бурлюк) b. village of Riabushky, near Lebedyn, d. Long Island (often recognized as founder/father of Russian Futurism, contested legacy in Ukrainian/Russian literature)

**Anton** **Makarenko** (1888-1939, globally influential Ukrainian Soviet writer, educator, social worker) (Ukrainian: Анто́н Семенович Мака́ренко) b. Bilopillia, d. Golitsyno, Moscow Oblast

**Ostap Vyshnia** (real name Pavlo Hubenko, 1889-1956, Ukrainian writer, humourist, satirist, and medical official) (Nicknamed by many critics as the Ukrainian Mark Twain and the Ukrainian Printing King.)

**Mykola Kulish** (Ukrainian: Микола Гурович Куліш) (1892-1937, Ukrainian prose writer, playwright, pedagogue, veteran of World War I and Red Army veteran, considered to be one of the lead figures of the Executed Renaissance)

**Mykola Khvylovy** (a Ukrainian writer and poet of the early Communist era Ukrainian Renaissance; b. 1893, Trostyanec, Ukraine d. 1933 Kharkiv, Ukraine)

**Oleksander Dovzhenko** (1894-1933, Ukrainian Soviet screenwriter, film producer and director) b. Sosnytsya, Ukraine d. Peredelkino, Russia)

**Maksym** **Rylsky** (1895-1964, Ukrainian poet and translator; directoro of Inst. of Fine Arts, Folklore and Ethnography in Kyiv) b. Kyiv, d. Kyiv Maksym Tadeyovych Rylsky (Ukrainian: Максим Тадейович Рильський)

**Volodymyr Sosiura** (1898-1965) (Ukrainian: Володимир Сосюра) b. Debaltseve, Yekaterinoslav Governate of the Russian Empire (today Donetsk Oblast), d. Kyiv

**Ivan Bahrianyi** (Ivan Pavlovych Lozoviaha, 1906-1963, Ukrainian writer, essayist, novelist and politician) b. Okhtyrka, Ukraine, d. 1963, Germany. (Awarded the Shevchenko prize.)

**Oleksandr "Oles" Honchar** (1918-1995, Soviet and Ukrainian writer and public figure, veteran of World War II and member of the Ukrainian parliament) b. Dnipro, d. Kyiv, Ukraine

**Pavlo Zahrebelnyi** (1924-2009, Ukrainian novelist) (Ukrainian: Павло́ Архи́пович Загребе́льний) or Zagrebelnyi (Russian: Павел Архипович Загребе́льный)

**Vasyl Symonenko** (1935-1963, renowned Ukrainian poet, journalist, dissident activist) (Ukrainian: Василь Андрійович Симоненко) considered one of the most important figures in [Ukrainian literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_literature) of the early 1960s.

**Vasyl Stus** (1938-1985, Ukrainian poet, translator, literary critic, journalist, dissident) (Ukrainian: Васи́ль Семе́нович Стус) b. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, d. Perm-36 (now The Museum of the History of Political Repression, died from a hunger strike after 13 years in Soviet forced labor camp detention, with works banned for political convictions; 2005 posthumously awarded Ukraine’s highest national title: Hero of Ukraine)

**Moysey (Moses) Abramovich Fishbein** (1946-2020, influential Ukrainian poet and translator of Jewish origins) (Ukrainian: Мойсей Абрамович Фішбейн; 1 December 1946 – 26 May 2020)

**Hrytsko Chubai** (1949-1982) b. Volyn region, songs/poems set to music by son Taras Chubai

**Oleh Lysheha** (1949-2014, Ukrainian poet, playwright, translator, intellectual) (Ukrainian: Олег Лишега) b. Tysmenytsia

**Contemporary Ukrainian Writers**

Lina **Kostenko** (1930-, Ukrainian poet and novelist) (Ukrainian: Ліна Василівна Костенко) b. Rzhyshchiv

Vasyl **Holoborodko** (b. 1945 Adrianopil, Lukhansk oblast)

Boris **Khersonsky** (b. 1950 Chernivtsi, Russian language Ukrainian poet)

Vasyl **Shklyar** (b. 1951 Hanzhanivka, Lysianka Region)

Yuri **Vynnychuk** (b. 1952 Ivano-Frankivsk)

Vasyl **Gabor** (Lviv; b. 1959 Oleksandrivka/Shandrovo, Transcarpathia)

Maria **Matios** (b. 1959 Roztoky, Bukovyna region)

Yuri **Andrukhovych** (b. 1960 Ivano-Frankivsk)

Oksana **Zabuzhko** (b. 1960 Lutzk)

Andrey **Kurkov** (Kyiv; b. 1961, Budogoshch, near St. Petersburg)

Ivan **Malkovych** (Kyiv; b. 1961 Nyzhnii Bereziv, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast)

Viktor **Neborak** (Lviv; b. 1961 Ivano-Frankove, Lviv oblast)

Yuri **Izdryk** (b. 1962 Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast)

Vasyl **Makhno** (New York City, b. 1964, Chortkiv, Ternopil oblast)

Borys **Humenyuk** (b. 1965 Ostriv, Ternopil oblast)

Taras **Prokhasko** (b. 1968 Ivano-Frankisvsk)

Oleksandr **Boichenko** (b. 1970 Chernivtsi)

Marianna **Kiyanovska** (b. 1973 Zhovkva, Lviv oblast)

Marjana **Savka** (Kyiv; b. 1973 Kopychyntsi, Ternopil oblast)

Andriy **Bondar** (b. 1974 Kamianets-Podilskyi)

Halyna **Kruk** (b. 1974 Lviv)

Oksana **Lutsyshyna** (Austin, TX; b. 1974 Uzhhorod)

Serhiy **Zhadan** (Kharkhiv; b. 1974 Starobilsk, Luhansk oblast)

Ilya **Kaminsky** (San Diego, CA; b. 1977 Odesa)

Ostap **Slyvynsky** (b. 1978 Lviv)

Yevgenia **Belorusets** (Kyiv, b. 1980) just left Kyiv April 5 to currently represent Ukraine at Venice Biennale with war diary

Sophia **Andrukhovych** (b. 1982 Ivano-Frankivsk/Stanislav

Anastasia **Afanasieva** (b. 1982 Kharkhiv)

Kateryna **Kalytko** (b. 1982 Vinnytsia)

Lyuba **Yakimchuk** (Kyiv; b. 1985 Pervomaisk, Luhansk oblast)

Tais **Zolotkovska** (b. Kharkov)

Artem **Chekh** (b. 1985 Cherkasy)

Pavlo **Korobchuk** (b. 1985 Lutzk)

Ivan **Baidak** (b. 1990 Chortkiv)

For those who would like to explore further, see the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute’s many online resources on Ukrainian history, literature, the current war, and many other facets of Ukrainian culture at <https://huri.harvard.edu/>

(Under teaching resources: literature, you will find guides to Ukrainian literature as well as Ukrainian texts in the original and in translation, including a library of Ukrainian poetry.)

**As a nation that has suffered many centuries of colonial contestation and oppression, often by cultures marginalizing and muting Ukrainian culture, language, and literature, Ukraine has also been the birthplace of and crossroads for writers of diverse cultures and languages, dispersed across the globe. Some of these writers are associated with cultures of oppression, ranging in their complicity with and critique of dominant discourses. Many were dissidents contending with censorship, pitting authorship against authority within diverse literary, linguistic, and cultural traditions. Though of Ukrainian origin or born in territory that is historically and currently part of Ukrainian territory, these writers are generally associated with other geo-cultural and linguistic traditions. Some are considered by some to have more direct connections or contributions to Ukrainian literary traditions. Collectively, these writers attest to a global literature deeply informed by lives, landscapes, languages and literatures of Ukraine.**

**Writers born in Ukraine globally recognized for their contributions to other cultural traditions**

Mikołaj Rej (1505-1569, Polish poet, foundational figure for Polish literary language and literature) b. Zhuravno, d. Rejowiec, Lublin

Juliusz Słowacki (1809-1849, Polish romantic poet) b. Kremenets (then part of partitioned Poland within the Russian Empire), d. Paris

Nikolai Nekrasov (1821-1878, Russian poet, writer, critic, publisher) (Russian: Никола́й Алексе́евич Некра́сов) b. Nemyriv, d. St. Petersburg

Vladimir Korolenko (1853-1921, Ukrainian/Polish human rights activist and writer – in Russian) (Ukrainian: Володи́мир Галактіо́нович Короле́нко, Russian: Влади́мир Галактио́нович Короле́нко) b. Zhytomyr, d. Poltava (deeply critical of late imperial regime, including depiction of Chisinau pogrom of 1903 “The House No. 13”, opposing Black Hundred 1905, critiquing military (in)justice 1910-1911 and anti-Semitic Beilis trial 1911-1913, later critic of both Red and White Terror during post-Revolutionary Civil War)

Władysław Tarnowski (1836-1878, Polish pianist, composer, poet, dramatist, translator) b. Drohobych, d. San Francisco

Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (1836-1895, Austrian writer) b. Lviv, d. Altenstadt, Hesse, GR

Vsevolod Garshin (1855-1888, Russian writer, war stories) (Всеволод Михайлович Гаршин) b. Dnipro, d. St. Petersburg

Naftali Herz Imber (1856-1909, Hebrew-language Jewish poet) (Hebrew: נפתלי הרץ אימבר) b. Zolochiv, Galicia, then part of Austro-Hungarian Empire, d. Queens, NY

Ahad Ha’am (Asher Zvi Hirsch Ginsberg, 1856-1927, Hebrew-language essayist & Zionist activist) (Hebrew: אחד העם) b. Skyyra, within Kiev Governate within Russian Empire, long in Odesa, d. Tel Aviv

Joseph Conrad (Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski,1857-1924, Polish/British writer) b. Berdychiv, d. Bishopsbourne, UK

Sholem Aleichem (Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich, 1859-1916, writer of stories, novels, plays in Yiddish, translated into Russian by Isaac Babel) (Yiddish/Hebrew: שלום עליכם) b. Pereiaslav, then within Poltava Governate of Russian Empire, emigrated after 1905 pogroms in southern Russian Empire, d. New York City

Hayim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934, Jewish poet, essayist, story-teller, translator, recognized posthumously as Israel’s national poet, writing in Hebrew and Yiddish) (Hebrew: חיים נחמן ביאליק) b. Volhynian Governorate, d. Vienna

Mikhail Artsybashev (1878-1927, Russian/Polish dissident writer) b. Kharkiv (then within Russian Empire) of Polish, French, Georgian, Tatar origins), d. Warsaw

Ze’ev Jabotinsky (1880-1940, Jewish writer and activist of Ukrainian/Russian Jewish origins) (Hebrew: זְאֵב זַ׳בּוֹטִינְסְקִי, Russian: Влади́мир Евге́ньевич Жаботи́нский) b. Odesa, d. Hunter, NY (*Pyatero – The Five*, recognized by some as the “great Odesa novel” – early-20th-c Jewish life in Odesa) *(an important publicist for Ukrainians and predicted formation of free Ukraine)*

Shmuel Yosef Agnon (1888-1970, Hebrew writer) (Hebrew: Shai Agnon - ש"י עגנון‎) b. Buchach (within Polish Galicia then part of Austro-Hungarian Empire), d. Jerusalem (narratives set in communities within which he lived: Galicia, Germany, Jaffa, Jerusalem; shared 1966 Nobel Prize in Literature with poet Nelly Sachs)

Anna Akhmatova (Anna Andreevna Gorenko, 1889-1966) b. Odesa, d. Moscow (reputedly disdained Ukrainian origins, language, culture, early life in Odesa 1889, Kyiv 1906-1910)

Mikhail Bulgakov (1891-1940, ethnically Russian Ukrainian writer born and raised in Kyiv, writing stories, novels, plays in Russian, including *White Guard* set in Kyiv, *Master and Margarita* set in Moscow) b. Kyiv, d. Moscow (*Red Cavalry*, *Odessa Stories*) (claimed & critically acclaimed within both Ukrainian and Russian literary traditions) *(Russian)*

Ilya Ehrenburg (1891-1961, Soviet writer in Russian, of Lithuanian-Jewish origins) (Russian: Илья́ Григо́рьевич Эренбу́рг) b. Kyiv, then part of Russian Empire d. Moscow (co-author with V. Grossman of *The Black Book*, first witness account of the Holocaust)

Bruno Schulz (1892-1942, Polish Jewish writer, artist, critic) b. Drohobych, Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, d. Drohobycz Getto, German-occupied Poland

Isaac Babel (1894-1940, Ukrainian-Jewish writer, fluent in Yiddish, Hebrew, French, Ukrainian, and Russian, writing in French and Russian) (Russian: Исаак Эммануилович Бабель) b. Odesa, d. Butyrka prison, Moscow

Joseph Roth (1894-1939 Austrian Jewish writer, in German) b. Brody (near Lviv/Lemberg within Galicia, Austro-Hungarian Empire), d. Paris

Valentin Kataev (1897-1986, Russian/Soviet writer) b. Odesa, d. Moscow

Irène Nemirovsky (1903-1942, Ukrainian Jewish novelist) b. Kyiv, d. Auschwitz concentration camp, Poland

Vasily Grossman (Iosif Solomonovich Grossman, 1905-1964) (Russian: Васи́лий Семёнович Гро́ссман) b. Berdychiv, d. Moscow (masterful long suppressed semi-autobiographical novel *Life and Fate,* co-author with V. Grossman of *The Black Book*, first account of the Holocaust, among many novels, story collections, journalism, *Everything Flows* on Holodomor, *The Road*)

Arseny Tarkovsky (1907-1989, Soviet Russian poet, of Russian/Polish origins) (Russian: Арсений Александрович Тарковский) b. Kropyvnytskyi (then within Kherson Governate of Russian Empire), d. Moscow

Mikola/Nikolay Nosov (1908-1976, Ukrainian/Soviet writer of Ukrainian-Jewish origins) (Russian: Николай Николаевич Носов, Ukrainian: Микола Миколайович Носов) b. Kyiv, d. Moscow

Stanisław Jerzy Lec (1909-1966, Polish poet & aphorist) b. Lviv (then Lemberg within Austro-Hungarian family to Galician-Jewish family, later Lwów within Second Polish Republic), d. Warsaw

Anatoly Naumovich Rybakov (1911-1998, Soviet Ukrainian writer, author of anti-Stalinist Children of Arbat trilogy, other novels, extensive children’s literature, memoir) Russian: Анато́лий Нау́мович Рыбако́в) b. Chernihiv, d. New York City

Lev Kopelev (1912-1997, Soviet author and dissident) b. Kyiv, d. Cologne (Ukrainian: Lev Zalmanovich (Zinovyevich) Kopelev; Russian: Лев Залма́нович (Зино́вьевич) Ко́пелев, German: Lew Sinowjewitsch Kopelew)

Clarice Lispector (Ukrainian: Хая Пінкасівна Ліспектор, 1920-1977, Brazilian writer) b. Chechelnik, d. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tadeusz Borowski (1922-1951, Polish-Jewish writer, Holocaust survivor) b. Zhytomyr, d. Warsaw

Zbigniew Herbert (1924-1998, Polish poet, essayist, dramatist) b. Lviv (then Lwów, Poland, of Austrian/Armenian/Galician Polish descent), d. Warsaw

Aharon Appelfeld (1932-2018, Israeli novelist) (Hebrew: אהרן אפלפלד) b. Stara Zhadova commune then in the Bukovina region of the Kingdom of Romania, d. Petah Tikya, Israel

Adam Zagajewski (1945-2021, Polish poet) b. Lviv (then Lwów, part of Poland, expelled to Gliwice in central Poland 1945 as part of Soviet post-WWII policy, emigrated to Paris 1982, returned to Kraków 2002), d. Kraków

Svetlana Alexievich (Minsk; 1948-, Belarusian writer) b. Ivano-Frankivsk to Belarusian/Ukrainian parents, studied and worked in Minsk until persecuted by Lukashenko administration, 2000-2011 seeking sanctuary in Paris, Gothenburg, Berlin, returned to Minsk 2011, Nobel Prize for Literature