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## **ZHYTOMYR RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS IN THE LATE 20<sup>TH</sup> - BEGINNING OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

The Zhytomyr Russian-language poetry is one of the brightest phenomena in the post-Soviet Ukraine. A huge role in its development was played by the emergence of Associations "Nadezhda" and "Az Esm" in the late XX<sup>th</sup>.

The novelty of our study lies in the fact that, for the first time, peculiarities of the Zhytomyr Russian-language-written poetry at the present stage of its development have been researched at the level of the regional literary process.

In the late 70's – early 80's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the development of the Russian-language literature in the Soviet Union significantly changed. Poetry accepted for publication and displayed for the public attention was based on the principles of socialist realism as a leading literary method. Social thinking of that period was formed in accordance with the myths that were propagandised at the time.

The Zhytomyr Russian-language poetry at that time-period was developing under the influence of these very factors. In 1978, Rufim Karlovic Vazhinsky organized in Zhytomyr a literary association "Nadezhda". 1978–1984 was the most productive period in the creative activity of "Nadezhda". Despite all the difficulties with the publication, the students released more than fifty pages of literary works in various publications. In general, poetic pieces created by the participants of the literary association may be characterized by individuality, lack of sharp conflict, prevailing of civil motive in poetry. While analysing the main trends of the development of the Russian-language poetry in the city of Zhytomyr at the time, we can see how among people separated from society under constraints of a military school there appeared free-thinking individuals with their own internal problems.

Starting from the second half of the 1980's human thinking began to change. There came the epoch of postmodernism. The members of the "Nadezhda" association whose creative manner was based on the classic patterns were going through hard times. This led to the fact that by the early '90s the literary association had ceased to exist, and together with it an entire era of social realism had gone.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, there came a period of an oversaturation with information and the loss of literature-centrism.

In 1995, in Zhytomyr was founded a new association of the Russian-language poets "Az Esm". The basic concept of the Association became and still is absence of a distinguished leader, but only recognition of the initiator of the association, because "to guide creative people is impossible and unnecessary." Each participant is a creative person, and the full name of the association speaks about it: "Az Esm.

I am. I am the man. I am a creative person" The main purpose of the association is to support the work of the talented authors writing in the Russian language.

Each participant of the literary association is not similar to another and is interesting by him/herself. So, poetry of Svetlana Pavlova is different from the poetry of Oksana Naumenko. Vladimir Belozersky is different from Sergei Dunev. Sergey Ship gravitates toward philosophical lyrics. Social significance is manifested in the works of Vladimir Zubkov. At the same time all are united by a subtle sense of the essence of the poetic craft [1, p. 41-42].

For practical support of writers, from 2004 to 2008, the association was publishing a literary and art magazine "Kovcheg". The main artistic and aesthetic goal of the magazine is the salvation of spirituality and culture of language, and its strategy is to give talented Russian-speaking poets an opportunity to speak up.

Today, Association "Az Esm" has released 15 issues of literary and art magazine "Kovcheg", the library of "Kovcheg", which includes 56 books of different genres, and 3 collective books of poetry. For Zhytomyr, poetic literary and art magazine "The Ark" presents a powerful platform that has contributed to a wider and deeper spread of the Russian-speaking segment of our national poetry.

#### **LITERATURE**

1. Лецкін М. Вибір є. Середини немає // Ковчег. – 2005. – № 2. – С.41–42.