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UKRAINIAN WOMAN IMAGE IN BORYS HRINCHENKO'S DRAMAS

The main heroines' images of the Borys Hrinchenko's historical plays («Yasni Zori», «Sered Buri», «Stepovy Gist'») are analyzed and the best features of a Ukrainian woman such as a keeper of the cozy home atmosphere and a carrier of national identity are given in the article. Heroines' actions, their strong nature are described as an example of true love for their land and its people.

Ukrainian drama in the last decades of the nineteenth century becomes a new stage in the history of national literature, new heroines images fully disclosing national character and the full range of social phenomena that occurred in the post-reform Ukrainian reality appear.

The Ukrainian woman image has always attracted attention of Ukrainian writers including playwrights of the late nineteenth century (M. Kropyvnyts'ky, M. Staryts'ky, I. Tobilevych (Karpenko-Kary), P. Myrny). Marko Kropyvnyts'ky's work in this field was the most productive as he created the beautiful Ukrainian women and girls portraits gallery during his long literary life. Such portrait was depicted by the artist in his first drama «Day sertsyu volyu, zavede v nevolyu» in the image of an honest, hardworking, strong, able to fight for her happiness girl Odarka. The same traits are common to Olena («Hlytay abo zh pavuk») and Oksana («Poky sontse ziyde, rosa ochi vyist'»). Images of Katra created by M. Staryts'ky («Ne sudylosya»), Natalia created by Panas Myrny («Lymerivna») and many others can definitely be added to this list. In terms of their character traits they resemble the famous Nataalka Poltavka created by I. Kotlyarevs'ky. Most of the female images created by national playwrights during 1870-1880-s were tragic. They became victims of someone's angry will, having no strength to resist circumstances.

In B. Hrinchenko's historical dramas a woman image takes the central place. Besides, the playwright usually gives best traits to his heroines. A peculiar part is given to a woman in Borys Hrinchenko's historical drama. She is able to self-

sacrifice in the family, to love and respect her dear person, her children. On the example of his heroines Borys Hrinchenko proved that patriotism and love for the native land, children, men are essential features of a real Ukrainian woman who didn't lose her dignity even in the extremely unfavorable environment and has always been and remains a model for following by future generations.