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**CREATIVE HERITAGE OF HISTORIAN, LOCAL RESEARCHER,
ETHNOGRAPHER, DISSIDENT BORYS TKACHENKO:
PAST AND PRESENT PROBLEMS**

Summary

Borys Tkachenko, a historian, ethnographer, cultural and social activist, is the author of 11 monographs – original studies on the most resonant and painful topics of Ukrainian history.

Borys Tkachenko was born on December 18, 1937 in the village of Masiuky in Poltava region, but he was associated with Lebedyn region in Sumy Oblast all his life. Having an agronomic education and working as the chief agronomist of the Lebedyn district, he published his production articles on the topic of organic farming and ecology in the magazine "Ukraine", repeatedly becoming a laureate of this all-Ukrainian magazine. The magazine "Ukraine" recognized the researcher, chief agronomist from Lebedyn district, as the best author of the year for four years. The first books of the researcher are devoted to advanced methods of land management, including ecological factors as the main ones for the preservation of land resources. He received his historical education at the capital university named after T. Shevchenko.

In 1991, B. Tkachenko published the first book in Ukraine dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, written both on the basis of archival sources and the memories of eyewitnesses.

Among the fundamental studies of regional history is B. Tkachenko's book "Lebediia" – a unique study of the history of the Lebedyn region from the time of its settlement. It is the first book in Ukraine, which is a kind of encyclopedia on the history, culture, architecture, ethnography, and lifestyle of a particular region. The continuation of this work was the book "Lebediia in the claws of the red antichrist" (2014), in which the history of the region after the Bolshevik coup of 1917 is

highlighted, with the involvement of a large number of archival documents unknown to the general public.

B. Tkachenko's book "Who are we fighting with, brother?!" is extremely relevant today (2017), which provides an in-depth historical analysis of age-old Ukrainian-Russian relations.

The work of the scientist, who combined scientific activity with participation in the processes of national and state revival and was accused of nationalism, saw the world only during the independence period.

In fact, it is difficult to overestimate the historical weight of the personality of Borys Tkachenko, who, including a large number of new documents in scientific circulation, covered objective Ukrainian history. His local historical and ethnographic studies are actually encyclopedias on history, architecture and ethnography. The works of B. Tkachenko, in which the Bolshevik repressions against the Ukrainian peasantry, creative intellectuals, and priests are made public, lead to the understanding that the history of one's country in its transitional, epochal periods acquires the weight of national security.

During the time of independent Ukraine, B. Tkachenko became a laureate of the Mykola Khvylovyi and Vasyl Stus literary prizes, received a number of state and church awards, and is an Honorary Citizen of the city of Lebedyn.

Modern historiography is taking only the first steps in the scientific understanding of the creative heritage of the ascetic scientist B. Tkachenko. His works deserve in-depth study and popularization in special courses on local history in Ukrainian schools and universities.

When writing the article, general historical (comparative-historical, retrospective) methods and the method of source analysis were used.

Keywords: *Borys Tkachenko, historian, ethnographer, Holodomor, repression, folklore, Lebedia.*