

ISAAK BRODSKY AND IVAN DRIAPACHENKO: THE STORY OF ONE PORTRAIT

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Ісаак Бродський та Іван Дряпаченко: історія одного портрету

Вперше подано інформацію про долю графічного портрету українського художника І. К. Дряпаченка, виконаного І. І. Бродським у 1906 р. Поява цього портрету у 2013 р. на німецькому аукціоні *Neumeister* має важливе значення. Цей факт дає привід припустити, що вивезені під час Другої світової війни твори живопису І. К. Дряпаченка досі знаходяться на території Західної Європи.

Ключові слова: Іван Кирилович Дряпаченко, живопис, Друга світова війна, культурні цінності.

During the World War II a large amount of cultural values was moved to Germany from the occupied Ukrainian territories. The problem of returning those items back is still important nowadays. In this context, attention should be paid to the Ivan Driapachenko's graphic portrait by Isaak Brodsky. The attribution of the portrait has recently been made by the Grabar Art Conservation Center [1].

The history of the portrait's making dates back to the early 20th century, when Isaak Israilevich Brodsky (1883–1939) and Ivan Kirillovich Driapachenko [2] (1881–1936) studied at the Higher Art School (HAS) at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts (the former one – from 1902, the latter one – from 1903). Both of them became well-known artists in the future. A. Tereschenko who studies the Driapachenko's heritage suggests that the portrait was made during the period when both artists were taught by Ilya Repin [3, C. 17]. In the picture Driapachenko is portrayed as sitting with his arms folded on his chest. This Brodsky's work of 1906 was published nine years later in St. Petersburg's "Journal of Magazines" as an illustration to an article about this artist's creative work [4, C. 13].

After the revolutionary events in the Russian Empire of 1917 Driapachenko was discharged from the army, where he had served for a year and a half in the Military Artistic Department of the Trophy Commission. He returned to the village of Vasilevka, Kozelschina District in Poltava Province. Brodsky stayed in Petrograd at the same time. As a head of the All-Russian Academy of Arts from 1934 he was recruiting some well-known realist painters for the Academy Faculty [5, C. 161–162]. While travelling around Ukraine from 1932 to 1937, Brodsky had visited Vasilevka village to meet Driapachenko (c. 1934). He invited the latter one to Kyiv and proposed him a teaching job. But, according to the O. S. Yurenko's memoirs, "he [Driapachenko] could not leave his creative ideas unimplemented, neither the school where he taught drawing and educated young artists, nor the village club where he was the head of the folk singing chorus" [6, C. 12–13].

After Driapachenko's death, which was caused by an accident in 1936, his pictures, drawings, library and personal files had been sold to Yu. K. Belokobila, the local resident of the nearby village Yurki. During 1941–1943, when the whole Poltava Province was occupied by the German troops, the owner of the Driapachenko's heritage had changed again. A significant part of the artist's works

came to the hands of Kittlitz, the governor of the Kozelschina village. He then secretly transported those items to Germany [7, apk. 1–15; 8, apk. 1–15].

Nothing has been known about the Driapachenko's heritage destiny for seventy years. In October 2015 the Grabar Art Conservation Center received a "Portrait of a sitting man" authored by



Ivan Driapachenko, 1906

I. I. Brodsky (1906, paper, graphite and black pencil, 50.5x34). The author of this paper, who has studied I. K. Driapachenko's work for some time, helped to identify the personality of the depicted figure. After the experts' examination of the work was determined as "a Portrait of the artist I. K. Driapachenko". Their conclusion states that the work "is surely of a high museum value" [1]. Current owner of the 'Portrait of the artist Driapachenko' is Mr. A. V. Koshelev (Moscow, the Russian Federation) who had bought it on September 18, 2013 at the Neumeister Auction (Munich, Germany) as a "Portrait of Valentin Serov (1865–1911)" (Lot № 433, the hammer price was € 3,000) [9].

One can assume that the portrait of Ivan Driapachenko painted by Isaak Brodsky belongs to those cultural values which were moved illegally from the territory of Ukraine during the World War II. As far as this pencil drawing survived to the present day, one could suggest that some of the Driapachenko's works still remain in Germany or other countries of Western Europe.

At present, there are only a few dozens of graphic and painting works by Ivan Driapachenko available in museums of Ukraine, Russia and the

Republic of Belarus [10, C. 32–33]. Therefore, the search for his lost heritage should be continued with the aim to enrich the national treasury of the Ukrainian fine art.

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Isaak Brodsky and Ivan Driapachenko: the Story of One Portrait

The article provides information about the Ukrainian artist Ivan Driapachenko's portrait made by Isaak Brodsky in 1906. The drawing was sold at the Neumeister Auction (Germany) in 2013. The author suggests that the portrait belongs to those cultural values which were moved illegally from the territory of Ukraine during the World War II. Some of the Driapachenko's works could still remain in Germany or other countries of Western Europe.

Keywords: Ivan K. Driapachenko, painting, the Second World War, attribution, cultural values.