

FAMOUS UKRAINIAN TRANSLATORS



Viktor Shovkun. Early years

Viktor Shovkun (born March 14, 1940 – age 77) – is a Ukrainian translator, writer and literary editor.

Shovkun was born in a village of Manchenky near Kharkiv. When the Second World War broke out, Shovkun with his family moved to a village of Zhuravne, Sumska oblast. His father died when he was 2 years old and his mother passed when he was 6.



Shovkun was brought up by his grandparents Euphrosyne and Petro. His grandfather knew German and French and inspired Shovkun to learn foreign languages.

Viktor Shovkun. Education and literary activities

Shovkun graduated from Kharkiv hydro-meteorological technical college and worked for 2 years in Siberia.

Afterwards, Shovkun enrolled at Lomonosov Moscow State University. There he entered the Philological faculty where finished basic course (1967) and post-graduate university course (1970).



He is fluent in six languages, including English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Russian. Most of them he studied by himself. From 1975 to 1986 he worked as a literary editor at fiction magazine “Всесвіт”. In 1993 Shovkun became a member of Writer's Union of Ukraine.

Viktor Shovkun. Translations

From 1986 he has worked as literary translator. He translates fiction for such publishing houses: «Махаон», «Пульсари», «Книжковий клуб», «Фоліо» etc. In 1996 Shovkun had a stroke and since then his left hand is paralyzed, so he prints text only by his right hand. Shovkun has translated a lot of fiction from English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. A short list of his translations is given below: