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### INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES AS THE MAIN TASK FOR IVAN MIRCHUK

**Abstract.** The scientific heritage of Ukrainian philosopher Ivan Mirchuk has not yet been sufficiently studied in Ukrainian science. The philosopher left enough academic heritage out of Ukraine: in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Munich. However all scientific work of I. Mirchuk was concentrated in Ukrainian institutions. Mirchuk is a representative of the Ukrainian "Sich" in Vienna, a teacher at the Ukrainian Scientific Institute and the Higher Trade School in Berlin, a professor and rector of the Ukrainian Free University. He has a number of scientific works on philosophy, he is also the translator of classics of science. A famous Ukrainian scientist, an authoritative philosopher in Czechoslovak and German scientific circles deserved to be studied and it seems that there should be enough written about such a person.

However, I. Mirchuk did not become the object of thorough studies in Ukrainian science, his life, especially the early Ukrainian period, and his work in emigration are still not well studied. In this paper the main attention is paid to the heritage of Mirchuk. The novelty of the paper lies in studying the role of Mirchuk in formatting Ukrainian science in exile and the attempts of the contemporaries to describe his heritage. Based on historical and objective principles the paper shows the main aspects in scientific career of Mirchuk as well as the work at the Ukrainian Free University. The main methods of the paper were comparative and the method of historic analysis that could highlight the academic work of Mirchuk and their main evaluation in works of contemporaries. As a result there is the first analysis of émigré historiography of Mirchuk in Ukrainian science. Conclusion proves that Mirchuk was one of the central persons of Ukrainian scientific life in exile.

**Keywords:** *Ivan Mirchuk, Munich, Berlin, Ukrainian science.*

**Introduction.** Known in European scientific circles, Ivan Mirchuk earned good fame during his life as a philosopher, professor of higher schools, director of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute and the long-term rector of the Ukrainian Free University. His contemporaries, including both Ukrainians and foreigners, left good memories of him as a person, his work on the Ukrainian field, and his scientific achievements. In the scientific sphere, I. Mirchuk was engaged in philosophy, which he began to study at the University of Vienna. Gradually studying ancient Greek ethics and Kant's epistemology, which Mirchuk studied in Vienna and Prague, he began studying the problems of the national worldview. The main theme of I. Mirchuk's philosophical research was Ukrainian spirituality. Separated from the all-Slavic philosophy, the professor

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considered it to be philosophy of life. Religiosity, personalism, preference for sensuality and love are the main features of the Ukrainian "clearly peasant" people. In the last statement there was not anything humiliating for Ukrainians next to other peoples. On the contrary, it shows the special devotion of Ukrainians to their native land which led to the development of culture.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** This article is the first to study the evaluation of the achievements of Mirchuk in Europe last century. Modern Ukrainian scholars have not yet paid the attention to the problem. This article is to be the first in Ukrainian historiography to describe the studies of Mirchuk in exile represented by works of professors of the Ukrainian Free University.

**The purpose of the article** is to distinguish all the sources of Ivan Mirchuk and his scientific career in émigré of last century. To reach results of the research the description of academic work of Mirchuk in exile should be given. Unlike other researchers in modern historiography this research describes not just philosophical work of Mirchuk but his attempt to create Ukrainian scientific schools in Prague, Berlin and Munich.

**Formulation of the main material.** Academic work of Mirchuk in exile. During his life Ivan Mirchuk worked in Ukrainian and foreign institutions but his scientific achievements were got at the Ukrainian Free University. On September 22, 1921, the scientist passed his habilitation at the newly established Ukrainian Free University, being the first to defend his thesis *Metageometry and Epistemology* there and became a teacher of philosophical sciences (Andriichuk, 2013). When the university was moved to Prague, the young scholar continued his scientific work there. Mirchuk studied Kant's epistemology and translated his *Prolegomena to every future metaphysics* into Ukrainian, and in 1925 he wrote the work *Metageometry and its significance for Kant's theory of space*. Taking into account the fact that the Ukrainian higher school in Prague began to be guided by the rules of Charles University, Ivan Mirchuk received the habilitation at Charles University, which contributed to his scientific growth at the Ukrainian Free University (Narizhny, 1942): in 1923 he became an assistant professor, in 1925 he was promoted to an extraordinary professor and in 1930 he received the position of an ordinary professor of philosophy at the university and remained until the end of his life.

Since 1926, the philosopher participated in scientific congresses: the Ukrainian congresses in Prague in 1926 and 1931, the international congress of Slavic philosophers in Warsaw in 1929, and the international congress of the history and philosophy of religion in Lund, international congresses of philosophers in Oxford in 1930, Prague in 1934 and Brussels in 1935 (Polonska-Vasylenko, 1961). In the second quarter of 20<sup>th</sup> century, I. Mirchuk joined several scientific societies. In 1923, he became a member of the Ukrainian Historical and Philological Society in Prague, in 1928 – the Society of Kant in Berlin, and 10 years later – the Scientific Society of Shevchenko in Lviv (Shafoval, 2006).

Since 1926 I. Mirchuk taught in Königsberg, Münster and Berlin. In the German capital, the professor taught the history of Ukrainian culture and was a member of the examination committee at the Higher Trade School. The same year, the professor began teaching at the newly founded Ukrainian Scientific Institute, which trained young scientists-researchers of the past and present of

the Ukrainian people, promoted the establishment of ties between Ukrainian and Western European, primarily German, scientific centers and took care of Ukrainian students studying at German universities. Ivan Mirchuk was a member of the joint Ukrainian-German Board of Trustees, which regulated the functioning of the institute, headed the department of culture and taught Ukrainian culture to Germans interested in the history of Ukraine and Eastern Europe. From 1931 to 1945, I. Mirchuk headed the Ukrainian Scientific Institute, succeeding D. Doroshenko as the director. The philosopher had to manage the Institute until the end of World War II: despite the war, Mirchuk with his family left Berlin only at the beginning of the summer 1945, moving first to Bayreuth and then to Munich.

The entire Munich period of the scientist's life, which began in 1945 and lasted until his death in 1961, was connected with the Ukrainian Free University. One of the initiators of the restoration, the dean and rector, Professor Ivan Mirchuk devoted another 16 years of his life to the higher school, having contributed to the recognition of the university and the establishment of cooperation with foreign scientific institutions. In mid 20th century, Mirchuk developed a strategy for the development of the higher school and its tasks. If we talk about the role of I. Mirchuk in the development of the Ukrainian higher school in Munich, it is great. First of all, the rector was one of the first to plan to revive the university in the capital of Bavaria, focusing not only on the Ukrainian environment, but also trying to be at the same stage with other universities. Mirchuk played not the last role in the decision of the local Ministry of Education to recognize the Ukrainian higher school. His authority and friendly relations with German politicians contributed to cooperation with foreign scientific institutions in many fields.

In October 1945, I. Mirchuk received an assignment from rector Vadym Shcherbakivsky to represent the university in American and German political institutions. The choice of the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy as an official representative was not accidental: the professor spoke English, German, Polish and Czech. In addition, the special features of Mirchuk's character were his frankness, directness and modesty, which contributed to the fact that the idea of the Ukrainian higher school in Bavaria was appreciated by the local Ministry of Education and the higher education department of the American Military Administration of Bavarian Zone. Not long after, premises were allocated for the university in one of the German schools at Versailerstrasse 4.

In 1948, I. Mirchuk passed the chair of the rector to the professor of administrative constitutional and criminal law – Yuriy Paneyko (Holiat, 1962). In 1950, Ivan Mirchuk became the rector of the Ukrainian Free University for the second time. This time, the professor had to head the higher school for five academic years: in 1955, he was replaced in this position by professor Mykola Vasiliev. During the second term of office, rector Mirchuk formulated the mission of the higher school – "to nurture all fields of science related to the history and development of Ukrainian culture as an inseparable part of humanity". The Ukrainian Free University, in the vision of I. Mirchuk, became the territory of "free science", which could not develop in Ukraine (Kokosh, 2021).

The slogan of the rector was implemented through scientific conferences in opposition to the ideologization of science in the USSR: one of the examples

was the conference of the Committee to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the Pereyaslav Council, which was attended by Ukrainian and German scientists. The university has also started active cooperation with foreign professors.

The rector died at the age of 70. On May 6, 1961, I. Mirchuk was buried in Munich at the Haidhausen cemetery near Kirchenstrasse. The rector's work resulted in dozens of scientific works written in Ukrainian, English, and German, international conferences, cooperation with foreign universities and institutes, ensuring the financial status of the higher school, recognition by the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Religion, support of local politicians, the Church and Ukrainian emigrants in Europe and North America. A famous philosopher, an authoritative professor of European higher schools and a long-term rector of the Ukrainian university, Ivan Mirchuk was remembered for a long time in the works of his contemporaries as a Ukrainian who did not forget to serve the Ukrainians in exile.

The evaluation of contemporaries. The topic of research by I. Mirchuk's contemporaries was the professor's scientific studies in Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Munich, his philosophical ideas and influence on the development of Ukrainian scientific institutions in Europe, especially the Ukrainian Free University. Most of the researchers of the philosopher's life and work were personally familiar with him: the same emigrant scientists, teachers of Ukrainian higher schools, employees of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute in Berlin, members of Ukrainian and foreign scientific institutions knew Mirchuk as a philosopher, university rector and just a person.

One of the best collections of writings about the professor in 20<sup>th</sup> century is kept at the Ukrainian Free University. Here, in addition to works about the philosopher, is also a personal archive fund No. 4 "Mirchuk Ivan – philosopher, historian, cultural expert, rector". The fund presents scientific materials of the scientist, biographical materials, correspondence, documents of an economic and property deals, materials and letters of other persons, which in general belong to the time of the professor's stay in Munich (Kokosh, 2021).

The obituaries *Materials for the Life and Work of Ivan Mirchuk* are an extremely valuable source for studying the personality of the philosopher. Written on the occasion of the philosopher's death in 1961, *Materials* are a collection of articles and memories of Ukrainians Roman Goliat, Nataliya Polonska-Vasylenko, Vasyl Stetsyuk, Kostya Kysilevsky and the philosopher's German colleagues – Georg Stadtmuller, Hilarios Leo Harak, Hans Reinfelder. Based on the information presented, they differ from other sources, first of all, they represent a calm, modest and frank man, devoted to the Ukrainian studies and a hard-working scientist. The best review of the scientific activity of I. Mirchuk was made by the professor of the Ukrainian Free University V. Stetsyuk in his obituary dedicated to the death of the philosopher. He divided the rector's life into five periods: Stryi, Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Munich. Passing the first period of the philosopher's life, V. Stetsyuk described Mirchuk's scientific and academic-pedagogical activities. Having noted the connection of the professor with the Ukrainian, Czech and German scientific world, the author connected the development of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute and the Ukrainian Free University (Stetsyuk, 1961). V. Stetsyuk also examined the main works of the philosopher, including *Die ukrainische Kultur in ihrem*

*geschichtlichen Werden* (Ukrainian culture in its historical development, 1944) and *Geschichte der ukrainischen Kultur* (History of Ukrainian culture, 1957), which opened Ukrainian culture to the German-speaking world.

N. Polonska-Vasylenko called Mirchuk the ambassador of Ukrainian culture in Europe. As Mirchuk, she headed the Philosophy Faculty of the university and, as most other researchers of the philosopher's life, was personally acquainted with him. In her *Words at the grave of the rector of the Ukrainian Free University, professor Dr. Ivan Mirchuk*, the researcher mentioned Mirchuk's scientific activities over the last 35 years of his life: work at the university, participation in international scientific congresses in Europe, the USA and Canada, scientific studies in foreign scientific institutions. In the vision of N. Polonska-Vasylenko, Mirchuk was not limited to scientific achievements in philosophy or Ukrainian leadership of scientific centres: he also distinguished himself in political and social activities as a member of the Hetman movement and a representative of the Hetman Council in Europe (Polonska-Vasylenko, 1961).

The texts of V. Stetsyuk and N. Polonska-Vasylenko later became the basis for the writing of Vasyl Yarish's work *Professor Dr. Ivan Mirchuk – Ambassador of Ukrainian Culture*. It mostly concerns Mirchuk's scientific activities in Berlin. Adhering to the chronological principle, V. Yarish studied the philosopher's studies published in Germany. The researcher called the slogan Ukraine – Mittlerin zwischen West und Ost (Ukraine – a mediator between the West and the East) the program of the philosopher's practical activity: it was best presented by the professor as the director of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute. In addition, the author mentioned Mirchuk's membership in German scientific institutions: Society of Kant, the German Philosophical Society, the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, etc. (Yarish, 1996).

However, the first to write about Ivan Mirchuk was the Ukrainian public figure, publicist and good friend of the philosopher Roman Holiat. He was the author of the first collection *Ukrainian Free University and its rectors*, limited to the biography and main scientific achievements of Ukrainian rectors; newspaper articles *Prof. I. Mirchuk – scientist and citizen* and *Prof. I. Mirchuk*. In addition to studying the scientific development of the scientist and his leadership powers at the Ukrainian Scientific Institute and the Ukrainian Free University, R. Holiat wrote about I. Mirchuk in the context of life of Ukrainian communities in America. Denying the professor's attachment only to Germany or Europe in general, he investigated the philosopher's contribution to the scientific life of Ukrainians in North America, presented his activities and achievements in Ukrainian science. According to the author, Mirchuk's name could not remain unnoticed by the Ukrainian community thanks to his scientific work *Ukraine and Its People* (1948) – almost the only post-war work that introduced the Ukrainians to English-speaking world.

R. Holiat wrote about Mirchuk's contribution to the restoration of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich. For him, as a person who also contributed to the development of the higher school, Mirchuk seemed to be the most promising rector in the entire history of its activity in Bavaria (Holiat, 1950). His long-term experience in the "organization and management of a scientific institution" in Berlin, support from the Church and authority in influential circles in Germany provided the opportunity not only to restore, but to develop the

university. Evidence of this, according to R. Holiat, was the fact that the Ukrainian Free University received recognition from the local Ministry of Education after five years of work in the capital of Bavaria (Holiat, 1955).

Oleksandr Kulchytsky thoroughly studied the scientific studies of I. Mirchuk, primarily his philosophical ideas. O. Kulchytsky was personally acquainted with the rector of the university, and after Mirchuk's death he briefly headed this Ukrainian higher school in Munich. For him, the philosopher was interesting not only for personal reasons. The field of research of O. Kulchytsky – the founder of the Ukrainian Psychological Institute and the author of the concept of the formation of the Ukrainian psyche – was tangential to Mirchuk studies. In addition, the sources of his philosophical teachings were the ideas of Skovoroda and Kant and the understanding of history and culture of Ukraine, which the philosopher mentioned so often (Kulchytsky, 1955).

O. Kulchytsky is the author of two scientific articles about Mirchuk: *Professor Ivan Mirchuk. Philosopher of Ukrainian spirituality* and *Ivan Mirchuk – researcher of Ukrainian spirituality*. In these works, the author revealed the transition of the philosopher from Kantian epistemology to the study of the problem of spirituality. The neo-Kantian era could not ignore Kant, the philosopher of ideas. One of the first works, *Metagometry and its significance for Kant's theory of space*, was devoted to the neo-Kantian problems of space. But, with the exception of several works of the philosopher of 1920<sup>s</sup>, O. Kulchytsky did not find a continuation of his epistemological interests: the problem of the connection between individual elements of the general philosophical worldview led Mirchuk to study the problem of the national worldview as a manifestation of national spirituality (Kulchytsky, 1974, p. 12).

The ethnopsychological studies of I. Mirchuk were systematized by another professor of psychology and sociology and the future rector of the Ukrainian Free University, Volodymyr Yaniv. He started working at the university at the beginning of the Munich era and knew I. Mirchuk personally, so the philosopher's views on the worldview of the Ukrainian people were familiar to him. In his article *To the systematization of Ivan Mirchuk's views on the Ukrainian person*, he described the philosopher's research in the field of the history of Ukrainian culture. V. Yaniv pointed to the professor's first attempt to determine the connection between the spirituality of the people and its philosophy: for Mirchuk, philosophical concepts are rooted in "the specific features of each nation in particular and in the special forces of the national spirit". Investigating the contribution of the philosopher to Ukrainian ethnopsychology, V. Yaniv followed Mirchuk's understanding of Ukrainian spirituality against the background of the Slavic peoples through the contrast between Skovoroda and Masaryk as philosophers and Skovoroda and Tolstoy as writers (Yaniv, 1974, pp. 149-153).

**Conclusions.** All the studies in exile written of Mirchuk represent his main activity in European countries. These researches give the possibility to describe Mirchuk not just as the philosopher, but the ideologist of Ukrainian science in exile. The professor was the initiator of the restoration of the institution, the official representative, the dean of the Philosophy Faculty and the rector. As the rector, Ivan Mirchuk continued the policy of Vadym Scherbakivsky. The first most important measure of I. Mirchuk was cooperation

with the Church and the local administration, which ensured financial support, participation in international scientific projects and, finally, the recognition of the Ukrainian Free University in 1950 by a decree of the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Religion.

Ivan Mirchuk was a professor who worked not only in Ukrainian scientific institutions. He was well known as a professor at the universities of Königsberg, Münster, Berlin and Munich. His name was known at international conferences in Europe and North America. Ukrainian scientific institutions headed by I. Mirchuk have never been excluded from cooperation with foreign scientific centers.

*Conflict of Interest and other Ethics Statements*

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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**Артем КОКОШ**

**МІЖНАРОДНЕ ВИЗНАННЯ В ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКИХ НАУКОВИХ КОЛАХ ЯК ОСНОВНЕ ЗАВДАННЯ ІВАНА МІРЧУКА**

**Анотація.** Постать українського філософа Івана Мірчука ще недостатньо вивчена в українській науці. Про нього згадують в наукових колах, присвячують окремі праці, яких, на жаль, не багато, але для пересічного українця його ім'я маловідоме. Можливо, це пояснюється тим, що філософ працював за межами України: у Відні, Празі, Берліні, Мюнхені, або ж тим, що вивчати постать філософа в Україні розпочали відносно нещодавно, та й то практично не використовуючи матеріалів закордонних архівів. Така ситуація речей є не виправдана, адже вся наукова робота І. Мірчука була зосереджена на українському ґрунті.

Мірчук – представник української «Січі» у Відні, викладач Українського наукового інституту і Вищої торгівельної школи в Берліні, професор й ректор Українського вільного університету. Його авторству належить ряд наукових праць з філософії, серед яких і цінні переклади класиків науки. Навколо нього об'єднувалися цілі покоління української діаспори. Іван Мірчук був професором, який працював не лише в українських наукових установах. Його ім'я було відоме на міжнародних конференціях Європи та Північної Америки. Українські наукові установи, очолювані І. Мірчуком, ніколи не були відсторонені від співпраці з закордонними науковими центрами.

**Ключові слова:** Іван Мірчук, Мюнхен, Берлін, українська наука.