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THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHOREOGRAPHIC ART IN TERNOPIL REGION: A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE ACROSS CENTURIES

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Choreography, as one of the oldest and most expressive forms of art, represents a vital component of the cultural heritage of every nation. Dance traditions, with their rich symbolism and stylistic diversity, not only reflect historical and social processes but also serve as a means of preserving and transmitting cultural identity. Ternopil Region, with its unique geographical location and centuries of cultural influences, exemplifies an area where choreography has evolved into a powerful medium of self-expression and collective creativity.

Situated at the crossroads of diverse historical and cultural pathways, Ternopil Region has absorbed influences from Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, Moldovan, Hungarian, and other cultures. These influences are evident in the distinctive character of its local choreography. The region's folk dances, such as arkan, metelytsia, kolomyika, and hutsulka, are notable for their vivid expressiveness, rhythmic precision, and symbolic depth. The movements of these dances are often inspired by the region's natural environment, from the expansive Carpathian mountain ranges to the plains of the Podolian Uplands.

The geographical conditions of the Ternopil region have significantly influenced the development of its dance traditions. The Podolian hills, the Dniester and Seret rivers, and the surrounding forests created an environment conducive to the emergence of dances that convey a sense of freedom, harmony with nature, and collective unity. Dance elements such as jumps, turns, and hand movements often mimic the dynamics of natural phenomena: the waves of a river, gusts of wind, or the motion of birds.

In the villages of Ternopil, dance was an integral part of community life. It accompanied ritual events such as weddings, caroling, and the Green Holidays. Dances were performed at fairs, church celebrations, and traditional evening gatherings (vechornytsi). Choreography not only fostered aesthetic self-expression but also served

as a means of communication, social identification, and the transmission of values to younger generations.

For centuries, dance in the Ternopil region has played a vital role in people's lives, accompanying rituals, celebrations, and daily activities. It reflected the worldview, daily life, traditions, and aspirations for self-expression of the local population. However, the choreographic heritage of Ternopil has not yet been comprehensively studied, particularly in terms of its geographical determinants.

The aim of this research is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of choreographic art in the Ternopil region within a historical and geographical context.

Systematizing the choreographic heritage of Ternopil requires an interdisciplinary approach that considers not only artistic aspects but also the geographical, historical, and ethnographic features of the region. Examining the development of choreography through the lens of geographical context allows for a deeper understanding of how the natural environment, economic conditions, and cultural exchange influenced the formation of dance traditions.

Ternopil is part of Western Ukraine, which has shaped the unique development of choreography under the influence of regional traditions, particularly the Galician cultural heritage. Due to its proximity to other regions and Central European countries, the area became a hub of interpenetration of Ukrainian, Polish, Austrian, and Czech choreographic traditions.

As the administrative center of the region, Ternopil has served as a hub for the development of choreography. It is here that theaters, cultural institutions, and artistic ensembles have provided a platform for creative expression. The accompanying table highlights the concentration of the life paths and professional activities of numerous choreographers around this city.

The choreographic art of Ternopil region is distinguished by a synthesis of traditional Ukrainian folk dances and modern European styles. Folk dances that reflect local culture, such as Arkan and Hutsulka, along with festive choreographic rituals, are particularly widespread in the region. The table identifies artists who dedicated their work to preserving and promoting these regional elements.

The education of choreographers was often linked to institutions in major cultural centers such as Lviv or Kyiv. This points to interregional interaction and underscores Ternopil's role as an integral part of the broader Ukrainian cultural process. The table illustrates how artists utilized their training to advance local choreography.

Some of the artists listed in the table were born or worked outside the Ternopil region, indicating active cultural exchange. For instance, the work of Vasyl Avramenko extended beyond Ukraine, popularizing Ukrainian dance on the international stage.

The geographical features of the region — the hilly landscapes of the Podolian Uplands, abundant natural resources, and ethnographic diversity — have influenced the themes and stylistics of its choreographic art. This influence is evident in productions inspired by natural or historical narratives characteristic of the region.

The table not only serves as a source of information about the work of choreographers but also as a tool for exploring the cultural and geographical aspects of Ternopil's development. The analysis reveals how local traditions, proximity to other

cultures, migration, and urbanization have shaped the choreographic art of the region, in table.1.

Table 1.
Geographical Dynamics of the Development of Choreographic Art in the Ternopil
Region: A Comparative Analysis of the Works of Prominent Masters

Compiled by the authors based on the data [1-19]

Name, Surname;	Main Workplaces	Genres, Styles;	Contribution to
Lifespan;	_	-	the Development
Period of Active Creativity	Most Notable	Awards, Honors	of Choreography
	Productions		
Place of Birth			
Education			
1	2	3	4
Vasyl Pochynok [17];	Zhytomyr Folk Choir	Folk Dance, Synthesis	Restoration and
05.05.1935 – 26.05.2022;	"Lyonok", "Polissia"	of Traditional and	popularization of
1958-2022	Ensemble, "Vatra",	Contemporary	folk dances of
	"Promin", "Oberih",	Choreographic Art	Ternopil region,
Novograd-Volynskyi,	"Neopalyma Kupyna"		training new
Zhytomyr Region		Honored Worker of	generations of
	"Rejoice, Earth", "Fun	Culture of the	dancers
Kyiv Institute of Theatre	and Dances of Ternopil	Ukrainian SSR (1967),	
Arts, 1974	Region", "The Bells of	Laureate of the	
	Molotkov", "On Yuriv's	Decade of Ukrainian	
	Dew"	Art (1960), All-Union	
		Amateur Artistic	
		Competitions (1967,	
		1977)	
Volodymyr Baka [2];	Soloist of the	Folk Dance,	Author of
02.07.1934 — 03.02.2022;	"Nadzbruchanka"	Arrangements of	arrangements of
1959–2022	ensemble, "Dnister" pop	Podilian Folklore,	Podilian dance
	group, leader of the	Choreographic	folklore,
Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk	"Yunyst" and "Prolisok"	Pictures	popularizing folk
Region	ensembles,		dance
	choreographer at Kalush	Honored Artist of the	
No specific mention of education	City Culture Center	Ukrainian SSR (1973)	
	"Greek Dance" (1969),		
	"Czech Polka" (1974),		
	"Oh, I Am Black, Black"		
	(1975), "Student's		
	Quickstep" (1980),		
	"Podilskiy Pair" (1981),		
	"Springtime" (1984)		

Continuation of Table			
1	2	3	4
Andriy Medetskyi [11];	Leader of the "Slavnozvit"	Folk Dance,	Training new
29.09.1961 — Present;	Ensemble, teacher at	Choreography for	generations of
1959-2022	Iharts, teacher at KOGPI,	Children's Groups	choreographers
	founder of the "Horytsia",	_	and dancers,
Budaniv, Chortkiv	"Barvinok" ensembles	Industry awards	popularizing
District, Ternopil Region		•	Ukrainian dance
	Dance compositions for		
Kyiv Institute of Culture	"Horytsia", "Barvinok";		
(1988), Choreographic	productions for		
Courses at Lublin	"Kremenets Barvinky"		
University (2006)	Į ,		
Mykola Venislavskyi [5];	Rivne Regional Musical	Ballet Master's	Contribution to
28.10.1930 — 04.06.2006;	Drama Theatre, Ternopil	Activity in Theatre	the development
1951–2006	Regional Musical Drama	Productions,	of theatrical
	Theatre	Photographic Art	choreography in
Riasnyky, Hoshchansky			Ukraine, creation
District, Rivne Region	Dances for the	Theatre Art Awards	of a photographic
	productions "Wedding in	and Honors	chronicle of the
Ballet Courses at Kyiv	Malinivka", "Tear the		theatre
Opera and Ballet Theatre	Chains", "Free Wind",		
(1954)	"Muddy Springs"		
Liliya Velhyan [4];	"Nadzbruchanka" Dance	Folk Dance,	Contribution to
06.08.1979 — Present;	Ensemble of the Ternopil	Ballroom	the
1998–Present	Regional Philharmonic,	Choreography	popularization of
	Artistic Director of the		folk dance and
Baykivtsi, Ternopil	"GloriaBai" Ensemble	Cultural Awards,	ballroom
District, Ternopil Region		"Nadzbruchanka"	choreography in
	Author of more than 20	Ensemble Awards	Ukraine
Terebovlia Higher Culture	dance compositions, folk		
College (1998), Rivne	dances		
Humanities University			
(2003, teacher of ballroom			
choreography)			
Viktor Marushchak [10];	Leader of the	Folk Dance,	Impact on the
02.06.1946 — Present;	"Stepivchanka" Folk	Ukrainian Folklore	development of
1965–Present	Dance Ensemble, Leader		Ukrainian folk
	of the Honored	Honored Artist of	dance, creation of
Kozova, Ternopil Region	"Polisanka" Dance	Ukraine (1999),	dance
	Ensemble	People's Artist of	productions with
Kirovograd Pedagogical		Ukraine (2009),	a folkloric focus
Institute (1969)	"Pavlivska Kadrylya",	Order of Merit 3rd	
	"New Ukrainian Polka",	class (2007)	
	"Polissia Greets",		
	"Hustyna", "Hopak",		
	"Polissian Patterns"		

		Continuation	
1	2	3	4
Oksana Piliarchuk [15];	Leader of the	Contemporary	Trained many
09.10.1982 — Present;	"Orkhideia" Dance	Choreography, Pop	winners of
2003–Present	Collective at Vyshnivets	Dance	choreographic
	Cultural Center, Teacher		competitions
Vyshnivets, Zbarazh	of Choreography at	Silver Diploma at the	
District, Ternopil Region	Butynska Secondary	First All-Ukrainian	
	School	Junior Vocal and	
Kremenets Regional		Conducting Competition	
Pedagogical College,	Creation and	(2002), "Honored Figure	
Kremenets Regional	choreography of dance	of Pop Art of Ukraine"	
Humanities-Pedagogical	compositions for	(2011), numerous	
Institute	"Orkhideia"	diplomas and cups at	
		national and	
		international festivals	
Maria Chaika [18];	Leader of Dance	Folk Dance, Ensemble	Trained
30.04.1919 — Present;	Collectives in Chortkiv,	Dance	several
1944–1970s	Choreographer of the		generations of
	Folk Dance Ensemble	Honored Worker of	dancers and
Lysva, Perm Region,		Culture of the Ukrainian	choreographer
russia	Productions for Folk	SSR (1973), Certificate	s, worked with
	Amateur Dance	of the Presidium of the	youth
Sverdlovsk Choreographic	Ensemble, tours in	Supreme Council of	
School (1938)	various cities and	Ukraine, Order of the	
, , ,	countries	Red Banner of Labor	
Yaroslav Chuperchuk	"Dnipro" Bandura	Hutsul Dance, Folk	Founded
[19];	Ensemble, Theatres of V.	Choreography	several dance
17.03.1911 — 2004;	Blavatsky, P.		groups,
1920s–1980s	Karabinevych, M.	Laureate of the	created the
	Sadovsky, I. Stadnyk,	International	foundations of
Kryvorivnya, Verkhovyna	State Hutsul Ensemble of	Competition (1969,	Hutsul
District, Ivano-Frankivsk	Song and Dance,	France), Author of the	choreography
Region	"Chornohora"	book "Golubka" (1972)	
-	Over 100 choreographic		
V. Avramenko Dance	compositions,		
School (Ternopil, 1926–	productions for the		
1928), Warsaw Cadet	Hutsul Ensemble,		
School (Poland, 1920s)	"Chornohora"		
Mykhailo Magdij [9];	Ternopil, Stanislav	Musical Composition,	Collected
06.02.1906 - 03.11.1983;	(Ivano-Frankivsk),	Choral Art, Vocal-	musical
1920s–1980s	Philharmonic	Choreographic Music	folklore,
		_	recorded
Sosniv, Ternopil District,	"Two Brothers", "The	Honored Artist of the	choreography
Ternopil Region	Boy Walks by the	Ukrainian SSR (1956),	of dances and
Ternopil Teacher's	Window", "Above the	Folk Song Arrangements,	games
Seminary, Conductor	Cheremosh", "Oleksa	Methodologist at the	_
School in Kielce (Poland,	Dovbush", "Farewell to	House of Folk Creativity	
1925)	the Mountain"		

Continuation of Table 1.			
1	2	3	4
Myroslav Pomoryanskyj	Chernivtsi, Stanislav	Ukrainian Folk Dance,	Studied Hutsul
[16];	(Ivano-Frankivsk)	Ethnography	and Bukovynian
20.10.1925 — 16.11.2002;			choreographic
1940–2000s	"Bukovynian	Honored Worker of	folklore,
	Wedding",	Culture of the	recorded folk
Kopychyntsi, Chortkiv	"Verkhovyna Circle",	Ukrainian SSR	dances
District, Ternopil Region	"The Woodcutters"	(1967), Awards for	
		Ethnographic Activity	
Chortkiv Gymnasium (1943)			
Orest Pyeknyj [14];	Chortkiv, Kremenets,	Ukrainian folk dance	Focused on
<i>14.04.1946</i> — <i>17.01.2007</i> ;	Chortkiv Pedagogical		revitalizing
1971–2000s	College	Honored Culture	regional
		Worker of the	Ukrainian folk
Yagilnytsia, Chortkiv District,	"Kremenchanka"	Ukrainian SSR	dance traditions
Ternopil Oblast	dance ensemble,	(1988), USSR	
_	"Apple Blossom"	Ministry of Culture	
Terebovlia Cultural and	• •	Award (1982)	
Educational College (1971)			
Pavlo Bojko [3];	Dance Club "Malvy"	Ballroom dancing,	Actively
22.07.1981 — Present;	(Ternopil), Dance	modern dance	developed
1991–Present	Center "Style",		modern dance
	Ukrainian Federation	Golden Award	in Ukraine,
Ternopil	of Modern Dance	"Organizer of the	organized
•		Year" (2007), Vice-	festivals
Lviv School of Culture and	Vice-Champion of	Champion of Ukraine	
Arts, Lviv Institute of Sports	Ukraine in Latin	in Ballroom Dance	
and Ballroom Dance, Lviv	American Ballroom	(2007)	
Institute of Management	Dance (2007),	, ,	
	Festival and		
	Competition		
	Organizer		
Alla Konechna [7];	Culture House of the	Ukrainian and folk-	Created over 30
09.12.1960 — Present;	"Ternopil Combine	stage dance	dances,
1983–Present	Plant", Choreographic		developed 3
	School of P. Virsky	Presidential	concert
Zalishchyky	Dance Ensemble	Certificate of Honor	programs,
		(2007), Gold Medal at	influenced the
Terebovlia Cultural and	Presidential	2nd International	development of
Educational College (1979),	Certificate of Honor	Delphi Games (2008)	children's
Kyiv Institute of Culture	(2007), Gold Medal at		choreography
(1983)	2nd International		6 T 7
	Delphi Games in Arts		
	(2008)		
	(2000)	l .	I

		Continuati	on of Table 1.
1	2	3	4
Vasyl Moskva [12];	Borshchiv District Culture	Ukrainian,	Founded the
21.01.1935 - 03.03.2020;	House, Pacific Song and	Bukovynian, Hutsul,	"Zbruchany"
ĺ	Dance Ensemble	Moldovan,	Song and
1958–1999		Belarusian,	Dance
	Choreographer for	Hungarian dances	Ensemble,
Sapohiv, Borshchiv	"Evening in Nadzbruch",	Trangarian dances	choreographed
District, Ternopil Oblast	"Canada", "Arkan",	Head of	over 10
District, Temoph Colast	"Kaperush"	Choreographic	compositions
Trained young	Kaperusn	Group at Borshchiv	Compositions
choreographers at		District Culture	
e i		House	
Moscow's Gorky Theatre		поиѕе	
for Young Audiences		TTI ' ' C 11 1	C 4 1
Roman Dlugash [6];	Dobryvody Culture House,	Ukrainian folklore,	Created
06.02.1947 — Unknown;	Vyshnivets Culture House	ethnographic	amateur
1964–2008		performances	ensembles,
	Author of the song "In	~ "	worked with
Dobryvody, Zbarazh	Dobryvody Barvynok",	Collected folk songs,	folklore,
District, Ternopil Oblast	repertoire for "Dobryvody	rhymes, games;	organized
	Wedding", folklore	author of folk songs	rituals and
Terebovlia Cultural and	performances		celebrations
Educational College, Dance			
Group Leaders' Studio			
Vasyl Avramenko [1];	Canada, USA, New York,	Ukrainian folk	Promoted
10 (22).03.1895 —	Europe, Australia, Israel	dances, ballet	Ukrainian
06.05.1981;		compositions	national dance
1919–1981	Founder of the Ukrainian		in the USA,
	National Dance School,	Founded a film	Canada, Europe
Stebliv, Cherkasy Oblast	created "Avramenko	studio in New York,	
	Ballet", author of a	created the V.	
_	textbook, global tours	Avramenko Fund	
Ihor Nykolyshyn [13];	Terebovlia, Kyiv, Ternopil	Folk dance,	Contributed to
25.07.1962 — 22.10.2017;		choreographic	the
1980–2017	Honored Worker of	performances	development of
	Culture of Ukraine, leader	1	choreography
Rohatyn, Ivano-Frankivsk	of the "Lyubystok"	Honored Worker of	in Ternopil
Oblast	Ensemble, Artistic Director	Culture of Ukraine	region, founded
	of "Nadzbruchanka"	(1999)	the
Terebovlia Cultural and	Ensemble	(-///	"Lyubystok"
Educational College, Kyiv	2105011000		folk ensemble
Institute of Culture			
Lyudmyla Schur [8];	Ternopil, Chortkiv,	Choreography,	Founder and
19.06.1977 — Present;	Borshchiv	music, pedagogy	leader of the
1996–Present	Doisioniv	Pedagogical work at	'Vesnyanka'
1770 I Tesetti	Leader of the "Vesnyanka"	Ternopil National	Ensemble,
Borshchiv, Ternopil Oblast	Dance Ensemble,	Pedagogical	studies the role
Chortkiv Pedagogical	Associate Professor in	University, research	of
College, Ternopil National	Musicology Department	on Ukrainian	choreography
_	musicology Department		in education
Pedagogical University		choreographic art	in caucation

The table provided contains information about significant figures in the field of choreography and culture from the Ternopil region and other parts of Ukraine, who worked in various directions of folk and stage dance. Each of them made a substantial contribution to the development of Ukrainian choreographic art, particularly through their work with folk dances, choreographic pieces for ensembles, and through their pedagogical activities, educating new generations of choreographers and dancers.

Most of the choreographers received their education at specialized institutions such as the Kyiv Institute of Culture, the Ternopil College of Culture, and various schools and courses for choreographers. This highlights the important role of education in the development of dance culture. However, it is also noteworthy that some individuals, such as Volodymyr Baka, had limited information available regarding their educational background.

Some figures worked abroad, contributing to international exchange and the promotion of Ukrainian dance (e.g., Vasyl Avramenko, who advocated for Ukrainian dance in the USA and Canada).

Almost all dancers focused on folk dances, but some individuals, such as Liliya Velhan, also worked in the field of ballroom choreography. Many of them engaged in the synthesis of folk traditions and contemporary choreography, which is an important aspect of the development of the Ukrainian dance scene, as seen in the work of Vasyl Pochynok, for example.

Dance was not only a means of artistic expression but also a way to preserve and promote folk traditions. In this context, it is worth highlighting the work of Myroslav Pomoryansky, who conducted ethnographic work, studying Hutsul and Bukovinian folklore.

Many of these figures also actively worked with youth and created new dance groups. For instance, Mykola Venislavskyi was a ballet master and photographer for theatrical performances, which also reflects his significant contribution to the cultural heritage.

Most of the individuals in this list received high titles and awards for their work, underscoring their influence on the development of choreography. Notable distinctions include titles such as "Honored Worker of Culture," "People's Artist of Ukraine," as well as international awards, such as recognition at the Delphic Games.

Many of these figures had a significant impact on the preservation and popularization of traditional Ukrainian dances through tours, creating choreographic works, and participating in festivals. The revival and promotion of folk dances from the Ternopil region (as in the case of Vasyl Pochynok) is an important direction for preserving cultural heritage.

Choreographic art in the Ternopil region has undergone a long and rich development, forming a unique cultural heritage that combines folk traditions with innovations in choreography. Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, prominent choreographers worked in the region, not only developing local dance art but also actively influencing its spread across the country. Let us examine the key stages of this development through the lens of the creativity of individual figures.

From the very beginning of the 20th century, choreographic art in the Ternopil region was closely linked to folk traditions. Local dances, rituals, and customs became the foundation for further choreographic productions. During this period, organized dance ensembles had not yet been established, but there was already a growing need for the systematization and preservation of folkloric traditions.

In the post-war years, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s, active work began on the formation of choreographic groups and ensembles, which became the main centers for the development of choreographic culture in Ternopil. One of the key figures of this period was Vasyl Pochynok (1935-2022), who devoted much of his life to popularizing the folk dances of Ternopil. His productions, such as "Rejoice, O Earth" and "Festivities and Dances of Ternopil," became milestone works in the history of folk dance in the region. Under his leadership, traditional dances were revived, which gave impetus to the renewal of the region's cultural practices.

During this same period, Volodymyr Baka (1934-2022) was actively engaged in the arrangement of Podilian folklore. His choreographic works, such as "Greek Dance" and "Czech Polka," were noted for their synthesis of folk traditions and contemporary choreographic language.

Institutionalization of Choreographic Art (1970s-1980s). The 1970s and 1980s marked a period of institutionalization of choreography in the Ternopil region. During this time, numerous amateur and professional ensembles were created, which became important cultural centers. Among these figures, it is worth highlighting Mykola Venislavskyi (1930-2006), who made a significant contribution to the development of theatrical choreography. His works for performances such as "Wedding in Malinivka" and "Tear the Chains" were distinguished by their great creative exploration, combining folk traditions with the latest choreographic techniques.

At this time, Mykhailo Mahdiy (1906-1983), a renowned Ukrainian choreographer, was actively working. He became one of the first to popularize Ukrainian national dance on international stages, including in the United States and Canada.

Rise of Folk Choreography and Folkloric Traditions (1990s-2000s). The 1990s marked a period of revival for folk choreography following Ukraine's independence. During this time, there was an active restoration of folk dances in Ternopil, particularly with the help of choreographers who worked extensively with folkloric materials. Viktor Marushchak (1946-present), who became one of the leading choreographers in Ukraine, created a number of dance productions with a folkloric focus, such as "Pavlivska Quadrille" and "Polissia Cutouts." These works, recognized with numerous awards, became a foundation for the development of Ukrainian folk dance on stages across various theaters.

Contemporary Achievements and the Development of Choreography (2000s-present). In the 21st century, choreographic art in Ternopil has undergone significant development, thanks to contemporary choreographers who preserve folk traditions while introducing innovative elements. A key figure in this development is Oksana Pilyarchuk (1982-present), who has created over 30 dances that actively promote Ukrainian choreography. Her work with the dance ensemble "Orkhideya" has brought local choreography to a new level.

During this period, choreographers such as Lyudmila Shchur (1977-present), who leads the dance ensemble "Vesnyanka" and is actively engaged in scientific research in Ukrainian choreography, are also making significant contributions.

The development of choreographic art in Ternopil is the result of the long and fruitful work of numerous individuals who, over the course of a century, made significant contributions to the development and preservation of Ukrainian dance traditions. From the initial stages of its formation to contemporary achievements, choreography in the region has evolved from folk rituals to a professional art form that continues to develop actively today.

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