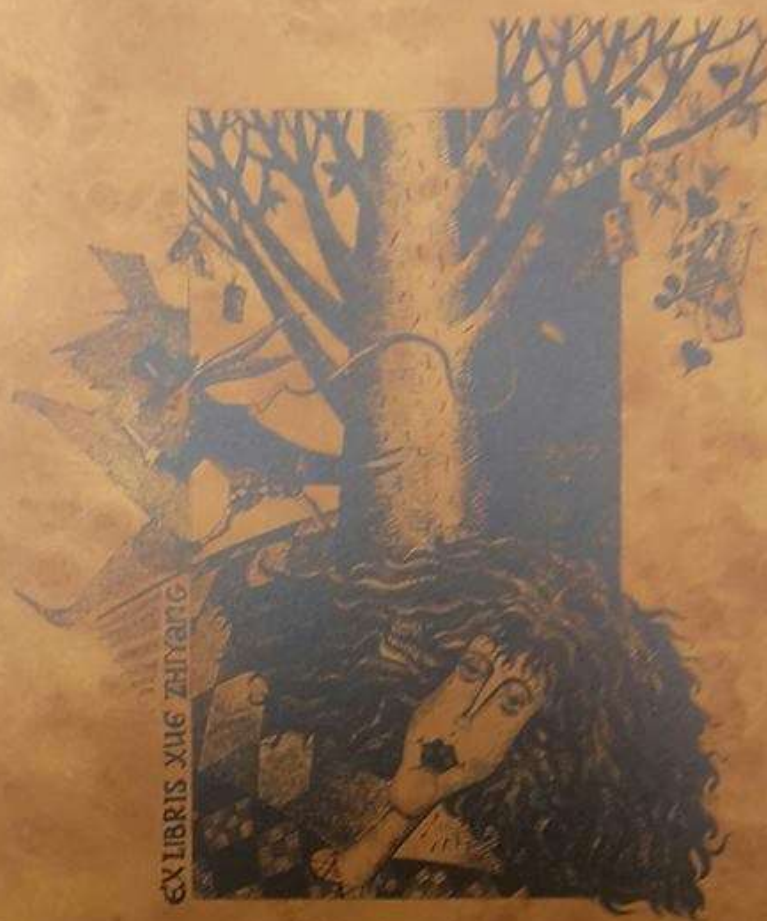


CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL
EX-LIBRIS ARTISTS



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GENNADIY ZADNIPRYANIY FACES OF ARTISTIC TALENT

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In the contemporary graphic arts we often see extravagant new techniques, materials, artistic ways of expression, but it is uncommon to encounter high quality traditional graphic techniques – whose main instrument is a “jeweller’s eye” and professional artistry (but not the quality of computer programs) that transform pieces of paper into masterpieces with a couple of strokes or lines. Traditional graphic arts, printmaking, have achieved a high standard. Contemporary Ukrainian graphic arts may rightly be proud of interesting, unusual in creative manner, artists, including young artists with new ideas that combine traditional and modern methods and professional experts of previous generations who have experience and “jeweller’s technique”. One representative of this last category is the Kyiv graphic artist, Gennadiy Zadnipryaniy. Usually when we first see an image by an artist new to us, we understand that what he or she is attempting to say. The artist’s creative face is his works. In Gennadiy’s case this is not so clear. We will introduce him as a graphic arts professional, an expert in the field of ex libris and as master of postal design, and also as a pedagogue at a students graphic workshop.

He was born at Crimea in 1942. He received his higher education in Kyiv: first at the Mikhail Boychuk Art and Industrial Institute (specialization – design of industrial products). Then he continued his studies and in 1976 graduated from the Polygraphic Institute with the specialization “Graphic



Photo: Gennadiy

Opus 26 (2000) – **Kingdom of Rhythm** (X6)

The year 2000 was among the most productive for Gennadiy Zadnipryaniy. This ex libris was designed in tribute to the Ukrainian philosopher, literary scholar, and translator, Solomia Pavlichko.



Opus 28 (2000) – **Our Dear Ella** (X6)

For Ella Belkina (d. 2010), head of a Department of Fine Arts and Design, an intelligent and creative individual, who was boss and friend of the most of her colleagues.



Opus 35 (2000) – **Apollo Stone** (X2)
For Nadiya Kovtun, a figure of Apollo and the tools of a sculptor recall the difficulties of those who work with stone.



Opus 6 (1981) – **View of Lady** (X6)
For A. Yanchenko, an early portrait, of the female face, romantic and transparent, with tiny figures as background. Untypical of the artist, whose images are rather abstract, but here the face is both a portrait and symbolic.



Opus 27 (2000) – **Happy Easter** (X6)
For Z. Stashuk a small symbolic composition with a candle surrounded by Easter eggs: a favorite folk traditions for Ukrainians, who like to make “krashankas” – eggs painted by artists.

Arts, Book illustration". Thereafter he began to find himself in the graphic arts – as an illustrator, a pedagogue of young graphic artists in the University, as the designer of postage stamps. He works in different areas – large forms and small, almost jewel-like, delicate works. For several decades Zadnipyrianiy has worked in publishing houses and advertising firms. To date he had done more than five hundred book illustrations! Since 1981 he has participated in exhibitions, including international. In 1995 he began to collaborate with "UkrPostOffice"; during the past twenty years or so he has designed about one hundred envelopes and more than twenty postage stamps.

In 1995 the Kyiv Borys Grinchenko University suggested that Zadnipyrianiy try teaching: he became an instructor of young artists. He works with students in the field of composition, graphics art, and design. In 2016 he became the art-curator of a

printmaking workshop. This new workshop is a bit unusual for a university because students have not experienced printmaking, which is why Gennadiy Zadnipyrianiy began to open this world to young creative students. Sometimes his students have been awarded prizes in international competitions in the graphic arts under his direction.

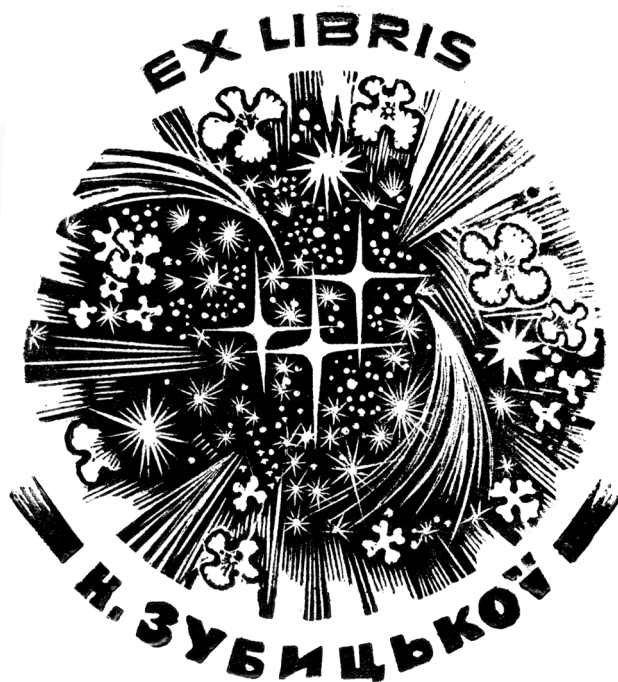
One of the productive and interesting pages of his creative biography is the field of ex libris. Zadnipyrianiy has designed 43 ex libris for Ukrainian and foreign collectors since 1978. In 1983 he took part in an exhibition of works by artists of the press (Kyiv, Ukraine), in 1998 he participated in an ex-libris exhibition at Sint-Niklaas (Belgium), and in the year 2000 participated in an exhibition in Krakow (Poland). Although Zadnipyrianiy specializes in various techniques of deep printing and has experience in colour printmaking, he likes black and white plastic engraving and linocut. His early works were wood engravings. Most of

his works are engraved on plastic. Zadnipyrianiy is a "black and white king" – his works are laconic, intelligent, and contain nothing more. The language of symbol is their main feature. Many are small in size, so it is important to be neat with line, dot, and sign. These days we hope that a new cycle of ex libris will emanate from the workshop headed by Gennadiy Zadnipyrianiy in collaboration with his young students.



Gennadiy Zadnipyrianiy in his workshop.

All the captions are by the author.



Opus 34 (2000) – **Magic Stars** (X2)
For N. Zubitskaya, well-known doctor specializing in herbal medicine. Stars in the sky, flowers in grass – an eternal theme.



Opus 43 (2015) – **Mystery of Enamel** (X6)
For Alexander Boroday, abstract images and symbolic signs. A friend and colleague, he is an expert in the art of crafts and enamels and a founder of the first international enamel competition in Ukraine.



Opus 25 (2015) – **The Path of the Artist** (X6)
Symbolic ex libris for V. Kalnenko, with the ancient Scythian Baba, symbol of culture of early Slavs and modern palette with brush nearby linking the two eras, enclosed in a transparent, symbolic border ...