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MALOPYS AS A DISTINCT TYPE OF UKRAINIAN CULTURE

Abstract. *The article is devoted to the study of the peculiarities of malopys (Ukrainian comics). The history of creation of the first comics has been analyzed. The types of Ukrainian comics illustrated in the most popular works have been studied.*

Keywords: *malopys; comics; Ukrainian comics; protocomics; comic strip; comic books; design; caricatures; graphic novels; authors of sketches; colorist.*

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МАЛЬОПИС ЯК ОКРЕМИЙ ВИД УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КУЛЬТУРИ

Анотація. *Стаття присвячена дослідженню особливостей мальописів (українських коміксів). Проаналізовано історію створення перших коміксів. Досліджено види українських коміксів на прикладі найпопулярніших робіт.*

Ключові слова: *мальопис; комікси; українські комікси; протокомікс; комікс; комікси; дизайн; карикатури; графічні романи; автори етюдів; колорист.*

Introduction. In today's world, comics are a unique product of publishing, an effective means of presenting information from various fields of knowledge, as well as an artistic tool and an established art. The traditions of comics and cartoons are an integral part of many cultures around the world, both Western and Eastern. However, comics in Ukraine are only gaining popularity among various groups of readers. Analysis of sources and publications of Ukrainian and foreign researchers A. Meskin, J. Petty, T.V. Isalevich, Ryabukha, I.O. Lopushansky, K. Sova showed that Ukrainian comics as a genre of modern literature needs further research. In particular, to analyze the illustrations and styles of artists of *malopys* (comics), to explore the types of Ukrainian comics.

The aim of the article: to determine the features of *malopys*, the relationship of existing comics with modern ones; to analyze the history of the first comics, as well as illustrations and styles of painters.

Results. Comics, or as it is more common in Ukraine, "Malopys" (comic strips with pictures) – is a sequence of black and white or color images, usually with short texts that create a coherent story, mostly dialogic text [3]. Comics are known to come from comics strips (comic cartoon strips from newspaper columns). They were collected and formed into comic books, which would later become modern prototypes known to all.

Why is it necessary to introduce a new term? Ukrainian *malopys* are not visually different from American comics. Although the Ukrainian market is much smaller, the term "malopys" still needs to be consolidated, because it is one of the parts of the identification of the Ukrainian cultural space [4].

The direction of this work dates back to the XV century. But the comic itself, in its usual form, appeared in the late nineteenth century. Swiss writer and educator Rodolphe Topfer published the first book of comics "Histoire de Monsieur Jabot" (Fig. 1) – is "literature in engraving" [3]. It was painted in 1831 and published in 1833 (Caye Printing House, Geneva).

And already in 1854 Gustave Doré, a prominent French illustrator and engraver of the Romantic era, presented a full album - the book "History of Holy Russia" (Fig. 2). This work is considered to be a proto comics - one of the first works that gave a strong impetus to the development of graphic novels. This book was unlucky. Barely published, it was quietly removed from stores (policy changed); they made it look like that the book didn`t exist at all; the German edition of 1937 was also arrested [3].

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Fig. 1. Histoire de Monsieur Jabot, 1833

Political caricatures by William Hogarth in the eighteenth century preceded modern comics. After all, they had the closest look – a series of drawings that are united by a common opinion. The so-called first American comic "Bear and Tiger" was published in 1892. And no less popular was the story of "Yellow Kid" (Fig. 3) about a little boy from China, who came to America in search of adventure [5].

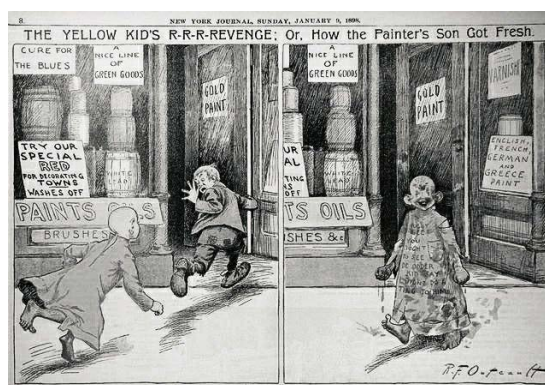*Fig. 2.* History of Holy Russia, 1854

Fig. 3. Yellow Kid, 1897

The creator of the comics, Rudolf Derks, invented "bubbles": frames in which the dialogues of the characters are placed. And after 1892 began the rapid development of comics. New heroes are born, who, incidentally, still exist. For example, Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Captain America, Delly and Harvey. Whole publishing companies specializing in the publication of comics are created: Marvel, DC, Dark Horse and Image Comics (Fig. 4) [5].

Fig. 4. Marvel, 1938

Fig. 5. Warlock from Montenegro, 1921

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In 1921, *Svit Dityny* the Lviv publishing house published the book «The Warlock from Montenegro» (Fig. 5). The poem was written by Yaroslav Vilshenko, whose real name is Antin Lototsky. The book has 72 pages, illustrations to each were made by Antin Manastyrsky. For the most part, the pictures show exactly what the text says on the same page. According to the Library of Ukrainian Art "The Warlock from Montenegro" can be considered the first Ukrainian comic, because the form as a comic is not classical, but the essence –the story in pictures – is preserved [2].

Also, "Silk State" can be considered one of the first Ukrainian comics (Fig. 6). The script for the comic was written by Vasyl Baryshchev, the picture was drawn by Felix Dobrin, and the Dnipro publishing house published a comic in soft format with a bracket in 1990. Later in 1993, Gogol's classic story "Eyelashes" (Fig. 7) was adapted into a comic book and published in the magazine "Traveler" [2].
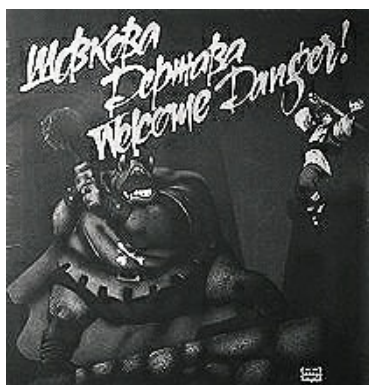

Fig. 6. Silk State, 1990

Fig. 7. Eyelashes, 1993

Ukrainian-language comics and graphic novels began to gain popularity only in 2010 and became part of Ukrainian mass culture. This was facilitated, in particular, by the wave of successful adaptations of DC and Marvel comics, which usually attract a large number of viewers. The first four DC comics in Ukrainian appeared in the spring of 2017 and were presented at the Kyiv Comic Con popular culture festival. This festival became the driving force behind the emergence of Ukrainian comics, as publishers saw that there was a huge number of interested people, and decided to take a risk [3].

Today in Ukraine there are 8 publishers that produce comics of Ukrainian production, which include: "Leopol", "Native Language", "Asgardian Comics", "Fireclaw", "Nebeskey", "Northern Lights", "UA Comics" and "Vovkulaka" [3].

Most people still consider comics to be mostly literature for teenagers and infantile adults. But comics are a universe that exists for different age groups where there are a lot of genres, subgenres, moods and themes. Action, comedy, candid, romantic, fantasy, horror and more. Starting with the heroic plot and ending with social issues. They raise various topics, including important and serious ones.

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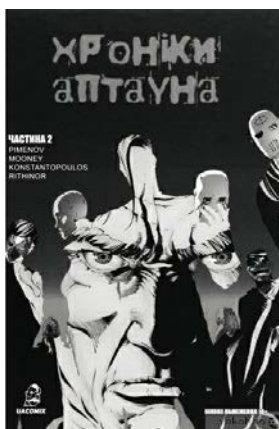ВИКЛИКИ ТА МОЖЛИВОСТІ»*

Fig. 8. Will, 2017

Fig. 9. Chronicles of Uptown, 2016

Fig. 10. Hero of Slavery, 2017

As in movies and books, painting also has its types of publications:

Single is a single issue of the serial comic.

Stand-eloun – a comic book that does not belong to the series.

Collection volumes:

TPB (Trade PaperBack) Softcover (Paperback) – thick comics, paperback (but it is denser than singles). Sometimes it's just long stories (from 90 pages) or collected in one volume several singles, ie several parts of one sub-story of the series.

Hardcover (HC) – Similar to a Trade Paperback but the cover has a very thick stock just like a hardcover novel. Sometimes these collected editions can collect more single issues than Trade Paperbacks, with 12 issues common.

Omnibus – These are very large hardcover collections. These collections can can be 25+ singles issues collected. Often these collect entire series or a creative run on a comic series.

Graphic Novel – Often a fancier term for collected edition but can also be used to describe an OGN. Essentially any comic that is bounded like a book. Some people use the term graphic novel to make the comic book medium sound more serious.

Original Graphic Novel (OGN) – This is a comic book that comes out in the trade paperback/hardcover format without being in the serial single issue format beforehand [7].

The authors of the plot and the entire text in the comics are usually called the authors of the script - or simply the authors. When it comes to illustrators, it's not that simple. Artistic responsibilities are shared between the following people:

The authors of the sketches – in pencil and ink – pensiller and inker.

Pensiler outlines all images with a pencil, determines the location of panels, characters and background elements on the page.

The ink (or finisher) uses ink (pen or brush) to outline what the pensiler has outlined. It determines the final layout of the page. Also sometimes improves or refines the work of the **pensiler** - depending on the detail of pencil sketches.

The colorist fills the black and white pages with the colors we see in print. They can work with real paints, or on a computer.

Letterer is responsible for exclamations and sound effects ("BAM", "BDISHCH") on the pages of the comic. But this is not all their work – the letterter fills the bubbles with text (in the days of completely hand-made comics, they also drew bubbles) and creates all the signs, plates and other text in the illustrations [8].

Also, when working on malopys, do not forget about the "Elements of layout".

Panel, frame or box – a separate illustration on the page. This is usually a rectangular picture surrounded by a contour, which contains an element of action. The size, shape of the

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panel, as well as the location of the bubbles inside it expresses the meaning of the depicted events and the sequence of action. The row of panels is called the tier, and the space between the panels is called the gutter.

Separation (or gutter) is the space between frames.

Splash, splash page – an illustration that "splashed" outside the panel, and occupies at least half a page (often two). It often happens at the beginning of the comic, because it aims to capture the reader's attention. Illustrations that take up two or more pages are called spreads (or just spreads).

Exclamations, sounds – sound effects, or Onomatopoeia – a word that is the result of sound imitation, as well as the process of creating such words. (sound effects in MI – such as exclamations, often sounds that convey the interaction of objects with each other and are not dialogues: the sounds of gunshots, rumbles, splashes of water) that are transmitted through font compositions outside the text clouds. There is no permanent tradition in the depiction of such sounds in Ukrainian graphic prose [7].

Cloud, balloon, text cloud, bubble – a cartouche with a conditional "tail", which contains the direct language of the character, the hero in the frame. Sometimes the lyrics, or sounds, or hand-drawn characters that reflect the emotions of the character. It can combine two frames, thus showing that the speech occurs in two frames. Bubbles, which have an uneven contour, or borders, and from them comes not a "tail", but circles – contain the thoughts of the heroes. Clouds with an uneven edge and a tail or dotted line show a whisper or a quiet weak voice. Clouds with a long tail indicate that the text is coming from somewhere. Sometimes a text balloon has no boundaries, but only a tail, and then it is written in a free city with only abstract boundaries [8].

Info Sapiens Research Agency conducted a study of readers' tastes of Ukrainians [6]. The all-Ukrainian survey took place in September 2020 and covered 2,000 adults aged 15 to 59. The statistics are disappointing: out of the entire sample, only 33 people said they read comics [4].

Conclusions. Ukrainian malopys is a combination of graphic and verbal artistic means, which is gradually filling an empty niche. Despite the relatively small readership, which has not been formed, comics are gaining popularity. They are based on Ukrainian classical and modern literature. They activate the past, experience adventure and detective genres. The image of a Ukrainian superhero corresponds to today's realities and is designed to help society keep things positive.

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