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CHRONICLE

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“SCIENCE HAS LOST A VERY GOOD RESEARCHER, BUT WE HAVE LOST A DEAR FRIEND”: IN MEMORY OF MYKOLA MAYORCHAK (1992-2023)



In the life of each of us, there are fateful meetings that are engraved in the memory and heart forever. Talented, extraordinary, honest, sincere – that was Mykola Mayorchak. It is very difficult to speak in the past tense about the young, erudite, intelligent colleague with the best human qualities...

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On Pentecost Soul Saturday, the archaeological and historical community of Lviv was shaken by terrible news. On June 2, 2023, Mykola Mayorchak, the commander of the grenade launcher unit of the fire support platoon of the mountain assault company, was killed in the Bakhmut area near Bilohorivka. While performing a combat mission, the Hero came under enemy mortar fire.

Mykola was born on July 1, 1992, in the village of Vovkiv, Lviv region. He studied at the Vovkiv secondary school and continued his education at the Peremyshliany school-gymnasium. Later he graduated from the I. Franko Lviv National University. Already in his student years, while studying at the Faculty of History, he chose the vector of his scientific interests. This was favoured by archaeological practice and an irresistible thirst for new knowledge. In 2017, Mykola became part of the staff of the Lviv Historical Museum, first as a junior researcher, and from 2018 to 2023 in the position of senior researcher. Mykola was engaged in scientific research and studied the collection of classical antiquity in the Museum's stores. He worked on the catalogue "Античні пам'ятки фондової групи „Археологія“ Львівського історичного музею [Monuments of Classical Antiquity in the Archaeology Collections of the Lviv Historical Museum]", and participated in the creation of numerous exhibitions, in particular, as one of the curators of the exhibition "Шляхами древніх цивілізацій [On the path of the Ancient civilizations]" (2020). In order to popularize the sites, he was an active participant in international seminars and conferences.





Being an active field researcher and having experience in archaeological surveys and excavations, he carefully conducted field explorations and carefully processed the obtained material. In particular, since 2019, he had been actively engaged in archaeological surveys under the “Program of Archaeological Research of the Lviv Historical Museum”. In the same year, he received an award from the Lviv Regional State Administration – “For high professionalism, significant contribution to the development of the museum activity, preservation of the cultural heritage”. He published in co-authorship with S. Terskyi, O. Kut-senyak, and N. Demskyi several articles, in particular, “Пам’ятки давнього населення північно-західних відрогів Гологір (розвідки 2019 р.) [Sites of the ancient population of the northwestern spurs of the Holohory Mountains (surveys of 2019)]”, “Археологічні дослідження в межиріччі Західного Бугу та Гнилої Липи (попереднє повідомлення про результати польового сезону 2019 р.) [Research of archaeological sites of the northwestern spurs of the Holohory Mountains (preliminary report on the results of the 2019 field season)]”, “Археологічні дослідження в межиріччі Західного Бугу та Гнилої Липи [Archaeological research in the area between the Zakhidnyi Buh and Hnyla Lypa Rivers]”, “Пам’ятки ранньомодерної доби в околицях с. Словита (за даними археологічних експедицій ЛІМ) [Sites of the Early Modern era in the vicinity of the Slovita village (according to archaeological expeditions of the Lviv Historical Museum)]”, “Рука з Мишкова: сучасний стан та перспективи дослідження [The hand from Myshkov: current state and prospects of research]”.

Since 2021, Mykola Mayorchak had been a graduate student of the Department of Archaeology of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of

Sciences of Ukraine. He came to the department as an already qualified researcher, with work experience, his own scientific developments, and a clear understanding that he wanted to deal with the history of the population of the Lypytska culture in the territory of Eastern Sub-Carpathian and Western Podillia regions. In the first months of his studies, he actively worked on material and had many plans for publications. But shortly after the topic of his dissertation was approved and the graduate studies began, the morning of February 24 came, which divided life into before and after.

Mykola did not hesitate to go to defend his homeland. He could have stayed, he could have continued his research, he could have, but he decided otherwise... If we are talking about the War, he went without hesitation in the first days. When colleagues asked: "Can't you wait a little longer?", Mykola answered: "I can't! When, if not now?!" His innate responsibility did not allow him to simply leave the Museum. He organized all his working moments and completed ongoing scientific work. Even when he was in the military barracks or in the trenches, Mykola never forgot about his favourite work, about the Department of Archeology and the Museum. Having the opportunity to call – he always did it. And if there was a free moment, he wrote. In addition to talking about life and conditions, we discussed work issues and planned a chapter for a collective monograph dedicated to the sites of Lypytska culture, new articles in scientific journals, and the topics of reports at the conferences. He never forgot about the Lviv Historical Museum and had many plans to popularize the Museum after the War.

On June 2, 2023, Mykola came under mortar fire in the area of Bilohorivka. His life ended, and the entire universe ended with him... "Science has lost a very good researcher, but we have lost a dear friend", wrote Włodzimierz Antoniewicz over a hundred years ago, in memory of Volodymyr Hrebennyak. History, unfortunately, has repeated itself. Ukrainian archaeology, museology, his family, and loved ones again suffer an irreparable loss, caused by the same Moscow enemy...

He was a caring son for his mother, and a loving husband for his young wife. In the memory of everyone who knew him, he remains as a highly professional researcher, a sensitive, benevolent, and wise person. We will remember his sincere smile, calm tone of voice, incredible responsibility in everything he did, and attentiveness to the needs of colleagues and friends. He was a real «light» in this world, with a big heart and soul.

Eternal honour and ever-bright memory, our Hero!

Thank you, we appreciate, respect, and remember you, Friend!!!