***Pashkevich O.V.***

# RUSSIAN ROBERT BURNS

Robert Burns was a [Scottish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_people) poet and a lyricist. This is the first sentence from the article about Burns in Wikipedia. But it is not an absolute truth. I mean that Robert Burns became close and understandable to so many people all over the world that we can’t call him just a Scottish poet. Extreme obeisance his talent found in Soviet and Russian culture. And I want to dedicate my work to the study of the phenomenon of Russian Robert Burns.

Robert Burns’ life was really checked. Burns was a son of a self-educated tenant farmer William Burnes who was consistently unfortunate, and migrated with his large family from farm to farm. Robert grew up in poverty and hardship. But what his father should be respected for is that he tried to give his children education. Robert had little regular schooling and got much of his education from his father. He was also taught by John Murdoch. Studies opened another world for Robert, world of fantasy, miracles and heroes. He began to write poems while being a teenager. At first he began to write lyrics to Scottish national songs.

At that time he fell in love several times. The greatest Robert’s love was Jean Armour, a daughter of a rich farmer who was categorically against the fact that his daughter wanted to wary a poor man. But Gavin Hamilton suggested Robert to publish his poems. On 31 July 1786 John Wilson published the volume of works by Robert Burns, “Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish dialect”. The success of the work was immediate, and soon he was known across the country.

His book attracted a lot of members of the highest class and he had to go to Edinburg. He was very popular with aristocracy but later on they understood that he was not just a village poet who wrote about nature and the set-up of peasants. The interest to his works decreased and he had to return to the village and work hard again. On the morning of 21 July 1795 Robert Burns died in Dumfries at the age of 37. The entire city gathered on his funerals. People buried the national hero.

His great personality earns ambiguous assessments even nowadays. One man, called Lionel Hell, published a letter in “The Times” in which he says that Robert Burns is not clear to English people and that is why he should be considered a regional, secondary poet. Burn’s compatriots referred to the popularity of the poet in countries all over the world, especially in Russia.

For Russian readers Robert Burns has been known since 1800 when first prosaic translation of his poem appeared. Among first translators we should name Ivan Kozlov, (“The Evening Peal”, “Suturday Evening in a Scottish Village”). But Kozlov was criticized for presenting the poet as an idyllic one. In the middle of the 19th century such poets and translators as Kurochkin, Chernyshevskiy, Dobrolubov refered to Burns’ poetry. But Mikhail Mikhailov stand out here. His works are remarkable due to the fact that he managed to see the freedom-loving character of Burns’ poems. At the end of the 19th century there was another increase in popularity of Burns which is connected with the 100th anniversary of his death. A lot of new translations and articles appeared and in 1897 in Moscow a single collection of Burns’ poems was published.

In the 20th century Eduard Bagrickiy and Shcepkina-Kupernik worked on translation of Burns’ poetry. But the real acknowledgement of Russian readers Burns earned by translations of Samuil Yakovlevich Marshak. “Marshak made Burns Russian but kept him Scottish” – said Alexander Tvardovskii. The poet translated 216 poems and songs of Robert Burns and the latter began to speak in the foreign language with such freedom and simplicity as if he spoke in his native Scottish dialect. Marshak’s works broke the myth that Burns can’t be translated. “There is nothing translating in Marshak’s works, - Chukovskiy writes. – A reader gets an illusion that Burns wrote poems in Russian”. Marshak claimed that a translator should transform himself into the author and fall in love with him, his manner and language, but at the same time stay faithful to his native language and his own poetic individuality. And maybe it is his main secret. There are 392 poems translated into Russian by different authors.

Heartfelt lines written by a ploughman poet that delighted Belinskiy, Goethe, Turgenev, Byron and Shevchenko will always encourage people to transmit creations of great Scottish genius in their primordial form. Without any doubt we can say that this Scottish hero found his second motherland in Russia.

The list of used sources:

1. М. М. Морозов «Роберт Бернс»/ Морозов М. М. Избранные статьи и переводы. - М., 1954.
2. http://lib.rus.ec/b/35863/read
3. http://dnevniki-slova.ru/robert\_berns.html
4. http://samlib.ru/k/knjazew\_j/russia.shtml