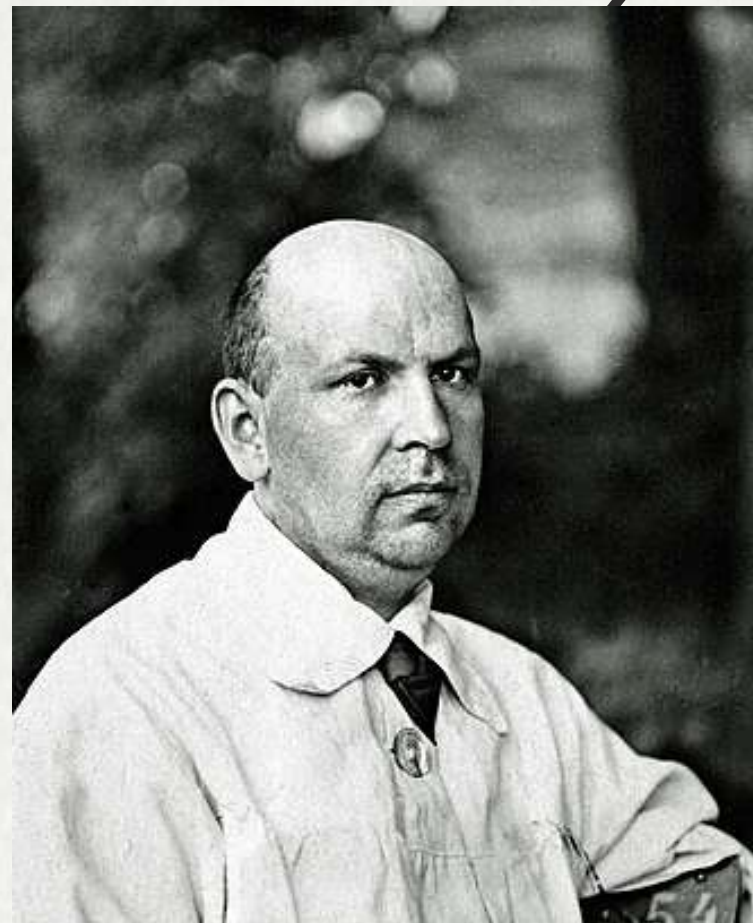


Veronika IHNATIUK

Presentation

FAMOUS



(1886–1920)

*creative*

# GEORGIY IVANOVYCH NARBUT

A Founder of Ukraine's Visual Identity

Presentation

# HEORHIY NARBUT – UKRAINIAN VISUAL IDENTITY

*Creative* *Graphic designer*

*by* Veronika  
IHNATIUK

# GEORGIY IVANOVYCH NARBUT

1. Key Fact

2. Who He Was

3. His Contribution

4. His Legacy



5. Conclusions

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# HEORHIY NARBUT: FATHER OF UKRAINIAN GRAPHICS AND ARCHITECT OF NATIONAL SYMBOLISM

Although he lived only 34 years, Georgiy Narbut made an extraordinary impact on Ukrainian art and national identity.

He became the founder of the Ukrainian national style, shaping the visual language of modern Ukraine.

His legacy — from the state emblem to early banknotes — continues to resonate today, as he was the artist who “visually Ukrainianized” our culture.



*Creative*

# THE BIRTH OF TALENT: THE PATH FROM GLUKHOV TO PETERSBURG

Narbut was born on the Narbutivka farm in Sumy Oblast, into a family with Cossack roots. His interest in Ukrainian antiquity appeared early and shaped his artistic direction.

He studied under leading masters in St. Petersburg — Ivan Bilibin and Mstislav Dobuzhinsky — and later refined his craft in Munich.

This blend of influences — old German engraving traditions, the Russian Mir Iskusstva school, and Ukrainian Baroque — formed his unique artistic style.

A remarkable detail: contemporaries recalled his phenomenal visual memory.

Narbut could reproduce complex objects — including coats of arms and typefaces — entirely from imagination, without sketches.



**Ukrainian art critic and artist Georgy Lukomsky met Narbut in 1910 at an exhibition. He recalled:**

*"The first — and strongest — impression: Narbut's appearance was unmistakably Ukrainian, like a colonel from Starodub.*

*Every movement of his reminded me of Chernihiv."*

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# THE GOLDEN PERIOD: KYIV, THE UNR AND STATE SYMBOLISM

Moving to Kyiv in 1917 was a turning point. With the onset of the Ukrainian Revolution, Narbut fully immersed himself in the Ukrainian context.

**Father of Ukrainian Money:** He designed most of the UNR banknotes (13 out of 24), being the first to use the trident as a state symbol on currency.

**Creator of the Coat of Arms:** His design for the coat of arms of the Ukrainian People's Republic became the foundation for the modern small State Coat of Arms of Ukraine. He revived the trident from the times of Kyivan Rus.

**Other State Symbols:** He also designed postage stamps, seals, official certificates, and even military uniforms.



*Graphic design*

## EDUCATOR AND ILLUSTRATOR: "UKRAINIAN ALPHABET" AND THE ACADEMY OF ARTS



### Narbut: Theorist, Educator, and Graphic Artist

- Founder of the UAM: One of the founders of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts in 1917 and its rector, laying the foundation for the Ukrainian school of typography.
- "Ukrainian Alphabet": His illustrated alphabet is a masterpiece of book graphics, where each letter is a work of art, combining simplicity of design with sophistication of composition.
- Book Graphics: Worked on illustrations for Kotlyarevsky's Aeneid (unfinished) and various children's fairy tales.

Graphic design

strongly believe - strongly believe  
the moment you decide moment you decide  
better at your choice

## CONCLUSIONS: A LIVING LEGACY



Illustration for "Aeneid" by Ivan Kotlyarevsky

Heorhiy Narbut died young, at just 34, from typhus.

His legacy forms the foundation of Ukrainian visual culture and symbolizes national revival.

Narbut gave Ukraine its visual code, and his work continues to inspire contemporary artists and designers.

His creations remain an integral part of Ukrainian cultural heritage.

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*Thank you for*

**YOUR TIME**

*strongly believe that  
moment you decide*