

Title: Paisij Velychkovs'kyj's Doctrine of Hesychasm as a Competing Model of Being in Early-Modern Ukrainian Culture

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Paisij Velychkovs'kyj (1722-1794) is best known for defending the ascetic life and for reviving the doctrine of hesychasm, which had experienced a decline as a result of the gradual secularization and Westernization of Ukrainian culture in Early Modernity. His understanding of hesychasm is articulated in the epistles *Poslanije [...] k inokam o zavıtax monasheskoho zhitija i o svojej zhizni* and *Poslanije [...] o bezmolvnoj molitvi i druhix asketicheskix voprosax*, as well as in his *Autobiography* (see translation and notes by J. M. E. Featherstone). Velychkovs'kyj's writings have only recently drawn the attention of secular scholars. With the exception of the philosopher Andrij Okara (2001), no one has placed Velychkovs'kyj's legacy within the broader context of his epoch, providing a comparative perspective on members of his generation.

I will position Velychkovs'kyj's doctrine within the intellectual trends prevalent among Ukrainians in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and, subsequently, the Russian Empire. First I will compare Velychkovs'kyj's hesychasm with that of Ivan Vyshens'kyj (ca. 1550s-1620s), in order to identify the manner in which his views are connected with those of his predecessors. I will then contrast his doctrine with the model of being, proposed by his contemporary, Hryhorij Skovoroda (1722-1794). The comparison will reveal two radically different and competing philosophies in 18<sup>th</sup> century Ukraine. I will conclude with an analysis of the reasons why Velychkovs'kyj's model, which is marked by religious fanaticism, seeks to revive the Church's stricter control of culture.

Okara, Andrij. "Prepodobnyj Paisij (Velychkovs'kyj) ta Hryhorij Skovoroda v kul'turnomu otochenni XVIII stolittja." *Vira i kul'tura* 6 (2001). <  
<http://www.ukrhistory.narod.ru/texts/okara-2.htm>> (Last viewed Jun 06 2007).

*The Life of Paisij Velychkovs'kyi*. Translated by J. M. E. Featherstone. Harvard Library of Early Ukrainian Literature. English Translations: Vol. IV. Harvard University Press, 1989.