

In the 1920s and 1930s, Ukrainian culture experienced a period of active development. Young artists sought to rethink traditions, expand the boundaries of art, and assert national identity. Literature, theater, painting, cinema, and music took on new forms, demonstrating a powerful creative upsurge. However, the freedom of thought quickly became a threat to the Soviet totalitarian regime.

The Executed Renaissance is not just a cultural phenomenon, but a tragic page in history that is forever imprinted in the fates of Ukrainian artists of that time. The symbol of this era was the Slovo House in Kharkiv, a center of artistic life where masterpieces were created and intellectual discussions were held. However, later this center of creativity turned into a place of fear and persecution.

One of the prominent figures of this cultural upsurge was Yulian Shpol (real name Mykhailo Yalovy, 1895–1937), a poet, novelist, playwright, journalist, and public figure. In the early 1920s, he actively popularized futurism and was one of the founders of the Action Group of Futurist Poets, contributing to the innovative development of Ukrainian literature.

In Kharkiv's Slovo House, the writer lived in apartment 30 with his wife, Lidiia Vovchyk-Blakytina. During this period, he actively collaborated with Mykola Khvylovy and Oles Dosvitnyi. They were even called the “three musketeers” of Ukrainian literature. Together they sought to create a new, distinctive Ukrainian culture, free from imposed dogmas. In 1925, Shpol was one of the founders of the Hart organization (a union of Ukrainian

Commemorative coin

## THE EXECUTED RENAISSANCE. YULIAN SHPOL



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proletarian writers), and the following year he became the first head of the Free Academy of Proletarian Literature (VAPLITE), which brought together the most talented writers of the time. In 1927, he began working as a screenwriter at the All-Ukrainian Photo Cinema Administration (VUFKU) in Odesa.

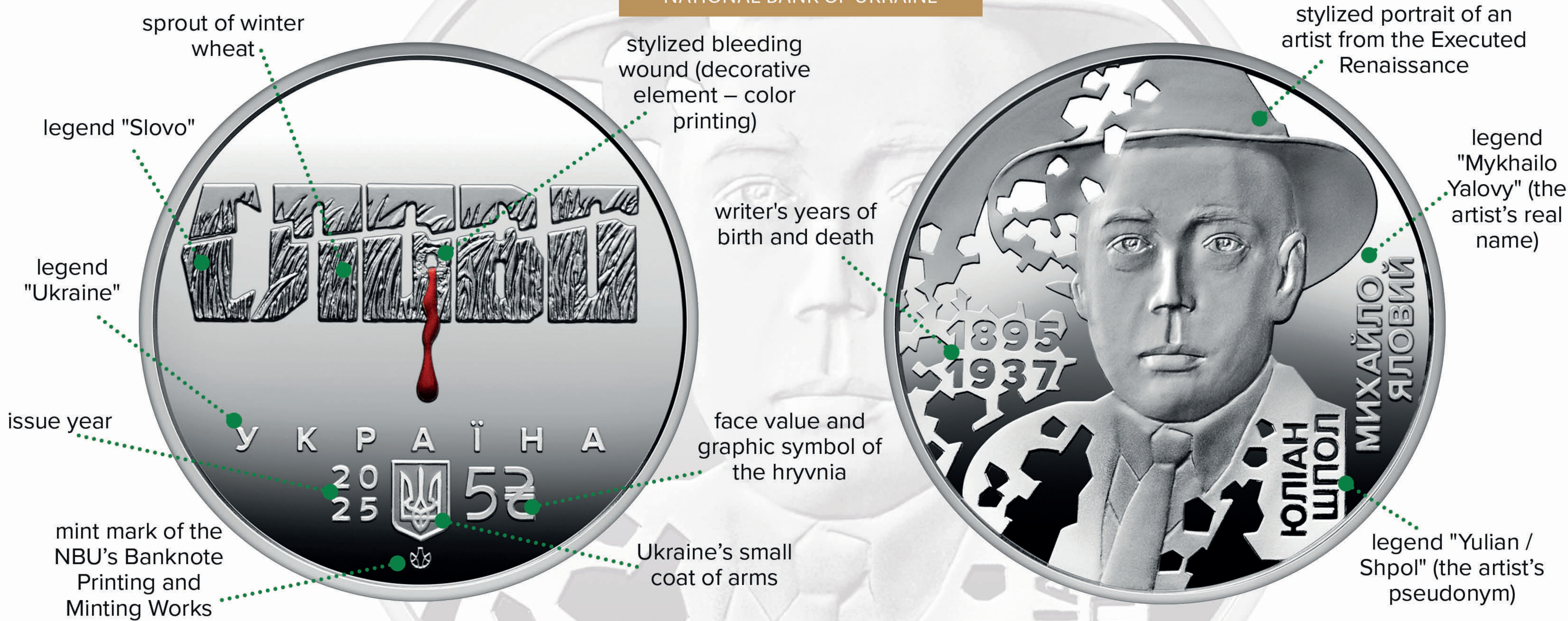
The artist's work was characterized by innovation, and his formalistic novel “The Golden Fox Cubs” (1929) became a landmark in Ukrainian literature. In addition, he worked on dramatic works, film scripts, and humorous and ironic texts. However, his career was cut short by the repressive policies of the totalitarian government. In 1930, a show trial of members of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine (ULU) took place in Kharkiv, leading to mass sentences for representatives of the Ukrainian intelligentsia. This event was the beginning of large-scale repression.

In May 1933, Yalovy was arrested and accused of espionage and counterrevolutionary activity. Without any proper evidence, he was sentenced to execution by firing squad. On 3 November 1937, he was executed in the Sandarmokh forest massif, the site in Russia of mass executions of Ukrainian intellectuals. Only in 1957 was Yalovy posthumously rehabilitated.

Designers – Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Serhii Kharuk.  
Engravers – Anatolii Demianenko and Volodymyr Atamanchuk.

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Metal

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Diameter

35.0 mm

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special uncirculated

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