

Summary

In Memoriam: John Malmstad

This block is dedicated to the memory of John Malmstad, literary historian, editor and translator of many breakthrough books dedicated to the era of Russian Modernism. John was a member of an editorial board of «New Literary Observer».

Thanks to him many Western Slavists contributed to the journal at the early stage of its existence. This issue presents memorial essays by **Aleksandr Lavrov**, **William Mills Todd III** and **Roman Timenchik**.

The Political Languages of the Middle Ages

The article «Sicily without God: Tyranny and Fortune in the Writings of Hugo Falcandus» by **Kirill Glavatskikh** examines the meaning of the theme of Fortune in the works of Hugo Falcandus, which shed light on the political turbulence in the Kingdom of Sicily in the second half of the 12th century. The paper attempts to prove that Hugo Falcandus's silent treatment of God is a conscious rhetorical strategy coherent with the Christian worldview.

Oleg Voskoboynikov in his «John of Limoges, "Pharaoh's Moral Dream" and the Symbolic Language of Power in the West in the Mid-Thirteenth Century» presents «The Moral Dream of Pharaoh», a work written in Latin by John of Limoges, in the middle of the 13th century in the Burgundian abbey of Clairvaux or in the north of France. An attempt is made to determine its place in the history of political ideas in the age of high scholasticism, when political thought penetrated all spheres of literacy, from natural philosophy and exotic tales to preaching, both among the highest secular nobility and in the ecclesiastical hierarchy up to the papal throne.

Ivan Mazhaev's piece «Fighting the Leviathan: Polemical Techniques of Felix Hemmerli and the Reception of His Works» examines the literary and polemical features of the texts of the cleric and jurist Felix Hemmerli. The article attempts to compare Hemmerli's polemical methods, as well as his portrait of contemporaries and later scholars, in order to identify further perspectives for the study of his writings.

The Latin Office of the Virgin written by the Franciscan Juan Gil de Zamora for King Alfonso X of Castile has traditionally been studied solely as a devotional text and is yet to be recognised for its pedagogical and political qualities, states **Juan Sota** in his «King Alfonso the Wise (1252–1284) and the Language of Royal Piety». The paper aims to show how the text's performance of this prayer to Mary was part of the political theology of the King. In addition, a new hypothesis is proposed regarding the motives behind the text's creation and its political implications.

Historians do not often perceive medieval poetry as a source of information about political theories and ideas. Nevertheless,

in XI–XIII centuries, an outstanding literary European tradition was born in the orbit of the Chartres school: prominent medieval theologians spoke in poetic form about philosophy, natural science, as well as on the topic of state and social structure. In the late Middle Ages, the successors of this tradition appeared — not only clerics, but also court intellectuals who created works of various genres: allegorical poems, moral ballads, satirical works based on the ancient fable tradition. Both in England and in France, authors such as Eustache Deschamps, John Gower, Christine de Pisan and John Lydgate employed one specific

image in their poetry — the metaphor of the body politic. With the help of this metaphor, they constructed their own original views on social structure in general as well as using the image of the body politic to reflect on conflicts and problems that required attention of the society of said period. Pavel Bychkov In his «The “Political” and the Poet: The Image of the Body Politic in the English and French Poetry of XIV–XV centuries» analyzes diachronically the evolution of the image of the body politic, examines how the interpretations of this metaphor were developing simultaneously in English and French political discourses.

Death And Life. Memorial Culture in 18th–21st Century Russia

The article «Between Utilization and Museification: Everyday Life and the Perception of Urban Medieval Necropolis in the Russian Empire of the 18th — Early 20th Centuries» by **Sergey Shokarev** is devoted to the attitude and contact of 18th and early 20th century Russian society towards monuments of medieval urban necropolises. This period was defined by a break from the previous tradition, which led to the forgetting and destruction of ancient tombstones and cemeteries. At the same time, from the second half of the 18th century, the necropolis became an object of scientific study, and in the 19th century a practice of protection of monuments was formed (among which, however, the necropolis occupied a rather modest place). By the beginning of the 20th century the idea of the necropolis as a historical monument and source was formed. Archaeology went from searching for the burials of famous people to the academic method of excavating necropolises. The revolution interrupted these processes, and the

recently developed understanding of the necropolis was foreclosed once more.

Ekaterina Boltunova and **Nataliya Beresneva**'s «Funerals in the Russian Empire of the late 19th and early 20th centuries as Element of Public Sphere» discusses the funeral sphere that includes a wide range of practices (from ritual arrangements and publications in press to economics of death) as part of the late Imperial public sphere. In Russia of the 1880s — 1910s this space proved to be frequently used for mobilizing and positioning of various social groups. It turned to be open for direct or hidden social competition, public imagery creation as well as discussions of late imperial social norms and principles.

Galina Egorova in «Digital Immortality and Family Memory: Genealogy, Necropolitics and New Memory Technologies in Russia and Abroad» deals with the transformation of genealogical practices in the context of digitalization of the

memory of the deceased. The article designates a special role to digital necropolitics, an interdisciplinary field

covering the preservation, visualization and representation of family graves using digital technologies.

Language and Verse: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

The article «Vladimir Nabokov's Poem "My s toboyu tak verili v svyaz' bytiya..." [You and I believed in the bonds of being...]: A Commentary on Verse Organization» by **Marina Akimova** presents an interpretation of Vladimir Nabokov's poem from the point of view of verse theory. Its additional aim was to correct the dominant perception of Nabokov as a poet at the margins of contemporary verse study. The analysis of linguistic and verse features reveals two semantic lines in the text, both of which cut through all his works, namely the lines of breaks and connection. Both are manifested in versification: in metrics, in rhymes and other sound repetitions,

in some rhythmical effects of caesura, enjambements and catalectics.

Maria Levchenko in the article «"Neural Inside": Static Neural Models in Poetic Text Analysis» explores the application of word embeddings for analysing differences between naive and canonical poetry. Using corpora from *Stihi.Ru* and canonical poetry, Levchenko proposes a systematic method for comparing vector models by analysing semantic shifts, cluster differentiation, and neighbour stability. This computational approach provides measurable evidence for fundamental differences in the conceptualisation of key poetic concepts.

«Mitin Journal» in the Perestroika Era

«Mitin Journal» was one of the most prominent and influential publications of unofficial literature during the perestroika period, and notably, the only selfcrafted magazine of its kind to continue after the collapse of the Soviet Union, states **Dmitrii Bresler** in his «"Mitin Journal' Celebration": The Archaeology of Samizdat». Despite its significance, the journal's practices have remained largely overlooked by scholars of unofficial culture and samizdat. Distinct from many figures of the independent press, the editorial collective behind «Mitin Journal» did not view samizdat merely as a makeshift method of safeguarding non-Soviet poetic traditions under conditions of censorship. Instead, they embraced it as a deliberate

and relevant mode of artistic expression shaped by the communicative realities of the underground.

The article «The Cyborg in Samizdat: The Subject of Underground Women's Writing in "Mitin Journal" in the 1980s» by **Elizaveta Grishechkina** analyzes the texts of Olga Komarova and Yulia Kisina, published in «Mitin Journal» between 1985 and 1990, as examples of constructing an underground female subjectivity during the perestroika period. The subjectivation strategies employed by these authors are examined through the lens of Donna Haraway's concept of cyborg writing, offering a new perspective on the modes of existence of

the underground subject in a time of cultural and political transition.

Margarita Balakireva in the article «Between Dilettantism and Dissidence: Translations of Boris Vian's Short Stories in "Mitin Journal"» focuses on the study of unofficial translations from French, specifically the translation of Boris Vian's short stories, published in «Mitin Journal». By examining the features of these translations, we can better understand the

role of language in samizdat and rethink the position of the unofficial translator, who is opposed to the official translator and educator. This intervention creates an alternative image of foreign literature within the Soviet context. Through alternative translation strategies such as translation-commentary, translation-game, and translation-subscript, the samizdat translator seeks to update the Russian language and develop a new literary idiom.

Table of contents No. **198** [2'2026]

NEW POETRY

7 *Varvara Nedeoglo*. neither with acid rain, nor with nuclear fallout

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN MALMSTAD
(25.6.1941–14.2.2026)

13 *Aleksandr Lavrov*. Forty years together

17 *William Mills Todd III*. John Malmstad in American Academic Life

20 *Roman Timenchik*. Arbiter

THE POLITICAL LANGUAGES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

21 *Oleg Voskoboynikov*. Verbal Art and Power in the Middle Ages

26 *Glavatskikh Kirill*. Sicily without God: Tyranny and Fortune in the Writings of Hugo Falcandus

41 *Oleg Voskoboynikov*. John of Limoges, «Pharaoh's Moral Dream» and the Symbolic Language of Power in the West in the Mid-Thirteenth Century

58 *Ivan Mazhaev*. Fighting the Leviathan: Polemical Techniques of Felix Hemmerli and the Reception of His Works

74 *Juan Sota*. King Alfonso the Wise (1252–1284) and the Language of Royal Piety

86 *Pavel Bychkov*. The «Political» and the Poet: The Image of the Body Politic in the English and French Poetry of XIV–XV centuries

DEATH AND LIFE. MEMORIAL CULTURE
IN 18th–21st CENTURY RUSSIA

100 *Ekaterina Boltunova*. From the Guest Editor

106 *Sergey Shokarev*. Between Utilization and Museification: Everyday Life and the Perception of Urban Medieval Necropolis in the Russian Empire of the 18th — Early 20th Centuries

125 *Ekaterina Boltunova, Nataliya Beresneva*. Funerals in the Russian Empire of the late 19th and early 20th centuries as Element of Public Sphere

140 *Galina Egorova*. Digital Immortality and Family Memory: Genealogy, Necropolistics and New Memory Technologies in Russia and Abroad

LANGUAGE AND VERSE: QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

- 154** *Marina Akimova.* Vladimir Nabokov's Poem «My s toboyu tak verili v svyaz' bytiya...» [We so firmly believed in the linkage of life...]: A Commentary on Verse Organization
- 174** *Maria Levchenko.* «Neural Inside»: Static Neural Models in Poetic Text Analysis

«MITIN JOURNAL» IN THE PERESTROIKA ERA

- 193** *Dmitrii Bresler.* From the Guest Editor
- 196** *Dmitrii Bresler.* «“Mitin Journal” Celebration»: The Archaeology of Samizdat
- 210** *Elizaveta Grishechkina.* The Cyborg in Samizdat: The Subject of Underground Women's Writing in «Mitin Journal» in the 1980s
- 225** *Margarita Balakireva.* Between Dilettantism and Dissidence: Translations of Boris Vian's Short Stories in «Mitin Journal»
- 238** *Valerii Otiakovskii.* «Abstract Prose» by Andrey Levkin: Postscript
- 244** *Andrei Levkin.* «Notes on Prose»

SAMIZDAT REVISITED

- 251** *Pavel Glushakov.* Dmytrii Maksimov — the Reader of «Obvodnyi Canal»
- 257** *Alexander Skidan.* Toward the Textual Criticism of Arkadii Dragomoschenko's «The Sky of Correspondences»

READINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

- 268** *Alexander Zholkovsky.* The «Portland Syndrome» Forty Years Later: Alexander Gorodnitskii's «Nostalgia» (2023) — a Remake of Bulat Okudzhava's «Pirates Waxing Lyrical»

CHRONICLE OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

- 279** *Aleksei Porvin.* Titanic Fuel (Review of V. Ivaniv. *Collected Poems.* St. Petersburg, 2025)
- 285** *Aleksandr Ulanov.* Strength and Weakness (Review of L. Barkova. *Everyone Exists and Everything Exists.* Moscow, 2025)
- 289** *Olga Balla.* And Only Now Do I Know What Kind of Fate This Is (Review of O. Martynova. *A Conversation about Mourning* / Trans. from German by T.A. Baskakova. St. Petersburg, 2024)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 293** *Dmitry Kolchigin*. Manipulation as a Device and Method (Review of Harvey R. *The Rhetoric of Manipulation: Unmasking Semantic Perversion*. New York, 2025)
- 307** *Larisa Poluboyarinova*. The Legacy of Walter Benjamin in Light of *Cultural Translation* (Review of Haberpeuntner B. *Walter Benjamin and Cultural Translation: Examining a Controversial Legacy*. London; New York; Dublin, 2024)
- 315** *Evgenii Savitsky*. Luxury Against Hierarchies: Subversive Excessiveness in the Texts and Life Practices from the Baroque to the Enlightenment (Review of Schumm J. *Witz und Fülle, oder was heißt barock?* Konstanz, 2024; Wittemann P. *Luxus-Praktiken in der Literatur der Aufklärung: Lesesucht, Alkohol und Onanie*. Berlin; Boston, 2025)
- 327** *N.G. Patrusheva*. «What to Do with Print?» (Review of A.P. Sopova. *The Free Press and its Limits in the Early 20th century Russia*. Moscow, 2025)
- 331** *Xiaoli Sun*. The Two Capitals of Russian Literature (Review of Xinghuan Fu. *Studies of the «Moscow» and «Petersburg Text» in Russian Literature*. Beijing, 2023)
- 338** *L.S. Chekin*. The Russian Idea from the Danish Perspective (Review of *Verden set fra Rusland: Idéer, ideologier og utopier*. Aarhus, 2025)
- 342** New books

CHRONICLE OF SCHOLARLY LIFE

- 362** *Nikolai Nakhshunov*. Bathhouse Readings XXXI (NLO, April 4–6, 2025)
- 381** *Vera Milchina, Inna Matiushina, Vera Polilova, Tatiana Skulacheva*. Gasparov Readings 2025 (Russian State University for the Humanities, April 10–12, 2025)
- 410** *Mark Belozarov*. Non-Romance with History. The Variety of Genres and Tendencies in the Works of Vladimir Sharov (HSE University, May 15–16, 2025)
- 423** *Ekaterina Loginova, Sofiya Filipchenko*. «Throw off from the Steamship of Modernity!»: The Avant-Garde Manifesto as a Text and Event

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

- 428** *Aleksandr Bobrov*. An Attempt to Cross Out Obviousness, or We Have a Long Way to Go Til Viktor Bokov!
- 438** Summary
- 442** Table of Contents
- 445** Our Authors

Our authors

Marina Akimova

The Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher; PhD
aquimova@mail.ru.

Margarita Balakireva

HSE Saint Petersburg, Senior Lecturer; IWL RAS, Moscow, Senior Researcher; PhD
mebalakireva@hse.ru.

Olga Balla

Literary critic, essayist
gertman65@gmail.com.

Mark Belozеров

HSE University
album.lacum@gmail.com.

Nataliya Beresneva

National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE University), Junior Researcher of the Institute of Russia's Regional History
nberesneva@hse.ru.

Yuri Bit-Yunan

Russian State University for the Humanities, department of literary criticism, professor; Doctor of Philological Sciences
bityunan@gmail.com.

Pavel Bychkov

Institute of World History, Department of Historical Anthropology and History of Everyday Life, Russian Academy of Sciences, researcher; PhD in History
rublebuffin@yandex.ru.

Ekaterina Boltunova

National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE University), Director of the Institute of Russia's Regional History; PhD
ekboltunova@hse.ru.

Dmitrii Bresler

Humboldt University of Berlin; Institut für Slawistik und Hungarologie; Research Fellow
dmitrii.bresler@hu-berlin.de.

Leonid Chekin

Member of the Søren Kirkegaard Society; Doctor of Geographic Sciences
chekinls@gmail.com.

Galina Egorova

National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE University), Senior Researcher of the Institute of Russia's Regional History; PhD
gsegorova@hse.ru.

Sofiya Filipchenko

Moscow State University
filipchenkoso@inbox.ru.

Pavel Glushakov

Independent researcher; PhD
pavel.glushakov@gmail.com.

Aleksei Grigoriev

Independent researcher
aleksey.grigoryev56@gmail.com.

Elizaveta Grishechkina

University of Pittsburgh, PhD student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
elg206@pitt.edu.

Kirill Glavatskikh

Higher School of Economics, Laboratory of Linguo-Semiotic Studies, Research assistant
glavkirv@gmail.com.

Dmitry Kolchigin

Translator (Almaty, Kazakhstan)
atacarme@gmail.com.

Aleksandr Lavrov

Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkin House), head researcher; Doctor of Philological Sciences, academic of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Maria Levchenko

University of Bologna, Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies, researcher; PhD
marylevchenko@gmail.com.

Ekaterina Loginova

Moscow State University
_l_loginova@mail.ru.

Inna Matiushina

Institute of Higher Humanities Research Russian State University for the Humanities, lead researcher; doctor of philological sciences
I.Matyushina@exeter.ac.uk.

Ivan Mazhaev

Higher School of Economics, Doctoral School of History, PhD student
vanich1917@gmail.com.

Vera Milchina

Institute of Higher Humanities Research Russian State University for the Humanities. leading researcher; School of Current Humanities Research, Institute of Social Sciences, RANEPa, leading researcher; Candidate of Sciences in Philology
vmilchina@gmail.com.

Nikolai Nakhshunov

«New Literary Observer»
Journal, editor
nakhshunov.n@gmail.com.

Varvara Nedeoglo

Poet, artist, radio host
varya.nedeoglo@gmail.com.

Valerii Otiakovskii

Independent researcher; PhD
valeriotiakovskii@gmail.com.

Natalya Patrusheva

Russian National Library, Head
of the Research Department
of Book Studies; Doctor of
Historical Sciences
patrusheva@nlr.ru.

Vera Polilova

Moscow State University,
Institute of World Culture,
senior researcher; Candidate
of Philological Sciences
vera.polilova@gmail.com.

Larisa Poluboyarinova

St. Petersburg State Uni-
versity, professor; Doctor of
Philological Sciences
l.poluboyarinova@spbu.ru.

Aleksei Porvin

Poet, critic
sensus.interni@gmail.com.

Aleksei Ranchin

Moscow State University,
professor; PhD
aranchin@mail.ru.

Polina Rybina

Moscow State University,
philological faculty, associate
professor; Candidate of
Philological Sciences
rybina_polina@mail.ru.

Evgeny Savitsky

Institute of World History
of the Russian Academy of
Sciences, Senior Research
Fellow; PhD
e_savitski@mail.ru.

Juan Sota

IWH RAS, the Department of
Historical Anthropology and
History of Everyday Life, junior
researcher; Candidate of
Science in History
juansota96@gmail.com.

Sergey Shokarev

SASH ISS RANEPА,
Laboratory of Old Russian
Culture, senior researcher;
PhD
shokarevs@yandex.ru.

Aleksandr Skidan

Independent researcher
aleskidan65@yandex.ru.

Tatiana Skulacheva

Institute of the Russian
Language, Russian
Academy of Sciences, senior
researcher; Candidate of
Philological Sciences
skulacheva@yandex.ru.

Xiaoli Sun

Southeast University, senior
lecturer; Candidate of Philolo-
gical Sciences
sunxiaoli_smile@163.com.

Sergei Tashkenov

Independent researcher
(Moscow); Candidate of
Philosophical Sciences
sergey.tashkenov@gmail.com.

Roman Timenchik

Hebrew University of Jeru-
salem, professor; Candidate
of Philological Sciences
suzirom@gmail.com.

Aleksandr Ulanov

Samara State Aerospace Uni-
versity, associate professor;
Doctor of Technical Sciences
alexulanov@mail.ru.

Oleg Voskoboynikov

Independent researcher; PhD
habil.
olegvosk@yandex.ru.

Alexander Zholkovsky

University of Southern Cali-
fornia, Los Angeles; PhD;
Professor Emeritus
alikh@usc.edu.

Editorial board

Irina Prokhorova	PhD (founder and establisher of journal)
Tatiana Weiser	PhD (editor-in-chief)
Arseniy Kumankov	PhD (theory)
Kirill Zubkov	PhD (history)
Alexander Skidan	(practice)
Abram Reitblat	PhD (bibliography)
Vladislav Tretyakov	PhD (bibliography)
Nikolai Nakhshunov	M.A. (chronicle of scholarly life)
Valerii Otiakovskii	PhD (executive editor)

Advisory board

Konstantin Azadovsky
PhD

Henryk Baran
PhD, State University of New York at Albany, professor

Evgeny Dobrenko
PhD, Università Ca'Foscari Venezia, professor

Tatiana Venediktova
Dr. habil. Lomonosov Moscow State University, professor

Elena Vishlenkova
Dr. habil. HSE University, professor

Tomáš Glanc
PhD, University of Zurich, professor / Charles University in Prague, professor

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht
PhD, Stanford University, professor

Alexander Zholkovsky
PhD, University of South Carolina, professor

Andrey Zorin
Dr. habil. Oxford University, professor / The Moscow school of social and economic sciences, professor

Boris Kolonitskii
Dr. habil. European University at Saint Petersburg, professor / Saint Petersburg Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, leading researcher

Alexander Lavrov
Dr. habil. Full member of Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Russian Literature (the Pushkin House), Russian Academy of Sciences, leading researcher

Mark Lipovetsky
Dr. habil. Columbia University, professor

John Malmstad
PhD, Harvard University, professor

Alexander Ospovat
University of California, Los Angeles; Research Professor

Pekka Pesonen
PhD, University of Helsinki, professor emeritus

Oleg Proskurin
PhD, Emory University, professor

Roman Timenchik
PhD, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, professor

Pavel Uvarov
Dr. habil. Corresponding member of Russian Academy of Sciences. Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, research professor / HSE University, professor

Alexander Etkind*
European University Institute (Florence)

Mikhail Yampolsky
Dr. habil. New York University, professor

* Включен Минюстом РФ в реестр иностранных агентов.