
From the Editor

Esteemed Colleagues, Dear Readers,

We congratulate all of you on the 200th anniversary of Fyodor Dostoevsky's birth!

Publications of books on Dostoevsky and his work marked the bicentenary, and in 2022 we will be glad to make room in our journal for reviews dedicated to them, as well as for informative summaries of past conferences.

On February 2-3, 2021, "Dostoevsky and World Culture" IWL RAS Research Centre organized the International Conference "**Dostoevsky's Novel *The Adolescent: Current State of Research.***" The program can be found here: <http://imli.ru/konferentsii/anonsy/4347-konferentsiya-roman-f-m-dostoevskogo-podrostok-sovremennoe-sostoyanie-izucheniya> (in Russian). The recordings of the conference are available on YouTube and Facebook:

First part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fdj7---SOC0>

Second part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddfWxDFO6f8&t=7493s>

Third part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oAkI04ljCc>

The publication of the outcomes of the conference is completed in this issue with an article by Anastasia Gacheva, examining the novel *The Adolescent* through the prism of Nikolay Fedorov's questions; Tatiana Boborikina's fascinating article about the complex system of allusion in the novel (one of the aspects of her article — Dickensian allusions in Dostoevsky —, is also considered in the paper by Mark Altshuller, dedicated to the novel *Humiliated and Insulted*); Caterina Corbella's detailed account of the Italian reception of *The Adolescent*; a circumstantial survey of Russian research on the poetics and textual studies of the novel in the 1920s-1940s by Olga Bogdanova; Marina Shalina's article about the meaning of "living life".

As a result of the hard work of scholars during this year, starting from the conference, the next volume of the long-interrupted series *Dostoevsky: Current State of Research* devoted to the novel *The Adolescent* has been prepared in record time. The book should be published by the end of 2021, and I am utterly grateful to everyone who took part in this common endeavor.

The section “Reviews” presents a very informative analysis by Nikolay Podosokorsky of the second part of the second book by El’mira Ali-Zade (1940-2019) *Russian Literature and the Arab World (On the History of Arabic-Russian Literary Relations)* (2020), dedicated to the reception of Dostoevsky’s works in the Arabic East; a reception that sometimes occurred not just with a shift of semantic accents, but also with serious distortions of the texts through translation. Then again, this is something which occurs to some degree in any reception, and we should not forget that people of different languages read different Dostoevskys at different times and we are not always aware of the scale of the differences. On the other hand, the shift of semantic emphasis can also be associated with a change, sometimes radical, in the perspective of perception by another cultural system. Such a shift in the point of reference can be found in articles by researchers of non-European cultural tradition who read Dostoevsky in Russian, and it is a phenomenon often interesting and productive to look at. At the same time, the desire to reduce and simplify Dostoevsky’s text at first appears to be characteristic of Europeans (as it was a characteristic of Russian critics, contemporary to Dostoevsky, and Soviet scholars), although it was quickly overcome by the next generation of editors and researchers, as shown in Caterina Corbella’s article. One could say that in all cultures Dostoevsky creates for himself a mass of adequate readers in the second generation, as it happened in Russia with the Russian Symbolists, and with the return of Dostoevsky after the temporary ban in the Soviet era. But on top of both productive and non-productive differences, I cannot but agree with Mikhail Nu’aime (one of the protagonists of both Ali-Zade’s book and Podosokorsky’s review): Dostoevsky is certainly a Sufi, he is the sage who can enter the readers’ life and transform it by finding the depth and scale that belong to them, but without the sage, they can neither find nor acquire.

There is a great number of articles in this issue dealing with the question of reception, so that it can be defined as its core theme. I would like to draw the readers’ attention to another model of reception: the short but comprehensive introduction by Marcell Benedek to the Hungarian translation of the novel *The Double*, presented in the section “Archive”. The Hungarian critic succeeds in dismissing as irrelevant what has been a stumbling block for many Russian scholars: the question of the reality or unreality of Mr. Golyadkin Jr.; he argues (in my opinion, more than fairly) that whether the other is outside or inside me, whether he is my second self or his own, “in any case what is depicted is the mutual hatred of two selves”, and the way they interact with each other, emerging from their seclusion.

The journal launches a new section: “Museum”. In the past issues, we published round tables discussing the plans and process of creating a museum dedicated to Dostoevsky’s childhood in Darovoe, however, they were presented in the section “Breaking News”, as their publication was related to the preparation of the writer’s anniversary, sometimes conducted by state and society in a hurry. Therefore, it was important to draw the attention of readers and public persons to the recommendations of scholars promptly. The anniversary is passing, however, practical problems regarding Dostoevsky’s museums remain, as well as theoretical questions (laying at the core of any practice) about what a museum in our time is, how it should be organized, and what is the public looking for when visiting it. In this issue, the section “Museum” presents an interesting round table dedicated to the conceptual foundation and functioning of the Museum dedicated to the novel *The Brothers Karamazov* in Staraya Russa.

The journal is on Facebook, Vkontakte, and Telegram (with already almost 4 700 followers). You can subscribe to our pages to follow news from both the Journal and Research Centre “Dostoevsky and World Culture.” Among other things, all the recordings from seminars and conferences organized by the Centre are published here. Books and articles dedicated to Dostoevsky are also available for download.

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We would like to thank the authors who sent their materials for our library, and we remind you once again that we intend to create a library containing works on Dostoevsky by contemporary scholars within the site of the Institute: you can send your previously published works to the address below in pdf format if you want them to be in the library. If your work was published in a miscellany or a journal, we kindly ask you to send only the pdf of your article and to indicate all the references of the publication if they are not in the file yet. We are going to publish all the already published articles that will be sent, without additional selection. While creating the library, works will be gradually posted on our pages on social networks. All the texts will be open access, and we will try to make them easy to find with Yandex search. We hope to create one of the most frequented online collections of contemporary works on Dostoevsky.

The journal is published in cooperation with the Commission for the Study of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Artistic Heritage at the Academic Council “History of World Culture” of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Our work

is carried out in close contact with the Russian and International Dostoevsky Society.

All quotations from Fyodor Dostoevsky's works, if not specified otherwise, are cited according to the *Complete Works* in 30 vols. (Leningrad, Nauka, 1972-1990), and references follow the format of the Russian Science Citation Index. In the Soviet edition the capital letters contained in the names of God, the Virgin, as in other holy names and concepts, have been lowered because of censorship; the original spelling is restored here in accordance with the editions published during Dostoevsky's life, Dostoevsky's *Complete Works in the Author's Spelling and Punctuation* (Petrozavodsk, Petrozavodsk State University, 1995 – continuing publication), and Dostoevsky's *Complete Works and Letters* in 35 vols. (2nd edition, revised and amended) published by IRLI RAS (Pushkin House) (2013 – continuing publication). The author's original emphasis in quotations (where not specified otherwise) is indicated by italics; the emphasis of the author of the article is indicated by bold font.

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