

---

## From the Editor

Dear colleagues and members of the journal, dear readers, we dedicate this issue to the memory of Karen Stepanyan. In the section “In memory of Karen Stepanyan” you will find texts by his colleagues and friends, whose deep, penetrating, and sincere words, so different from one another, reflect different sides of the person they are dedicated to. The editorial board thanks everyone who responded to the proposal of sending their words and memories about Karen, and everyone who dedicated to him the works published here.

In this issue we continue the section “Dostoevsky: his readings”, and we are continuing it according to the original concept we had of it. For this section, we accept articles dedicated to writers, whose works defined Dostoevsky’s horizons – writers that became a beacon and an orientating point for his creative searches. The most notable among them was Goethe, who was to Mikhail Dostoevsky a kind of model for his brother’s forthcoming great works, as we can see in the letter he wrote Fedor on the 21st September 1859: “My dearest, maybe I am wrong, but your two novels should be something like Wilhelm Meister’s *Lehrjahre* and *Wanderjahre*. Let them be written fragmentary, gradually, over the years, as Wilhelm Meister was written. They will come up as good as Goethe’s two novels” [Dostoevsky 1972–1990: III, 493, the translation is our]. Among them we can also find Shakespeare, Dante, Balzac, Dickens and others. In this issue, we present an article about the peculiarity of the woman’s image in Dante’s “New life”, that can suggest to the researchers the existence of similar proprieties and function of women’s imagery in Dostoevsky’s work; the article is also about different ways of commenting literary texts “on the verge of revelation”, showing how they can hide or reveal this verge to the reader, a more than actual question for Dostoevsky’s editors, concerning the strategies of commenting.

For the articles of this section we ask authors to approach their topic through the prism of questions that are relevant for the researchers of Dostoevsky’s work as well, but we do not pretend that the article should

be somehow directly related to Dostoevsky. We assume that Dostoevsky's researchers can find this relation themselves, while it is not possible to one author to achieve an equally deep insight both of Dostoevsky and of the authors' he cared most, based on a long and attentive study of the complete works of both. Therefore, this section is thought as a help to reach the deep sources of Dostoevsky's themes, artistic method, and world-view, of his philosophical and theological insights in the work of mayor European authors.

The journal is published in cooperation with the Commission for the Study of the Creative Heritage of F.M. Dostoevsky at the History of World Culture Academic Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The work is carried out in close contact with the Russian and International Dostoevsky Society.

All quotations from F.M. Dostoevsky's works, if not stipulated otherwise, must be cited according to the "Complete Works in 30 vols." (Leningrad, Nauka, 1972-1990), with references in the Russian Science Citation Index format. In the Soviet edition the capital letters in the names of God, the Virgin, as in other holy names and concepts, have been lowered because of censorship; the original spelling should be restored 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 the quotations (where not specified otherwise) is indicated by bold font; the emphasis of the author of the article is indicated by italics.

Our mailing address is [dostmirkult@yandex.ru](mailto:dostmirkult@yandex.ru). The journal accepts articles in Russian and English. We accept submissions related to the subject of the journal from authors worldwide. The authors will be notified about the decision of the editorial board about acceptance or refusal within a month.