Russian Science Fiction Literature and Cinema
A Critical Reader

Edited and introduced by ANINDITA BANERJEE

February 2018 • 380 pp.
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Since the dawn of the Space Age, when the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite and sent the first human into the cosmos, science fiction literature and cinema from Russia has fascinated fans, critics, and scholars from around the world. Informed perspectives on the surprisingly long and incredibly rich tradition of Russian science fiction, however, are hard to come by in accessible form. This critical reader aims to provide precisely such a resource for students, scholars, and the merely curious who wish to delve deeper into landmarks of the genre, discover innumerable lesser-known gems in the process, and understand why science fiction came to play such a crucial role in Russian society, politics, technology, and culture for more than a century.


The series “Cultural Syllabus” comprises critical readers and anthologies of primary and secondary texts for a broad variety of undergraduate courses in Russian Studies, including literature, film, and cultural history. Books in this series are typically edited by experienced college and university instructors, who convert their course materials into source books for colleagues and students. Additionally, these books serve as introductions to their given subjects for a general readership.

Series Editor: Mark Lipovetsky (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature
A Reader, Books I & II

Edited by MARK LIPOVETSKY & LISA RYOKO WAKAMIYA

Book I — Perestroika and the Post-Soviet Period
June 2014 • 384 pp.
9781936235407 | $69.00 | Cloth
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The first volume of Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader introduces a diverse spectrum of literary works from Perestroika to the present. It includes poetry, prose, drama and scholarly texts, many of which appear in English translation for the first time. The three sections, “Rethinking Identities,” “’Little Terror’ and Traumatic Writing,” and “Writing Politics,” address issues of critical relevance to contemporary Russian culture, history and politics. With its selection of texts and introductory essays Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader brings university curricula into the twenty-first century.

Book II — Thaw and Stagnation
November 2015 • 604 pp.
9781618114327 | $79.00 | Cloth
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The second volume of Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature: A Reader treats the literature of the Thaw and Stagnation periods (1954-1986). It includes translations of poetry and prose as well as scholarly texts that provide additional material for discussion. The goal of this volume is to present the range of ideas, creative experiments, and formal innovations that accompanied the social and political changes of the late Soviet era. Together with the introductory essays and biographical notes, the texts collected here will engage all students and interested readers of late Soviet Russian literature.

Russian Silver Age Poetry
Texts and Contexts

Edited and introduced by SIBELAN E.S. FORRESTER & MARTHA M.F. KELLY
June 2015 • 618 pp.
9781618113528 | $79.00 | Cloth
9781618113702 | $49.00 | Paper

Russian Silver Age writers were full participants in European literary debates and movements. Today some of these poets, such as Akhmatova, Mandelstam, Mayakovskiy, Pasternak, and Tsvetaeva, are known around the world. This volume introduces Silver Age poetry with its cultural ferment, the manifestos and the philosophical, religious, and aesthetic debates, the occult references and sexual experimentation, and the emergence of women, Jews, gay and lesbian poets, and peasants as part of a brilliant and varied poetic environment. After a thorough introduction, the volume offers brief biographies of the poets and selections of their work in translation—many of them translated especially for this volume—as well as critical and fictional texts (some by the poets themselves) that help establish the context and outline the lively discourse of the era and its indelible moral and artistic aftermath.

“The Russian Silver Age was a time of experimentation and achievement unparalleled in Russian culture. This anthology offers Anglophone readers a unique opportunity to acquaint themselves with the leading poets and movements of that time. In addition to a generous sampling of the verse of the Symbolists, Acmeists, and Futurists, the editors have included essential prose pieces dating from the same period, ranging from contemporary reviews to critical essays to manifestoes. All poets are introduced through concise and accurate biographies, and each selection of poetry concludes by listing bibliographies and scholarship for those who would like to delve deeper. The volume will be indispensable for students as well as general readers with an interest in Russian culture.”

— Michael Wachtel, Princeton University
The Russian Avant-Garde and Radical Modernism
An Introductory Reader

Edited by DENNIS G. IOFFE & FREDERICK H. WHITE

October 2012 • 488 pp.
9781936235292 | $69.00 | Cloth
9781936235452 | $49.00 | Paper

The Russian avant-garde was a composite of antagonistic groups who wished to overthrow the basic aesthetics of classical realism. Modernism was the totality of these numerous aesthetic theories, which achieved a measure of coherence immediately after the First World War. This collection of essays by leading scholars examines the major figures, movements, and manifestos of the period. Scholarly attention is given to literature, visual arts, cinema, and theatre in an attempt to capture the complex nature of the modernist movement in Russia. This book would be especially relevant for university courses on the Russian twentieth century as well as for those looking for a comprehensive approach to the various movements and artistic expressions that constitute the Russian avant-garde.

“One of the few volumes on the Russian avant-garde designed with an undergraduate audience in mind, Dennis Ioffe and Fredrick White’s critical reader proves a welcome addition to the field. . . . This book offers an impressive selection of critical work, including several pieces newly commissioned for this volume as well as reprinted or adapted versions of previously published materials. . . . Accessibility is key to the success of any volume designed for undergraduates, and Ioffe and White have judiciously chosen material that will prove engaging to a student audience. . . . The eclectic variety of critical approaches represented here will demonstrate to students the diverse ways to approach avant-garde culture, and introduce some key debates among scholars in the field . . . [O]ne must commend Ioffe and White for producing this valuable volume.”

— Connor Doak, University of Bristol, Slavic and East European Journal, 57.4 (Winter 2013)
The largest, most comprehensive anthology of its kind, this volume brings together significant, representative stories from every decade of the twentieth century. It includes the prose of officially recognized writers and dissidents, both well-known and neglected or forgotten, plus new authors from the end of the century. The selections reflect the various literary trends and approaches to depicting reality in this era: traditional realism, modernism, socialist realism, and post-modernism. Taken as a whole, the stories capture every major aspect of Russian life, history and culture in the twentieth century. The rich array of themes and styles will be of tremendous interest to students and readers who want to learn about Russia through the engaging genre of the short story.

"Valentina Brougher, Mark Lipovetsky, and Frank Miller have rendered an important service to the profession by compiling a rich, judiciously selected, and carefully translated anthology of twentieth-century Russian short stories. . . . Offering a wealth of cultural and historical material, this book may serve as an introduction to twentieth-century Russian culture. Alternatively—and to my mind more fruitfully—this compilation will cater to those students and general readers who already possess knowledge of this realm and seek to enrich it further, often in unexpected and exciting ways. Of existing English-language anthologies of modern Russian short stories, 50 Writers is by far the most expansive. . . ."

— Sofya Khagi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Slavic and East European Journal, vol. 58, no. 4 (Winter 2015)
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