

Abstracts and Keywords in English for Non-English Articles

Savva Mikheev

Pseudo-Glagolitic in Rus: Inscriptions and Manuscript Entries in Which the Presence of Glagolitic Is Not Confirmed

Abstract: The article addresses the phenomenon of the misidentification of the Glagolitic letters in Rus inscriptions and manuscripts. In approximately a dozen studies from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, certain signs are erroneously identified as Glagolitic, turning out to be written in Greek minuscule or Cyrillic script, or, in some cases, not representing letters at all.

Keywords: Rus, St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, Glagolitic script, epigraphy, palaeography

Gennadij Zeldovicz

Eternity in Lyrical Text: Five Manifestations

Abstract: The paper explores the structure of time in lyrical discourse. It argues that the lyrical time strives towards transcending its own nature, and likening itself, at least in some respects, to eternity. Five strategies of such an assimilation are discussed: (1) cyclization of the time; (2) claiming that two contradictory events happen at the same time; (3) rendering time 'vacuous', devoid of events; (4) clusterization of referents; (5) the use of iterative verbs with characterizing meaning. All of the listed artistic devices are to be found prevalently in those fragments where the discovery of the most significant truth occurs, hence they may be viewed as very exquisite foregrounding markers. This point is elaborated with reference to a selection of 100 poems.

Keywords: lyrical poem, focus of lyrical poem, foregrounding, eternity, time

Oleg Zaslavskii

A Logical Paradox as Salvation. On Osip Mandelstam's Poem "A Tailor..."

Abstract: Mandelstam's poem "A Tailor..." contains a riddle that is not explicitly stated. The poem's protagonist – a tailor sentenced to death – takes off the measurements (presumably for his coffin) and remains alive. Why, then, does he succeed in escaping death? This article identifies an irresolvable logical contradiction in the poem: the subject of the measurements is a living person, whilst its object is, in the future, a corpse. Consequently, the tailor's status (as both subject and object of the measurements) between life and death becomes indeterminate, and the execution (which transforms the living into the dead) loses its meaning. Also significant is the probable anagramming of the author's name, which (like the taking of measurements) constitutes an action turned in on itself and prompted by the author's presumed attempt to save himself in a world of total terror.

Keywords: Osip Mandelstam, text interpretation, riddle, paradox, anagram

Evgeny Soshkin

**"The Fall, or The Knowledge of Good and Evil" by Daniil Kharm's:
From the Commentary on the Play**

Abstract: This publication presents selected fragments of a detailed thematic and motif-based commentary on Daniil Kharm's play *The Fall or the Knowledge of Good and Evil: Didaskalia* (1934) and shows the work's profound connections with the twelfth-century mystery play *Le Jeu d'Adam* (*Ordo representationis Ade*), the Russian *rayoshnik* verse tradition, and occult literature that formed a significant part of Kharm's reading.

Keywords: Daniil Kharm's, The Fall, medieval theatre, free rhymed verse, occultism

Gleb Morev

“I am a poet, not a rebel”: Joseph Brodsky in the Literary and Social Context of the Second Half of the 1960s

Abstract: This article traces the development of Joseph Brodsky’s literary and social stance, which took shape in the mid-1960s and was articulated in such manifesto-like texts as the poems “The People” (1964) and “To a Female Poet” (1965), as well as in a statement to the Secretariat of the Leningrad Branch of the Writers’ Union of the RSFSR (1968). The ‘third’ path proclaimed by Brodsky, which stood in opposition to both official servility and non-conformist rebellion against the state, led to clashes not only with the official institutions of Soviet literature but also with the currents opposed to them. An analysis of some of Brodsky’s texts from the second half of the 1960s (“A Message to the Poems”, a statement from 1968), together with facts from his literary biography introduced into scholarly discourse for the first time, allows us to reconstruct the immediate literary and social contexts of his work at that time and their significance in shaping Brodsky’s unique socio-cultural position within the Soviet literary field of the late 1960s.

Keywords: underground poetry, non-conformism, dissidence, SMOG, the KGB

Dirk Uffelman

“First of All, People Are Never Just a Product of the External World”: Václav Havel’s Presidential Rhetoric of Implicit Concessions

Abstract: This essay investigates the evolving presidential rhetoric of former playwright, dissident, political prisoner, and State President, Václav Havel. The focus is on his first TV speech as newly elected President of Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1990, thus paying special attention to the use of rhetoric in a political period of transition. In doing so, the article refutes Martin Bermeiser’s misleading assumption about Havel’s allegedly “holistic rhetoric” (2017). In contrast to the ethical evaluation of “holism”, a genuinely rhetorical conceptualization is proposed by demonstrating Havel’s use of *concessio* as an anti-antagonistic *figura sententiae*. This leads to a general hypothesis

of an implicit mode of “concessivity” prevailing in presidential rhetoric in transition periods that broadens the perspective for further quantitative “corpus-rhetorical” research.

Keywords: Václav Havel, presidential rhetoric, concessio, transition