REVIEW ARTICLES/CRITIQUES EXHAUSTIVES

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Non-periodical Serials on Pushkin

The principal place for the publication of new scholarship on Pushkin during this century has been in Russian serial publications which are devoted specifically to Pushkin studies and do not appear at stated periodical intervals. To be sure, new Pushkin studies have appeared in Festschriften honoring prominent scholars, and the usual types of scholarly literary periodicals have published new Pushkin scholarship with greater or less frequency. However, only in anniversary memorial Pushkin celebrations (e.g., 1899, 1937, 1949, 1974) has the mass of new scholarship in such scholarly publications competed with that in the special Pushkin serials. And, not surprisingly, the materials published in anniversary memorial years have tended to be of a stock-taking and memorial nature, rather than principally new scholarship.

These special Pushkin serials have been published by scholarly organizations or societies. The most important has been a special commission of the Academy of Sciences: first, of the Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences, and then, of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. As publications of organizations, these serials have usually included chronicles of activities and projects that continue to be of historical interest. However, their lasting value has depended principally upon the new scholarship they have published—often quite extensive articles, up to monograph length—devoted specifically to Pushkin's life and works and to scholarship on them. In America, we have no such tradition with regard to our writers, and British societies devoted to particular writers (such as Dickens, Browning, and Bernard Shaw) have not usually been preponderantly scholarly in the same sense nor have they had comparable governmental sponsorship. Pushkin scholars in the West are so accustomed to taking for granted the existence of Russian Pushkin serial publications that it may be worthwhile to remind ourselves that, at least in Britain and the United States, we have nothing to compare with them. It is my purpose here to give a brief survey of these non-periodical serial publications on Pushkin (and a small number of closely related publications).

The first and, so far, most extensive of these series is Pushkin i ego sovremenniki, which was published from 1903 to 1930 in thirty-nine vypuski (several of them double and two triple issues). The first thirty-seven were edited by B. M. Modzalevskii; the publication ceased with the double number 38-39, a memorial issue which appeared two years after his death. An evaluation of Modzalevskii's contribution, not only as editor of Pushkin i ego
sovremenniki but also as scholar and founder of the *Pushkinskii dom* of the Institute of Russian Literature of the Academy of Sciences, was promised for a “fortieth” vypusk. N. V. Izmailov, who had the chief responsibility for seeing vypusk 38-39 through the press, recently fulfilled that promise belatedly (*Russkaia literatura*, No. 3 [1974], pp. 144-51). The serial *Pushkin i ego sovremenniki* was established as the organ of the Commission for the Publication of Pushkin’s Works, of the Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences. That Commission had been set up in 1900, upon the death of Leonid Maikov, who lived to edit just one volume of the projected “old Academy” edition of Pushkin’s works. (Only half the volumes of that edition ever appeared: I-IV, IX, XI; 1899-1928.) Throughout its existence, the policy of *Pushkin i ego sovremenniki* was to publish not only new scholarly studies on Pushkin’s works, but also scholarly works and materials on his biography and on the lives of his contemporaries. Some of its publications were book-length: Modzalevskii’s “Biblioteka A. S. Pushkina” (vypusk 9-10 [1910]); “Dnevnik A. N. Vul’ka” (vypusk 21-22 [1915]); P. E. Shchegolev’s “Duel’ i smert’ Pushkina” (vypusk 25-27 [1917], a work which went through several editions as a separate book); and M. L. Gofman’s “Propushchennye strofy Evgenii Onegina” and “Postmertnye stikhotvorenii Pushkina, 1833-1836 gg.” (vypusk 33-35 [1922]). Many articles published in this serial retain their interest and value, though various of them have of course been superseded. Modzalevskii’s account of Pushkin’s library remains an indispensable tool, like his listing of the Trigorskoe library which Pushkin used during his 1824-26 exile (vypusk 1, pp. 19-52). Though the focus of *Pushkin i ego sovremenniki* was to a considerable degree biographical, articles of literary scholarship were included over its entire span, with their number increasing in the final years. *Pushkin i ego sovremenniki* set a high standard of meticulous scholarship utilizing original sources to establish new truth on the basis of directly presented evidence. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this first Pushkin serial publication.

*Pushkinist: Istoriiko-literaturnyi sbornik*, the second of these serials, is unlike all the others in that it was established as a publication outlet for the university seminars on Pushkin of S. A. Vengerov of Petersburg University, beginning in 1908. Vengerov edited the first three volumes (1914, 1916, 1918); the fourth appeared in 1922, two years after his death, as *Pushkinskii sbornik pamiati S. A. Vengerova*. This last volume, edited by N. V. Iakovlev, included A. Fomin’s evaluation of Vengerov as professor and as conductor of the Pushkin seminars (pp. x-xxxiii). The chronicle materials in the first two volumes are of particular interest; they list the participants of the seminars, who included S. M. Bondi, V. V. Gippius, Iu. G. Oksman, Iu. N. Tynianov, A. L. Bem, M. L. Gofman, and Dmitrii Sviatopolk-Mirskii. Participants published not only in this publication but in *Pushkin i ego sovremenniki* and even in Vengerov’s edition of *Pushkin* (6 vols. [St. Petersburg-Petrograd: Brokgauz-