Secondary Sources on Zamiatin’s *We*

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Until *Perestroika* the reception of *We* was, perhaps characteristically, asymmetrical. Like other classics of twentieth century Russian literature it was largely appreciated only in the West; after all it was the first book banned in the USSR. As with Boris Pasternak’s *Doctor Zhivago* (also banned), Mikhail Bulgakov’s *The Master and the Margarita* (unknown until 1962), and Andrei Belyi’s *Petersburg* (neglected due to incompatibility with Soviet demands), it was largely studied only by readers on our side of the Iron Curtain, especially in NATO countries. Indeed, it was first published in English; the full original only appeared in 1952, twenty-eight years later, when it, once again, played a role in the Cold War. In addition, Zamiatin’s novel enjoyed the status of a classic of science fiction and utopian literature, especially after the publication of George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* (1949). Commonly included in science fiction curricula, it attracted the attention of professors of Western, especially English, literature.

With a few notable exceptions, all of the Cyrillic entries were published after the novel first appeared in Russia in 1988. Russian language scholarship has caught up and overtaken that of the rest of the world, at least in terms of the number of titles. That the novel can be legally appreciated by native readers of its own language is a long-overdue development, but a gap between the two cultures persists, perhaps now more for reason of the availability of materials and the relative lack of scholarly interchange – a situation this bibliography is intended to redress.

Listed here are all substantial readings of the novel available as of summer 2010. Generally omitted are introductions, book reviews, and passages in literary histories. A few entries are included only on the basis of second-hand information (these are marked with an *). Authors cited by Latin letters are placed first, followed by those published in Cyrillic. I am grateful to the
research libraries at Columbia University, Stanford University, Yale University, and the Universities of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, as well as to Alexander Galushkin and Lu Zheng for their assistance. Special thanks are due to the Interlibrary Loan Department of the Sterling Evans Library at Texas A&M University.

**Bibliography**


Ball, Martin. *We by Yevgeny Zamiatin: Notes* (Melbourne: CAE Book Groups, 2004).*


¹ The asterix indicates that I have not had firsthand contact with this source. Bibliographical information for it depends on secondhand sources and inclusion in this list is based on my surmise that it includes substantive commentary on We.