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THE CONTENTS OF THE CITIZEN DURING DOSTOEVSKY’S EDITORSHIP: UNCOVERING THE AUTHORSHIP OF UNSIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS. DOSTOEVSKY’S QUEST TO RECONCILE THE “FLUX OF LIFE” WITH A SELF-FASHIONED UTOPIA. PART I

Introduction

Compiled in Appendix I below is a chronological description of the contents of The Citizen during F. M. Dostoevsky’s editorship with the authorship of most unsigned contributions uncovered. This weekly St. Petersburg political and literary newspaper-journal (known as Grazhdanin: Gazeta-Zhurnal politicheskii i literaturnyi) was launched by Prince Vladimir Petrovich Meshchersky (1839-1914) in 1872 and Dostoevsky became its editor on January 1, 1873. He remained editor until the spring of the following year editing his last issue no. 15 (for the week ending April 21, 1874), although he still had some input into issue no. 16 where his departure as Editor was announced. The complete index to the contents of The Citizen has been never published before, nor the authorship of unsigned contributions to it uncovered. Dostoevsky began publishing in The Citizen his signed column “Diary of a Writer” (Dnevnik pisatel’ia) which appeared in the first issue of the journal and thereafter in fourteen further issues. Later in the year he launched his column on “Foreign events” (Inostrannye sobytiia), signed with his initial “D” in no. 38. “Foreign events” appeared in twelve issues and was intended to be seen as an alternative to the “Diary” (which ceased after no. 35 until its last publication

1. The common English forms of the names “Dostoevsky” and “Meshchersky” have been used in this article while other Russian names have been transliterated according to the DJ guidelines.

2. Until recently copies of The Citizen for the period of Dostoevsky’s editorship have been virtually unavailable. The Citizen was not held at any of the major libraries outside Russia such as the Helsinki Library, the British Library, the US Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Even in Russia, apart from a copy in the Central Russian State Library in Moscow (RGB), (formerly the Lenin Library of the USSR (GBL)) there appear to be no complete sets anywhere (in the Library of the Institute of Russian Literature (IRI, Pushkinii Dom) of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg the copies for 1874 are missing). The availability of scanning has not improved the situation because the existing copies were considered to be too old for scanning purposes. For a planned electronic version by V. N. Zakharov and his team at the University of Petrozavodsk it has been necessary to retype the journal. See also: Irene Zohrab, “The bibliographical section and the editorial in the first issue of The Citizen (Grazhdanin) for 1873 following the assumption by F. M. Dostoevsky of his editorial duties,” New Zealand Slavonic Journal, 30 (1996), 209-34.

in no. 50). In addition Dostoevsky wrote a number of editorial comments and contributed to various other columns. There is some evidence to show that he may have deliberately avoided putting his name to some of the contributions he had written. A number of contributions that appeared unsigned, or signed with pseudonyms may have been written or co-written by Dostoevsky, or in the very least substantially edited by him. Dostoevsky's main responsibilities centred on the selection, editing, rewriting, commissioning and overall presentation of material that finally appeared on the pages of The Citizen.

The importance of Dostoevsky's work as editor and journalist in relation to his creative work as a novelist is becoming more recognized. There have been major studies done of his editorial and journalistic work for the monthly journals Time (Vremia) (1861-1863) and Epoch (Epokha) (1864-1865) and some acknowledgement of his earlier experiments as a writer of feuilletons. The contributions that are known to have been written by him for The Citizen were republished and annotated in volume 21 of the Academy edition of his complete collected works under the chief editorship of G. M. Fridlande, while four items that were attributed to him appeared in volume 27. However, there has been no comprehensive study done on his input as editor into The Citizen as a whole, although there are numerous articles on various aspects of his work as editor and publicist. It remains vir-

4. “Foreign Events,” The Citizen, nos. 38-46 (1873), pp. 51-52; no. 1 (1874). Began in The Citizen “Diary of a Writer” was continued in later years as a separate publication with the subject matter formerly covered in the column “Foreign events” incorporated into it under one cover.

5. V. S. Nechaeva, Zhurnal M. M. i F. M. Dostoevskikh 'Vremia' 1861-1863 (Moscow: Nauka, 1972) and Zhurnal M. M. i F. M. Dostoevskikh 'Epokha' 1864-1865 (Moscow: Nauka, 1975). V. N. Zakharov, “Genial’nyi fel‘stonist”, F. M. Dostoevskii. Polnoe sobranie sochinenii. Kanonicheskie teksty (Petrozavodsk: Izd. Petrozavodskogo Universiteta, 2000), 4: 801-22, 802. Although the journals Time and Epoch were edited by his elder brother Mikhail, Dostoevsky worked in close collaboration with him. After Mikhail's death on July 10, 1864, Dostoevsky assumed full responsibility for the production of Epoch. The journal's nominal editor was, however, A. U. Poretsky, for Dostoevsky at the time was still under police surveillance and unable to put his name forward officially as an editor. A chronological description of the contents of Time and Epoch was compiled by V. S. Nechaeva and published in the appendix to the second of her two books on the subject.
