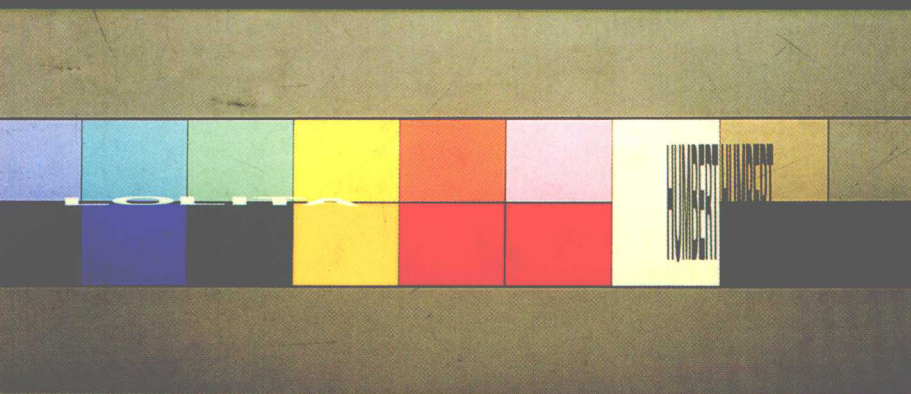


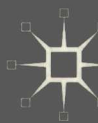
EDITED BY JANE GRAYSON, ARNOLD McMILLIN
AND PRISCILLA MEYER

NABOKOV'S WORLD

Volume 2: Reading Nabokov



STUDIES IN RUSSIA AND EAST EUROPE



Nabokov's World

Volume 2: Reading Nabokov

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Preface

In 1999 the centenary of Vladimir Nabokov's birth was marked by a succession of conferences and conventions throughout the world. The essays which make up this collection are a selection of papers presented at two international conferences held during the course of that year in England and North America:

- '1799, 1899, 1999: Pushkin, Nabokov and Intertextuality'
Conference organized by Priscilla Meyer (12–14 March 1999) at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.
- 'Nabokov at the Crossroads'
Conference organized by Jane Grayson of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, 6–10 July 1999 at the University of Cambridge.

Priscilla Meyer would like to thank Wesleyan University for its generous support, the Russell House for providing an appropriately gracious setting, and Susan Ferris, Richard Kamins, William Trousdale and Herbert Meyer for their touching dedication to the event.

Jane Grayson in her turn wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the School, and, especially, Trinity College Cambridge for their help in funding the event, with thanks, too, to the administrative staff of Trinity College, Jesus College and Peterhouse for their co-operation in providing the ideal venue and accommodating the participants. She wishes to express her particular gratitude to Ben Chatterley, Elena Savvides and Jenefer Coates for their invaluable practical assistance and unfailing moral support, and in Cambridge to Lara Delage-Toriel of Newnham College and Adrian Poole of Trinity College whose enthusiasm and energy made light work of the problems attendant upon an away fixture.

The three editors together thank the Publications Fund of the School and Wesleyan University for assistance in additional costs occasioned in preparing these volumes, Ben Chatterley again for his commitment and technical expertise and Ken Hirschkok for his excellent work on the index.

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Brian Boyd is Professor of English at the University of Auckland. Among his books are a two-volume biography of Nabokov (1990, 1991) and studies of *Ada* (1985) and *Pale Fire* (1999). He has also edited Nabokov's English fiction for the Library of America (3 vols, 1996) and co-edited Nabokov's butterfly writings for Beacon Press and Penguin (2000). He is currently writing a critical book on Shakespeare and a biography of the philosopher Karl Popper.

Neil Cornwell is Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature at the University of Bristol. He is the author of *Vladimir Nabokov in the series Writers and Their Work* (1999) and co-editor of the New Casebook *The Turn of the Screw* and *What Maisie Knew* (1998). He has written widely on the Gothic-Fantastic and is currently researching a study of the Absurd.

John Burt Foster Jr is Professor of English and Cultural Studies at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and also edits *The Comparatist*, an annual journal of comparative literature. In addition to *Nabokov's Art of Memory and European Modernism* (1993), his most recent work on Nabokov includes 'Working with Nietzsche, Nabokov, and Tolstoy: Cultural Variables in the Literary Reception of Philosophy' in *Real: The Yearbook for Research in English and American Literature* (1997); 'Beyond "Domestic" and "Foreign": Nietzsche and Nabokov as Transnational Authors' in *Comparative Literature Today* (1999); and 'Poshlust, Culture Criticism, Adorno and Malraux' in J.W. Connolly (ed.), *Nabokov and His Fiction: New Perspectives* (1999).

Jane Grayson is Lecturer in Russian language and literature at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College

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88); *Poety gruppy OBERIU* (1994). He has published books and articles on Provençal mediaeval poetry of the troubadours and on Russian poets and poetics. He contributed to the *Garland Companion to Vladimir Nabokov*, ed. Vladimir E. Alexandrov (1995) and made Russian translations of Nabokov's English short stories and two novels: *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* and *Transparent Things* (1991). He is correspondent of the Paris weekly *La Pensée russe* where he has published over a hundred articles on literature and art.

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as the folktale, the Gothic and the detective story; her most recent book is *Detecting Texts: The Metaphysical Detective Story from Poe to Postmodernism*, coedited with Patricia Merivale (1999). She is now working on allusions to folklore in *Lolita*.

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Michael Wood is the author of, most recently, *The Magician's Doubts: Nabokov and the Risks of Fiction* (1994), and *Children of Silence: on Contemporary Fiction* (1998). He has taught at Cambridge, Columbia and Exeter Universities and is currently Charles Barnwell Straut Professor of English at Princeton.

A Note on Abbreviations

There is no standard edition of Vladimir Nabokov's works in Russian or in English and, although the bulk of his English fiction is now readily available in the United States under the Vintage International imprint (New York) and in Great Britain under the Penguin imprint (Harmondsworth), it has not proved practicable to impose absolute conformity on the large international cast of contributors to these volumes. While the majority of the essays refer to these American and English paperback editions, reference is also made to the three-volume Library of America edition (New York, 1996) as well as to first editions in English and Russian. Each essay has accordingly been designed to function as a self-contained unit, complete with its own references. All essays, however, whatever edition has been used, observe the abbreviations for Nabokov's works listed below. Citations are keyed into the text using the following format: abbreviation of the title followed by the page number; e.g. (*Lo*, 42–3). For ease of reference the date of first publication (of the English-language version when this is the version indicated) is given here, with the complete reference given in the Bibliography of Works by Vladimir Nabokov at the end of the volume.

<i>Ada</i>	<i>Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle</i> , 1969.
<i>AnL</i>	<i>The Annotated Lolita</i> , ed. Alfred Appel, Jr, 1971, rev. edn, 1991.
<i>BS</i>	<i>Bend Sinister</i> , 1947.
<i>CE</i>	<i>Conclusive Evidence: A Memoir</i> , 1951
<i>Defense</i>	<i>The Defense</i> , trans. Michael Scammell in collaboration with the author, 1964.
<i>Despair</i>	<i>Despair</i> , trans. Vladimir Nabokov, 1966.
<i>DB</i>	<i>Drugie berega</i> , 1954.
<i>Enchanter</i>	<i>The Enchanter</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov, 1986.
<i>EO</i>	<i>Eugene Onegin. A Novel in Verse by Aleksandr Pushkin</i> , trans. with commentary by Vladimir Nabokov, 4 vols, 1964, rev. edn, 1975.
<i>Eye</i>	<i>The Eye</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author, 1965.

<i>Gift</i>	<i>The Gift</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov and Michael Scammell in collaboration with the author, 1963.
<i>IB</i>	<i>Invitation to a Beheading</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author, 1959.
<i>KO</i>	<i>Kamera obskura</i> , 1932–3.
<i>KQK</i>	<i>King, Queen, Knave</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author, 1968.
<i>LATH</i>	<i>Look at the Harlequins!</i> , 1974.
<i>LD</i>	<i>Laughter in the Dark</i> , rev. English trans. of <i>Kamera obskura</i> by the author, 1938.
<i>LDQ</i>	<i>Lectures on Don Quixote</i> , ed. Fredson Bowers, 1983.
<i>LL</i>	<i>Lectures on Literature</i> , ed. Fredson Bowers, 1980.
<i>LRL</i>	<i>Lectures on Russian Literature</i> , ed. Fredson Bowers, 1981.
<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lolita</i> , 1955.
<i>LoR</i>	<i>Lolita</i> , Russian trans. by the author, 1967.
<i>Mary</i>	<i>Mary</i> , trans. Michael Glenny in collaboration with the author, 1970.
<i>NG</i>	<i>Nikolai Gogol</i> , 1944.
<i>NWL</i>	<i>The Nabokov–Wilson Letters, 1940–1971</i> , ed. Simon Karlinsky, corrected edn, 1980.
<i>PF</i>	<i>Pale Fire</i> , 1962.
<i>Pnin</i>	<i>Pnin</i> , 1957.
<i>PP</i>	<i>Poems and Problems</i> , 1970.
<i>RLSK</i>	<i>The Real Life of Sebastian Knight</i> , 1941.
<i>SL</i>	<i>Selected Letters, 1940–1977</i> , ed. Dmitri Nabokov and Matthew J. Bruccoli, 1989.
<i>SM</i>	<i>Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited</i> , 1967.
<i>SO</i>	<i>Strong Opinions</i> , 1973.
<i>Stories</i>	<i>The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov</i> , ed. Dmitri Nabokov, 1995; published in Penguin books as <i>The Collected Stories</i> , 1997.
<i>TD</i>	<i>Tyrants Destroyed and Other Stories</i> , trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author, 1975.
<i>TT</i>	<i>Transparent Things</i> , 1972.
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vozvrashchenie Chorba: rasskazy i stikhi</i> , 1930.
<i>VF</i>	<i>Vesna v Fial'te i drugie rasskazy</i> , 1956.

A Note on Transliteration

The Library of Congress system of transliteration (without diacritics) has been used throughout, with the exception of bibliographical references, where an author's name is given as it appears on the title page, e.g. 'Sergej Davydov', 'Abram Tertz'. Where a Russian name is commonly known by another spelling, e.g. 'Chaliapin', or 'Benois', this is indicated in parenthesis in the text.

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