

**MEDVEDEV, P. N. Собрание сочинений в 2 х томах [*Collected Works in Two Volumes. São Petersburgo: Rostok, 2018*]**

Pavel Nikolaevich Medvedev (1891-1938), a literary theoretician and historian as well as an eminent critic, was an active member of the Vitebsk Renaissance from 1910 to 1920 and of the “scientific-philosophical Circle of Bakhtin.” A philologist, he spent most of his life in Saint Petersburg-Leningrad, where he had contact with many expressive cultural activists of the Silver Century.<sup>1</sup> Many of Medvedev’s works<sup>2</sup>, collected in this volume, were retrieved from the archives or published in scarcely accessible first editions.

The first volume, edited by I. P. Medvedev and D. A. Medvedeva, is subtitled История литературы [History of Literature] (848 p.) and comprises literary and critical articles and essays, his research on A. A. Blok, his recollection of meetings with Blok, Klyuev, Bely, Sologub and others, and selected correspondence. The Appendix presents plans of courses and lectures given in Vitebsk between 1919 and 1920. Similar to the initial articles, these plans are prolegomena to later works.

The second volume, edited by I. P. Medvedev and A. P. Dmitrev, is subtitled Поэтика и психология творчества [Poetics and Psychology of Creation] and comprises works related to literary theory (especially the well-known book titled *The Formal Method in Literary Scholarship*, which was erroneously accredited to Bakhtin) and to the psychology of creation, as well as articles, essays and book reviews about scientific works in literary theory. The Appendix presents Medvedev’s bibliography and articles that focus on the Bakhtin Circle phenomenon and on questions related to the psychology of creation in Medvedev’s studies.

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<sup>1</sup> It is the period of the history of Russian culture that corresponds to the threshold between the 19th and 20th centuries, the time of Modernism. At first, the term referred to the “Golden Century,” the time of Alexander Pushkin (the first trimester of the 19th century). In hindsight, it also indicated a second flowering of Russian culture.

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <http://rostokbooks.ru/collection/12>. Access on: June 2, 2019.

The historical context is reconstructed by memoirs, photographs, autographs and dedicatory inscriptions, interrogation protocols and letters to the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs in defense of colleagues, as well as comments.

Questions related to the methodology of literature, poetics and creative history, present especially in heated discussions, are always interesting to literary theoreticians. However, they are not the only target audience of the *Collected Works*: they will also interest science historians, culture scholars, and many interested readers.

Medvedev's biography is an expressive example of the fate of the intelligentsia in Russia and the Soviet Union in the 1900s to 1930s. However, the fate of his legacy, as well as the "Bakhtin Circle's" legacy, is a sad example of post-truth.

Fragments of the Rostok Publishing House's advertisement of the *Collected Works*,  
written by A. P. Dmitrev and revised by D. A. Medvedeva  
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*Received August 10, 2019*

*Accepted February 28, 2020*