
Simon Beattie

Russia reads America

The presentation of American life and letters
in Russia, 1850–1981, in 25 books



January 2014

Before the Revolution

‘At the time of the October Revolution, the Russians based their conception of American culture on a combination of impressions derived from books of fact and fiction ... There was no dearth of facts about the United States, but there were huge quantities of misinformation and myth.

‘American literature in tsarist times had done little to regularize this haphazard conception, for the pre-revolutionary reading public had known relatively few American writers. Only eight of them—James Fenimore Cooper, Bret Harte, Jack London, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edgar Allan Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain—had achieved a durable popularity among significant numbers of Russians. A few additional authors ... had appeared in book form at one time or another, and others had appeared in random periodical pieces ... Many of America’s most prominent literary figures had been represented [before 1917]. Nevertheless, the literature thus circulated was relatively small in volume’ (Brown, introduction to *A Guide to Soviet Russian Translations of American Literature*, p. 3).



01. McINTOSH, Maria Jane. Dve zhizni ili kazat'sia i byt'.
Povest' miss Mekintosh. Per. s angliiskago Aleksandry Ishimovoi
[*Two Lives or to seem and to be. A story by Miss McIntosh.*
Translated from the English by Aleksandra Ishimovaya] ...
Sanktpeterburg. Pechatano v tip. Shtaba otel'n. kor. vnutren.
strazhi. 1850.

8vo (216 × 135 mm) in half-sheets, pp. 333, [1]; title a little spotted, the occasional small mark elsewhere; contemporary half calf, rebacked, cloth tips, edges worn; contemporary printed ticket of the bookshop library of Nikolai Ovsiannikov to front pastedown, late nineteenth-century stamps of the Cherkesov Lending Library, St Petersburg, to the title, front pastedown, and margins of first and final pages. £2400

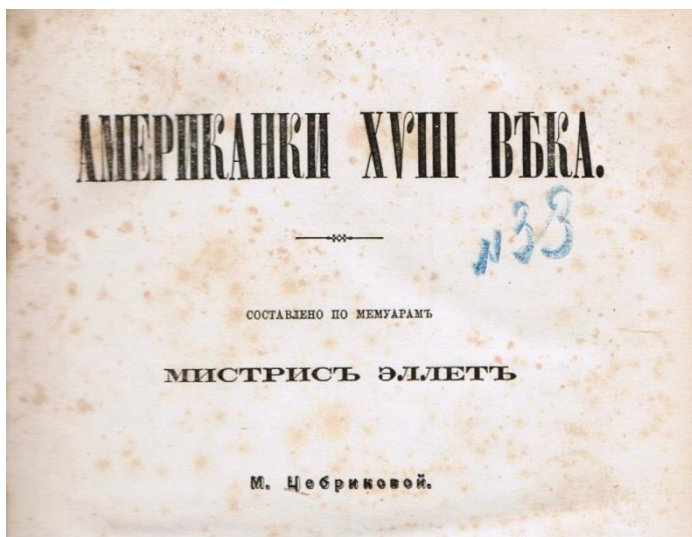
First (and only?) edition in Russian of *Two Lives, or To seem and to be* (New York, 1846) by Maria McIntosh (1803–1878), novelist and, as 'Aunt Kitty', children's writer. It appears to be her first appearance in the language. The National Library of Russia catalogue lists two other translations: *Rasskazy teti* ('An Aunt's Tales', 1851, second ed. 1865) and *Amerikanskie rasskazy dlia detei* ('American Tales for Children', 1869, reprinted 1897).

Extremely rare: it is not listed in Libman, nor in OCLC.

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN

02. ELLET, Elizabeth Fries. Amerikanki XVIII veka. Sostavleno po memuarum Mistris Ellet M. Tsebrikovoi [*American Women of the Eighteenth Century. Compiled from the memoirs of Mrs Ellet by Maria Tsebrikova*] ... S.-Peterburg. V tipografii F. S. Sushchinskago ... 1871.

8vo (212 × 145 mm), pp. [2], 336, ii; some spotting/mild foxing in places, light waterstain in upper margin towards the end; old school library stamp to the title and pp. 1, 37, 137, and 237, ms. shelfmark in coloured pencil to title and front free endpaper, printed shelflabel to front pastedown; with a very good copy in contemporary quarter roan, cloth tips, spine and edges rubbed. £1500



First edition, based on *The Women of the American Revolution* (New York, 1848) by Ellet (1818–1877), the first writer to record the lives of women who contributed to the American Revolutionary War. With a long preface (pp. 1–26) by Tsebrikova (1835–1917), a well-known popular writer, anti-Tsarist activist, and campaigner for the ‘women’s cause’.

OCLC locates copies at Stanford, Harvard, and the University of Washington.

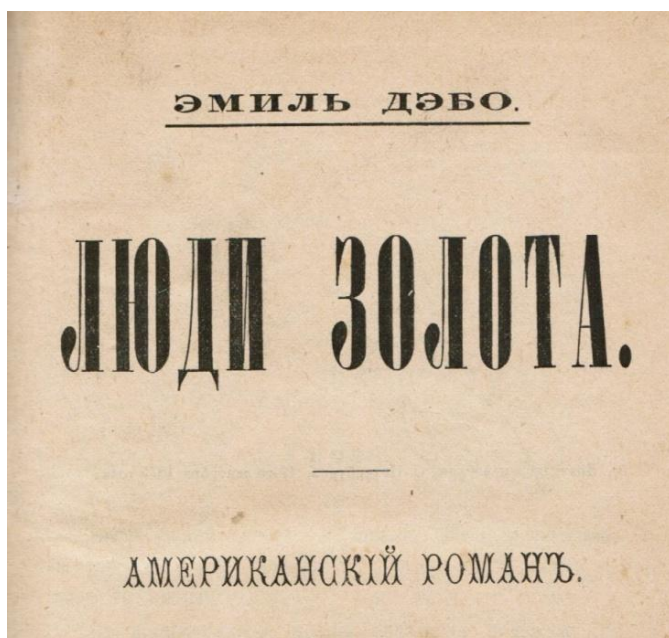
GANGS OF NEW YORK

03. DESBEAUX, Émile. Liudi zolota. Amerikanskii roman [*The Golden Men. An American novel*]. S.-Peterburg. Tipografiia V. S. Balasheva ... 1875.

8vo (196 × 136 mm), pp. 229, [3]; old stamps (to four pages) of the Library of the 4th Finnish Rifles; a very good copy in contemporary quarter roan, cloth tips, spine lettered gilt; somewhat rubbed, but sound. £850

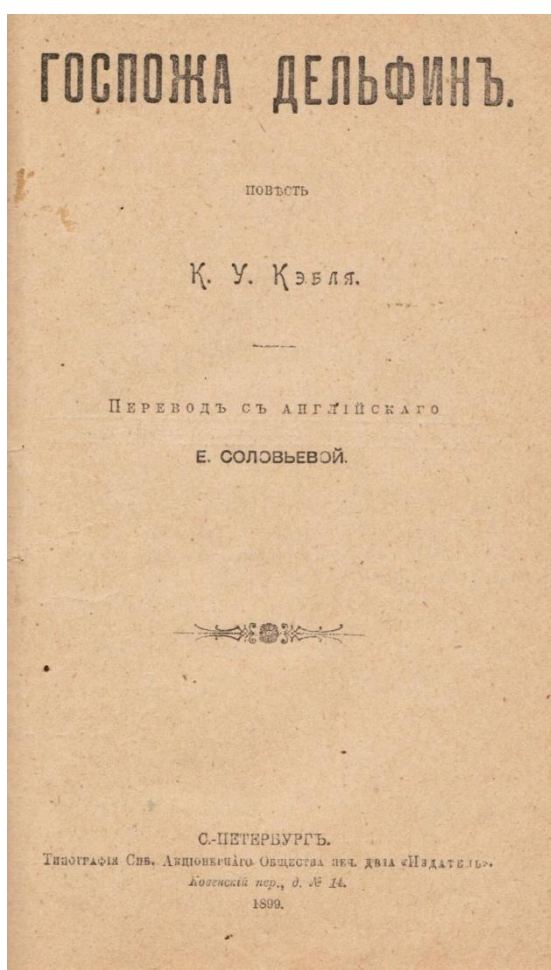
First edition in Russian of *Le mystère de Westfield, roman américain* (Paris, 1875) by the popular writer and playwright, Émile Desbeaux

(1845–1903). Extremely rare: OCLC locates only two copies of the French edition (both at the Bibliothèque nationale), and none of this Russian version, although it was followed by a second edition in 1879.



A young Frenchman who seeks refuge on a—naturally—dark and stormy night awakes the next morning to find that the shack is the scene of a triple murder and a suicide. Soon, clues lead to a secret society called the Golden Men, who have been blamed for various crimes (disappearances, fires, railway accidents) in New York and the states around, and a shady English peer.

The sensational narrative occasionally breaks off to remark on American life (a digression on drinking in America prefaces a scene in a Brooklyn bar, and the final chapter describes The Tombs prison), which would presumably have been as interesting to French readers as much as Russian. The immediacy of translation and publication in Russian, only months after the French original, certainly suggests a ready readership.



04. CABLE, George Washington. Gospozha Del'fin ...
Perevod s angliiskago E. Solov'evoi [*Madame Delphine ...*
Translated from the English by E. Solovieva]. S.-Peterburg.
Tipografiia Spb. Aktsionernago Obshchetva pech. dela
«Izdatel'» ... 1899.

8vo (228 × 135 mm), pp. 62; printed on poor-quality paper; ms.
shelfmark to title, short tears to pp. 5 and 7, some staining to p. 19–25,
upper corner of final leaf torn away (no loss), one closed tear, and lower
margin torn away, with loss of a few words, the leaf sometime reinforced
on the verso, a few old bookseller's marks at foot of final page and rear
pastedown; later cloth. £850

First edition in Russian of *Madame Delphine* (New York, 1881): a tale of
mixed-race love and devotion in nineteenth-century New Orleans. This
is Cable's (1844–1925) first separate appearance in Russian and is very
rare.

Libman 2853. Not listed in OCLC.



05. [KELLER, Helen.] RAGOZINA, Zinaida Aleksandrovna. Istoriiia odnoi dushi (Elena Keller). S 17 portretami, avtografami i risunkami [*The Story of a solitary Spirit (Helen Keller). With 17 portraits, autographs and illustrations*]. S.-Peterburg. Izdanie A. F. Marksa. [1905.]

8vo (229 × 144 mm), pp. 243, [1]; with 17 photographic illustrations in the text; marginal stain to pp. 76–7; upper portion of first two leaves torn away, not affecting text; a couple of smudges and ms. shelfmark to the title; rather shaken in contemporary polished quarter calf, rubbed, paper tips, front hinge broken; later ink inscription to front free endpaper, old bookseller's marks to the rear. £500

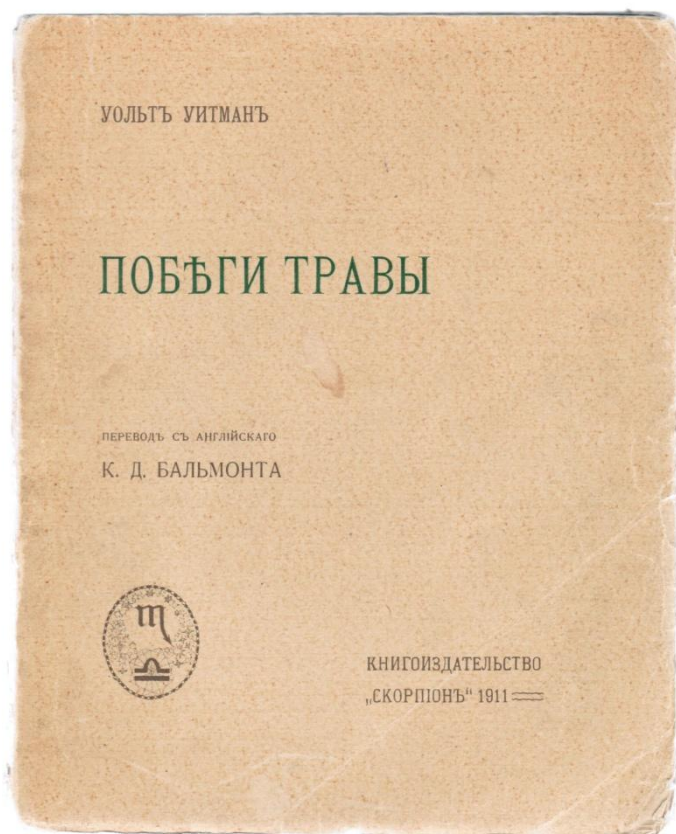
First edition; others followed in 1911 and 1919. There were a number of early accounts of Helen Keller in Russian, the earliest apparently being the Tiflis-printed *Zapiski slepoi i glukhonemoi* ('Diary of a blind and deaf-mute woman') in 1894.

OCLC locates a sole copy, at the British Library.

06. WHITMAN, Walt. Pobegi travy. Perevod s angliiskago K. D. Bal'monta [*Shoots of Grass. Translated from the English by Konstantin Balmont*]. Knigoizdatel'stvo „Skorpion“ 1911.

Square 8vo (234 × 188 mm), pp. [4], 22, '22—49', [50]—216, [10] publisher's advertisements; uncut in the original printed wrappers, lightly spotted, upper joint cracking but sound, a few creases, lower corner of front cover torn away, spine rubbed and chipped at extremities, small stain to lower cover. £1500

First edition of Balmont's translation of *Leaves of Grass*. The earliest Russian translations of Whitman were made by Turgenev in the 1870s, though they remained unpublished; Kornei Chukovsky became a devoted reader of the American poet in the early 1900s, publishing a selection of translations in a St Petersburg University anthology in 1907, with further selections in 1914, 1918, 1919, 1922, and beyond.



The great Symbolist poet Konstantin Balmont began writing on Whitman in 1904, when he published an article in the journal *Vesy*. He writes in the preface here that these translations, 'with the exception of 20–30 pieces printed largely in the journals *Vesy* and *Pereval*, appear here for

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Rare books, manuscripts, music, ephemera

the first time. They are the result of many years reading *Leaves of Grass* and were done in the autumns of 1903 and 1905, in the magical hours of our belated northern mornings and evenings, on the coast of the Baltic Sea ... and even in Moscow in the autumn of 1905 to the accompaniment of the incessant music of rifle shots ...' (p. 7, my translation), a reference to the 1905 Revolution.

Libman 6009.

From famine to feast, 1918–28

‘Before the Revolution, American literature was presented to the Russians in terms of isolated fragments. In the years following the upheaval, the Russians examined American political, social, economic and cultural phenomena with heightened interest and in much greater detail. Their intellectual leaders mulled over the contradictions and paradoxes existing in the American past and present and, in the light of a steady influx of new information, marshaled them into a doctrinal view of American development ... As a consequence, American literature for the first time was allowed to provide a relatively comprehensive account of our culture to the Russian people ...

‘Book production in pre-revolutionary Russia had reached its peak in 1912–13. The output had declined fairly steadily until 1921, when it was less than half that of 1913. Consequently, as War Communism gave way to the New Economic Policy (NEP), the Russians were in the midst of a literary famine. Those who had already developed a taste for reading before the Revolution were now joined by millions of new literates in demanding books of all kinds. In response, the rehabilitated and expanding publishing industry brought forth a flood of books, both native and translated. Russia developed into a nation of insatiable readers, and foreign books in translation became standard fare.

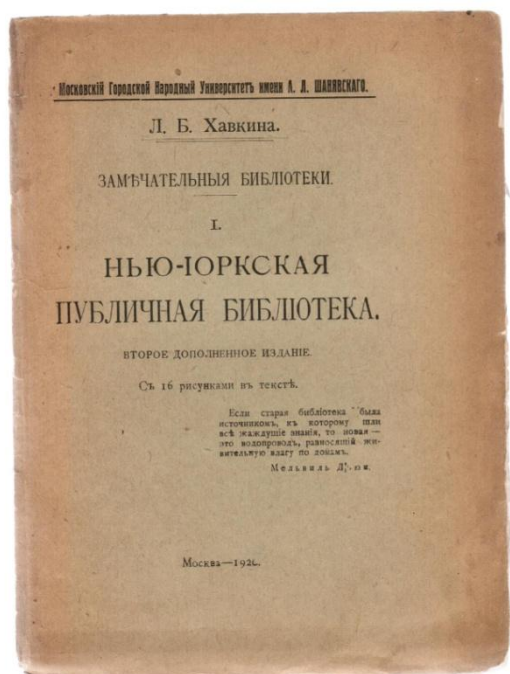
‘American literature played an important role in this development. During the five years from 1923 through 1927, for example, 24 percent of the foreign titles published in the Soviet Union were American ...

‘The most significant fact, however, is that during the seven years of the NEP [1922–8] at least 80 American authors entirely new to the Russian people were published in book form’ (Brown, *Guide*, pp. 4, 8).

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY: A MODEL FOR RUSSIA

07. KHAVKINA, Liubov' Borisovna. Niu-Iorkskaia publichnaia biblioteka. Vtoroe dopolnennoe izdanie [*The New York Public Library. Second enlarged edition*] ... Moskva—1919 [cover: 1920].

8vo (205 × 152 mm), pp. 44, [4]; with 16 illustrations in the text; some browning due to paper stock; uncut and partly unopened in the original printed wrappers, extremities browned, chipped in places. £800



Second edition, enlarged, the first having been privately printed in 1914. Published as the first part in the series 'Zamechatel'nyia biblioteki' ('Remarkable Libraries').

'In the last decade there has been much interest in Russia in libraries. The number of libraries has grown; people have started caring about improvement them; librarian associations have been formed ... But this is only the beginning. In order to raise the standard of our libraries we must do much more ... [Thus] it is useful to acquaint oneself with wide-ranging library trends, as well as the activities of particular notable libraries. With this in mind I shall present a sketch ... of the New York Public Library, of which only scant, fragmentary notices have appeared in our press; and it deserves our attention, for in the intensity of its work it has no equal in the world ...' (pp. 3–4, my translation).

OCLC locates 4 copies (NYPL, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford), plus 4 of the first edition (NYPL, Michigan, Washington, Hebrew Union College).

08. POE, Edgar Allan. *Poemy i stikhotvoreniia* v perevodakh s oksfordskogo izdaniia 1909 g. Vas. Fedorova [*Poems and verse translated from the Oxford edition of 1909 by Vasily Fyodorov*].
Pervina Moskva – 1923.

8vo (180 × 130 mm), pp. 106, [4]; leaves toned due to paper stock; uncut in recent half calf, the original printed wrappers bound in, a few stains and old bookseller's marks to rear wrapper. £500



Rare first edition of this translation, comprising: 'The Raven', 'To M.L.S.', 'An Enigma' [Sarah Anna Lewis], 'A Valentine' [for Frances Sargent Osgood], 'Annabel Lee', 'The Bells', 'Eldorado', 'Ulalume', 'To Helen (I saw thee once)', 'To Marie Louise (Shew)', 'For Annie', 'A Dream within a Dream'. Notes are provided by the translator.

Brown 1226; Libman 4535. OCLC locates a sole copy, at Colorado.

09. LONDON, Jack. „Byki“ [Bulls]. [Moskva,] „Novaia Moskva“ 1924.

8vo (182 × 135 mm), pp. 29, [3]; light marginal waterstaining, leaves toned due to paper stock; still a very good copy, uncut in the original illustrated wrappers, faint old stamp to rear cover. £500

First edition thus, published as part of the series Biblioteka rabochei molodezhi ('Library of Working-class Youth'). Jack London's short story 'Bulls' (from *The Road and other Stories*) had first appeared in Russian in a volume of Collected Works, in 1913. Here it is remarketed for a young Soviet readership.



'Until the 1950's, Jack London was by far the most popular American author in Soviet Russia. Over thirteen million copies of his works have been printed since the Revolution. Even today [1962] he continues as a popular classic, and it is probable that over the Soviet period as a whole he has been read more widely than any other non-Russian author.

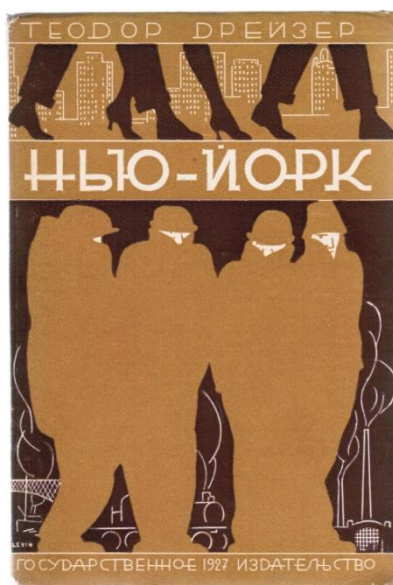
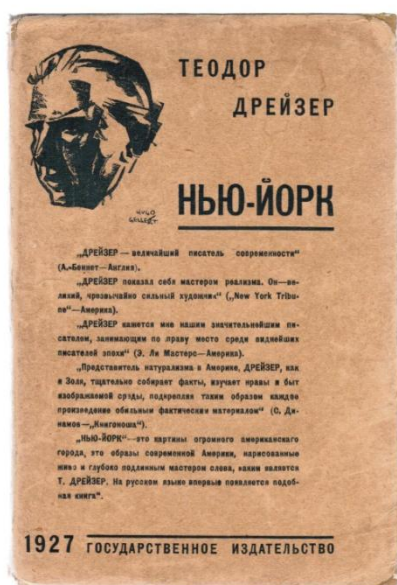
'At the time of the Revolution, London had already been the favourite American writer in Russia for a number of years. He had been introduced shortly after the Revolution of 1905, and by 1916 his vogue was described as "truly extraordinary." In 1941, recalling London's influence on the pre-Revolutionary generation, the poet Ilya Selvinski

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Rare books, manuscripts, music, ephemera

wrote that “whoever has not passed this view of life cannot be a real man ... This is the first cigar we smoked in our youth” ... Despite the curtailment of printing under War Communism, London’s books continued to come out. Only in 1921, when almost all book production ceased, did a work of his fail to appear’ (Brown, *Soviet Attitudes toward American Writing*, pp. 219–20).

Brown 677; Parchevskaia, *Dzhek London* 541. OCLC locates a sole copy, at the Getty.



WITH THE DUST-JACKET

10. DREISER, Theodore. N'iu-lork. Pervod s angliiskogo P. Okhrimenko [*New York. Translated from the English by Pyotr Okhrimenko*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo, Moskva – Leningrad, 1927.

8vo (182 × 122 mm), pp. 125, [3]; wood engravings by Ivan Pavlov (1872–1951) within the text throughout; creases to p. 7 (during printing) and upper corner of p. 71; a very good copy in the original illustrated boards designed by A. Levin, corner worn, complete with the original dust-jacket, chipped at head, tears along spine neatly repaired, nicks at extremities. £1200

First edition. 1927 saw two Russian translations of *The Color of a Great City* (1923), Dreiser’s classic memoir of early twentieth-century New

York: Gosizdat's, by Okhrimenko, and one for "Mysl" (*Kraski N'iu-lorka*) by V. P. Steletsky. Both are rare.

Pyotr Okhrimenko (1888–1975), a translator for the Komintern, produced numerous translations of American literature in the 1920s and '30s: Jack London, Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, Upton Sinclair, Sherwood Anderson. A staunch Tolstoyan, he had decided to emigrate to America after the 1905 Revolution. But he was unable to find work, so he asked Tolstoy himself for help and was provided with a letter of recommendation to Thomas Edison, who took him on in one of his factories. He returned to Russia in 1911.

Dreiser, alongside Mark Twain, was to become *the* most popular American author in Russia, hailed by Soviet reference works and critics as the foremost 'progressive' American writer of all time. In 1950, when Goslitizdat announced a twelve-volume edition of Dreiser's collected works was to be published, in a staggering 900,000 copies, subscriptions sold out within days.

Brown 333; Libman 2357. OCLC locates 3 copies only (Indiana, Princeton, Penn).

11. LEWIS, Sinclair. Polet sokola ... Pervod s angliiskogo A. M. Karnaukhovoi [*Flight of the Hawk ... Translated from the English by A. M. Karnaukhova*] ... Izdatel'stvo „Mysl“ Leningrad [1927].

8vo (178 × 132 mm), pp. 316; light marginal browning due to paper stock; original illustrated wrappers designed by O. A. Lialin; light soiling only; a couple of scrapes and old bookseller's marks to rear cover. £550

The first Russian translation of *The Trail of the Hawk* (1915), here in its second edition (first 1925), with a striking cover design.

'When Sinclair Lewis received the Nobel Prize in 1930, eleven of the twelve novels he had written were already in Russian print ... Next to Upton Sinclair, Lewis was the most popular contemporary American novelist in the USSR ... In 1925 *Arrowsmith*, *Our Mr. Wrenn*, and *The Trail of the Hawk* were published [the first separate appearances of Lewis in Russian, and] Lewis was compared to Flaubert in his depiction of the "haughty, pedantic, mundane, and comical bourgeoisie." In contrast to Upton Sinclair, Jack London, and O. Henry, Lewis showed how Americans "feel"—their "psychology" (Brown, *Attitudes*, pp. 239–40).

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Brown 626; Levidova, *Sinkler L'iuic* 301. Neither the first nor the second edition is listed in OCLC.



The Five-Year Plan

‘With the inauguration of the First Five-Year Plan the circulation of American books in the Soviet Union began to drop. In 1929 the number of American authors in new Russian printings was only half that of 1928. The number continued to dwindle steadily, until in 1932 the works of only 9 Americans were published in book form, as compared to 52 in 1927 ...

‘Under the First Five-Year Plan, Soviet literature itself underwent a vast transformation. Towards the end of 1928 writers were instructed to create, and publishers were ordered to print, works in direct support of the drastically accelerated program of industrialization and collectivization. Literary effort was evaluated in terms of its immediate and practical application to the economic, political and social tasks at hand ...

‘Another element which may have affected the selection of American works for publication was the closing down of private publishing houses at the end of NEP. These firms, judging from their output in the twenties, had enjoyed relative freedom in choosing foreign works, and had exercised it widely ...

‘The final, and probably the most substantial, cause for the change in Soviet publication is political and ideological ... By 1931, the relatively small amount of American literature issued in Russia was clearly weighted in favor of left-wing writing ...’
(Brown, *Guide*, pp. 18, 19).



ON THE EVE OF THE CRASH

12. RUBINSHTEIN, Modest Iosifovich. Protivorechiia amerikanskogo kapitalizma [*The Contradictions of American Capitalism*]. Moskovskii rabochii Moskva 1929 Leningrad.

8vo (206 × 142 mm), pp. 159, [1]; some light browning due to paper stock; old cloth, with the original front wrapper designed by M. S. Fain (trimmed) bound in. £800

First edition: a rare work by the Soviet economist written a year before the Wall Street Crash. Chapters include: the economic power of the USA and its role in the world economy; technical developments and the rationalization of production; workers' wages and standard of living; the battle for internal markets; the export of capital and its contradictions; unemployment in the USA; the miners' strikes in Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1927–8; and the character of the imminent crisis in the USA.

OCLC locates microforms only.



13. LEBEDENKO, Aleksandr Gervas'evich, and Avg. RASHKOVSKAIA. *Sovremennaiia Amerika* [*Contemporary America*]. „Vokrug sveta“ Leningrad — 1929.

8vo (174 × 125 mm), pp. 100; photographic illustrations in the text; leaves lightly browned due to cheap paper stock; wormhole to lower corner of pp. 61–9, affecting a few letters only; original illustrated wrappers, fingersoiled, chipped along lower edge of front cover, spine neatly repaired at tail. £950

First edition, very rare, following Lebedenko's work on 'Contemporary England' published the previous year. It is divided into two parts. The first, by Lebedenko (1892–1975), a children's writer among other things, comprises short chapters on various aspects of American society: 'The empire of the dollar', 'America for the Americans', 'The only victor in the World War', 'In the battle for world domination', 'Higher wages and 4 million unemployed', 'America in the Pacific Ocean', 'America and the USSR', etc. The second part, by Rashkovskaya, includes short pieces on 'New York', 'Education', 'Newspapers and magazines', 'Whites and blacks', 'Working America' (with a section on the Ford Motor Company), and Hollywood.

Not found in OCLC.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

14. LYONS, Eugene. Na elektricheskom stule. Perevod I. Bekkera [*In the electric chair. Translated by I. Becker*] ... Izdatel'stvo „Krasnaia gazeta“ Leningrad 1929.

8vo (170 × 127 mm), pp. 257, [3]; leaves toned due to paper stock; untrimmed in the original illustrated wrappers designed by Andrei Ushin, light waterstain to spine. £850

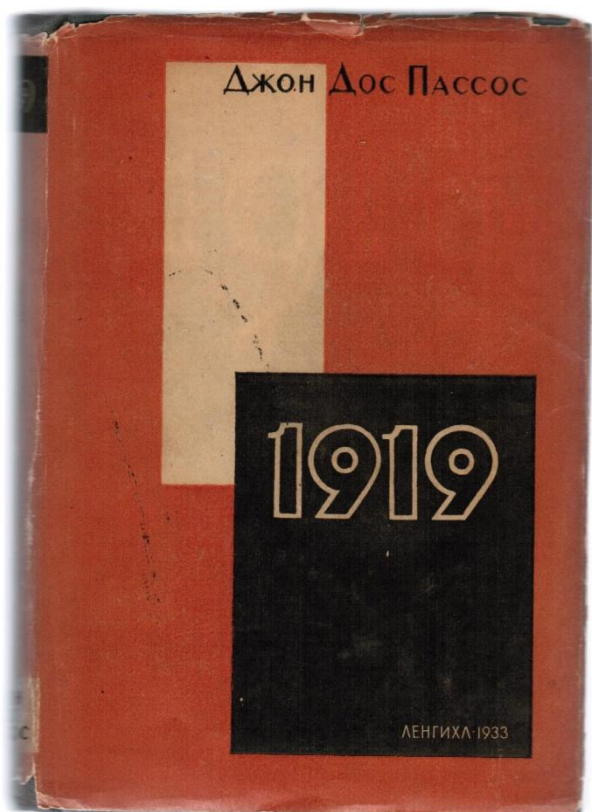
First edition in Russian of *The Life and Death of Sacco and Vanzetti* (1927), an account of the Italian–American anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted of murdering two men during an armed robbery in 1920.



Various appeals in the years following their conviction made the pair a *cause célèbre*: by 1927, protests against their conviction were being held in cities around the world. Their sentence to death only increased the international condemnation, and riots took place in Paris, London, etc. following their execution in August 1927. It is now generally considered that the jury was prejudiced by their being anarchists and they were therefore unjustly executed.

Lyons (1898–1985), a US correspondent for TASS, argued the case for the anarchists' innocence. He had known the pair personally, visiting them in prison in Boston.

Not found in OCLC.



15. DOS PASSOS, John. 1919. Pervod s angliiskogo Valentina Stenicha [1919. *Translated from the English by Valentin Stenich*]. [Leningrad:] Lengikhl 1933.

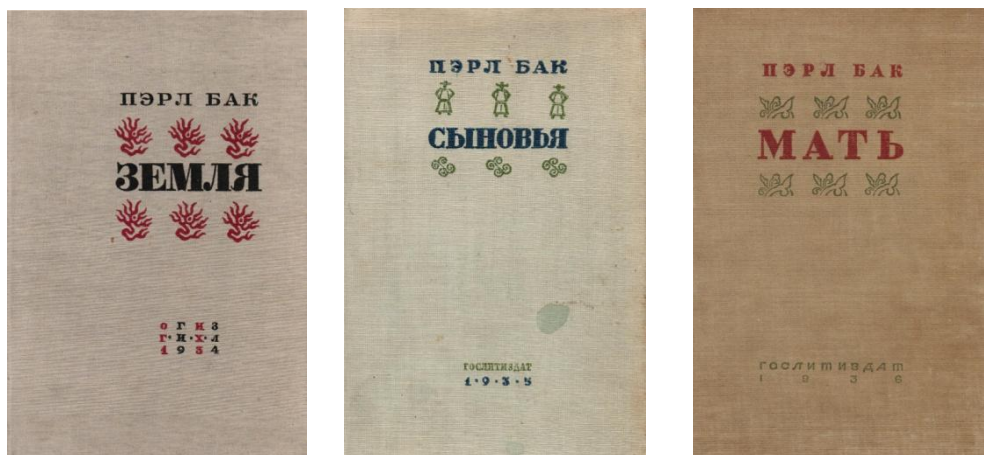
8vo (194 × 132 mm), pp. [4], 374, [2]; title printed in red and black; light marginal browning due to paper stock; original publisher's cloth, upper corner of front free endpaper torn away, with the original dustjacket designed by Andrei Ushin, chipped and darkened in places, the cloth of the spine sunned at head and tail; small private ownership stamp to title.
£700

First complete edition in Russian of *1919* (1932), preceded by a few extracts in journals (1932–3). The translator is Valentin Stenich (born Smetanich, 1897–1938), the ill-fated friend of Akhmatova and Mandelstam, who also translated Joyce into Russian.

'As late as 1930 Dos Passos was a relatively unknown quantity in Russia. His political activity (especially his efforts on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti [see previous item]) and his expressed admiration for the Soviet Union caused his critics to consider him, politically, a fellow traveler.' Things changed in the early 30s, when Dos Passos became recognized as 'the most significant among the postwar generation of American writers, and for a time many [Soviet] critics considered him the most important contemporary writer of the non-Soviet world. From 1930 to 1936 there were three Russian editions of *The 42nd Parallel*, two editions of *Manhattan Transfer*, two editions of *1919*, and one collection of Dos Passos' plays ... Altogether, over 117,000 copies of his various works were circulated during these years' (Brown, *Attitudes*, p. 85).

By 1936, after intense interest in the writer, Soviet ideology turned on Dos Passos, publication abruptly ceased, and his name omitted in criticism (see Brown, ch. 4). His translator suffered a similar fate: Stenich was arrested in 1937, and subsequently died in a concentration camp.

Brown 302; Libman 2288. OCLC locates 4 copies (Harvard, North Carolina, Virginia, Amsterdam).



16. BUCK, Pearl. Three rare early translations of her novels into Russian. 1934–6.

Together: £1800

In the 1930s, 'a greater variety of American books was made available [in the Soviet Union]. The publishers continued to favor left-wing writers, but by no means did they confine themselves to contemporary literature of social protest. The well-established liking for Twain, London, and O. Henry was perpetuated by frequent new printings ... Several other

excellent American writers were translated for the first time. Stephen Crane was published, [and] Pearl Buck's novels became very popular ...' (Brown, *Attitudes*, p. 53).

Zemlia. Perevod s angliiskogo N. L. Daruzes [*The Earth. A translation from the English by Nina Daruzes*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo khudozhestvennoi literatury, Moskva – Leningrad, 1934.

8vo (192 × 128 mm), pp. 266, [2]; offsetting to the endleaves and (faintly) to the gutter of the title, ink ownership inscription to front free endpaper; original publisher's cloth, decorated in black and red, a few insignificant marks only.

Very rare first edition in Russian of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Good Earth* (1931), the first work by Buck to appear in Russian, preceded only by extracts from Daruzes' translation in *Internatsional'naia literatura* earlier in the year. Brown 104; Libman 1127. Not in OCLC.

Synov'ia. Perevod s angliiskogo N. L. Daruzes [*Sons. A translation from the English by Nina Daruzes*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo «Khudozhestvennaia literatura», Moskva 1935.

8vo (194 × 132 mm), pp. 396, [4]; old ink inscription to title; original publisher's cloth, decorated in blue and green, small stain to upper board, light soiling elsewhere.

First separate edition in Russian of *Sons* (1933); Daruzes' translation first appeared in the journal *Krasnaia nov'* earlier in the year. Brown 100; Libman 1132. Not in OCLC.

Mat'. Perevod s angliiskogo N. L. Daruzes [*The Mother. A translation from the English by Nina Daruzes*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo «Khudozhestvennaia literatura», Moskva 193[6].

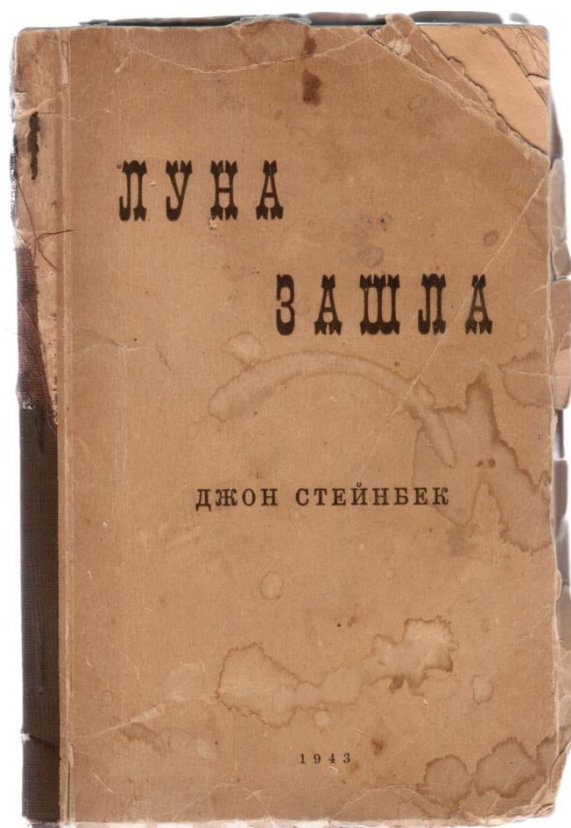
8vo (190 × 128 mm), pp. 214, [2]; with frontispiece illustration; the final number in the imprint not properly inked; original publisher's cloth, decorated in red and green, a trifle dulled, a few short tears to joints, but sound.

First edition in Russian of *The Mother* (1933); Daruzes' translation first appeared in *Internatsional'naia literatura* in 1935. Brown 97; Libman 1131. OCLC locates a sole copy, at the University of Hawaii.

The War

‘During the Second World War and initial part of reconstruction, Soviet publishing developed a pattern quite similar to that of War Communism [1918–21]. Printing of American belles-lettres was sharply curtailed, and the selection of titles became conservative ...

‘This retrenchment in publication of American literature merely paralleled a general curtailment of “non-essential” activity in the Soviet Union. The publishing industry, like everything else, was mobilized for war service’ (Brown, *Guide*, p. 23).



17. STEINBECK, John. Luna zashla [*The Moon is down*] ...
1943.

8vo (210 × 138 mm), pp. [1], 34–96, [2]; leaves browned due to paper stock, occasional light staining in places; in the original printed wrappers, ragged and stained, upper corner torn away (with resultant wear to the corner of the first few leaves), cloth backstrip partially defective, a few pen notes to rear cover. £1400

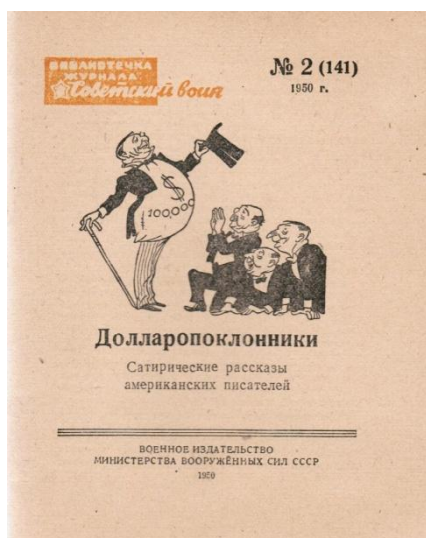
‘The contemporary [American] work best known in Russia during the war’ (Brown, *Attitudes*, p. 139): 1943 saw two Russian translations of *The Moon is down* (1942), by L. Belyaev for *Ogonek* (nos. 2–6, pp. 9–11), and by Natalya Volzhina for *Znamia* (nos. 5–6, pp. 34–97). This is the Volzhina translation, reprinted (or extracted) and furnished with a printed cover. I have been unable to locate another copy.

A remarkable survival.

Brown 1507; Libman 5362. Not in OCLC.

Zhdanovism, 1946–53

‘From the beginning of the “Zhdanov era” in 1946 to the summer of 1955, when the “Geneva spirit” introduced a period of relative friendliness toward Western culture, Soviet criticism of American literature was so homogenous in its essentials that the whole must be considered a single epoch. The cold war had set in and literary criticism, more than ever before, was subordinated to the purely political task of denigrating the capitalist West’ (Brown, *Attitudes*, p. 143).



18. [Cover title:] DOLLAROKLONNIKI. Satiricheskie rasskazy amerikanskikh pisatelei [*The Dollar-worshippers. Satirical stories by American writers*]. [Moskva:] Voennoe izdatel'stvo Ministerstva vooruzhennykh sil SSSR. 1950.

Small 8vo (141 × 113 mm), pp. 63, [1]; illustrations by V. Briskin; a very good copy in the original illustrated wrappers. £400

First edition, published by the Ministry of Armed Forces in the series Bibliotekha zhurnala Sovetskii voin ('Little Library of the magazine Soviet Warrior').

Included are pieces by Mark Twain ('Senator Clark of Montana', 'The Palladium of Freedom'), Stephen Leacock ('100% American'), Richard Connell ('King [Karney: the rise and fall of an overlord who ruled the empire of crime]' and 'The Last of the Flatfeet'), Willis K. Larue ('Conversation with an atom' and 'Rates halved'), Mike Quin ('The Dreams of Mr Atombomb'), and Charles Weston ('An exclusive circle').

Libman 898. Not found in OCLC.

19. BREDOVYE „anglo-amerikanizatory“. Risunki Kukryniksy [*Delirious "Anglo-Americanizers". Drawings by Kukryniksy*]. [Presumably Moscow:] Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo „Iskusstvo“ 1951.

4to (284 × 220 mm), frontispiece, title-page, and 66 full-page illustrations (of which 8 folding), printed in colour; original illustrated boards, cloth

Simon Beattie
Rare books, manuscripts, music, ephemera

spine; inkblot to front cover, extremities worn, but sound; modern bookplate.

£500

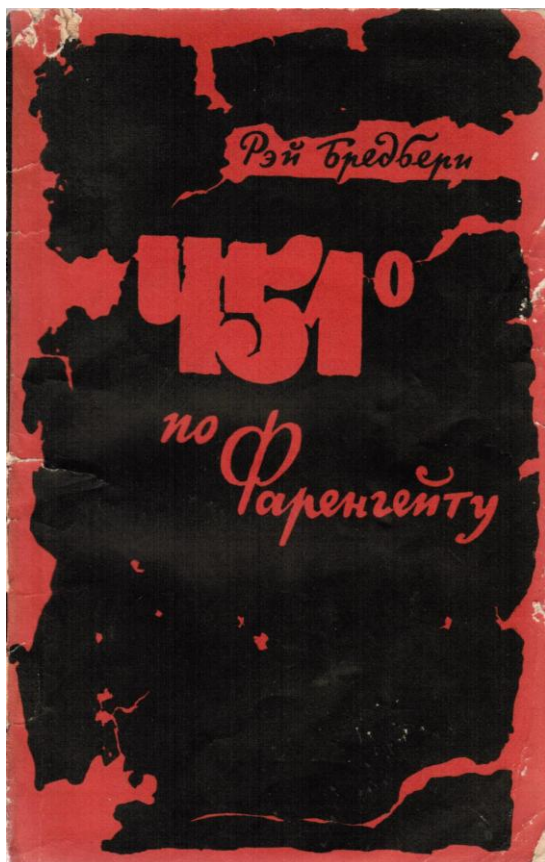


First edition. 'Kukryniksy' was the joint pseudonym of the satirical artists Nikolai Sokolov, Mikhail Kupriyanov, and Porfiry Krylov. Here they present a wonderful range of political cartoons aimed at post-war Britain, America, and their allies; the Marshall Plan is a particular target.

OCLC locates 4 copies in the US (Getty, University of Southern California, Michigan, Marshall European Center for Security Studies).

The Thaw, 1953–63

‘The death of Stalin in 1953 brought about a gradual, partial relaxation of the terror that for decades had governed the attitudes of the Soviet populace, and particularly the intelligentsia. At the height of the cold war, Soviet isolation from the West had been so complete and Soviet doctrine so rigid that genuine cultural contacts with America were virtually impossible. Intellectual activity that led to any kind of overt admiration for American culture had been dangerous in the extreme. Now the Soviet Union was once more emerging from isolationism, and as her intelligentsia gained release from their enforced timidity, their long-frustrated interest in things Western was given limited rein’ (Brown, *Attitudes*, pp. 174–5).



20. BRADBURY, Ray. 451° по Фаренгейту ... Perevod s angliiskogo Tat'iany Shinkar' [*Fahrenheit 451 ... Translated from the English by Tatiana Shinkar*] ... Izdatel'stvo Inostranoi Literaturny Moskva, 1956.

8vo (201 × 128 mm), pp. 150, [2]; leaves toned due to paper stock; title snagged in outer margins, a couple of short tears to front cover; original printed wrappers, rubbed, spine cracked in places, chipped at head and tail, but sound. £750

Rare first edition in Russian of *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), with an introduction by the popular Soviet science fiction writer, Aleksandr Kazantsev (1906–2002).

Libman 1441. OCLC locates 3 copies only: Los Angeles Public Library, Bowling Green State, and Oklahoma.

21. HEMINGWAY, Ernest. Starik i more. Povest' [*The Old Man and the Sea. A story*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo Detskoi literaturny Ministerstva prosveshcheniia RSFSR. Moskva 1956.

Simon Beattie
Rare books, manuscripts, music, ephemera

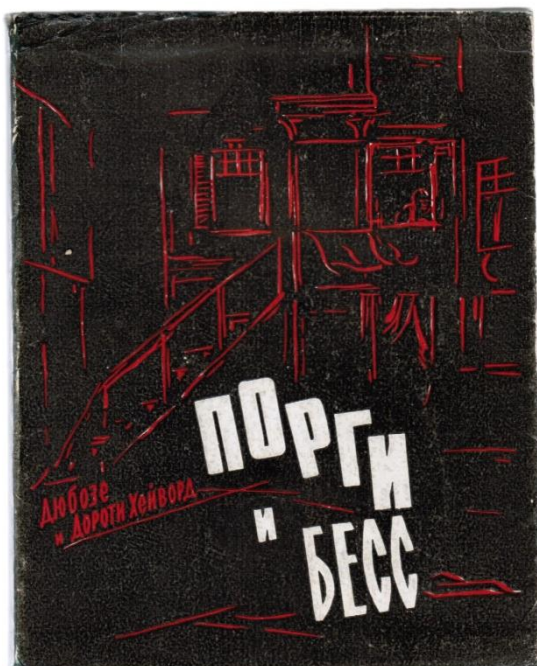
8vo (217 x 166 mm), pp. 94, [2]; with a colour-printed frontispiece; printing flaw to p. 66 and its conjugate p. 71, omitting the first line on each page; original publisher's quarter cloth, with the original illustrated dustjacket, rubbed at extremities, short tear to rear panel. £400

First separate edition in Russian, translated by Elena Golysheva and Boris Izakov. It first appeared in *Inostrannaia literatura* in 1955. This is the large-format printing by Detgiz, the official state publishing house for children's books; the translation was also issued by *Ogonek* the same year.



'In 1955, after a period of sixteen years in which there were no new translations of Hemingway and no reprintings, *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in the magazine *Inostrannaia literatura*. The story created a sensation among Soviet readers; once more Hemingway was their favourite living American author. No doubt he had never lost first place in the hearts of many of them, but now the official sanction of an appearance in print made it possible to admire him openly again ...' (Brown, *Attitudes*, p. 311).

Libman 6726.



22. HEYWARD, DuBose and Dorothy. Porgi i Bess. P'esa v chetyrekh deistviakh [*Porgy and Bess. A play in four acts*]. Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo „Iskusstvo“ Leningrad Moskva 1961.

8vo (167 × 130 mm), pp. 117, [3]; title printed in red and black; a very good copy in the original blank wrappers, with the red-and-black illustrated dust-jacket, rubbed; old bookseller's marks to inside rear cover. £600

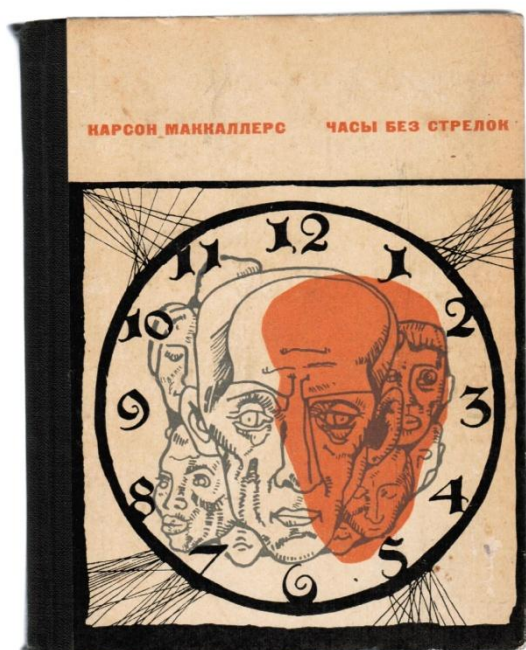
First edition in Russian of the Heywards' play, following the production of Gershwin's opera by The Everyman's Opera in Leningrad and Moscow in 1955 (the first ever tour to the USSR by an American theatre group, mentioned on the rear flap here, and the subject of Truman Capote's *The Muses are Heard*, 1956). The print run was 2500 copies, very small for the time.

Libman 6618. OCLC locates only 2 copies in America, at Stanford and Kansas.

The Brezhnev era, 1964–82

‘In the mid-1960s and early 1970s the range of American writing available to Soviet readers expanded, at times quite dramatically. The years were marked by the publication of translations of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Wolfe, the discovery of Faulkner, rediscovery of Hemingway and even the excavation of a major venerable classic hitherto completely unknown in the U.S.S.R., Henry James (another such classic, Melville, had been published for the first time in 1961). At the same time, Soviet readers made the acquaintance of Salinger, Updike, Cheever, McCullers, Capote, and many other contemporary American authors ...

‘Many prominent American writers, however, remain unpublished, often for reasons that are “political” in the broader Soviet sense of the term ...’ (Maurice Friedberg, ‘The U.S. and the U.S.S.R.: American literature through the filter of recent Soviet publishing’, *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 2, no. 3 (Spring 1976), pp. 174–5).



23. McCULLERS, Carson. Chasy bez strelok. Roman.
Perevod s angliiskogo E. Golyshevoi [*Clock without Hands. A novel. Translated from the English by Elena Golysheva*].
[Moscow:] Izdatel'stvo TsK VLKSM „Molodaia gvardiia“ 1966.

8vo (166 × 130 mm), pp. 270, [2]; light marginal browning due to paper stock; a very good copy in the original illustrated boards, rubbed, cloth spine lettered in silver. £450

First edition in Russian of *Clock without Hands* (1961), McCullers' treatment of the disintegration of lives, and life, in the Old South. It is the first separate appearance of anything by her in Russian.

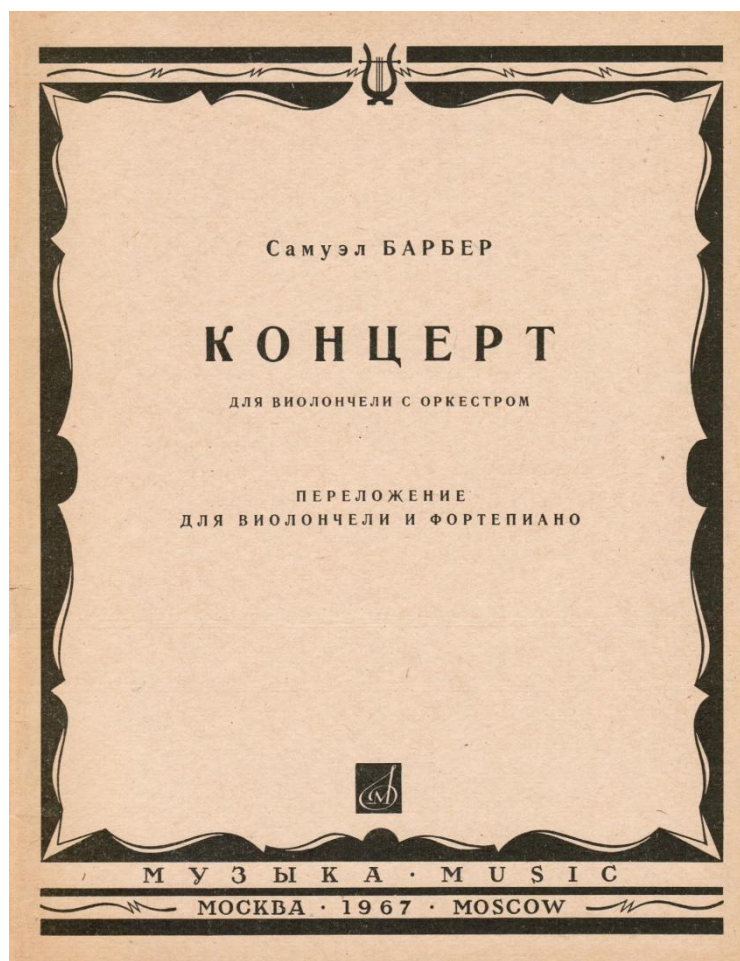
Libman 3742. OCLC locates 4 copies only (Springfield City Library, Miami University, Ohio State, Texas).

24. BARBER, Samuel. Kontsert dlia violoncheli s orkestrom.
Perelozhenie dlia violoncheli i fortepiano [*Concerto for violoncello and orchestra. An arrangement for violoncello and piano*].
Izdatel'stvo Muzyka, Moskva 1967.

2 parts, 4to (288 × 220 mm), pp. 48 (piano), 13, [1] ('cello); very good copies, the piano part in the original printed wrappers (short tear along

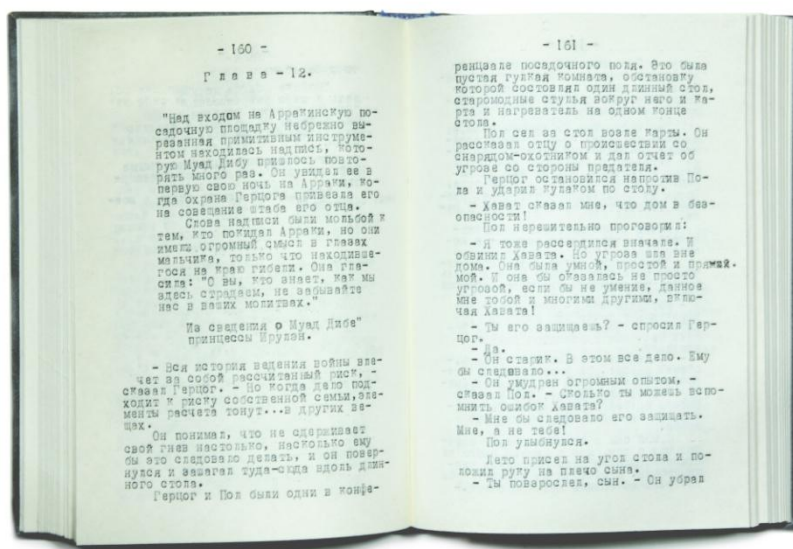
spine at head, and holes around the staples from where the 'cello part, unbound as issued, has been loosely inserted). £350

First Russian edition of the Cello Concerto, which was written for the émigré Russian cellist, Raya Garbousova (1906–1997), who is also responsible for editing the cello part here.



Barbara Heyman writes that 'the Cello Concerto's popularity with Russian audiences led to the publication of a Russian edition in 1972' (*Samuel Barber: the composer and his music*, OUP, 1992, p. 256*n*). Barber had been invited to Russia in 1962 as the first American composer ever to attend the biennial Congress of Soviet Composers.

It appears this may well be a piracy. Neither Imperial Russia nor the USSR ever signed up to the Berne Convention (Russia finally signing in 1995).



25. HERBERT, Frank. *Diuna [Dune] ...* Moskva – 1976[–77]g.

[And:]

—————. *Messiia Diuny [Dune Messiah] ...* 1981g.

Typescript, 2 works in three vols, 8vo (198 x 141 mm); *Dune*: pp. 408; 571, [1]; *Dune Messiah*: pp. 331, [1]; some light browning due to paper stock; contemporary decorated boards. £5000

Illegal *samizdat* translation of Frank Herbert's seminal works of science fiction *Dune* (1965) and *Dune Messiah* (1969).

Copying out banned books is a centuries-old means of letting people read proscribed texts. In the Soviet Union, with the formal publishing houses, even mimeograph and other duplication machines, controlled by the state, dissident literature circulated in manuscript form, copied over and over by hand or typewriter, as here. Despite these difficulties, underground *samizdat* (literally 'self-published') writing flourished and exerted a significant cultural and political influence. As Victor Terras put it so succinctly: 'Given the lack of a free press, *samizdat* is probably the primary outlet for free Russian literature' (*Handbook of Russian Literature*, Yale UP, 1985).

The earliest published Russian translation of *Dune* was in 1990, in Yerevan, Armenia. A number of other translations followed in Russia in the 1990s, after the fall of Communism. The present *samizdat* is testament to the extraordinary lengths people will go to in order to read.