
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

DAVID N. SHUB, 1887–1973

David Natanovich Shub, an authority on the Russian revolutionary movement and author of a classic work on Lenin, died May 27, 1973, in Miami Beach, Florida, at the age of eighty-five. Shub was born in 1887 in Vilna Province. While a student of sixteen in Vilna he joined the Russian Social Democratic Party as a Menshevik. In 1904 he went abroad and lived in London, Paris, and Geneva, where he met Lenin and other leading Russian émigrés including Plekhanov, Potresov, Zasulich, Deutch, Martov, and Lunacharsky.

Shub returned to Russia to participate in the 1905 revolution. During the following two years he was arrested several times, imprisoned, and sentenced to forced military service in Siberia, but he escaped abroad and arrived in the United States in 1908. He became a journalist for trade union and socialist newspapers and magazines in Yiddish and Russian. He maintained his contacts with Russian revolutionaries, and during World War I he was acquainted with Trotsky and Bukharin in New York City. At that time Shub departed from Marxism and official Menshevism, and in his attitude to the war and revolution took a position close to that of Plekhanov and the right Socialist Revolutionaries. After the Bolshevik Revolution Shub continued his personal and political ties with such leading Russian liberals and moderate socialists as Miliukov, Kerensky, Zenzinov, Tsereteli, and Aldanov.

In 1924 he joined the editorial board of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, where he remained an editor for forty-five years. At the same time he collaborated with almost all the Russian democratic publications abroad, such as *Novyi Zhurnal*, *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, *Russkaia Mysl'*, and *Mosty*. From 1957 to 1971 he regularly contributed scripts to Radio Liberty's Russian broadcasts which enlightened Soviet citizens about aspects of their own history unavailable to them in official sources.

Shub's books include *Heroes and Martyrs*, a two-volume study in Yiddish dealing with West European and Russian socialists, and *Politicheskii deiateli Rossii (1850–1920)*, a collection of articles on the Russian political heritage. His *Lenin: A Biography*, first published in 1948 in English, is regarded as a pioneering work on the Bolshevik leader. It was updated in 1966 and has been translated into twenty languages.

Shub is survived by his daughter Mona, a social worker, and his son Anatole, formerly Moscow correspondent of the *Washington Post* and at present news editor of Radio Free Europe. Another son, Boris, a writer and specialist on Soviet affairs, died in 1965.

GENE SOSIN
Radio Liberty

OLEG A. MASLENIKOV, 1907–1972

The death of Oleg Maslenikov, on January 10, 1972, brought to an untimely end forty years of association with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Berkeley, where he first came to study as an undergraduate under the tutelage of George Rapall Noyes. After receiving his baccalaureate in 1935, he began his

graduate training in Russian literature with a year at the Charles University and then returned to Berkeley, where he taught as a lecturer while working for his doctorate. In 1942 he defended his dissertation on "The Young Andrei Bely and the Symbolist Movement in Russia, 1901–1909" and was at once invited to join Noyes, Alexander Kaun, and George Patrick as their junior colleague on the regular academic staff. Within a scant two years, he was obliged to assume the chairmanship of the Department, beginning a long period of self-sacrificing administrative work made all the more onerous by the new needs for intensive Russian language programs and by the rapid growth of Slavic area studies after the war.

Despite such heavy demands on his time, the young Professor Maslenikov continued to grow as scholar and teacher, and to the end he remained actively and productively engaged in both literary and linguistic scholarship, as attested by a steady flow of articles and reviews, as well as by many still unpublished lectures that he read at meetings of learned societies. The results of his doctoral research were refined and presented to the general public in 1952, in the book entitled *The Frenzied Poets*, which has been deservedly recognized as a classic in its field. Among his later publications special mention should be made of his papers devoted to the influence of Ruskin on Russian literature, his metrical and thematic analyses of the poetry of Zinaida Gippius, and his studies on Dostoevsky.

Having come to this country from Vladivostok at an early age, he enjoyed the advantage of combining a native knowledge of Russian with an impeccable command of English. Nowhere is that advantage better displayed than in the fruits of his favorite avocation—the translation of Russian poetry. Thanks to the devoted efforts of his widow, Emily Maslenikov, the selection that he himself had prepared of his verse translations—mainly, but not exclusively, from the Symbolists—has now been published in a bilingual edition under the title *Lyrics from the Russian: Symbolists and Others*. For his many colleagues and students who had the privilege of hearing his vigorously beautiful public readings, the appearance of this book will constitute the most fitting tribute to his memory—a monument to his overpowering love of poetry and to his uncommon skill in communicating his enthusiasm to others.

FRANCIS J. WHITFIELD
University of California, Berkeley

SERGEI LEONIDOVICH PESHTICH, 1914–1972

S. L. Peshtich was born in Orenburg, the son of a prominent Russian petroleum engineer. Choosing to follow his father's career, he completed the Grodno Petroleum Tekhnikum and worked from 1933 to 1935 on the construction of an oil pipeline. At the same time he completed an evening course at the party higher school (*komvuz*) and then taught political economy and party history at the Guriev Petroleum Tekhnikum. In 1936 he entered Leningrad University, where he remained, except for World War II, as student and teacher until his death. Already as an undergraduate he displayed that interest in the study of Russian historiography and sources which dominated his academic work for more than three decades. His diploma work, written under the guidance of Professor M. D. Priselkov, earned first prize in university competition in 1940, the year of his graduation. He interrupted formal graduate work to serve in the Baltic Fleet