Russian Poets in Translation
December 2019

Poems

By
ALEXANDER BLOK
NICHOLAI GUMILEV
ILYA EHRENBERG
and
NINA BERBEROVA

Translated from the Russian
by
YAKOV HORNSTEIN


8vo (8 1/2 x 5 3/8 inches; 215 x 137 mm), 43, [1] pages in stapled blue wrappers.

INSCRIBED by Nina Berberova on the title page: "To Avraham
Yarmolinsky / - respectfully / the author [with an arrow pointing to her printed name] / July 1961."

The recipient, Avrahm Yarmolinsky (1890-1975), was an author, translator and former head of the Slavonic Division of the New York Public Library. A nice association.

Berberova (1901-1993) is one of four poets featured in this slender volume of poetry translated into English by the publisher, Yakov Hornstein.

She's here with a single poem, "The Dragon." The book also presents four poems by Alexander Blok (1880-1921), 13 by Nicolai Gumilev (1886-1921), and four by Ilya Ehrenburg (1891-1967).

OCLC First Search shows fewer than 20 institutional holdings in North America and Europe. There were no other signed copies in the market as of November 25, 2019. **SCARCE SIGNED. #101167**

**SOLD**

**CONDITION:** A bit of wear and sunning to the extremities, crease to bottom corner of upper wrapper and a few pages, internally clean and unmarked. Very Good or better.

Small 4to (9 1/8 x 6 inches; 235 x 150 mm), 151, [1] pages in blue cloth, gilt titles to spine, in an illustrated, unclipped dust jacket.

Joseph Brodsky's second major collection of poems published in English; this collection includes poems he wrote from 1965 to 1978. His first volume of poetry in English translation appeared in 1973.

Brodsky (1940-1996) was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1972, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987, and was named Poet Laureate of the United States in 1991.  

$40.00

**CONDITION:** Slight sunning to edges of boards, with a small stray line on the spine of the jacket. Internally, clean, bright, and unmarked. A Near Fine copy.

8vo (8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches; 217 x 140 mm), xxvii, [1], 292 pages, in original brown boards, gilt titles to spine and upper board, marbled end papers, all edges gilt.


The poems appear in both Russian and English. Reavey (1907-1976), a poet and translator close to the Surrealists, says in a lengthy introduction: "The themes most of these poets have in common are the memories of war and suffering, Russian nature, a sense of compassion
for the ordinary man, a renewal of the love theme, hatred of falsehood and corruption, a desire to find a new justification and ideal for the Revolution, and the need to insist on the integrity of the artist."

Some of these poets had run into trouble with Soviet censors and had suffered under Stalin. But it wasn't just Stalin; his successors also harassed a number of poets.

For example, Nikita Khrushchev humiliated Voznesensky (1933-2010) at a Kremlin reception in 1962, suggested that he emigrate, and later called him a "pervert."

Fifteen of his poems appear here. Brodsky (1940-1996) was tried in Leningrad in 1964 for "parasitism," banished to the Arctic, and expelled from the Soviet Union in 1972. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987. This anthology features seven of his poems.

An interesting, wide-ranging anthology of post-Stalin poetry featuring poems in both Russian and English. SCARCE SIGNED.  #102117

$250.00

CONDITION: Some rubbing to the spine and corners. A beautiful copy lacking the dust jacket. Near Fine.


8vo (8 1/4 x 5 1/2 inches; 210 x 135 mm), 253 pages, in red cloth, gilt titles to spine. With a dust jacket.

INSCRIBED by the author on the front end paper with a sexually charged inscription.
"Bratsk Station" is an epic poem with numerous references to historical and literary figures and events. Preface by Yevtushenko, Foreword by poet Peter Levi, and translations from the Russian by Tina Tupikina-Glaessner, Geoffrey Dutton, and Igor Mezhakoff-Koriakin. **SCARCE SIGNED.** #101712

$300.00

*CONDITION: Near Fine in a Near Fine dust jacket. A bit of soiling to the top edge, internally clean, bright, and unmarked. The price-clipped dust jacket has very light edge wear and a bit of toning to the lower panel.*


8vo (8 1/2 x 5 3/4 inches; 220 x 150 mm), [xiv], 193, [1] pages, black quarter cloth over gray boards, gilt titles to spine, in a price-clipped dust jacket.

**INSCRIBED** by Yevgeny Yevtushenko (1932-2017) on the front free end paper: "To _____ - / to the / most beautiful / statuette / of America. / I like you / much more than / the giant one. / Yevtushenko." Then again inscribed by Yevtushenko to another recipient on the half title: "To _____ / with my deep / gratitude / for hospitality / in your college. / Yevtushenko."

A collection of poems, translated by Arthur Boyars and Simon Franklin.
U.K. and U.S. editions of this book were published in 1979. Signed copies of the U.S. edition, such as this one, are far scarcer than the U.K. edition. It's also unusual to find a single volume inscribed to two different recipients. SCARCE SIGNED. #101974

$175.00

CONDITION: Sunning to top and bottom edges of boards, ghost of old price sticker to front paste down, embossed ownership stamp to title page. Otherwise, pages are clean, bright, and unmarked. Dust jacket panels soiled (heavily on rear panel), closed tear to rear panel. A Very Good copy.


8vo (8 3/4 x 5 1/2 inches; 220 x 140 mm), ix,146 pages, in black cloth, gilt titles to spine, in an unclipped dust jacket.


Foreword by Harrison E. Salisbury, who notes, "...Yevtushenko has embarked on a creative experiment--the combination of prose and poetry in what seems to me to be a new, attractive and enormously effective form. It gives strength and body to his poetics and it lends emotion and color to his prose. Here is an outrush of feeling as tumultuous as anything Yevtushenko has ever written." Translated by Antonia W. Bouis, Albert C. Todd, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko.
U.K. and U.S. editions of this book were published in 1987. Signed copies of the U.K. edition, such as this one, are far more elusive than the U.S. edition. **SCARCE SIGNED. #101973**

$200.00

**CONDITION:** Gilt spine titles bright and unfaded, pages moderately toned. Dust jacket slightly soiled and rubbed, spine sunned. Large old price label to verso of front flap, with outline of label visible on recto. A *Very Good* copy.

Voznesensky, Andrei.


8vo (9 x 6 1/4 inches; 227 x 158 mm), xxiii, [1], 296 pages, in black cloth, titles to spine in pink and red, pink topstain, in an illustrated, unclipped dust jacket.

**SIGNED** by Andrei Voznesensky (1933-2010) in black marker across the title page.

First edition in English of this collection of the Russian poet's work, edited by Patricia Blake and Max Hayward, with an introduction by W.H. Auden, and featuring translations by Auden, Jean Garrigue, Hayward, Stanley Kunitz, Stanley Moss, William Jay Smith, and Richard Wilbur. This is a bilingual edition, with the poems in Russian and English.
Two pieces of ephemera are laid in: a card announcing a reading by Voznesensky at the Poetry Center of the 92nd Street YM-YWHA, dated November 14 (no year given) and inscribed by Voznesensky "For Riva." The other is a folded program for an appearance by Voznesensky at another reading, also at the Poetry Center, in 1991, with fellow reader Allen Ginsberg.

This edition contains a final section of poems called The Fifth Ace (as in the title of the book) and should not be confused with other "Antiworlds" editions lacking The Fifth Ace.

While copies signed by the translators are readily available in the market, copies signed by Voznesensky are far from common. **SCARCE SIGNED.**

#102136

$150.00

**CONDITION:** Slight rubbing to cloth, internally clean, bright, and unmarked. Light fading to spine of dust jacket, a bit of soiling to the lower panel. Overall, a Near Fine copy.
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