

ABSENTEEISM :
MOODS AROUND THE Waning THEME OF THE WORKER
AS HERO IN RECENT SOVIET LITERATURE

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1. MOTTO

A KAK U VAS S VELICHIEM DUSHI?
VSE OSTALNOE, KAZHETSYA, V PORYADKE,
NO NE IGRAYA VPODDAVKI I PRYATKI,
SKAZHITE, KAK S VELICHIEM DUSHI?

NEVER SILLY IN RUSSIAN, DUSHA REMAINS UNTRANSLATABLE. MAY
THE POET FORGIVE ME:

HOW IS IT WITH YOU IN REGARD TO GREATNESS OF THE
SOUL?

ALL ELSE, IT SEEMS, GOES WELL.
BUT DON'T PLAY GAMES - GIVE-AWAY OR HIDE- AND-
SEEK.

JUST SAY WHERE DO YOU STAND ON GREATNESS OF THE
SOUL?

BORIS SLUZKY

2. PREAMBLE (CONSISTING OF A JUXTAPOSITION SO CLEAR
THAT IT MIGHT MAKE THIS PAPER SUPERFLUOUS)

WE

WE ARE THE COUNTLESS, AWESOME LEGIONS OF LABOR.
WE HAVE CONQUERED THE SPACES OF OCEANS AND LAND,
WITH THE LIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL SUNS WE HAVE LIT UP THE
CITIES,
OUR PROUD SOULS BURN WITH THE FIRE OF REVOLT.
WE ARE POSSESSED BY TURBULENT, INTOXICATING PASSION,
LET THEM SHOUT AT US : "YOU ARE THE EXECUTIONERS OF BEAUTY,"
IN THE NAME OF OUR TOMORROW WE SHALL BURN RAPHAEL,
DESTROY MUSEUMS, TRAMPLE THE FLOWERS OF ART.
WE HAVE THROWN OFF THE HEAVY, CRUSHING LEGACY,
WE HAVE REJECTED THE MYTHS OF WISDOM BLEED WHITE,
YOUNG GIRLS IN THE LUMINOUS KINGDOM OF THE FUTURE
SHALL BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE VENUS OF MILO ...
OUR MUSCLES CRAVE GIGANTIC WORK,
CREATIVE PANGS SEETHE IN OUR COLLECTIVE BREAST,
WITH MIRACULOUS HONEY WE SHALL FILL THE COMB TO THE BRIM,
FOR OUR PLANET WE SHALL FIND A NEW, DAZZLING PATH.

WE LOVE LIFE, ITS INTOXICATING WILD ECSTASY,
 OUR SPIRIT IS TEMPERED BY FIERCE STRUGGLE AND SUFFERING.
 WE ARE EVERYBODY, WE ARE IN EVERYTHING, WE ARE THE FLAME
 AND THE VICTORIOUS LIGHT,
 WE ARE OUR OWN DEITY, AND JUDGE AND LAW.

VLADIMIR KIRILLOV, 1917

TO SPAN SOME SORT OF TRANSITION FROM THE PROLETARIAN ECSTASY OVER THE REVOLUTION TO THE PRESENT END OF THE HALF CENTURY, LET US LEAN ON A ROMANTIC REMNANT MUCH QUOTED TO THIS DAY. IT IS MAXIM GORKY'S SAYING : "GDE ZAVOD - TAM RABOCHII KLASS, GDE RABOCHII KLASS - TAM ZHIZN, A GDE ZHIZN - TAM POEZIYA"! (WHERE THERE IS A FACTORY, THERE IS THE WORKING CLASS; WHERE THERE IS THE WORKING CLASS, THERE IS LIFE; AND WHERE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS POETRY!)

INSPIRED IN JUST SUCH FASHION, THE PRESTIGIOUS MOSCOW ALMANAC DEN POEZII BROKE THE GROUND IN 1974 FOR WHAT IT CLAIMED TO BE A NEW VENTURE AND DEDICATED AN ENTIRE SECTION, THE THIRD, TO LABOR, STILL CALLED TRUD, INVITING WORKER-POETS TO MINGLE WITH PROFESSIONAL POETS AND THEIR REMINISCENCES OF THE HEROIC PROLETARIAN PAST. AND A FOREMAN FROM A MOSCOW PLANT WROTE THREE BRIEF POEMS, ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE QUOTED HERE IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE FOLLOWING GLOSS PURPOSELY NOT TUCKED INTO A FOOTNOTE. THE POEM IS BUILT ON THE VERB UMET. ALAS, IT HAS NO NATURAL EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH. "TO KNOW HOW" DOES NOT WORK AND ONE COULD MAKE SOME CROSS-CULTURAL INFERENCES FROM THIS DISPARITY. SUFFICE HERE TO NOTE THAT THIS KEY VERB SIGNALS IN THE RUSSIAN CONTEXT, FAR BEYOND THE SIMPLE OCTAVE OF VERSE, THE CURRENTLY PRESSING YEN FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION ... AD SERIATIM ... ONE BY ONE, INDEED ... A VERY LONG HALF A CENTURY AWAY FROM KIRILLOV'S WE AND THE COLLECTIVE MYTH. SO, HERE IT IS, UNTITLED:

YA BOYUS NE UMET -
 REMESLA NE IMET :
 NE KROIT, I NE SHYT,
 I STOGA NE VERSHIT.
 NE RABOTAT REZTSOM.
 I NE STAT KUZNETSOM.
 NICHEVO NE UMET -
 KAK DUSHI NE IMET.

I FEAR TO BE WITHOUT TRADE -
 NOT TO KNOW HOW
 TO CUT FABRIC OR SEW,
 TO STACK HAY,
 TO HANDLE A CHISEL,
 OR TO FORGE.
 NOT TO KNOW HOW TO DO ANYTHING
 IS LIKE HAVING NO SOUL.

PAVEL ELFIMOV. 1974

3. PREAMBLE II

THIS PAPER COULD CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH. THE WORKER AS HERO IS HARD TO COME BY IN SOVIET RECENT AND CURRENT LITERATURE. DESPITE MUCH LAMENTING ON THE PART OF GOSIZDAT CRITICS AND WRITERS THEMSELVES, THE REASONS FOR HIS ABSENTEEISM ARE NOT AS YET ALTOGETHER CLEAR. *By recent and current I mean the 'sixties and the 'seventies.*

4. CERTAIN CLUSTERS OF WORDS ABOUT EDUCATING WORKERS

I GATHER MUSHROOMS AND NUTS
 FOR DIVERSION AND AMUSEMENT.
 I GATHER BERRIES IN THE WOODS.
 I CARRY MY SMALL PAINTED BASKET.
 MAYBE I'LL RUN INTO NESTEROV?
 MAYBE I'LL SEE GOGOL WITH HIS CANE?
 MAYBE CHEKHOV WILL PASS BY AND SMILE
 OR EVEN, PERHAPS, DEAF BEETHOVEN?
 I TAKE MY REED AND I PIPE.
 I HAVE NOT PLAYED, LET'S SEE, A WEEK
 AND I AM LONELY WITHOUT IT.
 PEOPLE! MUSIC IS MY HAPPINESS!
 PEOPLE! MUSIC'S INTENTIONS ARE PURE.
 MUSIC CONTAINS THE TRUTH OF TRUTHS:
 ONE MUST SHOWER THE WORLD WITH KINDNESS,
 SELFLESSNESS AND BEAUTY.
 AND SO, YES, I SING AND HUM
 AND FILL MY LITTLE BASKET ALL DAY LONG
 NOW WITH CRANBERRIES, NOW WITH WHITE
 MUSHROOMS,
 NOW WITH MOUNTAINASHBERRIES.
 AND THAT'S MY ALBUM.

THIS IS NOT A PARODY NOR IS THE ORIGINAL MUCH BETTER THAN MY TRANSLATION. IN EITHER CASE THE CRAFT DOES NOT MATTER HERE BECAUSE IT IS NESTEROV, BEETHOVEN, GOGOL AND CHEKHOV (NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER) WHO ARE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, A LIKELY GROUP, INDEED, TO SIGNAL TOP DRAWER KULTURNOST WITH ITS RECENT EMPHASIS ON HUMANISM AS PURE AS POSSIBLE. AS TO THE MINI-FLORA AND FAUNA (GRIBOCHKI-TSVETOCHKI-ZAICHIKI), THE VERY STYLE RUSSE IS ITS ^{OWN} RESILIENT JUSTIFICATION AS IT HAS BEEN FOR A LONG TIME. THESE MINIATURE BUCOLIC IDYLLS, THIS SORT OF ESCAPIST KAMERNOST (THE REDUCTION OF THE SYMPHONIC ÉLAN TO CHAMBER MUSIC DAINTINESS), AS IT USED TO BE CALLED BY ANGRY CRITICS, HAD SPROUTED IN THE HORRIBLE YEARS RIGHT AFTER THE WAR AND EVEN ZHDANOV HIMSELF WAS NOT TOO EFFECTIVE IN STAMPING IT OUT. IT HAS OFF AND ON LINGERED THROUGH THE FIFTIES AND HAS VERITABLY PROLIFERATED AGAIN THROUGH THE SIXTIES. THE ENCOUNTER WITH BEETHOVEN MATTERS NOW BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME A FREQUENT ASPIRATION. *Or with Plato, for that matter.*

A MODEL STUDENT IS DOING FIELD WORK IN AN INDUSTRIAL PLANT. HE LOVES IT. AND HE LIVES, ACCORDING TO A CRITIC EVALUATING THIS TALE AND SPECIALIZING IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS RA-BOCHAYA TEMA,

WITH THE AWARENESS OF THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL BOUNDLESSNESS OF THE WORLD SURROUNDING HIM. FIVE OF HIS CLASSMATES HAD MANAGED TO SETTLE IN A SOMEWHAT CROWDED ROOM OF THE STUDENT DORMITORY WHERE HE WISHES TO MASTER THE PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPTS OF SPACE AND TIME AND TO GRASP ON HIS OWN THE TEACHINGS OF PLATO. IN THE ENORMOUS SHOPS OF THIS LARGE PLANT PRODUCING AUTOMATIC CONVEYORS AND EQUIPMENT, HE JUST AS FERVENTLY STRIVES TO UNDERSTAND THE OPERATION OF THE ENTERPRISE AS ONE INDIVISIBLE WHOLE WHERE THE WORK OF EACH PERSON IS CONNECTED WITH THAT OF ALL AND THE DESTINY OF ONE INDIVIDUAL IS DETERMINED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT IN

WHICH HE WORKS. THE PRODUCTION ITSELF REQUIRES HIGH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE CREATIVE THINKING IN AS MUCH AS THE PLANT IS GEARED NOT TO MASS BUT TO THE MANUFACTURE OF SPECIAL SMALL ISSUE MACHINERY.

TO GRASP ALL THIS KEEPS THE YOUNG MAN VERY BUSY AND IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT "CREATIVE TENSION ENGULFS THE HERO ALL THE TIME". SOCIAL CONCERNS DON'T ESCAPE HIM EITHER AND SO HE FURTHER MEDITATES

ABOUT THE FUTURE DESTINY OF THE WORKING CLASS UNDER SOCIALISM WHEN THE WORKER, HAVING GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY, WILL REMAIN IN THE SHOP TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CONVEYOR BELT OR FOR A DEPARTMENT.

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HOW THIS WORKS REMAINS MYSTERIOUS AND JUST THIS METAMORPHOSIS FROM WORKER TO SOME HIGHLY SKILLED CREATURE IS NEVER REALLY EXPLAINED IN THE MULTITUDE OF TALES AND ESSAYS DEALING WITH JUST THIS KEY PROBLEM. OF COURSE, WE SHALL HAVE TO RETURN TO IT BELOW. BUT MEANWHILE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SENSE OF SELF OF A YOUNG WORKER WHO IS NOT A STUDENT DOING INDUSTRIAL FIELD WORK? TO CONVEY THE FLAVOR OF THIS FAR MORE DOWN TO EARTH TALE DEALING WITH AN UNGLAMOROUS FACTORY IN A PROVINCIAL TOWN, NO LESS THAN A FULL PARAGRAPH MUST BE DEPLOYED.

ALEKSEI CAME HERE THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, A THIN, TALL YOUNGSTER. HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING AND HE WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING. SO, HE BECAME AN APPRENTICE TO AN ELECTRICIAN IN THE BRIGADE ... AT THE TIME THE PLANT DID NOT EVEN REMOTELY RESEMBLE THAT WHICH IT WAS TO BECOME LATER. IT WAS THEN A TINY PLANT WHICH ISSUED CALCULATING MACHINES AND RADIOS OF POOR QUALITY. ALEKSEI CAME HERE ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OTHER PLACE TO GO. HE HAD FLUNKED THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TO THE UNIVERSITY. HE HAD FLUNKED IT STUPIDLY, BY ACCIDENT. AND NOW HE HAD TO STICK IT OUT IN THIS HATEFUL TOWN FOR ONE MORE YEAR. ONLY ONE MORE YEAR. HE DID NOT DOUBT THAT HE WOULD SUCCEED ON THE SECOND TRY AND THEN GOOD-BY, HE WOULD TAKE OFF. BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. HE DIDN'T TAKE OFF. AND NOW IT WAS ALREADY DIFFICULT FOR ALEKSEI TO RECONSTRUCT IN HIS MEMORY WHAT MADE HIM DECIDE TO STAY - HIS FIRST LOVE, WORK WHICH UNEXPECTEDLY TURNED OUT TO BE INTERESTING AND ABSORBING OR WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER REASONS. HE STAYED. AND

ONLY RARELY, AT TIMES OF BAD LUCK OR EMOTIONAL UP-
HEAVALS, DID HE REGRET IT.

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IN MANY TALES AT THIS POINT THERE IS TUGGING AND PULLING,
A LOT OF TALK INVOLVING THE SAME CLUSTER OF WORDS, HITHER AND
TITHER, KTO V LES KTO PO DROVA. THE PROBLEM IS STATED NOT
ALWAYS CLEARLY BUT WITH ALARM: WHY IS IT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE
DO NOT EXACTLY RUSH INTO THE STEEL-MILLS, FOUNDRIES, TRACTOR
PLANTS TO BE WORKERS - RABOCHIE, SIMPLE OR EVEN OTHERWISE?
AND THE FOLLOWING SEMANTIC MALAISE HAS BECOME FREQUENT:

WE WITNESS A CERTAIN "DEVALUATION" OF THE CONCEPT "WORKER"
WHICH HAS OCCURRED GRADUALLY AND IMPERCEPTIBLY. (U NAS
POSTEPENNO I NEZAMETNO PROIZOSHLA NEKOTORAYA "DEVALVATSIYA"
PONYATIYA "RABOCHII").

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QUOTATION MARKS IN THE CITED PARAGRAPH SEEM AS TELLING AS THE
ADMISSION ITSELF. THE ADJACENT LAMENT IS NO LESS FREQUENT,
BEMOANING MANPOWER SHORTAGE AND THE ENSUING INSTABILITY OF
LABOR, THAT FAMOUS TEKUCHKA. AND IT MIGHT BE SAID, INCIDENT-
TALLY, THAT IN NO WAY DO WE WASTE TIME IN READING NOVELS, PLAYS
AND POEMS WHICH DEAL WITH THE WORKER BECAUSE, AS OF YORE,
LITERATURE IS SAID TO SHARE DIRECTLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY IN THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PROBLEMS.

NOW ALMOST EVERYWHERE IN OUR PLANTS THERE IS A LACK OF
WORKERS. DROP IN ON ANY MOSCOW PLANT AND YOU WILL SEE
AN ADVERTISEMENT SAYING THAT THE ENTERPRISE INVITES PEN-
SIONERS TO WORK WITH FULL PROTECTION OF THEIR PENSIONS.
JUST COME AND TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE LATHE. ISN'T LITE-
RATURE IN PART TO BLAME FOR THE FACT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE
LOOK UNWILLINGLY FOR JOBS IN PLANTS? (ITALICS VSD) To-
GETHER WITH THE SO-CALLED "PRODUCTION NOVEL" (PROIZVODSVEN-
NYI ROMAN), SOME OF OUR CRITICS HAVE BEEN TOSSING OUT OF
LITERATURE THE POETRY OF WORK AS WELL, THE POETRY OF FACTO-
RY LIFE. WE HAVE BUT FEW BOOKS WHICH NURTURE IN THE REA-
DER PRIDE IN THE WORKER'S PROFESSION, PRIDE IN THE HONOR
OF BEING CALLED A WORKER. RECENT LITERATURE IS GUILTY
TO SOME EXTENT OF SLOCKENING THE MORAL DRIVING BELT WHICH
CONNECTS WITH MASS PSYCHOLOGY. IT CARRIES NO LESS SIGNI-
FICANCE THAN THE INCENTIVE CONSISTING OF THE ROUBLE, ALSO

VERY IMPORTANT. WELL, IT SEEMS BY NOW MORE ROUBLES ARE BEING PAID. YET, JUST THE SAME THERE IS SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE.

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IN WHAT DIRECTION, THEN, IS GUIDANCE, MOLDING, STEERING OF THE YOUNG TO EVOLVE? INTO THE FACTORY OR AWAY FROM IT? THE STIMULATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DRIVE FOR EDUCATION IS THE CRUX OF THE MATTER AS WELL AS THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE DISCOURSE ABOUT STATUS AND CAREER. ASPIRING TOWARD PROFESSIONALISM IS ONE THING, DREAMING ABOUT PLATO AND BEETHOVEN ANOTHER. DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE INDIVIDUALLY. TO BE OR NOT TO BE? TO HOP ON THE EDUCATIONAL ESCALATOR OR NOT? AND ONCE ON IT, TO HANG ON TO IT FOR DEAR LIFE OR TO FALL OFF MID HEIGHT?

MATERIALS FOR THIS PAPER DO NOT COME FROM FIELD WORK, FROM WHAT IS KNOWN AS REAL LIFE. FOUND IN NOVELS AND VOLUMINOUS DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THEM, THESE MATERIALS ARE REFRACTIONS OF LIFE PROBLEMS, SUBLIMATED AND SWEETENED, EVEN IF TO A LESSER DEGREE THAN IN THE PAST. THIS PAPER LEANS ON BOTH FICTION AND LITERARY CRITICISM. TODAY, THE LATTER ENGAGES IN MORE PRETTYING UP OF REALITY (THE GOOD OLD LAKIROVKA) THAN RECENT FICTION ITSELF. THIS IS JUST AS WELL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS SPACE IS TOO CRAMPED TO REARGUE THE VALIDITY OF STUDYING SOVIET MYTHS AS WELL AS REALITIES. SUFFICE TO SAY HERE THAT ESPECIALLY IN RECENT LITERARY CRITICISM, CHOICES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN MAKE IN PLANNING FOR AND SHAPING THEIR LIVES ARE FREELY AND MERRILY PRESUPPOSED. HOW FREE THEY REALLY ARE FOR A REAL TWENTY YEAR OLD IS ANOTHER MATTER.

IN REGARD TO THE SPECIAL AND CURIOUS WORLD LITERATURE CREATES FOR ITSELF, TWO PROPOSITIONS FREQUENTLY REPEATED OF LATE BY OFFICIAL CRITICS SEEM ESPECIALLY INFORMATIVE. THEY MIGHT BE DUBBED "LAMENT" AND "CANON" SOMEWHAT AT ODDS.

WITH EACH OTHER. THE GENERAL LAMENT OVER THE SLUGGISHNESS AND EVEN IMPOTENCE OF WRITERS IN STEERING THE YOUNG INTO THE FACTORY AND IN INSTILLING THEM WITH PRIDE OVER THE STATUS OF WORKER SOUNDS MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY AS FOLLOWS: "OUR LITERATURE TURNS ITS CONCERN TOWARD THE THEME OF THE WORKER ONLY SLOWLY AND WITH DIFFICULTY." ⁷ YET, THE CANONICAL PRAISE OF WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS LITERATURE DOES FOR THE YOUNG WORKER SEEMS TO PULL HIM OUT OF THE FACTORY ^{and up!} HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF BELLES LETTRES IN ACTION AS THEY CONTRIBUTE, IN A MANNER MORE VALID THAN EVER, TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIFE OF WORKERS:

GREAT IS THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WRITERS OF THE CAPITAL IN THE MATTER OF RAISING THE CULTURE OF THE WORKING CLASS, IN THE MATTER OF EDUCATING THE CREATIVE NEW GENERATION . . . HOW (MANY WORKERS) WERE INTRODUCED TO THE BOOK, HOW MANY WERE PERSUADED TO GO AND STUDY IN EVENING TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES AND TO THEREBY BECOME FOREMEN AND ENGINEERS." ⁸

SUCH FERVENT MYTHOLOGIZING OF EDUCATION AND THE VERY OBSESSION WITH "CULTURE" HAS TURNED INTO A CULT, EVEN MORE, INTO THE CULT OF THE CULT. NEVERTHELESS, THE GAP BETWEEN DOGMA AND LAMENT IS REAL AND SEEMS TO ENGENDER LATELY AN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE YOUNG. THE NEW STRATEGY IS BASED ON CAUTION, MORE PREVALENT IN THE 'SEVENTIES THAN IT WAS IN THE 'SIXTIES. AND IF THE DRIVE OF THE WORKERS TOWARDS KULTURNOST, IN ANY OF ITS MANIFESTATIONS, HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO RIDICULE, NO MATTER HOW GINGERLY, ONE MAY REST ASSURED THAT GUIDANCE OF THE YOUNG, UNIDIRECTIONAL IN THE PAST, HAS RUN INTO A SNARL. IRONY, NOT TOO SUBTLE AT THAT, TRULY INFORMS IN THE FOLLOWING FRAGMENT WHICH MOCKS THE SPIRIT OF SOME WORKERS IN A HUGE FOUNDRY. I QUOTE A LITERARY CRITIC WHO, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, DOES NOT

INVENT MATTERS BUT, IN TURN, QUOTES PUBLISHED TALES.

...FOR INSTANCE, ONE HERO IS A STEEL FOUNDER WHO AT THE SAME TIME IS A MEMBER OF THE PLANT'S AMATEUR BALLET GROUP. CLOSE BY THE BLAST FURNACE HE EXECUTES STUNNING BALLET STEPS, ILLUMINATED BY CRIMSON FLAMES. ANOTHER HERO, AN ELECTRO-MECHANIC, READS IN SEVERAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY. AND WHILE ON VACATION, HE STUDIES FREUD'S "TOTEM AND TABU" FOR HIS OWN DIVERSION. A THIRD HERO, A WELDER AT THE INSTALLATION OF AN ATOMIC POWER STATION, IS ENGROSSED IN "THE PROBLEMS OF THE FINITE AND INFINITE" AND REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF A JOB AS A JUNIOR RESEARCH WORKER IN THE LABORATORY OF ONE OF THE CAPITAL'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES.

THEREAFTER, THE WORRIED CRITIC RATHER CALMLY ADDS A THOUGHT IN SUPPORT, BY THE WAY, OF THE EFFORT IN THIS PAPER:

IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, SUCH INSTANCES, AS THEY SAY, DO TAKE PLACE IN REAL LIFE AND THEY EVEN, ONE MUST ASSUME, EXPRESS THE TENDENCIES OF OUR COMMUNIST FUTURE. HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THESE RADIANT PICTURES CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR A PROFOUND ARTISTIC EXPLORATION OF THE CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORKER AND OF THE REAL CONFLICTS, NEEDS AND SPIRITUAL AND MORAL SEARCHING, TYPICAL OF THE WORKER'S MILIEU.

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THAT PROFOUND EXPLORATION IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT. AND CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS, EXAMINED WITHOUT WORN-OUT CLICHÉS, IS THE KEY THEME FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOVIET WORKER'S UPWARD SOCIAL MOBILITY OR, RATHER, OF HIS ASPIRATIONS. PROFOUND OR NOT PROFOUND, TALE AFTER TALE TOUCHES, IF DELICATELY, ON A YOUNG WORKER'S DECISION TO STAY IN THE SHOP OR NOT TO STAY AND, ADJACENTLY, HIS INCLINATION TO REGRET THE DECISION, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OR NOT TO REGRET IT.

IF WE DEAL WITH A YOUNG PERSON, IT MEANS THAT HIS SENIORITY IS LOW, THAT HIS QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT TOO GOOD AND, ACCORDINGLY, HIS WAGES. BUT HE HAS AN EDUCATION. AS A RULE, IT IS HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM AND THIS DETERMINES HIS ATTITUDE. HE USUALLY GOES TO WORK IN A PLANT AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ENTER AN INSTITUTE AND HE DOES NOT FIGURE TO STAY A LONG TIME IN THE PLANT. (ITALICS VSD) HIS POSITION IS CLEAR. HE MUST WORK. BUT HOW HE WORKS IS UNIMPORTANT. HE STICKS TO SUCH AN OUTLOOK, AS A RULE, FOR 3 TO 4 YEARS AND IT IS ONLY WHEN HE APPROACHES THE AGE OF 25 THAT ONE BEGINS TO NOTICE A

STABILIZATION IN HIS LIFE ORIENTATION. BY THIS TIME HE USUALLY ACQUIRES A FAMILY AND BEGINS TO LOOK AT LIFE SOBERLY (ITALICS VSD). THERE OCCURS A BREAK IN HIS SELF-CONCEPTION AS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN. NOW HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HE IS A PERSON LIKE MANY AND BEGINS TO THINK THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO GET A HIGHER JOB SPECIFICATION AND GOOD WAGES. IN A WORD, AS HEGEL USED TO SAY, "LIFE BREAKS ONE'S HORNS."

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THERE ARE PRICELESS SEMANTIC BITS AND PIECES HERE, I.E. THE PLACE OF THE WORD SOBER, SIGNALLING THAT ASPIRATIONS TO STUDY IN AN INSTITUTE OR THE LIKE ARE NOT ALWAYS SOBER. ALSO, OF COURSE, THAT WHICH ELSEWHERE OFFICIALDOM RAVES AND RANTS AGAINST WITH RECENTLY INCREASING SHRILLNESS, NAMELY THE INFAMOUS OBMESHCHANIVANIE (METAMORPHOSIS INTO A PETTY BOURGEOIS) OF THE WORKER SEEMS TO BE TAKEN BENEVOLENTLY FOR GRANTED HERE. THE SOTTO VOCE PROMISE OF GOOD WAGES PROMISES A GOOD LIFE.

JUST IN THIS SPIRIT AND GOING ONE STEP FURTHER, HERE IS A REMARKABLE SAMPLE OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING. PAZIENZA. IT'S COMING. BUT FIRST IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT STRANGE NOTES CAN SOMETIMES BE HEARD OVER THE BASSO OSTENUTO OF THE CULT OF EDUCATION AND THAT THEY COULD CLEARLY BE HEARD ALREADY SOME TEN YEARS AGO. THE SAMPLE HERE IS A DOUBLE-DECKER. A BRIGHT AND LUCID LITERARY CRITIC CITES AN EQUALLY BRIGHT OCHERKIST. AS I CARE ABOUT THE CRITIC'S VIEWS, SO THE CRITIC IN THIS INSTANCE CARES ABOUT THE AUTHOR'S EXACT WORDS. SO, RASSADIN (THE CRITIC) SUGGESTS THAT AGRANOVSKY (THE AUTHOR)

DISCONCERTS US AT ONCE BY SIDING WITH THE BOSS OF A SHOP WHO HAS BEEN TALKING A WORKER OUT OF STUDYING TO BECOME AN ENGINEER. THE AUTHOR UNDERSTANDS FULLY WELL THAT "IT IS SOMEWHAT FRIGHTENING TO WRITE ABOUT THIS BECAUSE IT SOUNDS SACRILIGEOUS TO THE EXTREME . . ." BUT HE GOES ON WRITING BECAUSE THE BOSS IS RIGHT: THE YOUNG FELLOW WANTED TO STUDY NOT BECAUSE HE TRULY STROVE TOWARD KNOWLEDGE BUT BECAUSE HE FIGURED THUS: "WHAT! AM I WORSE THAN THE OTHERS. . ."

WHILE THE AUTHOR COURAGEOUSLY SIDES WITH THE BOSS IN THE SHOP, THE CRITIC, IN TURN, SIDES WITH THE AUTHOR AND "GOES ON WRITING" ON HIS BEHALF.

WHAT MATTERS, OF COURSE, IS NOT THIS UNIQUE OCCASION. BESIDES, IT IS NOT UNIQUE. AGRANOVSKY TAKES HIS STAND AGAINST "THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED PLAN FOR GROWTH", AGAINST THE NOTION THAT "ONE BECOMES SOMEBODY" ONLY THUS: "TODAY YOU ARE A SIMPLE WORKER, TOMORROW YOU ARE A SPECIALIST (MASTER), THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW - YOU ARE AN ENGINEER, THE BOSS OF A SHOP, THE DIRECTOR..."

THIS CRITIC'S SPOKESMANSHIP IS MANYSPLENDORED. IN ITS RICH TEXTURE THERE IS HIDDEN, AMONG OTHER HINTS, A SHRED OF KHRUSHCHEV'S TYPE OF DEMOCRATISM. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW NIKITA SERGEEVICH TRIED TO CONSOLE THE CITIZENRY BY SUGGESTING THAT NOT EVERY LITTLE GIRL SHOULD HOPE TO BECOME A BALLERINA? IN JUST SUCH A SPIRIT, THE CRITIC SUPPORTS THE AUTHOR ALL THE WAY IN THE CAUSE OF A SOMEWHAT STRANGE NEO-NEO-HUMANISM: LOVE AND CARE FOR THE ROOTED AND NON-CLIMBING YOUNG WORKER. THIS TWIST A REBOURS SEEMS TO HAVE STIRRED UP SOME CONFUSION AMONG PROPAGANDISTS OF OFFICIAL VALUES. MEANTIME, THE CRITIC PRAISES THE AUTHOR QUITE LUCIDLY FOR EMPHASIZING THAT WHAT TRULY MATTERS FOR A YOUNG INDUSTRIAL LABORER IS NOT THE SCRAMBLING UP THE PROFESSIONAL LADDER BUT

GROWTH DEEP INSIDE (VGLUB), GROWTH OF HIS MASTERY. HE THEREFORE ARGUES WITH THE COMMONLY ACCEPTED SCHEME NOT ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF THE ECONOMY (DELO) BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE HUMAN BEING (CHELOVEK).

WE, TOO, HEAR THE POLARIZATION OF DELO AND CHELOVEK LOUD AND CLEAR.

INDEED, A BEAUTIFUL PLAN PROMISING A FIELD MARSHAL'S STAFF TO EVERYBODY IS IN ESSENCE INDIFFERENT TOWARD THE PERSON. IT IS CLEAR THAT NOT EVERYBODY CAN BECOME A DIRECTOR. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE PERSON WHO HAS NOT BECOME A DIRECTOR MUST FEEL THAT HE IS SECOND-RATE, OVERLOOKED, HUMILIATED?

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS EXPLORATORY PAPER THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL WE NEED TO IDENTIFY THE WORDS, THE TONE, THE MOOD

OF THE CONFUSION AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THE MASSIVE UNDERTAKING OF PULLING YOUNG WORKERS UP. BUT WE SHALL STICK WITH THIS LUCID INFORMANT A LITTLE LONGER. FOR HE WILL SHORTLY REVEAL WHY IT DOES NOT ALWAYS PAY FOR THE SYSTEM ITSELF TO ACTUALLY IMPLEMENT THE PUSHING OF INDUSTRIAL YOUTH UPWARD. ARE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS ALWAYS AND BY NECESSITY REAL, PALPABLE, AND WORTH THE MONEY ^{EDUCATION} COSTS BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY?

HAVING STATED THAT HIS ADMIRABLE AUTHOR ALTHOUGH CONVERSANT WITH SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS IS PRIMARILY A CHELOVEKOVED (I CAPITULATE IN FRONT OF THIS SERENE COMPOUND WORD. IT IS QUITE UNTRANSLATABLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE ANTHROPOLOGIST WON'T DO AT ALL), THE CRITIC JOINS HIM IN WORRYING OVER THE VIRTUAL DISAPPEARANCE FROM INDUSTRY OF A VERY IMPORTANT SPECIES, GOD KNOWS. AND THAT IS "THE SARGEANT OF INDUSTRY", THE TECHNICIAN (TEKHNİK).

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? OF COURSE, THE LOVER OF SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS WILL HURRY TO OFFER THIS JOYFUL GUESS: THE WALL BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WORK IS DISAPPEARING. ¹² IN FACT, HOWEVER, THE CAUSE IS MORE CONCRETE AND "GROSS": IT IS THE LOW WAGES OF A TECHNICIAN. THEY ARE LOWER THAN THOSE OF A SKILLED (KVALIFITZIROVANNYI) WORKER. THUS, A WORKER HAVING GRADUATED FROM A TECHNICAL SCHOOL (TEKHNİKUM) DOES NOT WANT TO WORK IN HIS NEW SPECIALTY. IT DOES NOT PAY FOR HIM TO DO SO. BUT EVEN AN ARMY WITHOUT SARGEANTS IS NOT AN ARMY. IN THE SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT, THE PLANT ENGAGES IN CONSCIOUS BUT FORCED CHEATING (OCHKOV TIRATELSTVO). THE RESULT IS THAT ONLY 38 PERCENT OF ENGINEERING POSITIONS ARE OCCUPIED IN THE RSFSR BY PEOPLE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION. ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF ENGINEERS IN THE COUNTRY ARE ---THE LOST TECHNICIANS.

THE MESS, ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, IS COMPOUNDED FURTHER BECAUSE THE URGENT CRY FOR ENGINEERS HAS THE FOLLOWING SIDE EFFECT. IT SOMEHOW CURTAILS THE TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS EVEN MORE. THUS

THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF TECHNICIANS AND, THEREFORE, ENGINEERS LAND IN THEIR POSITIONS INSTEAD. BUT

ENGINEERS, TO BEGIN WITH, WERE TRAINED TOO LONG AND TOO EXPENSIVELY (ITALICS VSD). SECONDLY, THEY WERE TRAINED TO DO SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. THERE OCCURS A SQUANDERING OF EDUCATION (ITALICS VSD). AND THE ABILITIES OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING SOMEBODY ELSE'S JOB REMAIN UNEXPLORED.

THERE ALSO OCCURS AT THIS POINT IN THE ARTICLE A SWITCH FROM "DRASTIC ECONOMIC CONCERNS" UNTO THE HUMANIST TRACK AS BOTH CRITIC AND AUTHOR CLAIM THAT

WE HAVE NOW UNDERTAKEN THE "HUMAN" SIDE OF THE QUESTION: THE DEFACEMENT (OBEZLICHKA), THE RUBBING OUT AND DESTRUCTION OF INDIVIDUALITIES.

THEY NOW CLAIM THAT THE ABSOLUTELY MOST IMPORTANT CONCERN FROM ALL SIDES AND FOR ALL PARTIES IS TO LET THE WORKER

FIND HIS PLACE, DISCOVER HIS OWN TALENTS, ACQUIRE FULL WEIGHT (POLNOTSENNOST).

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THE HUMANIST INTENT MIGHT NOT ALTOGETHER BE CONVINCING IN THIS LOVE DUET OF CRITIC AND AUTHOR. BUT - SQUANDERED EDUCATION - THESE TWO STRANGE WORDS ALONE PROVIDE AN AS YET UNEXPLORED DIMENSION TO THE CULT OF EDUCATION. ADMIXED TO THE RELATIVE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH THE VAGARIES AND RISKS SYSTEM'S IN THE STRATEGIES FOR THE BLESSING OF WORKERS WITH MATERIAL AND INSTRUMENTAL GRATIFICATIONS ARE DISCUSSED HERE, THE CRITIC AND AUTHOR HINT THAT, CAUGHT BETWEEN UNCERTAIN GUIDANCE AND HIS OWN INCREASED DEMANDS, THE HERO WORKER - MUCH IN THE MANNER OF THE VANISHING TECHNICIAN - HAS SOMEHOW GONE LOST TOO.

5. NO COMMENT ON PEGS

THE LITERARY JOURNAL DRUZHBA NARODOV SAW URGENTLY FIT TO HOLD A LARGE SCALE CONFERENCE ON "THE WORKING CLASS AND LITERATURE", THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN ITS THIRD NUMBER FOR 1970. FAR FROM ASSUAGING THE LAMENTS,

AS I HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED, IT SEEMS TO HAVE STIMULATED THEM FURTHER. ANYHOW, A LITERARY CRITIC SPECIALIZING IN THE THEME OF THE WORKER STATES SIX YEARS LATER IN THE SAME JOURNAL

...NEVER HAS THE REPROACH FOR LAGGING BEHIND SOUNDED SO FREQUENTLY AS IN REGARD TO LITERATURE DEDICATED TO THE WORKING CLASS AND TO THE "WORKER'S" THEME.

15

WE SHALL BACKTRACK AS IT WERE TO THAT ILLUSTRIOUS CONFERENCE TO PRESENT THREE EXCERPTS WITH NO COMMENT.

I. AND SO, WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHERE ARE THE REAL DEEP ROOTS OF LABOR TURNOVER (TEKUCHKA)? UNTILL NOW SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH HAS FAILED TO REVEAL THE HIDDEN FORCES WHICH DIRECT THE VISIBLE MOBILITY OF PEOPLE. AND IT IS THE WRITER ABOVE ALL WHO MUST HELP THE SOCIOLOGISTS AND US [LITERARY CRITICS] NOT SO MUCH BY PUTTING DISCREET ITEMS ON VARIOUS LITTLE SHELVES BUT BY HIS ABILITY TO SYNTHSIZE AND TO CREATE A PICTURE OF THE WHOLE, BY HIS ABILITY TO SEE COMPLEX AND DIVERGENT INTERCONNECTIONS (SLOZHNYE I MNOGOBRAZNYE VZAIMOSVYAZI) (ITALICS VSD) WITHOUT WHICH ANY EXPLORATION OF THE ESSENCE OF THE MATTER IS IMPOSSIBLE. LATELY, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ECONOMIC REFORM, ALL OF US CONSIDER MATERIAL INCENTIVES (STIMULIROVANIE) AS VERY IMPORTANT. AREN'T SOCIOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS PRECISLY IN REGARD TO COMBATTING THAT VERY SAME LABOR TURNOVER POINTED TOWARD ATTRACTING PEOPLE BY MEANS OF WAGES, HOUSING, SERVICES IN KINDERGARTENS AND CRÊCHES, ETC? YES, INDEED, THAT'S THEIR PURPOSE. YET, DID IT NOT HAPPEN TO YOU TO NOTICE THAT MATERIAL STIMULATION NOT INFREQUENTLY SOMEHOW DRAWS A BLANK AND DOES NOT TURN OUT AS EFFECTIVE AS ONE HOPED IT TO BE.

16

II. THE COMRADE SOCIOLOGISTS PRESENT THE CHASING AFTER THE ROUBLE AS THE ONLY STIMULUS. EARNINGS ARE, INDEED, THE FOUNDATION OF ALL FOUNDATIONS. NOONE CAN QUARREL WITH THAT. BUT THERE IS ALSO PRIDE IN ONE'S ENTERPRISE, AND LOVE FOR IT, AND HABIT.

17

III. WHAT, THEN, IS REALLY THE MATTER? FIRST, IT IS FAR FROM OBVIOUS WHICH PROFESSIONS EXACTLY OUGHT TO BE REGARDED TODAY AS THOSE HELD BY WORKERS AND WHICH OTHERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ITR (18)? THE PURELY ECONOMIC CRITERIA FOR THIS DIFFERENTIATION ARE NO LONGER ENTIRELY VALID. NOR CAN EDUCATION PER SE SERVE AS A DECISIVE SIGN OF DIVISION. THE PROBLEM, OBVIOUSLY,

GOES BEYOND NOMENCLATURE AS SUCH - WORKER OR ENGINEER - AND BEYOND THE PROBLEM OF WAGES AS WELL. THE DIFFERENTIATION IS ESTABLISHED MOST EASILY ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL FUNCTIONS IN REGARD TO THE MANAGEMENT OF PRODUCTION (MANAGER OR MANAGED). BUT A SCHOOLBOY WHILE CHOOSING A PROFESSION KNOWS ABOUT THESE MATTERS LEAST OF ALL. HE CHOOSES EDUCATION AND NOT SO MUCH A PROFESSION AS SUCH NOR THE NAME ITSELF OF HIS FUTURE STATUS : WORKER OR ENGINEER. SECONDLY, IT IS FAR FROM OBVIOUS WHAT IT IS EXACTLY THAT EDUCATION OFFERS. JUDGING BY RESEARCH DONE ABOUT THE PRESTIGE OF PROFESSIONS AND ABOUT THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONS, IT IS NOT THE SPECIALTY IN ITSELF THAT STANDS OUT AS THE FOREMOST FACTOR INVOLVED IN THE CHOICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. RATHER, IT IS THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION, AND NOT ITS DIRECTION. [HIGHER EDUCATION] (19) OFFERS A WIDE CHOICE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONE'S FUTURE CAREER WHEREAS GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SIMPLY DOES NOT OFFER SUCH A POSSIBILITY. THE CAREER OF A WORKER IS TIED TO A RELATIVELY NARROW SPECIALIZATION WHICH PREVAILS IN CONTEMPORARY MASS INDUSTRY. IT IS TIED TO THE CURRENT PERSPECTIVE OF REACHING ONE'S MAXIMUM JOB RATING BY THE AGE OF 30 OR 35 AND BY SO DOING TO EXHAUST ALMOST ENTIRELY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. AND THEN WHAT? TO STUDY AND STOP BEING A WORKER? TO BECOME AN ITR? WHY, THEN, DID ONE HAVE TO WAIT? WHY COULD ONE NOT HAVE GONE STUDYING RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL? TO REMAIN A WORKER? BUT, THEN, FOR THE REMAINING YEARS - MORE THAN HALF OF YOUR LIFE - YOU WILL DO A MORE OR LESS MONOTONOUS JOB WITH A MINIMUM OF INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY. THE WAGES WILL BE HIGH. BUT WHAT GOOD ARE HIGH WAGES IN AN AGE OF GENERAL BOISTEROUS DYNAMICS WHICH YOU CAN ALMOST TOUCH AND WHICH YOU CAN SEE EVEN ON A TV SCREEN. WELL, NO, INDEED. HIGHER EDUCATION GIVE ONE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING PART OF THE STREAM, OF THAT MOST IMPORANT DYNAMISM OF THE AGE EVEN IF ONLY AS A "PEG" ("VINTIK"). AND, PERHAPS, AS MORE THAN A PEG! ALL ONE NEEDS IS A CHANCE.

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CHANGE OF MIND? YES, SMALL COMMENT. I HAVE CONTROLLED AN URGE FOR MAKING ITALICS IN THE HOPE THAT THE READER WILL OBVIOUSLY NOTICE THAT "REMAINING A WORKER" IS NOT SUCH A GREAT IDEA FROM VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW. PECULIAR TO THE SEVENTIES, IT TURNS OUT THAT IT IS NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE, PARADOXICALLY, THE WAGES ARE HIGH. "NOT BY BREAD ALONE".

NOT AT THIS JUNCTURE NOR AT ANY OTHER DO I MEAN TO TRESPASS ON THE REALM OF ECONOMISTS OR OTHER SOCIAL SCIENTISTS. I MEAN ONLY TO ILLUSTRATE HOW DEEPLY - AND INEFFECTIVELY -- ENDLESS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LABOR PROBLEMS HAVE ENTERED THE

DIFFUSE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND HOW THE TENACIOUS PUBLITSISTIKA IN THIS BIG CULTURE-FORMING AND CULTURE-RIDDEN REALM TAKES UP THE EMPHASIS ON CERTAIN NEW WORD CLUSTERS. IN TURN, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE SLOZHNYE I MNOGOOBRAZNYE VZAIMOSVYAZI (WHAT-EVER THAT MEANS) ONCE MORE. IN THE 'SEVENTIES, INDEED, THE IMPORTANT, INFORMATIVE, AND CONTROVERSIAL LITERARY WORKS DEALING WITH LABOR PROBLEMS CONCENTRATE ON INTRAMURAL FRICTIONS, COLLISIONS, DEMANDS, FRUSTRATIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF NOT ONLY THE FORMERLY HEROIC WORKER BUT THE WORKER, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. *He becomes disembodied by all the problems around him.* I HOPE TO ILLUSTRATE THIS AT THE CONFERENCE BY THE JUXTAPOSING, OUT OF THE AVALANCHE OF THE LITERARY OUTPUT IN RECENT YEARS, OF JUST TWO PLAYS: I. DVORETSKY'S CHELOVEK SO STORONY (1972) AND G. BOKAREV'S STALEVARY (1973)

6. INTRICACIES OF PERIODIZATION.

THE STAKING OUT OF PERIODS IS A DISTORTING AND DEADENING LITTLE JOB IN REGARD TO ANY LITERATURE. BUT GOSIZDAT LITERATURE CAN SIMPLY NOT BE APPROACHED FOR ANY RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSE WITHOUT AWARENESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT'S CONSTANT EFFORTS OF PERIODIZATION. INDEED, THE MIRRORING OF ONE ADJOINING PERIOD IN THE OTHER, PREFERABLY BACKWARDS, I.E. THE MOST RECENT PERIOD IN THE PRECEDING, STANDS OUT TO THIS DAY AS THE MOST USEFUL WAY FOR RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF SHIFTS IN CANT, STRATEGY, MYTH MAKING. HINDSIGHT REALLY INFORMS.

WHILE EXAMINING THE 'FIFTIES AND ESPECIALLY THE 'SIXTEES, FREQUENTLY WITH A MODICUM OF NOSTALGIA, THE CRITICS IN THE 'SEVENTIES INVARIABLY DISCUSS THE SURGING AND THE WANING OF LEADING THEMES, THEMATIC CLUSTERS, THE TENACIOUSNESS OF SOME AS OVER *THE WEAKNESS* *L* OF OTHERS. AND ONE MIGHT SAY THAT FROM THE WHOLE DECADE OF THE 'SIXTIES ON, THE SO-CALLED . . .

VILLAGE THEME AND ITS SUCCESSFUL WRITERS (DEREVENSHCHIKI) HAS BEEN MUCH ADMIRERD AND ENVIED, ESPECIALLY IN DOLEFUL COMPARISON WITH THE WORKER'S THEME. BUT THE PEASANT THEME IS NOT THE ONLY ONE THE POOR WORKER CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO COMPETE WITH. HE IS BEATEN DOWN BY ALL OF THEM. IN ^{our} GLIB AND PAINFUL SHORTHAND, "WAR" STILL FLOURISHES WITH WAVES OF REVIVAL UPON REVIVAL; "CHILD"; "FAMILY"; AND EVEN "LOVE" IN PROFUSE CROPS IF, FOR OUR TASTE, OF SOMEWHAT FEEBLE SUBSTANCE. AS THEY ALL PROGRESS FROM THE 'SIXTIES TO THE 'SEVENTIES, THE COMMON FEATURE OF DEVELOPMENT IS THE GROWTH, INDEED, OF "COMPLEXITY" (SLOZH-NOST) AND "CONTRADICTIONS" (PROTIVORECHIYA). THAT THE WORKER, AS ALREADY SUGGESTED REPEATEDLY, IS SOME SORT OF A LOSER QUA WORKER IS THE MAIN THING ONE HAS TO KNOW ON THE MATTER ON HAND. THE "NEGATIVE CAPABILITY" SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY ENOUGH.

IN REGARD TO PREVALENT PERIODIZATION AND ITS PRINCIPLES, WHICH, ALAS, HAVE BEEN REPEATED SO MUCH IN THE SOVIET LITERARY TOWNHALL THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY BECOME FRINGE CLICHÉS, THE FOLLOWING, ONE MIGHT SAY ANAPAESTIC, VIEW IS OFFERED. THE 'FIFTIES HAVE BEEN THE DECADE, AFTER A CERTAIN WELL-KNOWN DATE, OF EXPLOSION, LIBERATION, DISCOVERY. THE 'SIXTIES HAVE TURNED FROM EXPLOSION TO ANALYSIS, PLACING FEELINGS UNDER EXAMINATION, AND DEVOTING A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY TO CONFESSIONS; THE 'SEVENTIES, ACCORDING TO THE HIGH HOPES OF CRITICS, SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERIOD OF SYNTHESIS ...CUM COMPOSURE, DECORUM, MATURITY, COMMENSURATE WITH THE GRANDEUR AND BENEFACCTIONS OF THE CELEBRATED NTR, THE SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL REVOLUTION. IN OTHER WORDS IT SHOULD BE AND, PERHAPS, IN PART IS, ACCORDING TO THESE CRITICS, "THE LITERATURE OF THE DEVELOPED AND MATURE SOCIALIST SOCIETY".

THE CONQUESTS WHICH PROSE HAS MADE IN THE LAST YEARS IS CONNECTED PRECISELY WITH THE LENDING OF DEEP MEANING (UGLUBLENNOE OSMYSLENIE) TO CHARACTERS.

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AMONG OTHER PROBLEMS THIS AMOUNTS TO ONE MORE. THE LENDING OF DEPTH TO CHARACTERS ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEHEROIZATION OF THE WORKER AND, THUS, WORKS AGAINST HIM. SINCE SOVIET BEGINNINGS IT HAS BEEN EITHER PANEGYRICS TO THE PUBLIC HERO OR THE MUCH LESS "PUBLIC" DEEPENING OF CHARACTER.

THE MODEST PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER WAS TO MAKE SOVIET CRITICS SAY THEMSELVES AND IN THEIR OWN WAY THAT LITERATURE BY AND LARGE HAS VEERED AWAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE 'SIXTIES FROM LOUD COLLECTIVE-SOCIAL-PUBLIC MYTHS WITH SOME SORT OF IMAGE OF THE WORKER AT THE HELM. SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVES AND NEEDS OF THE 'SEVENTIES, AN IRRITATION IS QUITE NOTICEABLE AMONG THE MORE OBTUSELY ORTHODOX (WHATEVER THAT MEANS TODAY) WITH WHAT THEY CALL MICROANALYSIS, DETAIL, CONFESSIONAL STUFF (ISPOVEDALNAYA PROZA). THAT MUCH IS QUITE CERTAIN, INDEED. THE STEADY GROWTH AMONG LIBERAL WRITERS, AND THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ARE READ, OF THEIR CONCERN WITH PSYCHOLOGY, SIMPLE, TRADITIONAL, MEANINGFUL (WHETHER "MICRO" OR NOT) MAKES A RETURN TO HEROICS OF ANY KIND RATHER AWKWARD. THIS IN ITSELF WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE WANING OF IDEOLOGY. YET, THAT TOO IS NOT THE ONLY REASON FOR DEHEROIZATION. OF THIS LATER. MEANWHILE, HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF COGENT, INFORMATIVE, IF SOMEWHAT FURTIVE, COMPARING OF THE TWO PERIODS OF GREAT INTEREST TO US. ACCORDING TO VALERII GEIDKO (WHO TOGETHER WITH B. ANASHENKOV AND V. KOVSKY IS AMONG THOSE WHO SPECIALIZE IN OUR THEME), THE 'SIXTIES WAS A STRANGE DECADE, TO SAY THE LEAST. "CONFESSION AT THE TIME WAS NOT ONLY FORMATIVE FOR

LITERATURE BUT FOR LIFE". NOW, HOWEVER, IN THE 'SEVENTIES ACCORDING TO HIM

YOUNG PROSE HAS BECOME - HOW SHOULD I PUT IT - MORE CALM, MORE BALANCED. VEHEMENCE, PATHOS, PRETENTIOUSNESS HAVE DIMINISHED.

OF WHAT RELEVANCE IS THIS TO THE THEME OF THE WORKER? WAIT. ALL THINGS, THEMES, MYTHS, CLICHÉS, AND TRUTHS ARE INTERCONNECTED, ESPECIALLY IN SOVIET LITERATURE. THE ADVENT OF CALM AND BALANCE, HERALDED BY GEIDOKO WITH SATISFACTION, COVERS MUCH TERRITORY AND IT IMPOSES, AS WE SHALL SEE, THE NEWLY CALMED AND BALANCED NORMS FOR THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE IN THE LITERATURE OF THE 'SEVENTIES WHO ARE BECOMING HEROES. AND IT TURNS OUT, FOR THE SAKE OF A POINTED COMPARISON HE IS MAKING, THAT NOT ONLY WAY BACK WHEN IN THE SEVERAL REVOLUTIONARY PERIODS WAS SELFLESSNESS - NAY, MORE - SELF-SACRIFICE THE VERY HEART OF THE WORKER'S HEROISM BUT IT PREVAILED, MIRABILE DICTU, IN THE 'SIXTIES:

A DECADE AGO ... SELF-SACRIFICE WAS POSITED AS A NECESSARY AND UNAVOIDABLE FORM OF THE SELF-CONCEPTION OF A HERO.

THAT'S THE STARTING POINT. THEN THE CRITIC DESCRIBES IN GREAT DETAIL HIS PIECE DE RESISTENCE, A STORY HE CONSIDERS TYPICAL FOR THE SHIFT IN VALUES, YES, IN CORE SOVIET VALUES WHICH HAS BEEN OCCURRING IN THE TRANSITION FROM THE 'SIXTIES TO THE 'SEVENTEES. HE QUOTES FROM THE STORY EXTENSIVELY *which deals with* WORK, A GREAT DEAL OF IT AND MISERABLE. THE GOOD OLD EMERGENCY SPASMS NOW ABHORRED, SHTURMOVSHCHINA. ROAD CONSTRUCTION FAR AWAY, U CHERTA NA KULICHKAKH. SWEAT AND INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES. AND IT IS THE HERO, AN ENGINEER, WHO IS TELLING THE STORY.

BUT HE TELLS IT WITH A TWIST AND THE TWIST IS WHAT IS NEW ABOUT THE STORY : CALM AND BALANCE WITH A DROP OF IRONY. HERE, TOO, ONE MUST TAKE IN THE DETAILS.

AS USUAL, TIME WAS RUNNING OUT. AS USUAL, THE IMPOSED DATES PRESSED DOWN ON YOU. AS USUAL, THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE ... HE FELT THAT HE WAS DROWNING IN THIS WORK, THAT THERE WAS NO END TO IT, THAT IT WAS ENDLESS, THAT THE COUNTRY WAS ENORMOUS, THAT ROADS WERE FEW, THAT CONSTRUCTION WAS PROGRESSING SLOWLY, THAT THERE WOULD BE RIGHT HERE ENOUGH WORK TO THE END OF HIS LIFE. BUT WAS IT HIS LIFE?

Wow! AND THE CRITIC WHO LIKES THIS NEW "SEPARATIST" VERY WELL SPEAKS OUT FOR HIM LOUDLY AS WELL AS FOR WHAT HE ASSUMES THE EVOLVING PRIORITIES OF THE SEVENTEES TO BE :

IS IT NOT TRUE THAT THESE WORDS DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THEY WOULD HAVE LED TO TEN YEARS AGO, NAMELY "TO WORK - THAT'S WHAT IS NEEDED. TO WORK ALL THE TIME. JUST DO YOUR WORK AND EVERYTHING WILL FALL INTO SLOT".

No, SAYS THE CRITIC. NOW EVERYTHING DOES NOT FALL INTO SLOT. FAR FROM IT.

WORK IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF. IT IS A MEANS OF ATTAINING A SACRED AND LOFTY GOAL.

IN VAIN, PRIVATELY AND ON OUR OWN BEHALF, WE HOPED THAT THAT SACRED GOAL MIGHT BE SPELLED OUT SINCE IT HAS NEVER EVER BEEN BEFORE. INSTEAD, THE CRITIC INSISTS THAT JUST THE VEERING AWAY FROM WORK AS A GOAL IN ITSELF MARKS THE "MOST CHARACTERISTIC SHIFT IN THE CREATIVE AND ETHICAL POSITION" OF LITERATURE IN THE 'SEVENTIES AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING DECADE. HEREWITH, "LABOR AS CREATIVITY" (TRUD KAK TVORCHESTVO) IS GREETED UPON THE SCENE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THERE ENTERS "WITH A FIRM STEP" THE MOST REMARKABLE CREATURE OF THE RECENT YEARS, INDEED. IT IS NO OTHER THAN THE "DELOVOI CHELOVEK". AND SHORT OF CALLING HIM THE NEW RAKHMETOV, COMPUTERIZED AND ALL, I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO TRANSLATE IT FOR NEITHER "BUSINESS-

LIKE PERSON" NOR "RATIONAL MAN" SEEMS PROPER. NOW, WHAT'S NEW ABOUT HIM? CALM AND BALANCE ABOVE ALL AND FERVENT INTEREST IN HIS OWN PRIVATE LIFE, THAT'S WHAT'S NEW ABOUT HIM. QUA HERO, HE IS OLDER THAN HE USED TO BE IN THE 'SIXTIES. HE DOES NOT HIDE HIS INSECURITIES AND SELF DOUBTS BEHIND WORK, WORK, WORK. (MY ITALICS, BUT GEIDEKO'S EXEGESIS!) HE HAS OTHER FISH TO FRY.

THE HERO IN THE PROSE OF THE 'SIXTEES STUDIED, WAS FINISHING AN INSTITUTE, AND WAS ADJUSTING TO A JOB. HE GOT ACQUAINTED WITH A YOUNG GIRL. HE WAS FALLING IN LOVE AND HE WAS MAKING LOVE DECLARATIONS TO HER. THE WRITER LED HIM TO THE DOORS OF ZAGS. BUT IT WAS ONLY RARELY THAT THE WRITER WOULD DECIDE TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF THIS ADMIRABLE INSTITUTION, FOLLOWING HIS HERO.

THE HERO OF THE SEVENTEES WORKS, QUARRELS WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND MAKES UP WITH THEM, STANDING UP FOR HIS RIGHTNESS (PRAYOTA). HE HAS A FAMILY, CHILDREN. HE DOES NOT GET ENOUGH SLEEP WHEN THE CHILDREN ARE SICK. IN THE MORNING HE GRUMBLES AT HIS WIFE.

IT IS TOO SIMPLE TO ADD TO GEIDEKO'S CONTRAST THE FACT THAT THE WRITERS THEMSELVES HAVE ACQUIRED TEN MORE YEARS OR SO, AND MAY WELL FEEL LIKE GRUMBLING. SOMETHING, IT WOULD SEEM, FAR MORE IMPORTANT IS SEETHING HERE: THE STANDING UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, ONE BY ONE. AND THE FAMILY NEXUS THAT MAKES YOU STAND UP IN THE FIRST PLACE. DEMANDING INSTEAD OF GIVING. AND THE PATTERN MAKERS FOR NEW LABOR HEROICS WILL HAVE TO TAKE - AND DO ALREADY - JUST THIS CRUCIAL SHIFT INTO ACCOUNT. AND, OF COURSE, THE GRUMBLING PAPASHA IS AS LIKELY AS NOT ALREADY VULNERABLE TO THE ACCUSATION OF OBMESH-CHANIVANIE (METAMORPHOSIS INTO A PETTY BOURGEOIS). BUT SOME SORT OF METAMORPHOSIS WAS INEVITABLE ANYWAY. AND POLAND, AFTER ALL, WITH ITS LABOR UPHEAVALS AND PRECARIOUS RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE INTELLIGENTSIA AND WORKERS IN JAIL IS NOT ALL THAT REMOTE.

BUT THIS MAY WELL BE PARANOID THINKING IN OUR HEAD, NOT IN GEIDEKO'S. HE TIES THINGS TOGETHER IN HIS OWN WAY WHICH IS, INDEED, REVEALING AND MEANINGFUL ENOUGH:

HEROISM IS NOT A SYNONYM BUT RATHER AN ANTIPODE OF SELF-SACRIFICE. (GEROIZM NE SININIM A SKOREE PROTIVPOLOZHNOST ZHERTVENNOSTI).

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7. CLUES STRUNG TOGETHER

THERE ISSUES FROM BITS AND PIECES OF FICTION, PARAFICTION, AND LITERARY DEBATES VEILED INFORMATION THAT DUE TO THE WANING OF IDEOLOGY, THE MAINSTREAM OF MYTHMAKING HAS BEEN SUFFERING FOR A LONG TIME NOW, A COUPLE OF DECADES AT LEAST, A LOSS OF CLARITY. THE HEROIC IMAGE OF THE WORKER HAS THEREBY SUFFERED GREATLY. WHEN THE PROSTOI RABOCHII HAS BECOME AN EMBARRASSMENT IN MORE WAYS THAN PURE SEMANTICS, EFFORTS SURGE TO CHANGE HIM INTO SOMETHING ELSE BUT PREFERABLY NOT INTO A MESHCHANIN. AND THAT IS A DIFFICULT STRATEGY. FOR THE DIDACTIC AND COGNITIVE PURPOSES OF GOSIZDAT FICTION AND ITS INTERPRETATIVE ACCOMPANIMENT ARE AT LOGGERHEADS HERE BE IT ALONE BECAUSE ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, ALLEGED OR REAL, HAVE A WAY OF PERVERTING ENTRENCHED MYTHOLOGY. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PER SE DEFLATES THE HERO WORKER. AT ALL COST AND FROM MANY POINTS OF VIEW HE MUST BE PREVENTED FROM STORMING, STRAINING, RESCUING, KILLING HIMSELF. *He must squander neither material nor human resources.* AND HE MUST NOT BREAK THE MACHINERY. *He must be an expert.* CONVERSELY, HE MUST ALSO BE PREVENTED FROM EMBOURGEOISEMENT. ANALYSIS AND PREVENTION THEREOF OCCUPIES MORE AND MORE PAGES OF FICTION AND SOME WRITERS, SUCH AS YURII TRIFONOV HAVE BECOME MASTERS OF THE THEME.

FOR IN THE WAKE OF THAT FAMOUS NTR, A LARGE CONCLAVE OF WORKERDOM HAS ALLEGEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING PERILOUS DISCOVERY : "ONE CAN LIVE WITHOUT WORKING AND WITHOUT STEALING".²⁴
 ONE MUST AGREE THAT IT'S QUITE A DISCOVERY, ^{one that speaks of the sluggishness of the system and} ONE THAT TRULY HELPS OBMESHCHANIVANIE ALONG. SINCE JUST THIS PROCESS HAS BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM IN LITERATURE, THE OCCASIONAL DEFENSIVE TONE OF THE MORE ORTHODOX CRITICS ADDS ITS OWN SHRED OF USEFUL INFORMATION. AS EXAMPLE:

THE RATHER SMOOTHLY WRITTEN NOVEL BY MINCHKOVSKY IS DEDICATED TO THE OBMESHCHANIVANIE OF WORKING PEOPLE, A PROBLEM WHICH, BY AND LARGE, IS FABRICATED (NADUMANNAYA). THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT IN LIFE THERE DO NOT EXIST PEOPLE LIKE THE HERO OF THIS NOVEL, THE CARPENTER DOLGOV, WHO HAS RIPPED OFF AN ENORMOUS DACHA FOR HIMSELF, WHO IS A GRABBER, A MESHCHANIN, A MAN WITH AN INSATIABLE THIRST FOR MONEY AND A MAN WITH AN EXTREMELY NARROW HORIZON OF SPIRITUAL NEEDS. BUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN LIFE LIKE DOLGOV? AND IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO BOASTS OF SUCH DACHAS AS HIS, IT IS, OBVIOUSLY, NOT THE WORKING CLASS.

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THERE ARE OTHER FORCES AND CONTINGENCIES SHAPING THE PRODUCTION OF CULTURE TODAY THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF REHEROIZATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER. (BY THE WAY, THE LUMBERJACK, THE FISHERMAN, THE MERCHANT SAILOR, AND THE TEAMSTER HAVE A MUCH EASIER TIME ENACTING HEROISM AND COME OFF BETTER ALL THE WAY AROUND. BUT THIS IS ANOTHER SUBJECT.) FOR INSTANCE, THE LIBERAL WRITERS - AND WITH THEM MUCH OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA HOWEVER WE DEFINE IT - RESPOND TO THE NEW HUMANISM THEY THEMSELVES PROPAGATE. IT TEACHES CONCERN FOR THE WORKER'S WELL-BEING. AND IT FOCUSES BENEVOLENTLY ON WHAT THE WORKER TAKES OR, RATHER, SHOULD TAKE HOME TO HIS COZY FAMILY NEST IN TERMS OF GOODIES AND PRESTIGE GRATIFICATIONS. EVEN WITH THE VERY BEST INTENTIONS, IT BECOMES DIFFICULT TO GLORIFY THE WORKER AS A HERO WHO IS

SOLELY ENGAGED IN ASCETICAL GIVING. WE HAVE HEARD THE PRE-SCRIPT: "HEROISM IS NOT A SYNONYM BUT RATHER AN ANTIPODE OF SELF-SACRIFICE". BUT IT IS HARD TO MAKE AN ENTHRALLING IMAGE OF SUCH DELOVOI HEROISM.

SOME OTHER FACTORS OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED IN A FUTURE SERIOUS STUDY OF THE IMAGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER. LET US JUST BRIEFLY HINT AT TWO OF THEM, ONE "THEMATIC", THE OTHER "BIOGRAPHIC". AS TO THE FIRST, IT DOES NOT HELP THAT THE MUCH AND DESERVEDLY MALIGNED PROIZVODSTVENNYI ROMAN (THE LINGERING STALINIST INDUSTRIAL NOVEL FEATURING TRACTORS AND TURBINES AS HEROES) IS STILL, ALL THE OUTCRY NOTWITHSTANDING, ENSNARLED WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LIFE OF WORKERS. ^{THIS PRODUCES THEMATIC SPLINTERING.} SECONDLY, ONE CAN FEEL OCCASIONALLY THE REAL ESTRANGEMENT OF WRITERS FROM THE WORKING MILIEU. THEY STUDY IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, WITHOUT ROOTS IN IT. THEY COME FROM AND ARE THE INTELLIGENTSIYA. AND THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THIS WAS NOT SO.

TO SUM UP, EVEN IF ONLY TENTATIVELY, WHEN THE GRANDIOSE MYTHOLOGY OF REVOLUTION AND RECONSTRUCTION CAME TO AN END, THE HERO WORKER DIED WITH IT. AND THERE WAS NOTHING TO REPLACE HIM WITH. AND IT SO HAPPENS THAT TODAY'S REALITY CANNOT EASILY BE SHOVED AND PUSHED INTO THAT WHICH IS PRESCRIBED. SO, THERE IS RAZNOBOI, CONFUSION INSTEAD OF HEROICS. AS TO THE RECENT ADVENT OF NTR, IT PUSHES THE IMAGE OF THE WORKER INTO THE CONFLICT MARKED BY THE TRANSITION, AS I HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED, BETWEEN THE PRESCRIBED "GIVING" AND THE PRESCRIBED "GETTING" (GIVING TO THE OLD PUBLIC DEITY AND GETTING SOMETHING IN RETURN IN THE NOW OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED AFFLUENT SOCIETY). THE GETTING, IN TURN, GETS QUITE COMPLICATED AS IT IS BEING REFRACTED IN FICTION BECAUSE IT MUST RUN IN TWO CHANNELS:

MATERIAL AND INSTRUMENTAL REWARDS. THOSE WHO CONTROL ^{the} GOSIZDAT WISH THAT THE LATTER BE EMPHASIZED AS OVER THE FORMER. THE WORKER LIVES NOT BY BREAD ALONE BUT BY EGO MASSAGE. YET, SUCH AN EMPHASIS IS NOT WITHOUT DANGER. FOR FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE OF STILL EXISTING LAKIROVKA, THE REAL NEW THEME OF THE WORKER SEEMS TO BE READY TO SURFACE - FROM BETWEEN THE LINES, FROM INUENDOS. THE NEW THEME - SPLINTERED, TORN, ITS FRAGMENTS COLLIDING WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THOSE IN THE SAM- AND TAMIZDAT - WILL VERY SOON, IT SEEMS, REVEAL WHAT THE WORKER WANTS OUT OF LIFE; FROM HIMSELF, AND FROM THE SYSTEM. NOW WHETHER IT REALLY WILL SURFACE OR NOT IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE APPREHENSION SUCH A POSSIBILITY SEEMS TO INSTILL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HERO WORKER FROM LITERATURE IS NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT BENEFIT FOR THE REGIME FOR THE TIME BEING.

NOTES

1. P. ELFIMOV, UNTITLED. DEN POEZII, MOSCOW, 1974, P.259
2. V. BOKOV, UNTITLED. DEN POEZII, MOSCOW, 1975, P.136
3. G. KOIRANSKAYA, "MOLODOI PISATEL, MOLODOI GEROI" (DISCUSSING A. CHERNOUSOV'S "PRAKTIKANT"), NOVYI MIR, No.11, 1973, PP.267-269
4. B. BONDARENKO, "ZEITNOT", YUNOST, No.1, 1971, PP.10-11
5. V. POPOV, "RABOCHII - ZVANIE VYSOKOE", DRUZHBA NARODOV, No.3, 1970, P.258 (SYMPOSIUM ON THE WORKER IN LITERATURE)
6. A. MEDNIKOV, "TALANT I OTVETSTVENNOST", IBID, P.255
7. VOPROSY LITERATURY, No.1, 1976, P.23
8. OP. CIT. DEN POEZII, MOSCOW, 1974, P.255
9. V. KOVSKY, "PISATEL I SOVREMENNOST", DRUZHBA NARODOV, No.1 1976, P.253
10. OP. CIT. No. LAPIN, "RABOCHII KOLLEKTIV I EVO PROBLEMY", DRUZHBA NARODOV No.3, 1970, P.253
11. OCHERK OR SKETCH IS ONE OF THE FAVORITE SOVIET GENRES. A MIXTURE OF REPORTAGE, DIDACTICISM, AND EXEGESIS, IT IS EASILY POLITICIZED AND MANIPULATED. YET, IT STRANGELY HAD SUFFERED LESS FROM THE MAIMING BY STALINISM THAN SOME OTHER GENRES.
11. HOW THE SEE-SAW OF STANDARD WORD CLUSTERS WORKS AROUND THE PROBLEM OF "WALLS BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WORK" AND THEIR INTRUSION INTO THE CULT OF EDUCATION IS SHOWN WELL IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE :
 "THE EXAGGERATION OF THE ROLE OF "TECHNOCRACY", OF THE PROFESSIONAL ELITE IS UNDOUBTEDLY CONNECTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TECHNICAL PROGRESS. ONE SHOULD THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE ADVOCATES OF SUCH VIEWS FORGET THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE TECHNICAL PROGRESS RAISES SHARPLY THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, THE TECHNICAL AND GENERAL CULTURE NOT ONLY OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA BUT OF WORKERS AS WELL. THIS, IN THE END RESULT, ASSISTS THE LEVELLING OF BARRIERS (STIRANIIE GRANEI) BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WORK." A. VOLKOV, "RABOTA NA SEBYA", NOVYI MIR, No.9, 1970, P.164
 HOW THIS WORKS, I.E. THE MAGIC BY WHICH THE CULTURAL LEVEL OF THE WORKER VERITABLY SOARS BY ITSELF IS NEVER EXPLAINED BUT REPEATED AD NAUSEAM.
13. S. RASSADIN, "CHELOVECHSKII PODKHOD" (DISCUSSING A. AGRANOVSKY'S COLLISION), NOVYI MIR, No.1, 1967, PP.257-259

14. ALEKSANDR YANOV'S WORK PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET UNION, ES-
PECIALLY HIS TWO BRILLIANT ARTICLES "RABOCHAYA TEMA",
NOVYI MIR, No.3, 1971 AND "DVIZHENIE MOLODOVO GEROYA",
NOVYI MIR, No.7, 1972 WITH HIS ACUTE SOCIOLOGICAL IN-
SIGHT AND A GREAT FLAIR FOR THE SHIFTS IN ZEITGEIST
WERE A REAL HELP AND STIMULUS TO SET ME OFF INTO THE
LABYRINTH OF LABOR THEMATICS.
15. V. KOVSKY, "PISATEL I SOVREMENNOST'", DRUZHBA NARODOV,
No.1, 1976, p.249
16. V. MOEV, "VECHNAYA TEMA", OP.CIT. DRUZHBA NARODOV, No.3,
1970, p.265
17. IBID V. PANOV "OCHERK I ZHIZN", p.274
18. ACRONYM FOR INZHENERNO-TEKHNICHEKIE RABOTNIKI (ENGINEER-
ING-TECHNICAL WORKERS) WIDELY USED, EVEN WITH ADJECTI-
VAL DERIVATIVES, SINCE BEFORE THE WAR.
19. THE AUTHOR SAYS HERE : "VYSOKOE OBRAZOVANIE (I VYSCHEE -
KAK NAIBOLEE VYSOKOE)". CLEAR AS THIS CURIOUS BUNCH OF
WORDS SEEMS TO BE IN RUSSIAN, I DEFY ANYONE TO RENDER
IT INTO INTELLIGIBLE ENGLISH WITHOUT A VOLUMINOUS GLOSS.
20. Z. FAINBURG, "S TOCHKI ZRENIYA SOTSIologa", OP.CIT.
DRUZHBA NARODOV, No.3, 1970, p.275
21. F. KUZNETSOV, "GUMANISTICHESKAYA PRAVDA VEKA", NOVYI MIR,
No.2, 1976, p.220
22. N. MASHOVETZ, "OBSSHCHNOST TSELI", VOPROSY LITERATURY,
No.5, 1976, p.51
23. V. GEIDKO, "GORIZONTY MOLODOI PROZY", NOVYI MIR, No.
1975, pp.254-267
24. N. SHAMOTA, "O CHELOVECHNOSTI NASHEI PARTIINOSTI", NOVYI
MIR, No.9, 1975, p.246 (DISCUSSING V. LIPATOV'S NOVEL
I ETO VSE O NEM)
25. A. MEDNIKOV, "TALANT I OTVETSTVENNOST", OP. CIT. DRUZHBA
NARODOV, No.3, 1970, p.255