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## Introduction

The third issue of «AvtobiografiЯ» comes out at the end of a year brimming with important events that have led to a turning point in the short history of our journal. This number celebrates a new season: the founders are the new owners and publishers; the journal's international collaboration gains strength and widens thanks to the new members of the editorial and advisory boards, who mark the journal's expansion to new areas of interest, e.g. other Slavic cultures; a new organizational structure and operational system was made; a new website was set up utilizing the Open Journal System, which allows a new interface and a more 'user friendly navigation' for our readers. The up and coming months hold further developments, aimed at further strengthening the role of «AvtobiografiЯ» in the international academic scene.

Consistent with the changes taking place, the third number is at the same time looking towards the future, while adhering to the editorial line of the journal to date. On the one hand, the third number has a special section devoted to jun-

ior scholars in Slavic Studies; on the other, 'traditional' sections contain articles, discussions, reviews and news.

The 'general' section contains some of the papers presented at the International Conference *The Space of Memory. Russian Auto-Biographical Genres and European Context* (Padua, 2013), the first part of which was published in the second issue. We thus conclude our discussion on the 'space of memory' in Russian culture thanks to the interventions of Marina Balina, Ilya Kukulin, Masha Levina-Paker, Emilia Magnanini, Natalia Rodigina and Tatiana Saburova. In her article, Emilia Magnanini presents a particular case of a self that seeks space within a collective narrative. The author succeeds in describing the complexity of the representation of the self in the diary of Vera Aksakova while addressing also the gender perspective. A similar case of ego-document analysed within a broader context is provided by Natalia Rodigina and Tatiana Saburova. The authors investigate an area scarcely studied in the context of Russian autobiographical studies, i.e. that of

journalism. Their analysis is another example of study of the intertwining plays between individual and collective self.

The essay by Masha Levina-Parker is instead devoted to the figure of Andrei Bely, and follows the author's previous research on the author of *Peterburg*. In particular, Masha Levina-Parker focuses on the image of crucifixion and shows its use by Bely as an autofictional device.

Ilya Kukulin's text is devoted to a lesser known figure of Russian literature, Pavel Ulitin. Kukulin provides a deep analysis of the narrative strategies and of the aesthetical method implemented by Ulitin, highlighting its peculiarities on the backdrop of twentieth century European literature. Kukulin also focuses on Ulitin's representation of the experience of the Gulag in relationship with the experiments in autobiographical writing developed in the second half of the Twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first century. Marina Balina's work focuses again on the intertwining of personal and collective self (and memory) in a particular 'fragment' of life writing: her article analyses how childhood reminiscences become the ideal battle field for the negotiation between individual and collective

memory in contemporary Russian autobiographical prose. Thus Balina shows how, through childhood, private memory becomes the territory for the creation of a common identity.

In addition to these articles, the third issue contains two more contributions. The article by Iuliia Rykunina, which opens the number, is dedicated to a field hitherto little investigated, i.e. that of the autobiographies of the people (and especially of peasants) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The work of Iuliia Rykunina gives an overview on these texts and highlights their main motifs. The article by Philipp Kohl instead presents an innovative approach to the study of the complex work of Dmitrii Prigov. Following Giorgio Agamben's path in the distinction between 'zoe' and 'bios', Kohl proposes to study Prigov's prose works (in particular, *Zhivite v Moskve*) as a *zoography*, thus providing a new point of view on the study of auto/biographical texts.

The first ever 'special section' of «Avtobiografiia» contains many of the papers presented during the conference for junior scholars in Slavic Studies held in Verona in 2013, immediately after the Padua conference. A specific introduction, written by the

editors of the section, introduces the themes and peculiarities of the texts included in the section. However, we want to emphasize two aspects of the special section: the skill of these young authors, who were asked to write short essays, in managing to explain their theses within a limited space; and the availability of the members of the editorial board of the journal (in particular, Roberta De Giorgi, Cinzia De Lotto, Patrizia Deotto, Emilia Magnanini and Tatiana Saburova. A special thanks goes to Oleg Kling), who were 'put aside' most of the authors in order to follow them through the process of revision of their texts after the reviews of both internal and external peer. We believe that this service of 'tutoring' should be underlined in order to highlight our efforts in making our journal not only a virtual place for academic debate, but also a place where junior scholars are given the opportunity to grow professionally, engage with senior scholars and submit their papers to internationally renowned experts.

Finally, both the discussions published in this issue propose a reflection on two topics of main interest to our journal. Tatiana Kuzovkina presents a reflection on some papers pre-

sented at the sixth annual 'Iurii Lotman conference' *Biographia sub specie semioticae*, held in Tallinn in May-June 2014. Alexey Kholikov, instead, proposes his innovative method of analysis of the 'prizhiznennoe polnoe sobranie sochinenii' as a topic strictly related to the study of the self. It is our wish that these two texts would enhance debate within the international academic community.

The first three numbers «AvtobiografiЯ» conclude the project funded by the University of Padua and by the Department of Anglo-Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, which also saw the active collaboration of the University of Verona, thanks to which it will be possible to print the second and the third issues of the journal. At the end of the start-up phase of the magazine, and already looking towards future goals, we want to thank the members of the advisory and the editorial boards for the work done; Francesca Moro and Enrico Sceck Osman of Padova University Press for the help given to the journal in the first two issues; Adriano Pavan for his extraordinary work as graphic designer, and Samuel Saorin for the equally extraordinary work of creator and webmaster of the new website

of «AvtobiografiЯ»; Alexey Kholikov and Lisa Crawshaw for their constant support. We greet the new members of the advisory and editorial boards and we thank them for giving us the opportunity to further expand our horizons.

The new composition of the editorial staff cannot ease our sorrow for the loss we suffered with the sudden death of Catherine Viollet, a friend and colleague, who played a key role in the foundation of our journal. With her pioneering research in the context of Life Writing in Russia Catherine has inspired many years ago Claudia, then a young graduate student, and moved her towards the study of autobiography within the Russian context. Her devotion to young scholars has always distinguished Catherine, who founded and animated the seminar group ITEM CNRS. We are grateful to her.

Catherine has been one of the pivot around which we built up the editorial board of «AvtobiografiЯ». She took part with her distinctive gentle behaviour to all the initiatives of the research group, proving to be helpful and friendly to all of us. We published a study of hers in the first issue; a second was scheduled for the fourth number. Although it will not be pub-

lished (Catherine had not prepared a final version), it will remain a witness to her extraordinary dedication to research, to her great contribution to the birth of our journal and to the strengthening of the 'Russian front' of autobiographical studies, of which Catherine was a pioneer.

With a great sadness in our heart, but also with an equally great gratitude to an outstanding scholar and person, we dedicate this third issue to the memory of our friend Catherine Viollet and, together with the editorial and advisory boards, with this and all future issues we remember her with affection.

We publish, with the permission by the author, the farewell written by Philippe Lejeune for the ITEM CNRS group's website. The author wishes to share it with all the friends of Catherine. In the fourth issue we will publish the complete bibliography of the works of Catherine, composed by Rodolphe Baudin in collaboration with Danielle Constantin and Véronique Montémont, who we wish to thank.

Catherine Viollet a animé depuis sa fondation en 1995 l'équipe *Genèse et autobiographie* de l'ITEM, dont le séminaire mensuel, au long d'une vingtaine d'années, s'est ouvert à l'étude génétique des œuvres (autobiographie, journaux, correspondances) de plus d'une centaine d'auteurs différents, aussi bien étrangers que français. Son travail personnel, scrupuleux dans sa démarche et limpide dans son exposition, s'est développé parallèlement à l'animation du séminaire, privilégiant certaines pistes, en particulier les études de genre (elle animait une petite équipe autour de l'œuvre de Violette Leduc) et le corpus des diaristes russes francophones.

Chercheuse pionnière, ouvrant de nouveaux chemins, Catherine Viollet était modeste, généreuse de son temps pour accueillir et guider de jeunes chercheurs étrangers et français, et elle faisait de son séminaire un lieu de dialogue très apprécié par un public fidèle et fervent. Elle avait le goût du partage et de l'échange: grâce à elle ont pu se nouer, au-delà de belles collaborations professionnelles, de durables amitiés. Cette vertu d'accueil et de dialogue se manifeste dans son abondante bibliographie: les livres ou dossiers qu'elle a pu-

bliés sont le plus souvent des œuvres collectives, dirigées en collaboration. La suite de leurs titres donnera une idée de l'étendue de ses curiosités: *Genèse textuelle, identités sexuelles* (avec une postface de Claudine Raynaud, Du Lérot, 1997); *Genèse du je. Manuscrits et autobiographie* (avec Philippe Lejeune, CNRS Éditions, 2000); *Autobiographies* (avec Philippe Lejeune, «Genesis», 2001, XVI); *Genèse, censure, autocensure* (avec Claire Bustarret, CNRS Éditions, 2005); *Métamorphoses du journal personnel* (avec Marie-Françoise Lemonnier-Delpy, Bruylant, Academia, 2007); *Genèse et autofiction* (avec Jean-Louis Jeannelle, Bruylant, Academia, 2007); *Le Moiet ses modèles* (avec Véronique Montémont, Bruylant, Academia, 2009); *Journaux personnels* (avec Françoise Simonet-Tenant, «Genesis», 2011, XXXII); *Archives familiales: modes d'emploi* (avec Véronique Montémont, Academia-L'Harmattan, 2013). Une place à part doit être faite à l'exploration des journaux russes francophones entreprise en collaboration avec Elena Gretchanaia. Germaniste, Catherine Viollet s'est ensuite initiée à la connaissance du russe et s'est lancée avec Elena Gretchanaia dans l'exploration des textes francophones présents dans les

archives russes, en particulier moscovites. Leur travail a abouti à un livre fascinant, à la fois étude et anthologie, *Si tu lis jamais ce journal... Diaristes russes francophones 1780/1854* (CNRS Éditions, 2008).

Catherine Viollet disparaît au moment où elle allait prendre sa retraite, arrachée brutalement à l'affection des siens. Elle avait en chantier un livre codirigé avec Danielle Constantin, *Sexes, genres, sexualités: que disent les manuscrits? Écrits autobiographiques*. Son projet

était de continuer, avec son nouveau statut de retraitée, l'animation du séminaire jusqu'à ce que le relais soit pris par une nouvelle génération. Elle avait aussi l'intention de mettre en ordre les archives du séminaire. À nous maintenant de lui être fidèles et de veiller à ce que cette grande et originale entreprise continue.

Philippe Lejeune