

Acknowledgments

This book started as a dissertation written at the University of Wisconsin, and developed over my time at the University of Vermont, but its central idea was conceived much earlier, while I was a student in St. Petersburg in the 1990s. Any first book, of course, is a collective effort; this one, cultivated over the course of ten years at two institutions, with roots stretching back an additional decade, has gathered a larger debt of gratitude than I could possibly acknowledge in just a few pages. I will do my best, however, to recognize here the many instances of inspiration, help, and encouragement I received from an enormous and supportive network of professors and peers, students, friends, and family.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my professors at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UW–Madison. Beyond the rigor and enthusiasm of their instruction, they also provided us a scholarly model that united ardent intellectual inquiry with generous collegiality, and I am grateful to all of them for both the knowledge they imparted and the supportive community they fostered. In particular, I would like to thank my extraordinary dissertation advisor, David Bethea, for his patience, trust, and open-mindedness. He granted me the time and intellectual freedom I needed to follow even my most whimsical ideas to their limit, gently pulling me back whenever I stretched too far. I am grateful both for his scholarly guidance and for his continued encouragement and support in the years following my defense. I also wish to thank the other members of my dissertation committee, whose thoughtful feedback and suggestions helped shape the transformation from dissertation to book: Andrew Reynolds, who read endless drafts of my chapters and offered countless sources and ideas; Judith Kornblatt, whose incisive readings of my Gogol drafts were invaluable, and who reminded me to always “look to the text” for answers; Toma Longinovic, who introduced me to the literature on monstrosity and alterity that would directly inform my Gogol chapters; and the historian David McDonald, who was always generous and supportive of dissertators in the Slavic department. Beyond my committee, I would also like to thank Alexander Dolinin for his inspired and inspiring

scholarship on St. Petersburg; David Danaher for being a model of humor, intellectual inquisitiveness, and generous humanity; and Ben Rifkin, who has been an incredible mentor to me in my professional life and beyond. I must also mention Jean Hennessey and Lori Hubbard, department administrators during my years in Madison, without whose calm competence and humor the department would surely have ceased to function.

I am also grateful to my colleagues in the German and Russian department at the University of Vermont for providing such an encouraging intellectual environment. In particular, I would like to thank my Chair, Helga Schreckenberger, for her fierce and unflagging support throughout the tenure process; fellow-Romanticist Dennis Mahoney for his meticulous readings and insightful questions; the indefatigable Wolfgang Mieder, living embodiment of the teacher/scholar model; Kevin McKenna, who believed in me from the start, and whose dedication to his students is an inspiration; and my faculty mentor Jennifer Dickinson, for seven years of sustenance, both emotional and edible.

Over the years, I have presented various sections and chapters of this book at both national ASEEEES and AATSEEL conferences, and smaller symposia at UW, UVM, and Colby College, and am thankful to the members of those audiences for their questions and ideas. An earlier version of chapter 1 appeared in *The Pushkin Review* 16 (November, 2014), and a version of chapter 5 appeared in *The Russian Review* 71 (April, 2012); I am indebted to the editors and reviewers at those journals, as well as to all the readers and reviewers of the full manuscript, for their sharp eyes and superb insights. Feedback from these generous (mostly anonymous) scholars was of inestimable value as the book underwent its long, sometimes painful evolution from the dissertation stage. Most of all, I am grateful to everyone I worked with at Academic Studies Press, in particular the acquisitions editors Faith Wilson Stein and David Michelson, copy-editor Carolyn Pouncy, and production editor Kira Nemirovsky. They completed every stage of the process quickly, professionally, and meticulously, and they were a pleasure to work with. I am also indebted to UVM's department of German and Russian for their generosity in paying ASP's subvention fee, which contributed to the cost of the book's publication.

While the book was written and published in the U.S., its central ideas were conceived long ago in St. Petersburg, as my friends Ira Golovenok and Olga Susareva introduced me to every corner of their beloved city, from its

imperial facades to its seedy *dvory*. Were it not for the intimate knowledge they shared with me, during rooftop picnics and sole-wearing *ekskursii*, I would never have fallen so deeply in love with Russia's imperial capital. I am particularly thrilled that Ira—whose artist's eye for every detail of her city was one of the book's original inspirations—has agreed to design its cover.

I am also grateful to all my friends at the UW for making graduate school such a happy and intellectually vital time in my life: to Erik McDonald, Matt Walker, Ben Jens, Vika Thorstensson, Amanda Murphy, Molly Blasing, Brian Johnson, Sarah Orman, and many others for their encouragement, advice, and assistance with every aspect of writing, down to the minutest formatting question; and, especially, to Molly Peeney, for talking me through every stage of this project with extraordinary patience, wit and empathy. I would also like to thank my oldest friend, Gillian Bell, who listened attentively to every new idea, however far-fetched, and always had a creative direction to suggest.

Enormous thanks go out to my undergraduate students at the UW and UVM, whose probing questions and lively discussions enriched many of the book's central premises; and particularly to my ingenious work-study student Liza Shkurina who, among other valuable tasks, researched Russian copyright law and found usable versions of every illustration in the manuscript. Moving further back in time, I would also like to thank my own undergraduate professors in the Bryn Mawr College Russian department, particularly George Pahomov and Elizabeth Allen, who fed my fascination with Russian literature, and inspired me (correctly) to abandon the pre-med track and embrace my budding obsession with Bely and Dostoevsky; I can only dream of someday inspiring one of my own students to abandon chemistry for Chekhov . . .

Finally, I would like to thank my family (Mary, Michael, and Anne Scollins, Alice and Tom Hogarty, Becky and Bill Minier, and all brothers- and sisters-in-law) for their unflagging faith and support over these many, many years. I am grateful beyond words to my husband Brian for listening, reading, proofing, editing, questioning, pushing, consoling, cheering, and reminding me always of the big picture. He has made everything possible, and our children Ivan and Maisie have made it all infinitely more meaningful (if more time-consuming). It is to my family that I dedicate this book; I could not have done it (and would not have wanted to) without their constant support, encouragement, and understanding.