

EDITORIAL

This double volume was in the final stages of its production when the sad news from Vevey, Switzerland reached us. Dmitri Nabokov, the only son of Vladimir Nabokov and Véra Slonim, died on February 22, 2012. Dmitri Vladimirovich was 77 years old, the same age as his father at the time of his death. Anyone who was fortunate to interact with Dmitri remembers him as a kind and generous host, charming and courteous, with a lovely sense of humour. He was a protective son and a capable executor of the Nabokov Estate, offering his advice and support to many fine Nabokov projects. He will be missed greatly.



Dmitri Nabokov in 1964

Dmitri Nabokov supported our journal from the very outset. It was in his now-famous interview for the journal with Suellen Stringer-Hye (April 2008) that he announced his plans to publish Vladimir Nabokov's last novel, *The Original of Laura*.

This issue of the *Nabokov Online Journal* is dedicated to Dmitri Nabokov's memory.

MANDATE AND CURRENT FOCUS

This new double issue (*V-VI*, 2011/12) of the *Nabokov Online Journal* contains articles on various aspects of Nabokov's artistic legacy, including a special cluster on the author's unfinished novel, *The Original of Laura*, and a selection of articles dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Pale Fire*.

In addition, the volume of collected articles on *TOOL* is currently in production and we will be able to announce the details soon. This double issue also features a snippet from the upcoming *Anatomy of a Short Story. Nabokov's Puzzles, Codes, "Signs and Symbols"* (New York: Continuum, 2012), a unique anthology devoted to a single story –

“Signs and Symbols” by Vladimir Nabokov – which explores the way we read and interpret short stories.

The field of Nabokov Studies continues to be a lively hub of literary scholarship, with a steady flow of new monographs on Vladimir Nabokov coming in: books by Gennady Barabtarlo, Stephen Blackwell, Brian Boyd, Dana Dragunoiu, Siggy Frank, Thomas Karshan, Eric Naiman, Gavriel Shapiro, Lila Azam Zanganeh, and others – all have appeared just within the last two years. A growing number of academic courses devoted to Nabokov are being offered across the campuses; conferences are being held by active Nabokovians around the world. We salute the new scholarly organization, “*Chercheurs Enchantés: Vladimir Nabokov French Society*,” that has just recently been launched in Europe. The Nabokov French Society is planning to hold an international conference on “Nabokov and France” in Paris, in the summer of 2013.

The beginning of the new year was marked by the “Nabokov Upside Down” convention, organized by Brian Boyd in New Zealand, featuring nearly three dozen scholars (10-13 January, 2012). You can watch the special video report from this event in Volume VI of the double issue of *NOJ*.

Even more important is the fact that Nabokov’s writings are not exclusively reserved for the scholarship, but enjoy a best-seller status and are much-loved by the lay readers in different parts of the world, in dozens of languages.

READERSHIP

Since the foundation of the *Nabokov Online Journal* five years ago, our audience has become truly international – current readership comes from over 50 countries and territories as is evident from the online tracking system. The journal is being frequently cited in various print and online publications. The subscription statistics (including the number of hits and geographic locations of visitors) are provided in the monthly reports by the Google Analytics. The maximum monthly readership registered was 540 readers in May of 2009; total readership: 6,541 readers (May 2009 – May 2011); average regular monthly readership: 280 readers. The paper publication of *The Goalkeeper: The Nabokov Almanac* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2010) has also proved to successfully

complement the electronic edition: close to 300 copies have been sold between October 2010 and June 2011.

The authors of the articles published by the *Nabokov Online Journal* include established scholars and students, both undergraduate and graduate. To date, our academic contributors represent such diverse countries as USA, Canada, Russia, UK, France, Austria, Italy, Ukraine, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

STRATEGIC PLANS

The editors of the *Nabokov Online Journal* are constantly working on broadening the journal's readership. As the only digital academic publication in this area of studies, we strive to reflect the ongoing trends in modern scholarship.

To make access to our publication even easier, we plan to create an interactive application (App) for the *Nabokov Online Journal* that will be available for downloading and use on mobile devices (smart phones, iPads and iPhones). A blend of an eBook and a computer game, this application will be a fun and interactive way of reading the journal and studying literature. The *NOJ* App will include access to a database, interactive interface, and study materials.

The editorial board hopes to stimulate dialogue among international schools of thought, to offer a multilingual platform for discussion, to coordinate initiatives related to the field of Nabokov studies, and to provide a comprehensive bibliographic database. We would like to engage more comparative and interdisciplinary studies that would attract both a new type of scholarship and readership.

NEW INITIATIVES

In 2013-14, we plan to devote a special issue to the "Nabokov Scholarship in Translation." These will be translated articles that have been originally written or published in the area of Nabokov Studies during the past decade in languages other than

English. Our goal is to bring together various branches of Nabokov studies in a dynamic and intellectually creative environment.

The Editorial Board recognizes the importance of training the new generation of young scholars. Therefore, by launching the “Best Student Essay” competition, we would like to encourage more active participation of the young generation of promising Nabokovians (for more information on the competition, please see the next section of the current issue, “Announcement of the New Prizes in the Area of Nabokov Studies.”)

We are also establishing an annual Prize for the Best Scholarly Contribution in the area of Nabokov studies. The short-listed monographs will be chosen by a special expert committee, but the final selection will be made by the subscribers of the NABOKV-L listserv. All subscribers will be encouraged to voice their opinion. The *Nabokov Online Journal* will form a panel where the results and the selection of the finalists will be discussed.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues, please let me wish you a happy new year full of creative opportunities and rewarding research discoveries!

Yuri Leving,
Editor

