Leonov, Leonid Maksimovich (ЛЕОНОВ, ЛЕОНИД МАКСИМОВИЧ) (1899-1994)

[еонид Леонов 
фотографии](http://www.kino-teatr.ru/kino/screenwriter/sov/237817/foto/439575/)

Russian prose writer and playwright, born and died in Moscow. During the Russian Civil War, he volunteered as a soldier and journalist in the Red Army. Appropriating the ornamental prose style and including the *skaz* type idiolect in his early stories of the 1920s, he turned to the theme of the Revolution, its impact on village life and the theme of the little man in “The End of a Petty Man.” His works established continuity with the Gogol and Dostoevsky traditions, expanding the trope of the little man to the educated class, though adding to it a new animalistic twist. In his novels *The Badgers* (1924) and *The Thief* (1927), he depicted NEP policies and the resistance to the new Bolshevik regime. His novella “Evgeniia Ivanovna” (1935), censored for several decades, portrayed Russian immigration and the yearning for the motherland. Before and during WWII he wrote plays influenced by Socialist Realism. In 1957 his environmental novel *The Russian Forest* brought him the Lenin prize. In 1967 he was awarded the Hero of the Socialist Labor for his achievements in literature. His last novel *The Pyramid*, on which he worked for forty years, was published prior to his death in 1994.

**References and Further Reading**:

Prilepin, Zakhar (2010). *Leonid Leonov: Igra Ego Byla Ogromno.*(Leonid Leonov: His Role Was Immense).Seriia: Zhizn’ zamechatel’nykh liudei. Moskva: Molodaia gvardiia.

Contemporary Russian writer Zakhar Prilepin wrote the only biography on Leonov in Russian. It contains an outline of and the bibliography of Leonov’s primary works.

Ovcharenko, Aleksandr (2002). *V krugu Leonida Leonova: iz zapisok 1968-1988-kh godov.*  (In the Circle of Leonid Leonov: From the Notes 1968-1988). Moskva: moskovskii intellektual’no-delovoi klub.

This is a collection of conversations of Leonov with the literary scholar Alexander Ovcharenko over the span of 20 years.

Thomson, Boris (2001). *The Art of Compromise: The Life and Work of Leonid Leonov*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

This is an extensively well-researched and clearly written English study on Leonov that contains a bibliography of primary and secondary works.

Zubareva, Evgeniia and Viacheslav Savateev, eds. (2001). *Vek Leonida Leonova: problemy tvorchestva. Vospominaniia*. (A Century of Leonid Leonov: Problems of His Artistic Work. Recollections). Moskva: IMLI RAN.

These are essays from the international conference on Leonov that took place at the Gorky Institute of World Literature. Besides the essays, interviews with Leonov are included.

Muromskii, V.P. and T.M. Vakhitova, eds. (2000). *Leonid Leonov i russkaia literatura XX veka*. Materialy iubileinoi nauchnoi konferentsii, posviazhennoi 100-letiiu so dnia rozhdeniia L.M. Leonova. (Leonid Leonov and Russian Literature of the XX Century. Jubilee Conference Proceedings, In Honor of 100th Anniversary of L.M. Leonov) Sankt-Petersburg: Nauka.

This is a collection of the essays that were presented at the Leonov conference at the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin’s House).

Kovalev, Valentin Arkhipovich (1989). *V otvete za budushchee: Leonid Leonov*. *Issledovaniia i materialy.* (With Regard to the Future: Leonid Leonov. Research and Materials). Moskva: Sovremennik.

In this study, Kovalev integrates his personal archival material with conversations with Leonov, whom he knew.

**Selected Major works**

**Novels:**

*The Badgers* (Barsuki, 1925)

*The Thief* (Vor, 1927)

*Soviet River* (Sot’, 1930)

*Skutarevsky* (1932)

*Road to the Ocean* (Doroga na okean, 1935)

*The Russian Forest* (Russkii les, 1953)

*The Pyramid* (Piramida, 1994)

**Short Stories:**

“The Death of Egorushka” (Gibel’ Egorushki, 1922)

“Buryga” (1922)

“Khalil’” (1922)

“Three Stories” (Tri rasskaza, 1925)

“Extraordinary Stories About Men” (Cycle of Stories, Neobyknovennye rasskazy o muzhikakh, 1928)

**Novellas:**

“The Memoirs of Koviakin” (Zapisi nekotorykh epizodov, sdelannye v gorode Gugoleve, Andreem Petrovichem Koviakinym, 1924)

“The Breakup of Petushikha” (Petushikhinskii prolom, 1922)

“The End of a Petty Man” (Konets melkogo cheloveka, 1924)

“White Night” (Belaia noch’, 1927)

“A Provincial Story” (Provintsial’naia istoriia, 1927)

“The Taking of Velikoshumsk” (Vziatie Velikoshumska, 1944)

“Evgeniia Ivanovna” (1935)

**Plays**:

*Untilovsk* (1928)

*The Orchards of Polovchansk* (Polovchanskie sady, 1938)

*Wolf* (Volk, 1938)

*Snowstorm* (Metel’, 1939)

*An Ordinary Man* (Obyknovennyi chelovek, 1941)

*Invasion* (Nashestvie, 1943)

*Lenushka* (1943)

*The Golden Carriage* (Zolotaia kareta, 1964)

**Essays:**

“A Journey to Margian” (Poezdka v Margian, 1930)

“About Gorky” (O Gor’kom, 1932)

“To An Unknown American Friend” (Neizvestnomu amerikanskomu drugu, 1942)

“Rage. Reporting from the Kharkov Trial” (Iarost’. Reportazh s Khar’kovskogo protsessa, 1943)

“When Irma Cries. A letter to the Fatherland” (Kogda zaplachet Irma. Pis’mo na rodiny, 1945)

“Dwarfs of Science. Reporting from the Nuremberg Trials” (Gnomy nauki, 1945)

“A Word About the First Deputy” (Slovo o pervom deputate, 1946)

“Gratitude” (Blagodarnost’, 1949)

“Fate of the Poet” (Sud’ba poeta, 1958)

“Truthfully About Nature” (O prirode nachistotu, 1960)

“Thoughts at the Old Stone” (Razdum’ia u starogo kamnia, 1968)

“Love Nature, Although Without the Firearms” (Liubite prirodu, no bez ognestrel’nogo oruzhiia, 1968)

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