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| **Starevich, Vladislav (1882-1965)** |
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| Pioneering puppet animator Vladislav Starevich was born to Polish parents in political exile in Moscow. He initially filmed ethnographic and entomological subjects for Moscow’s Khanzhonkov studio. In 1910, while unsuccessfully trying to film two male stag beetles fighting over a female (they stopped moving whenever stage lights came on), he realised he could recreate the desired action by manipulating jointed beetle carcasses under the camera one frame at a time. His subsequent puppet films employed realistic insect and other animal puppets in satiric tales that challenged Romantic ideals. *Prekrasnaya Lyukanida* (*Beautiful Leukanida*,1911), a Helen of Troy spoof with beetles, was the first Russian film sold abroad. *Mest kinematograficheskogo opertora* (*The Cameraman’s Revenge*, 1911), a tale of marital infidelity, is one of the very first depictions of characters seeing themselves on the screen at a cinema. Starevich directed live-action features as well, but after immigrating to France in 1919, made only puppet films, including the feature *Le Roman de Renard* (*The Tale of the Fox*, 1937), a decade-long project. His puppet films were intrinsically surreal; *Fétiche mascotte* (*The Mascot*, 1933), which inaugurated a series starring stuffed toy dog Fétiche, also notably displayed Expressionistic elements in its staging and lighting. Filmography (Animated films only) *Prekrasnaya Lyukanida* [ *Beautiful Lucanida*](1911)  *Mest kinematograficheskogo opertora* [*The Cameraman’s Revenge*] (1911)  *Rozhdestvo obitateley lesa* [*The Insects’ Christmas*] (1912)  *Strekoza i muravey* [*The Dragonfly and the Ant*] (1912)  *Chetyre chorta* [*Four Devils*] (1913)  *Chorchik* [*Little Devil*] (1913)  *Lilya Belgii* [*The Belgian Lily*](1915)  *Dans les griffes de l’araignée* [*In the Spider’s Grip*] (1920)  *Le marriage de Babylas* [*The Marriage of Babylas*] (1921)  *La voix du rossignol* [*The Voice of the Nightingale*] (1923)  *Le rat de ville et le rat des champs* [*The City Rat and the Country Rat*] (1926)  *La cigale et la fourmi* [*The Grasshopper and the Ant*] (1927)  *Fétiche mascotte* [*The Mascot*] (1933)  *Fétiche prestidigitateur* [*The Ringmaster*] (1934)  *Fétiche se marie [The Marriage of Fétiche]* (1935)  *Fétiche en voyage de noces* [*Fétiche’s Honeymoon*] (1936)  *Fétiche chez les sirenes* [*Fétiche and the Sirens*] (1937)  *Le Roman de Renard* [*The Tale of the Fox*] (animation completed in 1930; not released until 1937)  *Zanzabelle a Paris* [*Zanzabelle in Paris*] (1947)  *Fleur de fougère* [*Fern Flower*] (1949) |
| Further reading:  (Bendazzi)  (Jewsiewicki)  (Jewsiewicki, Wladislaw Starewicz: The French Period (II) 1919-1965) |