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| Zenkevich, Mikhail Aleksandrovich (1886-1973) |
| Зенкевич Михаил Александрович |
| Mikhail Aleksandrovich Zenkevich was a Russian poet and author, one of the founders of *Tsekh poetov* [The Guild of Poets] and the Acmeist movement — a representative of its left wing, Adamism. The association of Zenkevich and Narbut with Acmeism has often been referred to as one of a social and rather conventional nature, yet for both poets it was indisputable. Zenkevich’s first book, *Dikaia porfira* [*Savage Purple*] (1912), praised by Acmeism’s leader Nikolai Gumilev (1912), as well as by fellow poets Sergei Gorodetsky and Georgy Ivanov (1994), is on a par with Anna Akhmatova’s *Vecher* [*Evening*](1912), Vladimir Narbut’s *Alliluiia* [*Hallelujah*](1912), and Osip Mandelstam’s *Kamen’* [*Stone*] (1913) for its importance to the Acmeist aesthetic. |
| File: zenkevich1.jpg  http://www.e-reading.by/chapter.php/1006421/35/Bezelyanskiy\_-\_99\_imen\_Serebryanogo\_veka.html  File: zenkevich2.jpg  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail\_Zenkevich  File: zenkevich3.jpg  http://biography.5litra.ru/40-mixail-zenkevich.html  Mikhail Aleksandrovich Zenkevich was a Russian poet and author, one of the founders of *Tsekh poetov* [The Guild of Poets] and the Acmeist movement — a representative of its left wing, Adamism. The association of Zenkevich and Narbut with Acmeism has often been referred to as one of a social and rather conventional nature, yet for both poets it was indisputable. Zenkevich’s first book, *Dikaia porfira* [*Savage Purple*] (1912), praised by Acmeism’s leader Nikolai Gumilev (1912), as well as by fellow poets Sergei Gorodetsky and Georgy Ivanov (1994), is on a par with Anna Akhmatova’s *Vecher* [*Evening*](1912), Vladimir Narbut’s *Alliluiia* [*Hallelujah*](1912), and Osip Mandelstam’s *Kamen’* [*Stone*] (1913) for its importance to the Acmeist aesthetic.  Zenkevich’s legacy is significant and diverse. He authored twelve books of poetry, two novels, *Muzhitskii Sfinks* [*The Peasant Sphinx*] (1928) and *Na strezhen’* [*To the River Bend*] (1994); short prose, dramatic poems — *Al’timetr* [*Altimeter*] (1991-1921, 2004); and *Triumf aviatsii* [*The Triumph of* Aviation] (1937, unpublished) — translations, and critical articles. He became one of the founders of the Russian twentieth-century school of poetic translation and was the longest surviving member of Acmeism.  Zenkevich was the first theoretician of the Acmeist movement, publishing ‘Deklaratsiia kul’turnykh prav akmeizma’ [‘The Declaration of Cultural Rights of Acmeism’] in *Den’* (27 April 1914). He dedicated his translation of ten poems by André Chénier*, Iamby i elegii* [*Iambs and Elegies*] (1921, unpublished),to Gumilev, his Acmeist mentor, after the latter’s execution by the Bolsheviks in 1921. After moving to Moscow in April 1923, he served as editor for several prestigious publishing houses and journals. He wrote the first Russian biography of the Wright Brothers (*Brat’ia Rait*, 1933) and became the first translator of American poetry into Russian (1939, 1946, with Kashkin).  During World War II, Zenkevich composed anti-fascist poetry (‘Ot Staligrada k Tannebergu,’ [‘From Stalingrad to Tanneberg’] (1943, unpublished)) and recited it at the front. After the war, he continued writing poetry but rarely published. Instead, he headed the Moscow University Literary Society (1946-1947) and mentored young poets. During the 1950s and 1960s, he translated a great deal and travelled in his own country and abroad, including the United States and the United Kingdom. He corresponded with American author Mike Gold and poet Robert Frost, while maintaining close ties with surviving figures of Russia’s Silver Age like Pasternak and Akhmatova. Together with Leonid Chertkov, he compiled the first collection of fellow Adamist Narbut’s poetry. He died in 1973 in Moscow. Selected List of Works:Poetry *Dikaia porfira* [*Savage Purple*] also, [Wild Porphyry] (1912)  *Chetyrnadtsat’ stikhotvorenii* [*Fourteen Poems*] (1918)  *Pashnia tankov* [*The Plough-Land for the Tanks*] (1921)  *Pod parokhodnym nosom* [*Under the Steamer’s Nose*] (1926)  *Pozdnii prolet* [*Late Fly-Over*](1928)  *Mashinnaia strada* [*Machine Harvest*] (1931)  *Izbrannye stikhi* [*Selected Poems*](1932)  *Izbrannye stikhi* [*Selected Poems*](1933)  *Nabor vysoty. Stikhi* [*Altitude Increase: Poems*] (1937)  *Skvoz’ grozy let. Stikhi* [*Through Thunderstorms of Years: Poems*](1962)  *Izbrannoe* [*Selections*] (1973)  *Mikhail Zenkevich. Skazochnaia era: stikhotvoreniia, povest’, belletristicheskie memuary* (*Stikhotvoreniia, 1906-1969.* *Na stezhen’*. *Muzhitskii sfinks*) [*Mikhail Zenkevich. A Fairytale Era: Poems, Novella, Belletristic Memoirs (Poems, 1906-1969. To the River Bend. The Peasant Sphinx)*] (1994)  *Al’timetr* [*Altimeter*],in *V. Ia. Briusov i russkii modernizm* [*V. Ia. Briusov and the Russian Modernism*] (2004) Prose *Brat’ia Rait* [*The Wright Brothers*] (1933)  *El’ga. Belletristicheskie memuary* [*Elga: The Belletristic Memoirs*] (1991)  *Na strezhen’* [*To the River Bend*] in *Skazochnaia era: stikhotvoreniia, povest’, belletristicheskie memuary* (1994)  *Muzhitskii Sfinks* [*The Peasant Sphinx*] (1994) Translations *Poety Ameriki, XX vek. Antologiia* [The Poets of America, the 20th Century. An Anthology] (1939)  *Iz amerikanskikh poetov* [*From the American Poets*](1946)  *Amerikanskie poety v perevodakh M. Zenkevicha* [*American Poets Translated by M. Zenkevich*] (1969) |
| Further reading:  (Gumilev)  (Ivanov)  (Lekmanov, Kniga ob akmeizme is drugie raboty)  (Lekmanov, O trekh akmeisticheskikh knigakh: M. Zenkevich, V. Narbut, O. Mandelstam)  (Ozerov)  (Polivanov)  (Timenchik)  (Vodonos)  (Zenkevich, Zenkevich, Mikhail. ‘Mechta poeta neosushchestvima…’)  (Zenkevich, ‘Schast’e – eto solnechnaia mnimaia tochka…’” Mikhail Zenkevich. ‘Al’timetr.’ [‘Happiness is a sunny, illusive speckle …’ Mikhail Zenkevich. ‘Altimeter.’]) |