ASEEV, Nikolai Nikolaiyevich (Николай Николаевич Асеев) (1889-1963)

Influential poet in the early Soviet Union. Born in Lgov, in the province of Kursk, died in Moscow. Studied in Moscow and Kharkov and began publishing poems in 1913 under the influence of both Russian Symbolism and Futurism. In 1916 married Kseniya Mikhailovna Sinyakova, who became a poetic muse, like her sister Zinaida (Boris Pasternak’s second wife). As member of the small Siberian literary group *Creation* (*Tvorchestvo*), wrote early hymns to the revolution. Aseev soon became the best-known follower of Mayakovsky, experimenting with avant-garde sound poetry and other formal innovations. In the early 1920s he published several speculative science-fiction stories. Along with many well-known Soviet writers, he contributed regularly to the influential avant-garde journals *LEF* (1923-25) and *New LEF* (1927-28), where his poetry expressed an enthusiasm for youth and the revolution. Aseev later merged his interest in older lyrical forms such as the ballad and folksong with an embrasure of mainstream socialist realism. His work in the 1940s responded to the Second World War with strong patriotic pathos, and his verse epic “Mayakovsky Begins” won the Stalin State Prize in 1941. He spent most of his adult life in Moscow, where he continued writing until his death.

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*Bomba* (*The Bomb*, 1921)

“Marsh Budennogo” (Budennyi March, 1922)

“Chernyi prints” (The Black Prince, 1924)

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Essays & Criticism:

Dnevnik poeta (*Diary of a Poet*, 1929)

Proza poeta (*The Prose of a Poet*, 1930)

Zachem i komu nuzhna poeziya (*Who Needs Poetry and Why*, 1961)

— Josh Alvizu, Yale University



*Image sources:*  (1) http://www.primwriter.chat.ru/ase.html

(2) http://a-pesni.org/grvojna/poesia/aseev.php