**Khodasevich, Vladislav Felitsianovich (Ходасевич, Владислав 1886-1939)**

Vladislav Khodasevich was one of the preeminent Russian poets and critics of the emigration. Born in Moscow on 28 May 1886 (16 May Old-Style), he began as an acolyte of Valery BRIUSOV and the SYMBOLISTS. His major work begins with *Putem zerna* (*Grain’s Way*, 1920), which demonstrates the irony, detachment and even biliousness that would become his trademark. In 1922 he emigrated with NINA BERBEROVA to Europe where, in poor health, he lived a difficult and peripatetic life for years before settling in Paris. In emigration he released one final collection: *Evropeiskaia noch’* (*European Night*, 1927 as part of his *Sobranie stikhov* [*Collected Verse*]) after which he fell into poetic silence. However, he remained a prolific critic, engaging in a prolonged debate with Georgy Adamovich, among others, over the nature of Russian émigré literature. Khodasevich argued for a closer relationship with the classical Russian tradition rather than the European tradition. He also produced valuable work on the poet Alexander Pushkin, his life-long obsession, and a biography of Derzhavin (1931). His memoirs of the literary figures he knew personally, including Maksim Gorky and Andrei BELY (*Nekropol’* (*Necropolis*), 1939), were published shortly before his death from cancer on 14 June 1939.

Khodasevich before the 1917

Revolution.

**Biographic and Bibliographic Timeline**

1886: Born in Moscow

1905: Marries Marina Ryndina

1908: First collection *Molodost’* (*Youth*) published

1914: *Schastlivyi domik* (*The Happy Little House*) published

1920: *Putem zerna* (*Grain’s Way*) published

1922: *Tiazhelaia lira* (*The Heavy Lyre*) published

1922: Emigrates to Europe with Nina Berberova

1927: *Sobranie stikhov* (*Collected Verse*) published, including *Evropeiskaia noch’* (*European Night*)

1932-33: Separates with Berberova and marries Olga Margolina

1939: Dies in Paris

**Major Works**

**Collected Works**

*Sobranie stikhov* (*Collected Verse*) [1927] (<http://az.lib.ru/h/hodasewich_w_f/text_0080.shtml>, includes the poetry beginning with *Grain’s Way*)

**Poetry Collections**

*Molodost’* (*Youth*) [1908] (<http://az.lib.ru/h/hodasewich_w_f/text_0072.shtml>)

*Schastlivyi domik* (*The Happy Little House*) [1914] (<http://az.lib.ru/h/hodasewich_w_f/text_0480.shtml>)

*Putem zerna* (*Grain’s Way*) [1920]

*Tiazhelaia lira* (*The Heavy Lyre*) [1922]

*Evropeiskaia noch’* (*European Night*) [1927] (published as part of the *Collected Verse*)

**Criticism and Memoirs**

*Derzhavin* [1931]

*O Pushkine* (On Pushkin) [1937]

*Nekropol’* (Necropolis) [1939]

**References and Further Reading**

**Biography**

BETHEA, David (1983) *Khodasevich: His Life and Art*, Princeton: Princeton University Press. Excellent (and only English) full-length biography of Khodasevich of the ‘life and works’ variety.

**Critical Articles**

HUGHES, Robert P. (1977) *The Bitter Air of Exile: Russian Writers in the West 1922-1972*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Edited by Simon Karlinsky and Alfred Appel, Jr. For those unfamiliar with Khodasevich, this is a lovely short introduction to his life, poetry and thought.

MILLER, Jane. (1984) ‘Xodasevič’s Gnostic Exile’, *The Slavic and East European Journal*, 28 (2): 223-233. An enlightening examination of gnostic elements in the later poetry, especially as they relate to Khodasevich’s poetic silence.

KIRILCUK, Alexandra. (2002) ‘The Estranging Mirror: The Poetics of Reflection in the Late Poetry of Vladislav Khodasevich’, *Russian Review*, 61 (3): 377-390. A look at reflective imagery in Khodasevich’s last two collections in the context of émigré debates on the future of Russian literature.

NAFPAKTITIS, Margarita. (2008) ‘Multiple Exposures of the Photographic Motif in Vladislav Khodasevich’s “*Sorrentinskie Fotografii*”’, *The Slavic and East European Journal*, 52 (3): 389-413. A cogent analysis of Khodasevich’s longest poem in light of (then) contemporary theory and practice of photography.

**Photograph**

Khodasevich before the Revolution

Obtained from: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Khodasevich_1_.jpg>