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Konstantin Antonov

**MYSTICAL POETRY AS A FORM OF RELIGIOUS LIFE:
SEMYON FRANK'S ARTICLES ON TYUTCHEV AND RILKE**

Abstract: The article analyzes the methodology and content related aspects of the interpretation of poetic creativity and religious experience of Fyodor Tyutchev and Rainer Maria Rilke in the articles dedicated to these poets by the Russian philosopher Semyon Ludwigoich Frank. The author demonstrates that in his analysis Frank relies on the ideas of Heinrich Rickert, Wilhelm Dilthey, Leo Tolstoy, Friedrich Schleiermacher, William James, Vyacheslav Ivanov, Rudolf Otto, and Friedrich Heiler. From the author's point of view this analysis belongs to the field of phenomenology of religion rather than to the field of philosophical literary studies. In that article, Frank reconstructs the basic elements of the religious life and mystical experience of the poets as they are given in their poetry, emphasizing the unique way in which mystical pantheism and Christianity are combined. The author points to the importance of the thesis defended by Frank on the possibility of an organic and consistent connection of these forms of religious life for the philosopher's own religious thought. The conclusion is made about the importance of Frank's analysis of their religious life for the understanding of their literary work: the disclosure of religious aspects in the motivation of their quests and experiments in the field of poetic language, art form, imagery, and specific ways of poetic "defamiliarization".

Keywords: Semyon Frank, Fyodor Tyutchev, Rainer Maria Rilke, religion, poetry, mystics, pantheism, Christianity, religious experience, phenomenology of religion.

Oksana Nazarova

**ON THE PHENOMENOLOGICAL ESSENCE OF POETRY
(ON THE BASIS OF *THE SPIRITUAL WORLD OF PUSHKIN AND THE
COSMIC SENSE IN TYUTCHEV'S POETRY* BY SEMYON FRANK)**

Abstract: The author argues that Semyon Frank manifested his philosophy in the topical thematic field of Western European philosophy and made his contribution to the development of the phenomenological tradition introducing the original version of the phenomenological method based on "inner self-observation". The author claims that „orientation“ in the atmosphere of the soul being of the author is possible through the unity of experiencing and thinking in the form of antinomistic judgment as „the unity of affirmative and negative judgment“. The author argues that it is in the small forms of Frank's philosophical work – his article, dedicated to the poetic work of Pushkin and Tyutchev – that Frank provides clarification of the "technique" of realization of the phenomenological method, which could be encountered in dispersed observations. The author concludes by suggesting that Frank considers poetry as an ideal phenomenological tool to study such a specific reality as a human soul, since reality „speaks“ through poetry which allows to define it as "concrete, artistic and religious philosophy". The author compares ranks ideas poetry's phenomenological essence with contemporary interpretations of poetry as phenomenology, thus contextualizing Fran's philosophy within the contemporary studies.

Keywords: phenomenology Semyon Frank, Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Tyutchev, phenomenological movement, poetry, Russian poets

Tereza Obolevich
Alla Malkina

ALEKSANDR PUSHKIN AS A PHILOSOPHER IN SEMYON FRANK'S WORKS

Abstract: The article is dedicated to the review of Alexander Pushkin's intellectual heritage as philosophical in Semyon Frank's works. The author provides a short literary and philosophical context of Dmitry Merezhkovsky and Mikhail Gershenzon's influence, on one hand, and polemics with the Soviet Pushkin Studies, on the other. Further on, the author reviews the works of Frank on Pushkin (publications as well as manuscripts) written in Russian and German while being expatriated (1933–1949) as well as his speeches dedicated to Pushkin. The author dwells on five main articles on the topic published posthumously in the miscellany *Essays on Pushkin*. The author claims that taking into account the political background of the 1930s, i.e. *stalinism* in the USSR and coming of Hitler to power in Germany, Pushkin's creativity was re-evaluated by Frank as a spiritual challenge of philosophical personalism. Pushkin in Frank's works appears to be a religious thinker, not a systematical philosopher but a sage. Moreover, Frank analyzes the evolution of Pushkin's political and historiosophical views. Frank's *Pushkiniana* helps to open not only new sides of the poet's creativity, but also Frank's own philosophical position.

Keywords: Semyon Frank, Alexander Pushkin, philosophical aspects of literature, personalism, historiosophy.

Aleksey Gaponenkov

SEMYON FRANK ON GOGOL'S RELIGIOUS VIEW OF LIFE

Abstract: There are two articles of Semyon Frank on Gogol published in German, one of which is translated into Russian. It focuses on a „kind“ of the Gogol's religious view of life, his mystical revelations, and Christian spirit. In it Gogol appears as an artist and Christian combined, a preacher and a life coach. In the article „Nikolaj Gogol als religiöser Geist“ Frank reviews Gogol's psychological portrait, „melancholy mood“, „metaphysical fear“, and the image of Devil in his artworks. Gogol's personality combines a complex interaction of two elements – artistic and religious, two simultaneous pursuits – a search for an artistic truth and the salvation of the world. Frank declares Gogol a „herald of religious renewal“. He calls the writer a founder of metaphysical realism in Russian literature. Gogol's religious awareness as part of the nineteenth-century literary tradition includes a wide range of philosophical and religious knowledge. Frank's article reached the Russian reader at the turn of the 20th and 21st century when Gogol's spiritual drama has been already reconsidered and modern researchers of Gogol's life and work continue to explore the writer's religiousness.

Keywords: Semyon Frank, Nikolai Gogol, religious view of life, Russian spiritual culture, metaphysical realism, religious renewal.

Gennadiy Alyaev

LEO TOLSTOY'S ARTISTIC IDEAS AND IMAGES IN SEMYON FRANK'S PHILOSOPHY

Abstract: The paper focuses on Semyon Frank's references to Leo Tolstoy's works while constructing his philosophical argumentation. Frank criticized Tolstoy as a moral and religious thinker, but highly appreciated his psychological and religious intuition. Frank used the artistic images, created by Leo Tolstoy, when he was elaborating the problems of social psychology, in particular the problems of power and in his essays on philosophical psychology, while examining the order of psychic life, especially the nature of the subconscious. Frank used artistic images, created by Tolstoy and the thoughts on art while creating his theory of artistic knowledge, developing other epistemic questions as well as in his doctrine on philosophical intuition. The author emphasizes that those artistic images had been used not only as illustrations or metaphors, but as valid philosophical arguments. This, in turn, was possible due to the general character of Frank's epistemology, according to which the abstract knowledge relies on the intuition of all-unity and on the living knowledge as the subject-object unity.

Keywords: artistic knowledge, intuition of all-unity, philosophical intuition, social psychology, philosophical psychology, artistic image.

Konstantin Matsan

SEMYON FRANK IN THE LITERARY CRITICISM OF VLADIMIR ILYIN

Abstract: The article attempts to trace the influence of Semyon Ludvigovich Frank in the critical literary practice of Vladimir Nikolaevich Ilyin. Ilyin explicitly refers to Frank in articles devoted to the work of Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Konstantin Sluchevsky, Alexander Blok. Also, the positions of the two thinkers converge in addressing the heritage of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. In the work about Pushkin, Ilyin relies on Frank's position given in the article *Pushkin as a Political Thinker*. Frank's metaphysics and his argumentation, which affirms the reality, the non-illusory nature of the spiritual layer of being along with its visible layer (which coincides, according to Frank, with common sense), turn out to become the basis for Ilyin's interpretation of the image of Svidrigailov in the novel *Crime and Punishment*. Poetry of Konstantin Sluchevsky is considered by Ilyin in the light of Frank's doctrine of being as a "transfinite reality." The poetry of Alexander Blok is analyzed by Ilyin in the light of the Frank's phenomenology of religious experience, which in turn merges with the phenomenology of aesthetic experience. The article offers conclusions: (1) in the works of Ilyin the metaphysics of Frank becomes foundation and optics for the interpretation of literary texts; (2) Vladimir Ilyin's articles can, in turn, be considered as a historical and philosophical commentary on the legacy of Semyon Frank.

Keywords: Semyon Frank, Vladimir Ilyin, Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Konstantin Sluchevsky, Alexander Blok, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Tatyana Rezvykh
Aleksandr Tsygankov

**SEMYON FRANK ON THE UNIQUENESS OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE:
FROM THE PHILOSOPHER'S ARCHIVES**

Abstract: The authors offers to the readers's attention special unpublished archival materials, in particular the German-language synopsis by Semyon Frank *The Uniqueness of Russian Literature* (*Die Eigenart der russ<ischen> Literatur*) with Russian translation and commentary. These materials are stored in the fund of the philosopher in the Bakhmetev archive of Columbia University (New York, USA). The introductory article defines the place that this text occupies in the work of Frank as well as its possible dating. It is established, that the content of the published materials is close to another archival source, the outline of lectures for the Slavic Institute at Berlin University, which were written in 1931-1933 and were entitled by Tatyana Frank *Thoughts on Russian Literature*. The author shows the thematic connection of the synopsis *The Uniqueness of Russian Literature* with the first major German-language world work of the philosopher "Russian Review", published in 1926.

Keywords: Russian philosophical emigration, archival heritage of Semyon Frank, Semyon Frank on Russian literature, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Alexander Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy.

Gennadiy Alyaev
Vladimir Khazan
Vladimir Janzen

**"...OBEYING THE LAWS OF DIVINE LAWLESSNESS":
LEV ZACK, NADEZHDA BRAUDO. LETTERS TO SEMYON FRANK AND
TATIANA FRANK (1923–1953)"**

Abstract: The article is the first attempt to publish the entire corpus of letters by the artist and avant-garde poet Lev (Leon) Zack (1892–1980) to his half-brother, the prominent 20th-century philosopher Semyon Frank (1877–1950). Although fragments of this collection have been published before, the body of letters as a whole has remained inaccessible to readers. This complete unabridged edition, achieves several particularly important goals: a) it enables us to more fully appreciate the strength of the spiritual bond between L. Zack and S. Frank throughout their lives; b) it teaches us a fair amount of new biographical details that flesh out the „works and days” chronicle of the lives of both men (especially that of the letter writer); c) it gives us a fuller and clearer picture of the interaction between the biographical and the artistic substances in the philosophical and creative ideology of L. Zack, whose legacy as a painter, despite fairly extensive study (by French scholars in particular), is still in need of further scholarly analysis and greater popularization (his artistic and poetic oeuvre remains relatively obscure in his own homeland). Finally, this work also has a certain theoretical interest – being an attempt to combine, within the framework of a single family history and the fates of the two brothers, the philosophical and the artistic elements, whose union and synthesis is embodied in the epistolary dialogue between the two. The publication of L. Zak's letters to S. Frank is accompanied by an introductory sketch, while the letters themselves are supplied with extensive notes.

Keywords: Lev Zack, Semyon Frank, biography, correspondence, Judeo-Christian dialog.

Gennadiy Alyaev
Roman Mnich

INSTEAD OF CONCLUSIONS: A CONVERSATION ABOUT SEMYON FRANK

Abstract: The text presents a dialogue between Roman Mnich and Gennady Alyaev dedicated to Semyon Frank (1877-1950), the famous and enigmatic Russian émigré philosopher. The main questions of the dialogue are the relevance of Semyon Frank for current thinking, the specificity of his religious philosophy and the evolution of his worldview, the issue of the relationship between science and religion in his texts, as well as the peculiarity of his literary works.