

Amherst Center for Russian Culture

Andrei Bely Writings

1882-1990
[1926-1939]

Accession Number: CRC92-0007; CRC96-0001

Quantity: 1.5 linear feet

Containers: 3 Archival Boxes
1 Archival Box of Preservation Photocopies

Processed: 1996 February
By: Tanya Chebotarev
Assistant Curator of Russian Collections

Finding Aid:
Date: 1996 March-April

Prepared by: Tanya Chebotarev
Assistant Curator of Russian Collections

Edited by: Stanley Rabinowitz
Director of the Center for Russian Culture

Access: In general, there is no restriction on access to the Andrei Bely Writings for research use. Fragile items may be restricted for preservation reasons.

Copyright: It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of copyrights. Requests for permission to publish material from the collection should be directed to the Director of Amherst Center for Russian Culture.

Andrei Bely Writings

Contents

Chronology.....	3
Scope and Content Note.....	6
Series Description.....	8
History of the Collection.....	11
Box and Folder Listing.....	12-20

Chronology

- 1880 born in Moscow to Nikolai Vasilievich Bugaev and Aleksandra Dmitrievna Bugaeva (nee Egorova) on October 26 (New Style)
- 1891 attended Polivanov's private gymnasium in Moscow
- 1899 enrolled at Moscow University in a course of studies in the natural sciences
- 1902 published *A Symphony (The Second, Dramatic)*
- 1903 graduated from Moscow University
- 1904 published *Gold in Azure* (first book of poetry), *Northern Symphony (The First, Heroic)*, *A Luminous Fairy Tale* and a number of articles
- 1904 enrolled for a second degree in philosophy at Moscow University which he never completed
- 1905 published *The Return: The Third Symphony*
- 1905 met A. Turgeneva
- 1906 left Russia
- 1906 lived in Munich and Paris
- 1907 arrived at St. Petersburg
- 1908 published *A Goblet of Blizzards: The Fourth Symphony*
- 1908 published second book of poetry, *Ashes*
- 1909 fell in love with A. Turgeneva
- 1909 published third book of poetry, *The Urn*

Andrei Bely Writings

- 1909 published *The Silver Dove*, intended as the first part of a trilogy to be entitled *East or West*
- 1910 published two books of articles, *Symbolism* and *The Green Meadow*
- 1910 departed for Italy, Africa, and the Middle East, accompanied by A. Turgeneva
- 1911 returned to Russia
- 1911 published collection of essays, *Arabesques*
- 1912 departed for Brussels with A. Turgeneva
- 1912 attended R. Steiner's lecture in Cologne; passion for Anthroposophy
- 1912-1916 settled in the Anthroposophy colony in Dornach, near Basel, to help build the Goetheaneum, the center of Anthroposophy
- 1912-1916 worked on novel, *Petersburg*
- 1914 married A. Turgeneva
- 1915-1918 worked on *Kotik Letaev*, autobiographical novel
- 1916 returned to Russia without A. Turgeneva
- 1916 published novel *Petersburg* as a separate book
- 1917 became good friends with K. N. Vasilieva
- 1917 worked on *Glossolalia: A Poem About Sound*
- 1918 published *Kotik Letaev* and book of poetry, *The Star*
- 1918-1919 worked at Proletkult, training of cadres of Soviet writers
- 1918-1921 worked on *Notes of an Eccentric*

Andrei Bely Writings

- 1919 published *Christ is Risen* and *The Princess and Her Knights*
- 1920 worked on *The Transgression of Nikolai Letaev (The Christened Chinaman)*
- 1921 death of A. Blok; worked on *Remembrances of Blok*
- 1921 departed for Berlin
- 1922 separated from A. Turgeneva
- 1922 published *The Transgression of Nikolai Letaev (The Christened Chinaman)*
- 1923 K. N. Vasilieva arrived in Berlin
- 1923 worked on his own memoirs *The Beginning of the Century*
- 1923 returned to Russia
- 1924 worked on novel *Moscow*
- 1925 finished novel *Moscow*
- 1926-1934 worked on *The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit* which was never published
- 1927 published second part of *Moscow*
- 1928 published *Rhythm as Dialectic*
- 1928 worked on *Reminiscences on R. Steiner*
- 1929-1930 worked on novel *Masks* and published *On the Border of Two Centuries*
- 1931 worked on *The Calls of Time*
- 1931 K. N. Vasilieva's was arrested and released after several months

Andrei Bely Writings

- 1931 married K. N. Vasilieva
- 1932 worked on *Beginning of the Century* and *Between Two
Revolutions*; finished *Masks*
- 1933 published *Masks* and *Beginning of the Century*
- 1934 died of a cerebral hemorrhage
- 1935 *Between Two Revolutions* was published

Scope and Content Note

The Andrei Bely Writings represent a small but very important portion of the A. Bely (1880-1934) corpus of writing. Andrei Bely (pseudonym for Boris Nikolaevich Bugaev) - Russian Symbolist poet and prosaist, literary critic and major theoretical and philosophical thinker - was a key figure in early twentieth century modernism. His critical and theoretical writings are as wide ranging in subject as they are ample in quantity. The present collection reflects A. Bely's creative efforts during the last eight years of his life.

The 1.5 linear feet of materials include: handwritten copy of Bely's unfinished manuscript The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit; published fragment from the same manuscript; typewritten copy of the first volume of A. Bely's poetry; page proofs of one volume edition; photographs; preservation photo copies. The bulk of the material is written in Russian, and a small amount is in German. The materials date from 1882 until 1990, the bulk of the collection dating from 1926 to 1939.

After Bely's death on January 8, 1934, K. N. Bugaeva (1886-1970), who was his constant companion and then wife for the last eleven years of his life, devoted her life to his legacy. She labored for years on a series of indexes of epithets, neologisms, and word-usage in Bely's voluminous works. She gathered and catalogued his manuscripts and correspondence and prepared a detailed description of his entire output. She supervised the few publications of his works after his death and painstakingly preserved his extensive archives.

The most significant series in the collection is Series I - The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit ("Istoriia stanovleniia samosoznaiushchei dushi") - a copy of A. Bely's manuscript transcribed by K. N. Bugaeva from the original. This copy was made because of Bely's extremely illegible handwriting, which became progressively worse each year, and the only one who could decipher his writing was K. N. Bugaeva. After the copy was made, K. N. Bugaeva sold the last (third) part of Bely's autograph to the Lenin Library manuscript division in Moscow (now Russian State Library) and destroyed the first two parts.

This pivotal work reflects Bely's intensive effort to formulate a complete world view, a system that will essentially explain, or begin to explain, the entire world as it is both revealed to, and concealed from, man. The manuscript is still unpublished.

Series II - The Calls of Time ("Zovy vremen") - represents the typewritten copy of the first volume of poetry, compiled by Bely in 1931. He dedicated this future edition to his wife K. N. Bugaeva "without whom the editing of the texts would not have been possible".

Andrei Bely Writings

Series III - Collected Poems ("Sobranie stikhotvorenii") - consists of the page proofs of the one volume edition (Moscow-Leningrad, Academia, 1935) which was banned by the Soviet censors. It represents an attempt to expand and "update" the 1923 Berlin edition of Bely's verse. Only the introduction, written by Anatolii Tarasenkov, ever appeared in print, and that only in 1956 in his Poetry ("Poeziia A. Belogo", 275-319). These page proofs, which were in K. N. Bugaeva's possession, consisted originally of 528 pages, of which 91 pages did not survive. The commentaries compiled by K. N. Bugaeva especially for this edition provide an ideal opportunity to restore the missing pages.

Series IV - Photographs - includes four copies of photographs of A. Bely and K. N. Bugaeva.

Related Material: The Amherst Center for Russian Culture has information about A. Bely beyond that found in this collection. Sources include: Zinaida Gippius and Dmitrii Merezhkovskii Papers. Contact the Amherst Center for Russian Culture for further information.

Related materials can be also found in the Russian State Library in Moscow and in the St. Petersburg Public Library.

Series Description

The collection is organized into four series:

- I. **The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit**, 1926-1990
- II. **The Calls of Time**, 1929-1931
- III. **Collected Poems**, 1932-1935
- IV. **Photographs**, 1882-1968

Series I, **the History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit ("Istoriia Stanovleniia Samosoznaiushchei Dushi")**, 1926-1990 [1926-1939], 0.5 linear feet. The material in this series consists of an unfinished manuscript by A. Bely, which was transcribed by his wife, K. N. Bugaeva, and is still unpublished. Also included are K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the manuscript, explanations of the special terminology, her notes regarding the creative prehistory of the manuscript, outlines and diagrams. The series is further divided into five subseries: Historical part of the manuscript with subtitle "Finished part of the manuscript", Theoretical (philosophical) part of the manuscript with subtitle "From the 1926 draft", Drafts of the second volume of The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit, K.N. Bugaeva's notes on The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit, and Published fragment from the manuscript.

Subseries 1, Historical part of the manuscript with subtitle "Finished part of the manuscript", [1926], 7 folders, contains the first part of the first volume and is arranged by consecutive chapters.

Subseries 2, Theoretical (philosophical) part of the manuscript with subtitle "From the 1926 draft", 1926, 2 folders, includes the second part of the first volume and is arranged by consecutive chapters.

Subseries 3, Drafts of the second volume of the History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit, [1927-1934], 4 folders, consists of an unfinished manuscript, some parts of which were rewritten and included in the first volume. The subseries is arranged by consecutive chapters.

Andrei Bely Writings

Subseries 4, K. N. Bugaeva's notes on The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit, [1937-1939], 3 folders, contains fragments of commentaries, explanations, notes, outlines and diagrams written by Bely's wife. The subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subseries 5, Published fragment from the manuscript, 1990, 1 folder, includes the literary almanac "Laterna Magica".

Series II, **the Calls of Time ("Zovy Vremen")**, 1931, 0.2 linear feet consists of the typewritten (first) copy of the first volume of A. Bely's poetry, which was prepared for publication in 1931. It starts with an introduction compiled by Bely himself and is arranged by consecutive units.

Series III, **Collected Poems ("Sobranie Stikhotvorenij")**, 1932-1935, 0.72 linear feet, contains Bely's autobiography transcribed by K. N. Bugaeva, her commentaries on the separate chapters of the Collected Poems and page proofs of the present edition. The series is divided into five subseries: Autobiography and introductory article, K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the separate chapters of the Collected Poems, K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the Addendum to the Collected Poems, Texts of the poems included in Addendum to the Collected Poems, and Page proofs.

Subseries 1, Autobiography and introductory article, 1932-1934, 3 folders, contains A. Bely's auto biography and editorial explanation of guidelines for the compilation of the present edition. The subseries is arranged in chronological order.

Subseries 2, K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the separate chapters of the Collected Poems, 1934, 10 folders, includes detailed commentaries on each poem, which are often written on both sides of the page. The commentaries not only contain the date and time of publication of each poem, but all the variants. This series is arranged by consecutive chapters of the present edition.

Subseries 3, K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the Addendum to the Collected Poems, 1934, 5 folders. This subseries is arranged by consecutive chapters of the present edition.

Subseries 4, Texts of the poems included in Addendum to the Collected Poems, 1934, 5 folders, contains poems transcribed by K. N. Bugaeva and is arranged by consecutive chapters of the present edition.

Subseries 5, Page proofs, 1934, 7 folders, consists of incomplete page proofs and is arranged by consecutive chapters of the present edition.

Andrei Bely Writings

Series IV, **Photographs**, 1882-1968, 0.08 linear feet, includes four photographs.

History of the Collection

The collection was purchased from Russian poet and journalist P. Vegin in 1992. P. Vegin was a friend and supporter of Klavdiia Nikolaevna Bugaeva (1886-1970), Andrei Bely's widow. After K. N. Bugaeva's death her close friend, Elena Vasilievna Nevejnova, a teacher who "literally saved her" (Klavdiia Nikolaevna was totally paralyzed and bed-ridden for the last seventeen years of her life), gave these materials to P. Vegin.

In 1996 P. Vegin donated to the Center four photographs which were incorporated into the collection.

Andrei Bely Writings

Series 1, The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit,

1926-1990 (Preservation Photocopies)

<u>Box</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Folder</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
			<i>Historical part of the manuscript with subtitle "Finished part of the manuscript":</i>
			Chapter 1 <i>"Christianity as a turning point in history":</i>
1	1	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 1-50, 56s
	2	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 51-100, 50s
	3	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 101-159, 59s
			Chapter 2 <i>"Decay of classical antiquity":</i>
	4	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 1-37, 76s
	5	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 38-75, 76s
			Chapter 3 <i>"Arabs"</i>
	6	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 1-59, 119s
			Chapter 4 <i>"Period of scholastics 12th and 13th centuries"</i>
	7	[1926]	Holograph, pp. 1-64, 129s
			<i>Theoretical (philosophical) part of the manuscript with subtitle "From the 1926 draft":</i>
	8	1926	Holograph, pp. 1-68, 137s
	9	1926	Holograph, pp. 69-114, 91s
			<i>Drafts of the second volume of <u>The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit</u>.</i>

Andrei Bely Writings

Series 1, **The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit**,
1926-1990 (Preservation Photocopies)

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
	10	[1927-1934]	Holograph, pp. 1-60, 126s
	11	[1927-1934]	Holograph, pp. 61-112, 104s
1	12	[1927-1934]	Holograph, pp. 113-171, 118s
	13	[1927-1934]	Holograph, pp. 172-225, 107s
<i>K. N. Bugaeva's notes on <u>The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit</u>:</i>			
	14	[1937-1939]	Explanations regarding creative prehistory of the manuscript holograph, 4s
		[1937-1939]	Fragments of commentaries on the manuscript holograph, 4s
	15	[1937-1939]	Fragment entitled "For explanations of the special terminology of <u>The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit</u> " holograph, 1s
		[1937-1939]	Fragments in the form of diary entries entitled "For explanations of the special terminology of <u>The History of the Evolution of the Self-knowing Spirit</u> " holograph, 181s in Russian, 138s in German
	16	[1937-1939]	Outlines and diagrams holograph, 18s
<i>Published fragment from the manuscript:</i>			
	17	1990	"Self-knowing Spirit" ("Dusha samosoznaiushchaia"), published in literary almanac "Laterna Magica", Moscow: Prometheus 1990, pp. 278-310

Andrei Bely Writings
 Series 2, The Calls of Time (Zovy Vremen), 1931

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1931	"Instead of a Foreword" ("Vmesto predislovia") introduction by A. Belyj, typescript for typesetting, pp. 1-12, 13s
	2	1931	Unit 1 "Brightness of the Summer" ("Letnie bleski"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 12-58, 48s
	3	1931	Unit 2 "Tremble" ("Trepeten"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 59-91, 33s
	4	1931	Unit 3 "Return" ("Vozvrat"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 92-132, 41s
	5	1931	Unit 4 "Blank verses" ("Belye stikhi"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 133-165, 33s
	6	1931	Unit 5 "Contours of the Shades" ("Cherch tenej"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 166-202, 37s
	7	1931	Unit 6 "Exodus" ("Iskhod"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 203-224, 22s
	8	1931	Unit 7 "Lightnings of the Years" ("Molnii let"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 225-245, 21s
	9	1931	Unit 8 "Christ is Risen" ("Khristos voskres"), typescript for typesetting, pp. 246-265, 20s

Andrei Bely Writings
 Series 3, **Collected Poems**, 1932-1935

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
<i>Autobiography and introductory article:</i>			
2	10	1932	"Autobiography" copy of Bely's autobiography transcribed by K. N. Bugaeva, holograph, 16s
	11	1934	"From the Editors" ("Ot redaktsii") draft fragments, holograph, 13s
	12	1934	"From the Editors" ("Ot redaktsii") detailed explanations of guidelines for the compilation of the present edition, holograph, 23s
<i>K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the separate chapters of the <u>Collected Poems</u>:</i>			
	13	1934	"Gold in Azure" ("Zoloto v lazuri") holograph for typesetting with several unidentified typed fragments on versos, 135s
	14	1934	"Ashes" ("Pepel") holograph for typesetting, 74s
	15	1934	"Now and Before" ("Prezhde i teper") holograph for typesetting, 22s
	16	1934	"The Urn" ("Urna") holograph for typesetting, 89s
	17	1934	"Christ is Risen" ("Khristos voskres") holograph for typesetting, 2s
			clippings from the journals "Nash put'" and "Znamia truda"
	18	1934	"The Princess and Her Knights" ("Korolevna i rytsari") holograph for typesetting, 12s
	19	1934	"The Star" ("Zvezda") cover page and holograph for typesetting, 35s

Andrei Bely Writings
Series 3, **Collected Poems**, 1932-1935

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	20	1934	"First Rendezvous" ("Pervoe svidanie") holograph for typesetting, 4s
		1934	"After Parting" ("Posle razluki") holograph for typesetting, 16s
<i>K. N. Bugaeva's commentaries on the <u>Addendum to the Collected Poems</u>:</i>			
	21	1934	"Gold in Azure" ("Zoloto v lazuri") holograph for typesetting, 22s
			Remarks on the content of the volume on verso of the second page, 1s
	22	1934	"Ashes" ("Pepel") holograph for typesetting, 35s
	23	1934	"The Urn" ("Urna") holograph for typesetting, 5s
	24	1934	"Poetic Fragments from the Prose" ("Stikhotvornye otryvki iz prozaicheskikh proizvedenij") holograph for typesetting, 17s
	25	1934	Poems not included in the published collections of poems holograph for typesetting, 7s
		1934	Fragments from the autographs kept at A. Blok Papers in Shakhmatovo holograph, 14s
<i>Texts of the poems included in <u>Addendum to the Collected Poems</u>:</i>			
	26	1934	"Gold in Azure" ("Zoloto v lazuri") holograph for typesetting, 88s
	27	1934	"Ashes" ("Pepel") holograph for typesetting, 24s
	28	1934	"The Urn" ("Urna") holograph for typesetting, 20s

Andrei Bely Writings
Series 3, **Collected Poems**, 1932-1935

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	29	1934	"Poetic Fragments from the Prose" ("Stikhotvornye otrivki iz prozaicheskikh proizvedenii") holograph for typesetting, 75s
	30	1934	Poems not included in the published collections of poems holograph for typesetting, 26s
<i>Page proofs:</i>			
3	1	1935	"The Poetry of A. Bely" ("Poezia Andreia Belogo) an article by A. Tarasenkov, 48 pages (pp. 7-48)
	2	1935	"From the Editors" ("Ot redaktsii"), 13 pages (pp. 49-61) "Autobiography" incomplete text, 2 pages (pp. 62-64)
	3	1935	Chapter "The Urn" ("Urna") incomplete text, 68 pages (pp. 155-222) Title page of the chapter "Christ is Risen" ("Khristos voskres"), 1 page
	4	1935	Chapters "Christ is Risen"("Khristos voskres"), "The Princess and Her Knights" ("Korolevna i rytsari"), and beginning of "First Rendezvous" ("Pervoe svidanie"), 110 pages (pp. 225-336)
	5	1935	Continuation of "First Rendezvous" ("Pervoe svidanie"), chapter "After Parting" ("Posle razlukii") and beginning of "Addendum to the Collected Poems" ("Dopolneniia k sbornikam stikhov"), 61 pages (pp. 337-400)
	6	1935	Continuation of "Addendum to the Collected Poems" ("Dopolneniia k sbornikam stikhov") "Gold in Azure" ("Zoloto v lazuri"), "Ashes" ("Pepel"), and "The Urn" ("Urna"), 80 pages (pp. 401-480)

Andrei Bely Writings
Series 3, **Collected Poems**, 1932-1935

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	7	1935	Continuation of "Addendum to the Collected Poems" ("Dopolneniia k sbornikam stikhov") "The Urn" ("Urna") and "Poetic Fragments from the Prose" ("Stikhotvornye otryvki iz prozaicheskikh proizvedenii"), 44 pages (pp. 481-528)
	8	n.d.	Folder made of cloth, which belonged to A. Bely

Andrei Belyi Writings
Series 4, **Photographs**, 1882-1968

<u>Box</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Folder</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	9	1882-1885	A. Bely copies of two photographs
		[1960]-1968	K. N. Bugaeva copies of two photographs

Andrei Bely Writings
Restricted Fragile Papers

Box
No.

Description

4

Preservation photocopies