

her early work is certainly worthy of more than passing interest, it is in her later poetry, especially in *Requiem* and *Poem Without a Hero*, that her voice reached beyond itself. The power is indeed present in her earlier works, but we now perceive it from the vantage point of her later writing.

Driver relies heavily on a number of articles and books written long before Akhmatova's final maturity, by Eikhenbaum, Zhirmunsky, and others. Adherence to these relatively few early critical appraisals, however, can hardly account for the astonishing statement (p. 47) that Kuzmin's "poetic talents dwindled rapidly" after 1911! There are a number of inaccuracies here and there but nothing quite on the order of the dwindled talents of the author of *Forel' razbivaet lëd*.

One hopes that Driver will now give us another general study, so much needed, on the later poetry of Akhmatova—but one less constrained by preconceived procedures and with more of his own obvious devotion to the poet in it.

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GRAMMAIRE DU VIEUX-RUSSE. By *Jean-Yves Le Guillou*. *Études linguistiques*, 12. Paris: Éditions Klincksieck, 1972. x, 108 pp. Paper.

Unable to find a simple work suitable for his students, Le Guillou wrote this slim volume, purposefully avoiding "accumulations of facts, examples, citations of variants, references to numerous texts" (p. vii). Unfortunately, the texts we call OR represent a vast range of compromises between a series of local East Slavic dialects of different periods and the semiforeign Church Slavonic that was on the whole the accepted standard. A kind of triangulation, based on detailed descriptions of OCS and modern Russian, has proved to be the most effective frame of reference for introducing students to these texts. But it is precisely the details and the variants which must be mastered if one is to learn to read and interpret OR texts in any serious way. There can be no real simplification for such complex matters.

That it is possible to provide a concise introduction which minimizes the OCS and banks heavily on modern Russian was shown by A. S. Nikulin, whose imperfect but usable *Istoricheskaia grammatika russkogo iazyka* (Leningrad, 1941) gives the basic information with the most important details, plus annotated texts and a glossary, all in 96 pages. Le Guillou, on the other hand, has eliminated much of the required data and obscured a good deal of the rest. Though a product of the Sorbonne, he is untouched by the spirit of Meillet and Vaillant and apparently innocent of elementary linguistics. His superfluous remarks about phonetics could be condensed and clarified by a single table (pp. 14–15). Little can be done about his unclear and misleading statements about phonology, morphology, syntax, and historical evolution. A single example: his final subparagraph on the imperfect states, "Éventuellement: première palatalisation des vélares, dentales et des labiales" (p. 84); his sole example, ХОЖАХЪ from ХОДИТИ. Alas, (1) the alternation of Ж with Д is not the "first palatalization," but iotation (and Le Guillou specifically mentions the theoretical *j*—"ХОД-[J]А-ХЪ"), and (2) such an imperfect is a Slavonicism in OR, for despite the Slavonicizing scribes it is clear that the native forms were of the type ХОДЯХЪ, phonetically [xod'axъ] or [xod'äxъ]. When such an important matter as the semantic difference between short and long adjectives is omitted, why provide curiosities a student surely will not encounter in a text

(e.g., the numeral МЕОДРЪ 'million,' p. 59) ? One regrets that the funds of the Conseil des Arts du Canada were spent on this flimsy work by the Conseil Canadien de Recherches sur les Humanités.

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THE GREEK PROTHETIC VOWEL. By *William F. Wyatt, Jr.* Philological Monographs of the American Philological Association, no. 31. Cleveland: Press of Case Western Reserve University, 1972. xvii, 124 pp. \$10.00.

If, like Wyatt, one rejects the notion that PIE possessed laryngeal consonants, he must offer alternative analyses for those phenomena which laryngeals are invoked to explain. This work is an attempt to account for the Greek prothetic vowels as a purely internal Greek matter—in opposition to the now dominant view which holds them to be reflexes of PIE initial laryngeals before consonants.

Any account of the prothetic vowels must account for two facts: (1) not all words with initial resonants in other IE languages show a prothetic vowel in Greek; and (2) the prothetic vowel may be /e/, /o/, or /a/. Wyatt assumes that some initial resonants were devoiced under certain conditions and that, at a later date, the voiced resonants developed a prothetic schwa. Subsequently the voiced and voiceless resonants fell together and the prothetic schwa became /e/, /o/, or /a/ depending on what followed the resonant.

The rules (of which there are sixteen) that describe these developments are ad hoc and artificial. Even Wyatt admits to having difficulty in suggesting a plausible phonetic basis for them. That he can fashion environments at all for his rules is the result, it seems to me, of certain accidental gaps in the Greek lexicon. A telling point against Wyatt's whole position would be a comparison of his ingenious but arbitrary rules with the straightforward ones assumed by the laryngealists to explain the same data. There is no question that the latter is the more elegant solution, and it would seem the more insightful one as well. Also, Wyatt's explanation will only explain the Greek data, whereas the laryngealist position provides insights into such phenomena as compound-lengthening in Sanskrit as well.

The book is interesting and stimulating as a tour de force but, in the end, not very convincing.

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SYMPOSIA

FORSCHUNGEN ZUR OSTEUEOPÄISCHEN GESCHICHTE: WERNER PHILIPP ZUM 65. GEBURTSTAG VON SEINEN SCHÜLERN. Edited by *Klaus Meyer* and *Hans-Joachim Torke*. Osteuropa-Institut an der Freien Universität Berlin, Historische Veröffentlichungen, Herausgegeben von *Mathias Bernath* und *Werner Philipp*, vol. 20. Berlin: In Kommission bei Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, 1973. 151 pp. Paper.

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