

Antizvorlds
Andrei Voznesensky

Antizvorlds

Andrei Voznesensky

IC
KS

Antiworlds

POETRY BY

Andrei Voznesensky

At thirty-three, Andrei Voznesensky has already achieved both national and international fame.

In Russia, his poetry readings have drawn audiences as large as 14,000 and his most recent book has had 300,000 advance subscribers. In April 1966, he completed a three-week tour of the United States, where he read before large and enthusiastic audiences in New York, Chicago, Washington, and San Francisco.

Although he was a protégé of Boris Pasternak, Voznesensky's idiom is completely original and contemporary; indeed, he can be called Russia's first modern poet.

The publication of *Antiworlds* represents a remarkable achievement in the art of translation. Six American poets—W. H. Auden, Jean Garrigue, Stanley Kunitz, Stanley Moss, William Jay Smith, and Richard Wilbur—were given literal translations and prosodic models of the poems by Max Hayward. As the poets created English equivalents, Mr. Hayward continued to interpret for them the sense, the sound, and the associations of the originals.

Faithful to Voznesensky's meaning and intent, the results are splendid English poems in their own right, worthy of joining the main body of American poetry. Indeed, the entire endeavor is a unique tribute by contemporaries and peers to a modern poet of another culture.

Translated by

W. H. AUDEN

JEAN GARRIGUE

MAX HAYWARD

STANLEY KUNITZ

STANLEY MOSS

WILLIAM JAY SMITH

RICHARD WILBUR

Poetry by

ANTIWORLDS

ANDREI VOZNESENKY

Edited by PATRICIA BLAKE *and* MAX HAYWARD

With a Foreword by W. H. AUDEN

BASIC BOOKS, INC., *Publishers* New York

© 1966 BY BASIC BOOKS, INC.

© 1963 BY ENCOUNTER LTD.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG CARD NUMBER: 66-19927

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

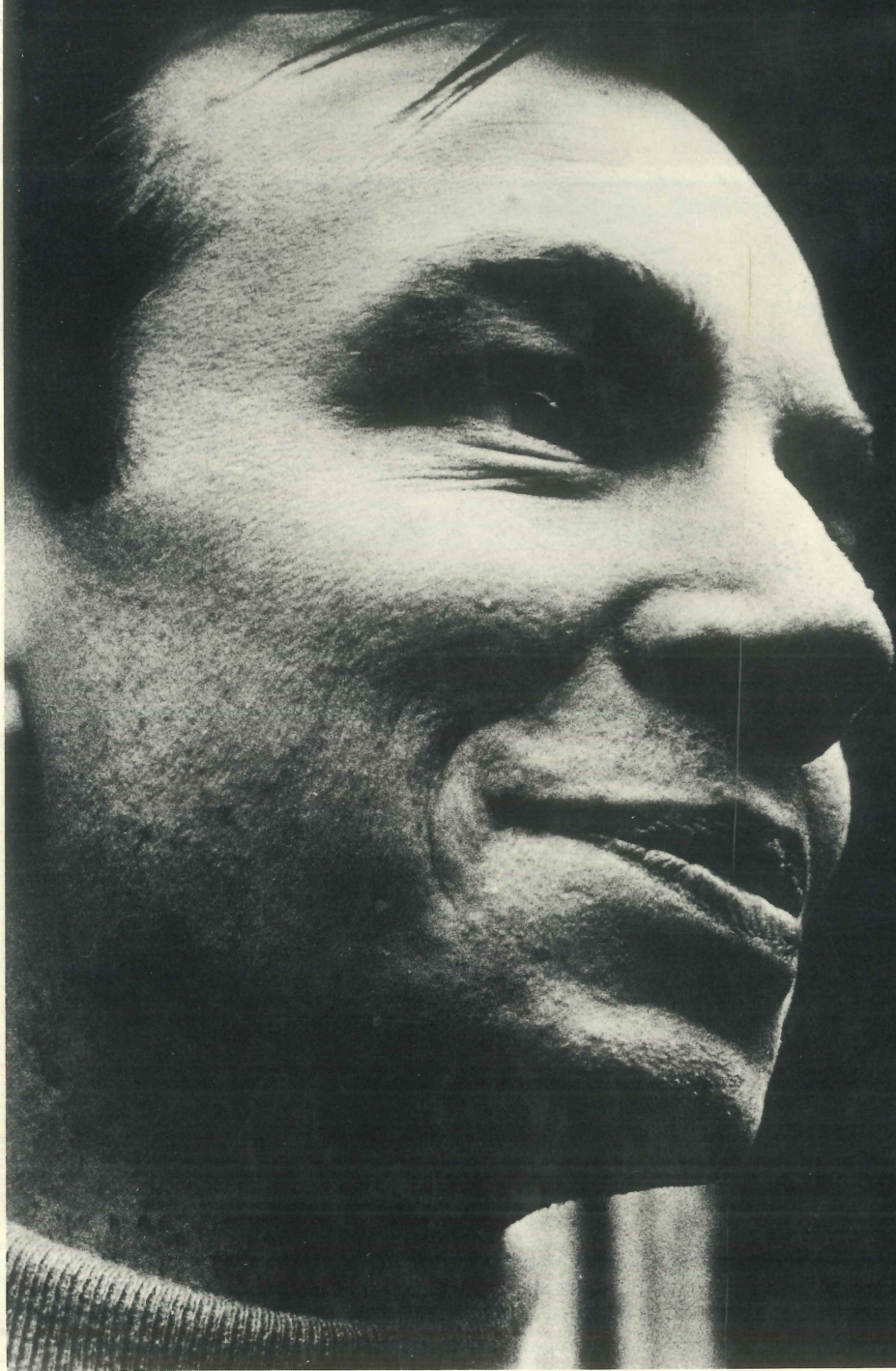
ROBERT LOWELL
on Andrei Voznesensky

Voznesensky comes to us with the careless gaiety of the Twenties and Apollinaire. Surrealism sprouts from his fingertips: birds with aluminum bodies and women's faces, houses losing their walls, men losing their skins, a girl who sees the past as the future, and noses that go on growing all night. He writes about buildings, the New York airport, the Paris flea market, the days of Stalin, striptease girls, and Tolstoy....

He is a difficult poet and the disciple of difficult poets, yet he moves large audiences, and I think this has encouraged him to give an immediate spoken vitality to his surprising thoughts and most ingenious images. "We were not born to survive, alas," he says, "but to step on the gas." Often he is stepping it up, but more often still, and frequently in quick shifts of tone, he has the steady sorrowing sympathy of Pasternak and Chekhov.... He is full of invention, fireworks, and humor... a first-rate craftsman who has had the heroic patience and imagination to be himself.

The Editors

PATRICIA BLAKE, American journalist, critic, and specialist in Russian literature, is the editor of *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry* by Vladimir Mayakovsky and co-editor, with Max Hayward, of *Dissonant Voices in Soviet Literature* and *Halfway to the Moon: New Writing from Russia*. MAX HAYWARD, the English linguist and scholar, is a Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. He is translator of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and other books, co-translator of *Dr. Zhivago*, and co-editor of *Literature and Revolution in Soviet Russia 1917-1962*.



Andrei Voznesensky

BASIC BOOKS, INC., PUBLISHERS / NEW YORK