

VOZNESENSKY

selected poems

Authorized Translation, with Introduction and
Notes, by HERBERT MARSHALL



\$4.50

VOZNESENSKY: SELECTED POEMS

**Authorized translation,
with introduction and notes,**

by HERBERT MARSHALL

Illustrated with 4 pages of photographs

Andrey Voznesensky is one of the outspoken young poets writing in the Soviet Union today. He, like many other writers in his generation including Yevgeny Yevtushenko, has achieved international fame. Voznesensky has dared to speak out, to criticize the Soviet regime. He is particularly concerned with the plight of the artist in Russia, with the admonitions, condemnations, persecutions, and executions that the Soviet government has visited upon its writers and artists.

But Voznesensky's poetry is interesting to Western readers not only for its boldness and daring but also for its intrinsic artistic merit. He has been called the first truly modern poet in Soviet Russia. He experiments with meter, rhyme, and form. He has written, "Rhyme has become boring. Every fifth-former can rhyme brilliantly. In our poetry, the future is with the

(Continued on back flap)

*Jacket photograph: Sovfoto
Jacket design by Saul Lambert*

Other translations by Herbert Marshall

Mayakovsky

Yevtushenko: Selected Poems

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Mr. Andrey Voznesensky has asked us to state that, although he gave his authorization to Herbert Marshall to undertake the translations in this volume, he neither saw nor gave his approval to the Introduction or Notes before they went to press. The statements and conclusions in them are solely those of Mr. Marshall.

VOZNESENSKY:

Selected Poems

Authorized Translation, with Introduction and Notes,

by HERBERT MARSHALL



HILL AND WANG • New York

Copyright © 1966 by Herbert Marshall

All rights reserved

Library of Congress catalog card number: 66-15896

First edition April 1966

*Manufactured in the United States of America
by American Book-Stratford Press, Inc.*

Designed by Bert Clarke

Contents

The Poet in Russia ix

MOSAIC*

A Parabolic Ballad	3
The Ballad of the Full-Stop	5
Recital on a Building Site	6
Who Are You?	7
The Artist	9
To Victor Bokov	10
I—Am Goya!	11
The Foggy Street	12
Autumn	14
The New Year Tree	16
The Last Trolley Bus	18
The Masters	20

THE TRIANGULAR PEAR**

<i>Author's Introduction</i>	33
The Night Airport in New York	34
Introductory	37

* Published by Vladimir Knizhnoye Izdatelstvo (Vladimir Book Publishing House) in Vladimir, RSFSR, 1960. Edition of 5,000.

** Published by Sovietsky Pisatel (Publishing House of Soviet Writers), Moscow, 1962. Edition of 50,000.

Still Introductory	39
Striptease	41
Digression into the Seventeenth Century—A Ballad of Beheading	42
Digression for Voice and Drums—Negroes Sing	44
A New York Bird	46
Anti-Worlds: Ironically Philosophic	48
For the Evening	50
The Guitar	51
Autumn in Sigulda	52
Digressions in the Form of Beatniks' Monologues	55
An Obligatory Digression	59
A Digression in the Form of a Motor Race on a Vertical Wall	62
Auto-Digression	64
A Digression, in Which Angler Bokov Cooks the Soup	65
The Rublyov Highway	67
Student, Mischievous—Fire at the Architectural Institute	68
The Lilac "Moscow-Warsaw"	71
Digression on Private Property	73
Georgian Birch Trees	75
Digression in the Rhythm of Rock 'n' Roll	77
The Lenin Sequoia	81

ANTI-WORLDS*

Monologue of Marilyn Monroe	91
-----------------------------	----

* Published by Molodaya Gvardia (The Young Guard Publishing House), Moscow, 1964. Edition of 60,000.

POETS AND AIRPORTS

- Mayakovsky in Paris 97
With the Burning Wasps of Windows 100
Night 100
Lyrical Religion 101
Tvardovsky Sang in Nocturnal Florence 103

SNOW SMELLS OF APPLES

- First Ice 109
Bikes 110
Crowns and Roots 111
A Ballad of Work 113

RECENT POEMS

- Oza* 119
Nyeizvestny—Requiem** 120

Notes 125

* Extract from poem "Oza" in *Molodaya Gvardia* ("The Young Guard"), No. 10, 1964.

** Published in magazine, *Yunost* ("Youth"), Moscow, 1965.

(Continued from front flap)

technique of association. . . . Form must be lucid, bottomlessly disturbing, and full of higher meaning, like a sky in which only radar can sense the presence of an airplane." Voznesensky's poetry is controversial in the Soviet Union, but it has attained such heights of artistic achievement that he has been nominated for the Lenin Prize.

In spite of his willingness to criticize, Andrey Voznesensky is a Soviet man and a staunch patriot. Voznesensky stands for freedom of expression and for a relaxation of government controls over the artist. He is also critical of Western societies, including the United States, which he visited in 1961. Herbert Marshall's selection gives ample space to Voznesensky's impressions of America—"gasoline-goaded, godless, baseballed America!" An entire section in this collection is given over to poems about the United States.

Herbert Marshall, an Englishman, lived in the Soviet Union for many years. He studied cinema art under Sergei Eisenstein and is a friend of many Russian writers and artists. His translations of Voznesensky are authorized by the poet. Hill and Wang has also published Mr. Marshall's definitive edition of Mayakovsky's work (see back of jacket).