

Title: Dragomoshchenko's "Nasturtium as Reality" as Metametaphoric Poetry
Author: Gerald Janecek, University of Kentucky

The two main innovative trends in late Soviet poetry, conceptualism and metametaphorism, are generally thought to be based primarily in Moscow, but several original and noteworthy poets in each trend can be found in Petersburg and elsewhere as well. One of the most important of these is the hitherto little studied Petersburg poet Arkady Dragomoshchenko, whom one can align to some extent with the metametaphoric trend. His long, twelve-part poem "Nasturtium as Reality" can be seen in fact as a kind of manifesto of the movement. A careful analysis of the poem, with an eye to its unusual features, reveals a fascinating exploration of the generative power of a single image or object and its capacity to link itself with a rich world of associations, as in Mandelstam's "Horseshoe Finder." Yet Dragomoshchenko's dislocations of syntax and the radical shifts of thought and association demonstrate a more avant-garde approach to poetic practice, as might be suggested by the poem's epigraph from Khlebnikov. The thoroughness with which Dragomoshchenko explores the possibilities of language at the same time makes this work a programmatic one which both argues for and illustrates a special kind of poetics. The work's dedication to the American poet Lyn Hejinian of the Language School and Hejinian's translation of the poem into English reveal a close affinity of Dragomoshchenko's poetics with that of one of the most advanced trends of recent American poetry. The paper will explore these aspects in greater depth.

Bibliography

Dragomoshchenko, A. «Настурция, как реальность.» *Небо соответствий. Стихи.* Ленинград: Советский писатель, 1990. 52-68.

-----, "Nasturtium as Reality." Trans. Lyn Hejinian and Elena Balashova. In *Third Wave: The New Russian Poetry*. Ed. Kent Johnson and Stephen M. Ashby. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1992. 71-87.