

Title: William James (*Principles of Psychology*) and the Education of Alisa Rosenbaum (Ayn Rand)  
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In the spring of 1922, at the conclusion of her first year at the University of Petrograd, Alisa Rosenbaum passed examinations in psychology and logic. Although definitive information about the content of her courses is at best fragmentary, there is some basis for believing that the Russian translation of *Principles of Psychology: A Briefer Course*, by William James, was included in her education, and that her knowledge of it was significant for her.

The first work of James to be translated into Russian was the shorter, textbook version of *Principles of Psychology*. Issued in 1896 as an official publication of the university's Faculty of History and Philology, it was used as a textbook then and for years thereafter. The translator was Ivan Lapshin, lecturer in philosophy and psychology, eventually head of the department. He retained his interest in James; his translation of *Some Problems of Philosophy* appeared in 1923.

Lapshin's name, dated April 7, 1922, appears on the transcript of Alisa Rosenbaum. The young Ayn Rand, evidently, was taught by the first Russian translator of William James, by a man who was about to publish his second translation of James. It is likely, moreover, that the James text book Lapshin had translated was available and relevant to her studies, even if it was not an official university textbook. This paper will discuss the psychological ideas of William James (specifically, regarding moral action) in relation to the philosophical ideas of Ayn Rand, with attention to the implications of his chapter on "Will."

#### Bibliography

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Joravsky, David. *Russian Psychology: A Critical History*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1989.