

Title: The Symbolist in the Revolution: Valerii Briusov and the Poetics of History
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As one of modernism's notable theoreticians, the poet Valerii Briusov displayed an awareness of the place of art in the broader culture sphere. This paper will offer a reading of Briusov's poetry from 1919–1920 (collected in *В такие дни*) as an extension of the structural and poetic principles that informed Briusov's attempts to create a Symbolist book in the first decade of the century, which are now employed to aestheticize post-revolutionary life and culture. Briusov's views on poetics, literary history, and the place of a unified presentation of his aesthetics were articulated from the start of his literary career in the 1890s. However, over the course of his experience as the de facto organizer and editor of the Russian Symbolists, he would come to redefine his approach to fashioning the poet's persona with an increased emphasis on biographical and bibliographical considerations. His plans for assembling a Complete Collected Works in 1913 and contributions to Vengerov's *Russian Literature of the Twentieth-Century* (1914–18) were notable intermediary steps in Briusov's attempts to impose historical and personal forces on the notion of the modernist poet. With the Bolshevik revolution and Briusov's aspirations to play a role in the new regime's cultural sphere, his poetry can be read as an attempt to reconcile this new historical situation with the poetic tenets of modernism that he had expressed two and a half decades earlier.