

Title: History and Form: The Search for Authenticity and Artyom Vesoly's *Russia Washed By Blood*

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Abstract:

Artyom Vesoly's major work *Russia Washed By Blood* was the writer's long term project that he eventually published as a novel, even though it is basically a collection of different fragments that he tried to unite into a single narrative. Vesoly's biography is a good example of the transformation of the consciousness under the influence of the October Revolution and the Civil War. Coming from working class, Vesoly claimed that his mission was to depict the Revolution as the epic collective experience that could be processed and presented as authentic or true. In his struggle for adequate form and style of writing, Vesoly tried to overcome the limitations of the subjective. This symptomatic for the Soviet 1920s tension between reportage-like spontaneity and consciousness of the historical novel as a form, is what this paper is going to focus on.