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## Nabokov and his Fiction: New Perspectives

To mark the centenary of Vladimir Nabokov's birth, this volume brings together the work of eleven of the world's foremost Nabokov scholars offering new perspectives on the writer and his fiction. Their essays cover a broad range of topics and approaches, from close readings of major texts, including *Speak, Memory* and *Pale Fire*, to penetrating discussions of the significant relationship between Nabokov's personal beliefs and experiences and his art. Several of the essays attempt to uncover the artistic principles that underlie the author's literary creations, while others seek to place Nabokov's work in a variety of literary and cultural contexts. Among these essays are a first glimpse at a recently published and little-known work, *The Tragedy of Mr. Morn*, as well as a fresh perspective on Nabokov's most famous novel, *Lolita*. The volume as a whole offers valuable insight into the future direction of Nabokov scholarship.

Julian W. Connolly is Professor of Russian Literature at the University of Virginia. He is author of *Ivan Bunin* (1982) and *Nabokov's Early Fiction: Patterns of Self and Other* (1992), and co-editor of *Studies in Russian Literature in Honor of Vsevolod Setchkarev* (1987), and has published numerous essays and reviews in books and journals.

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*New Perspectives*

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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>A note on the contributors</i>	page vii
<i>A note on transliteration</i>	x
<i>A note on abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
Introduction: Nabokov at 100 <i>Julian W. Connolly</i>	1
PART I: ARTISTIC STRATEGIES AND THEMES	13
1 Setting his myriad faces in his text: Nabokov's authorial presence revisited <i>Gavriel Shapiro</i>	15
2 Vladimir Nabokov and the art of autobiography <i>Galya Diment</i>	36
3 The near-tyranny of the author: <i>Pale Fire</i> <i>Maurice Couturier</i>	54
4 Jewish questions in Nabokov's art and life <i>Maxim D. Shroyer</i>	73
5 "The dead are good mixers": Nabokov's versions of individualism <i>Leona Toker</i>	92
6 Nabokov's trinity (On the movement of Nabokov's themes) <i>Gennady Barabtarlo</i>	109

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 Edited by Julian W. Connolly  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	PART 2: LITERARY AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS	139
7	Nabokov's (re)visions of Dostoevsky <i>Julian W. Connolly</i>	141
8	Her monster, his nymphet: Nabokov and Mary Shelley <i>Ellen Pifer</i>	158
9	Vladimir Nabokov and Rupert Brooke <i>D. Barton Johnson</i>	177
10	Clio laughs last: Nabokov's answer to historicism <i>Alexander Dolinin</i>	197
11	Poshlust, culture criticism, Adorno, and Malraux <i>John Burt Foster, Jr.</i>	216
	<i>Selected bibliography</i>	236
	<i>Index</i>	245

Cambridge University Press  
 978-0-521-29127-9 - Nabokov and his Fiction: New Perspectives  
 Edited by Julian W. Connolly  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

### *A note on the contributors*

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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

*Unknown: Vladimir Nabokov as a Russian Writer* (forthcoming), as well as notes and introductions to Russian publications of Nabokov's fiction.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*A note on the contributors*

ix

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Frontmatter  
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### *A note on transliteration*

The Library of Congress system of transliteration (without diacritics) has been used throughout the bibliographic references and the main text of the essays, with the following exceptions:

For personal names in the main text, the letters ю and я are rendered as “yu” and “ya” at the beginning of the name, and the sequence ий and ый is rendered as “y” at the end of the name, for example, “Yakov,” “Yury,” “Bely”.

The spelling used by Nabokov for names of characters in his works has been retained, for example, “Yasha Chernyshevski” and “Koncheyev”.

We have retained the familiar English spelling of well-known Russian figures, for example, “Tolstoy,” “Gogol,” and friends of Nabokov, for example, “Yuri Rausch von Traubenberg”.

At times, this procedure may have resulted in inconsistencies within individual essays, but, as the editors of *The Cambridge Companion to the Classic Russian Novel* have stated, “this would not mislead anyone who is able to read Russian and would not interest anyone who is not” (*The Cambridge Companion to the Classic Russian Novel*, ed. Malcom V. Jones and Robin Feuer Miller [Cambridge University Press, 1998], xvii).

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### *A note on abbreviations*

While there is no standard edition of Vladimir Nabokov's works, the publication of a series of his works in the United States under the Vintage International imprint and in the United Kingdom under the Penguin imprint has made the bulk of his fiction available in readily accessible editions. The following is a list of abbreviations used by several of the contributors to this volume. The abbreviations refer to the Vintage International editions of Nabokov's work as well as to a number of other major English-language works by and about Nabokov. The contributors have used the following format: abbreviation of the title followed by the page number; e.g. (*Def*, 36–37). To assist readers with no access to the Vintage editions, the editor has also included the number of the chapter from which the cited material is taken; e.g. (*Def*, 36–37 [ch. 2]). For reference purposes, the date of first publication of the English-language version of a text is included below. A list of the Penguin editions of Nabokov's work is included in the *Selected bibliography* at the end of this book. All works are by Vladimir Nabokov unless otherwise stated.

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| <i>Ada</i> | <i>Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle</i> . 1969. New York: Vintage International, 1990.   |
| <i>AnL</i> | <i>The Annotated Lolita</i> . Ed. with preface, introduction, and notes by Alfred Appel, Jr., 1970. Revised edition: New York: Vintage International, 1991. |
| <i>BS</i>  | <i>Bend Sinister</i> . 1947. New York: Vintage International, 1990.   |
| <i>CE</i>  | <i>Conclusive Evidence: A Memoir</i> . New York: Harper, 1951.  |
| <i>Def</i> | <i>The Defense</i> . Trans. Michael Scammell in collaboration with the author. 1964. New York: Vintage International, 1990.                                 |
| <i>Des</i> | <i>Despair</i> . 1966. New York: Vintage International, 1989.   |

- En* *The Enchanter*. Trans. Dmitri Nabokov. 1986. New York: Vintage International, 1991.
- EO* *Eugene Onegin. A Novel in Verse by Aleksandr Pushkin*. Translation with commentary by Vladimir Nabokov, 4 vols., Bollingen Series 72. 1964. Revised edition. Princeton University Press, 1975.
- Eye* *The Eye*. Trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author. 1965. New York: Vintage International, 1990.
- Gift* *The Gift*. Trans. Michael Scammell with the collaboration of the author. 1963. New York: Vintage International, 1991.
- Glory* *Glory*. Trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author. 1971. New York: Vintage International, 1991.
- IB* *Invitation to a Beheading*. Trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author. 1959. New York: Vintage International, 1989.
- KQK* *King, Queen, Knave*. Trans. Dmitri Nabokov in collaboration with the author. 1968. New York: Vintage International, 1989.
- LATH* *Look at the Harlequins!* 1974. New York: Vintage International, 1990.
- Laugh* *Laughter in the Dark*. 1938. New York: Vintage International, 1989.
- LDQ* *Lectures on Don Quixote*. Ed. Fredson Bowers. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich / Bruccoli Clark, 1983.
- LL* *Lectures on Literature*. Ed. Fredson Bowers. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich / Bruccoli Clark, 1980.
- LRL* *Lectures on Russian Literature*. Ed. Fredson Bowers. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich / Bruccoli Clark, 1981.
- Lo* *Lolita*. 1955. New York: Vintage International, 1989.
- LoR* *Lolita*. New York: Phaedra, 1967.
- LoScreen* *Lolita: A Screenplay*. 1974. New York: Vintage International, 1997.
- Mary* *Mary*. Trans. Michael Glenny in collaboration with the author. 1970. New York: Vintage International, 1989.
- NWL* *The Nabokov-Wilson Letters, 1940–1971*. Ed., annotated, and with an introductory essay by Simon Karlinsky. New York: Harper Colophon, 1980.

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 978-0-521-29127-9 - Nabokov and his Fiction: New Perspectives  
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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

*A note on abbreviations*

xiii

- NG* *Nikolai Gogol*. 1944. New York: New Directions, 1961.  
*PF* *Pale Fire*. 1962. New York: Vintage International, 1989.  
*Pnin* *Pnin*. 1957. New York: Vintage International, 1989.  
*PP* *Poems and Problems*. New York. McGraw-Hill, 1970.  
*RLSK* *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*. 1941. New York: Vintage International, 1992.  
*SL* *Selected Letters, 1940–1977*. Ed. Dmitri Nabokov and Matthew J. Bruccoli. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich / Bruccoli Clark Layman, 1989.  
*SM* *Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisted*. 1967. New York: Vintage International, 1989.  
*SO* *Strong Opinions*. 1973. New York: Vintage International, 1990.  
*Song* *The Song of Igor's Campaign*. Trans. Vladimir Nabokov. 1960. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975.  
*Stories* *The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov*. 1995. New York: Vintage International, 1997.  
*TT* *Transparent Things*. 1972. New York: Vintage International, 1989.  
*USSR* *The Man from the USSR and Other Plays*. Introduction and translations by Dmitri Nabokov. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich / Bruccoli Clark, 1984.

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