

## “Thank you for sharing this fascinating material - very interesting”

E. Goldberg

June 14, 2012

Thank you for sharing this fascinating material - very interesting. Indeed, AR [i.e., Luria] asked me to translate the manuscript "back" into Russian and I enlisted the help of my then Moscow State University dormitory roommate Peeter Tulviste, who remains a close friend. I have no recollections of a third person involved. Based on my reading of the blog, Renatus' real name is Andrei and his wife's name is Sveta; he is not a neuropsychologist despite AR's efforts at seduction and he takes pride in not speaking English. Renatus refers to me by my nickname "Honka," by which I was known among the family and in my hometown Riga but not in Moscow, where it morphed into "Kolya." It sounds like Renatus was younger than I since by the time he made contact with AR, I was already AR's "favorite student" (was I?) He refers to AR's daughter as "Elena Alexandrovna", whereas to us she was "Lena"; this, too, suggests that Renatus was somewhat younger. He refers to Rosa Noyevna Vygotskaya, whom I knew well, and this sounds authentic - she was indeed deeply involved in the process of preparing her husband's works for publication. The discovery of the original Russian text is news to me (so anticlimactic!); it must have taken place after my departure from the USSR in 1974 or else I would have known about it. This is as far as my detective thread takes me and leaves me clueless. I can think of at least two Andrejs a year or two junior to Peeter and myself in the program, and one of them may remotely fit the mold; the other one definitely doesn't.

Andrei Puzyrei as the author the Renatus story would be my guess. Then again we are talking about events of almost half-a-century ago and I may have forgotten a number of actors on that distant stage. I remember him well, he was a year or two junior to Peeter and myself, a clearly intelligent but somewhat enigmatic, quiet young man with a dreamy, distant countenance. He would have known my childhood nickname if he was part of a group of MGU students who once vacationed in Riga and mingled with my family (don't recall if he was; one of them, Boris Velichkovsky, to this day addresses me by that old pre-Moscow nickname). I have no recollections of his helping us with the translation, but it is entirely possible that AR enlisted his assistance with post-translation editing to clean up after Peeter and myself. AR had the habit of drawing a few select students into his circle and Andrei may have been one of them at some later point. In that case, his "na troikh" account may have been a reflection of the blurring of his own recollections (then again, could be mine but I don't think so), or simply streamlining the story line.

When did it all take place? Based on several landmarks stuck in my memory, I would say sometime in 1968-1969. I interacted with Rosa Noyevna [i.e., Vygotskaia, nee Smekhova, the wife of L.S. Vygotsky] in the context of sorting out her husband's unpublished manuscripts. I have a copy of Vygotsky's *Psikhologiya Iskusstva* [i.e., *Psychology of Art*] in my office, a gift from Rosa Noyevna with her inscription, thus the inscription date is a good chronological landmark for dating the reverse translation. I will check the year of the inscription which would have also been the year of the translation project. By the way, speaking of the year, in some sources 1930 was mentioned as the manuscript date, which is probably incorrect. I have almost eidetic recollections of the title page that it was late 20's - 1929 or 1927.

June 15, 2012

Here goes - April 1969. But it was a long project, and it may have spanned 1968-1969. I don't recall how exactly Peeter and I collaborated on the translation, but am pretty sure that nothing

was specifically "divided" for us by AR. We were probably deciding who was doing what among ourselves as we moved forward; don't remember details, sorry.

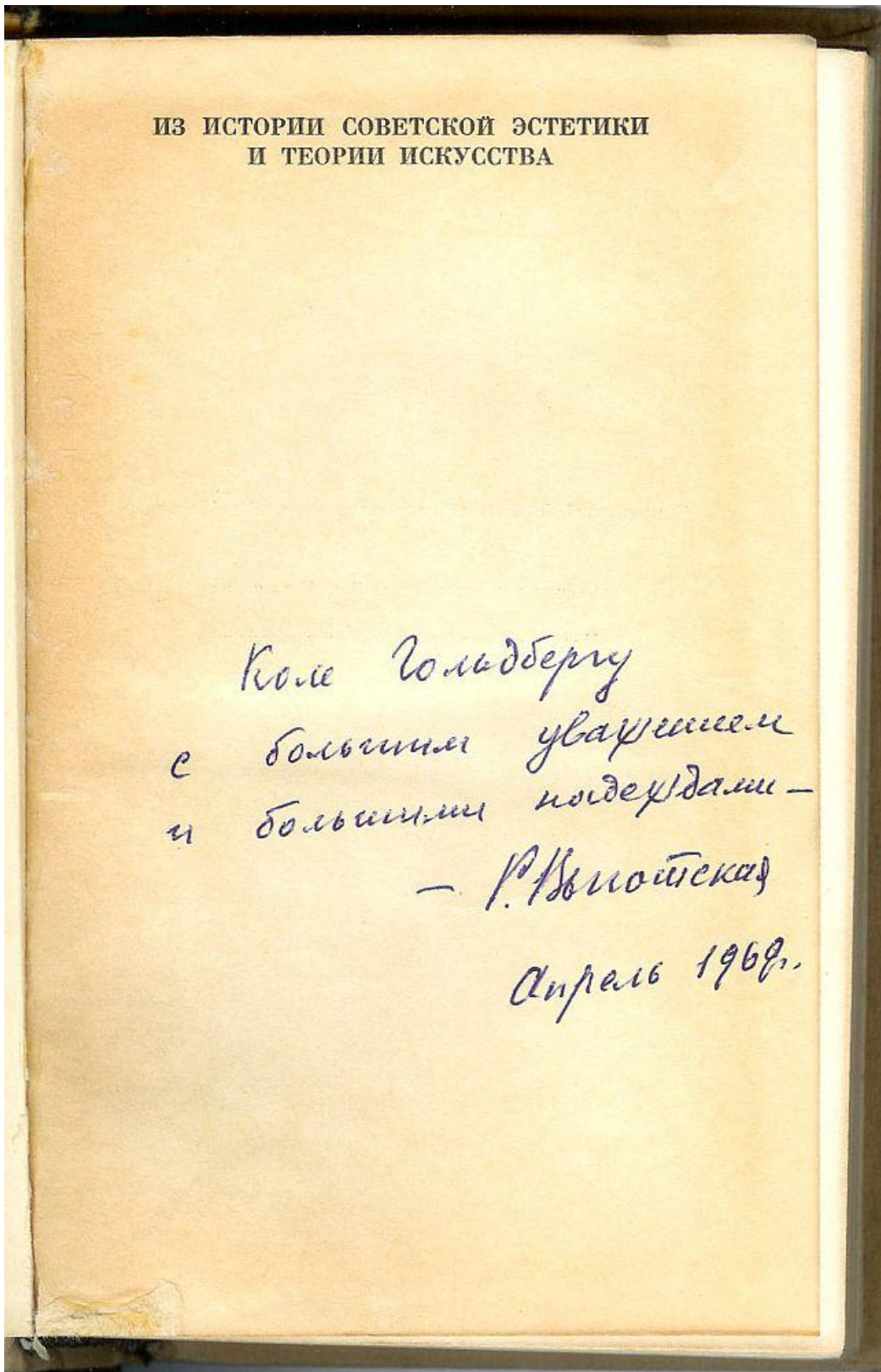


Figure. Scan of Vygotsky's *Psikhologiya iskusstva* [Psychology of Art] (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, published in the very end of 1968 in the Soviet Union) from Elkhonon Goldberg's personal library with the inscription and signature of the late author's wife Roza Noevna Vygodskaia. The

---

inscription reads: “To Kolya Goldberg / with great respect / and great expectations.— / —  
R. Vygotskaia / April, 1969”].