



1. View of Pushkin House from the Neva River. The building was constructed in 1832; Giovanni (Ivan Frantsevich) Lucchini, architect
2. Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovich, cousin of Tsar Nicholas II and a founder of Pushkin House, 1910 (photograph)
3. Main staircase, Pushkin House
4. Academician Dmitry Likhachev (1906–1999)
5. Academician Alexander Panchenko (1937–2002)
6. Alexander Pushkin, Self-Portrait, 1828



The Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskij Dom — Pushkin House), Russian Academy of Sciences, dates its founding to December 15 (28), 1905, the day a state commission made the decision to create the “House of Pushkin,” a special museum that would collect everything connected with Russia’s preeminent literary artists. Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovich, president of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and cousin of Tsar Nicholas II, headed the commission. Since that day more than a hundred years ago, Pushkin House has become a unique complex known around the world as the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House), Russian Academy of Sciences. Nowadays, the institute organically combines its priceless museum and archival collections with research departments whose mission is not only to preserve these treasures, but also to interpret and study them.

The Pushkin House collections have been inscribed in Unesco’s Memory of the World Register. In 1995, Pushkin House was entered into the Russian Federation State Registry of Particularly Valuable Cultural Heritage Sites.

Pushkin House’s audio holdings are especially valuable because they include extremely rare recordings of the folklore of the ethnic groups and tribes who inhabited the lands of the former Russian Empire. Some of this material is in the now-dead languages of the people of the Russian North and Eastern Siberia, where, for example, recordings of a real shamanic ritual were made. The Phonogram Archive strives to make this audio material available to the public. In particular, it has begun releasing CDs in two series entitled “Russian Folk Traditions and Non-Russian Traditions”. The National Electronic Audio Depository has been established within the Phonogram Archive to preserve these audio collections of the peoples of Russia in electronic form and make them accessible to the general public. The first part of the project involved digitalizing the audio collections of the peoples of the Russian North. At present, any listener can access recordings of folklore texts and musical works by more than eighty ethnic groups. The collection of Julius Block, a pioneer of sound recording who worked in Russia and Europe, is one of the most valuable parts of the Phonogram Archive. Between 1889 and 1927, Block made more than two hundred recordings on wax cylinders, thus preserving the voices of Leo Tolstoy, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, and Anton Rubinstein, as well as musical performances by Sergei Taneyev and many others.



The institute’s Manuscript Division houses the personal archives of approximately nine hundred Russian and Soviet writers, as well as the archives of literary organizations. These archives contain approximately 300,000 items that have been processed by archivists and thus made accessible to readers. The heart of the collection is the unique Alexander Pushkin archive, which contains nearly all of the poet’s extant manuscripts.

The holdings of the Manuscript Division are also accessible via numerous catalogues. The “Bulletins of the Pushkin House Manuscript Division” have featured scholarly descriptions of the archival materials of Vissarion Belinsky, Ivan Bunin, Vsevolod Garshin, Alexander Herzen, Ivan Goncharov, Gavriila Derzhavin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Mikhail Lermontov, Nikolai Nekrasov, Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin, and others. In 1999, “Personal Archives in the Manuscript Division of Pushkin House,” a fundamental annotated index, was published.

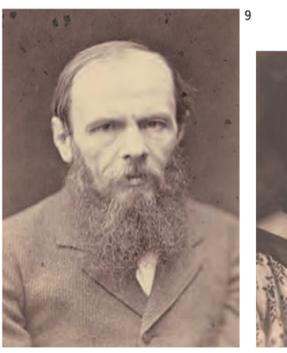
The Manuscript Division continues to actively expand its holdings. In particular, in 1997, Pushkin House acquired the renowned collection of Pavel Luknitsky, which is linked with the names of Anna Akhmatova and Nikolai Gumilev.

In 1999, with assistance from Prince Charles, the institute published a facsimile edition of Pushkin’s notebooks. This series of facsimile editions was continued in 2009 with the publication of manuscripts from the so-called Boldino autumn, a period when Pushkin wrote some of his most important works.

Among the distinguished scholars who worked at Pushkin House at various times were Mikhail Alexeev, Grigory Gukovsky, Dmitry Likachev, Yulian Oksman, Alexander Panchenko, Boris Tomashevsky, and Boris Eikhenbaum.

The academic study of Russian literature would now be impossible without the scholarly editions prepared at Pushkin House. These include the annotated editions of the works of Nikolai Gogol (14 volumes), Alexander Griboyedov (3 volumes), Fyodor Dostoevsky (30 volumes), Mikhail Lermontov (4 volumes), Alexander Pushkin (17 volumes), and others. The institute’s research departments continue to work on academic editions of the works of Alexander Blok, Maximilian Voloshin, Ivan Goncharov, Konstantin Leontiev, Alexander Sumarokov, and Afanasy Fet. They are also currently preparing new, corrected and supplemented editions of the works of Dostoevsky, Lermontov, Pushkin, and Turgenyev.

The ongoing serialized anthologies of articles and materials published at Pushkin House have earned an authoritative reputation within the international philological community. These include “Eighteenth Century,” “Annual of the Pushkin House Manuscript Division,” “F. M. Dostoevsky: Materials and Studies,” “Annals of the Pushkin Commission,” “Pushkin: Studies and Materials,” “Nekrasov Miscellany,” and “Turgenyev Miscellany.”



19. Alexei Remizov, Certificate (diploma) of The Great and Free Chamber of Simians, 1919
20. Fyodor Dostoevsky, Portrait sketch of the main character in a rough draft for *The Idiot*
21. Johann Sebastian Bach, Cantata No. 199. Autograph manuscript, circa 1723
22. Alexander Pushkin, Drawings in the margins of the rough draft for the second chapter of *Eugene Onegin*, 1823
23. View of Saint Petersburg and the Neva River from the tower of Pushkin House

The Museum of Literature at Pushkin House contains approximately 120,000 items, including the authentic belongings of eminent Russian writers — personal items, furniture, paintings, portraits, engravings, and photographs. The museum’s auxiliary archive contains over 60,000 reference works.

The museum features permanent expositions open to the general public. Among them are the expositions dealing with the literary work and daily lives of eighteenth-century and Pushkin-era Russian writers. A special room devoted to the paintings and personal belongings of Mikhail Lermontov is especially rich with authentic items. The Tolstoy Hall presents original portraits of the writer painted by Ilya Repin, Nikolai Ge, Leonid Pasternak, and others. There are also permanent expositions dealing with the lives and works of Ivan Turgenyev, Fyodor Tyutchev, Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovich, and others. The room devoted to the Silver Age of Russian poetry features items from the personal archives of Andrei Bely, Alexander Blok, Maximilian Voloshin, and Dmitry Merezhkovsky, among others. New thematic exhibitions centered on important dates in Russian cultural history are also a regular occurrence at the museum.

The Department of Russian Folklore publishes collections of oral poetry in the series “Russian Folklore Collection,” which began in 2001 with the launch of the 25-volume series “Byliny” (seven volumes of which have been published so far).

The Department of Old Russian Literature has published more than sixty volumes of “Transactions of the Department of Old Russian Literature,” which contains groundbreaking studies of medieval Russian literary texts, and it is finishing work on the series “Library of the Literature of Old Russia,” seventeen volumes of which have already been published. Meanwhile, work on the series “Book Centers of Old Russia” continues.

Pushkin House does extensive work in the field of reference works and bibliography. The problematic of Russian folk poetry was reflected in the multiple volumes of the bibliographical index “Russian Folklore.” The Department of Old Russian Literature published eight bibliographical volumes, as well as the seven-volume “Dictionary of Bibliophiles and Book Culture of Old Russia” (1987–2004) and the five-volume encyclopedia “The Song of Igor’s Campaign.” Pushkin House has also published biographical and bibliographical reference books dealing with eighteenth-century literature, Pushkin, Lermontov, Nekrasov, Turgenyev, Saltykov-Shchedrin, Maxim Gorky, and other outstanding Russian writers and poets.

7. Ilya Repin, Portrait of Leo Tolstoy, 1908
8. Alexander Blok, 1921 (photograph)
9. Fyodor Dostoevsky, circa 1875 (photograph)
10. Anna Akhmatova, 1923. Photograph by Moisei Nappelbaum
11. Museum of Literature, Pushkin House
12. Boots sewn by Leo Tolstoy
13. Anton Chekhov’s wallet



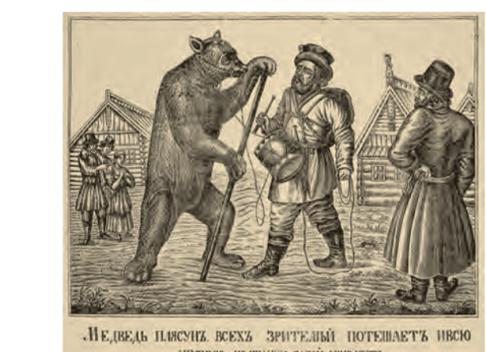
The Ancient Relics Archive at Pushkin House contains approximately 11,000 manuscript books from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries featuring little-known Old Russian and translated Byzantine literary texts. Most of these books were discovered in the fifties, sixties, and seventies during archaeological expeditions undertaken by Pushkin House to northern villages inhabited by descendants of the Russian religious dissidents known as the Old Believers. The local peasants had preserved the ancient manuscript book tradition right up until the twentieth century. Among the archive’s rarest treasures is the original manuscript of “The Life of the Archpriest Avvakum” (circa 1675), a milestone autobiographical work of Russian literature that has been translated into all the world’s major languages. Especially stunning are the old “facial” books (illuminated manuscripts) — that is, books illustrated with manuscript miniatures, some of which unfold into meters-long, skillfully rendered and colorful tapestries. Many of the literary texts in the Ancient Relics Archive have been researched and published, but the manuscript books still conceal many surprising secrets.

The primary goal of Pushkin House’s publishing activities is to release materials from the institute’s archives. Thus in recent years Pushkin House has published editions of Russian folk pictures and Old Russian illustrated manuscript versions of the Apocalypse; the correspondence of Lev Gumilev; and the scholarly works of the institute’s researchers. In 2010, Pushkin House became the publisher of the “Poet’s Library,” a series of academic editions of Russian poets that has played an important role in Russian culture.



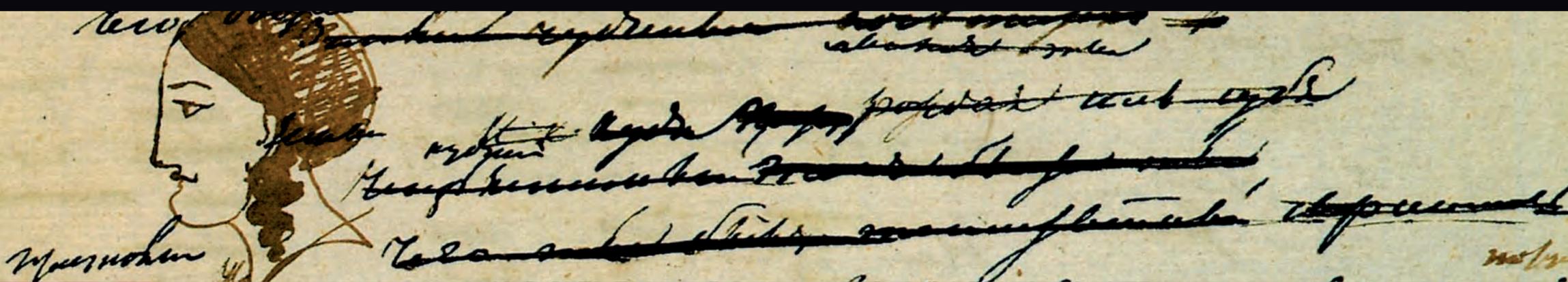
The Phonogram Archive at Pushkin House contains recordings of oral folklore made with the first recording devices — over 9,000 cylinder records and four hundred wax discs. The earliest recordings of Russian folklore date to 1889, that is, to the same period as the recordings in Europe’s oldest phonogram archives, in Vienna and Berlin. In addition, Pushkin House has preserved magnetic tape recordings made during annual ethnomusicological, ethnolinguistic, and philological expeditions to various parts of Russia. These unique audio recordings (more than 200,000 in all) captured the voices of people dwelling in remote villages where the old traditions and songs had been preserved.

Pushkin House is pursuing a large-scale program of digitalizing its book and archival holdings. The institute’s web site features electronic versions of “Transactions of the Department of Old Russian Literature” (56 volumes), the “Dictionary of Bibliophiles and Book Culture of Old Russia,” the “Bibliography of Works on Old Russian Literature” (1917–2002), the anthology of articles and materials “Eighteenth Century” (23 volumes), Pushkin and Griboyedov encyclopedias, an annotated index of the holdings in the Manuscript Division, the works of Pushkin published during his lifetime, important nineteenth-century bibliographical sources, and much more. The institute’s serialized editions — “Russian Folklore,” “Nekrasov Miscellany,” “Dostoevsky: Materials and Studies” — are currently being prepared for publication. Work is under way on electronic catalogues for the Manuscript Division, the Museum of Literature, and the Pushkin Room, and electronic copies of L. B. Modzalevsky and A. D. Alexeev’s bibliographical card catalogues have been produced. The Bibliography Department is in the process of developing “Russian Letters,” an information retrieval system. News of Pushkin House’s academic, publishing, and educational activities is featured on the institute’s web site.



14. Wax Cylinder Depository, Phonogram Archive
15. Sound-recording devices, 1920s
16. Miniature in an illustrated Apocalypse. Nineteenth-century manuscript, Northern Russia
17. Old Believer hymnal. Nineteenth-century manuscript, Northern Russia
18. Dancing bear. Russian folk engraving, 1858





А СВЯТАТЕРВОМ
ВЕРХОВНЫМ ВРАЩАТЕЛЕМ ВО ВЪСЬ СВЪТЪ И ПЛЪ, КТО ИМ
АИМЪ ГОДОВОЮ ПРИБОРАТИСА ПРИБОРАЮЩЕ
У Императора - онъ идиотъ и дуракъ, а не человекъ, какъ онъ се полагаетъ, и не знаетъ, что такое, и не знаетъ, что такое императоръ.
И Императоръ безпримечательно, и не знаетъ, что такое императоръ.
Крошечъ мой;
Основныя точки - Гаети.

М. М. Варонъ. Знакомство. (При семъ семьи) разговоръ. Свѣдѣн. - блго.
Встрѣча съ Императоромъ и семействомъ. Романъ и стихъ. Предисловіе
22 листовъ и стихъ 22 листовъ. Стоитъ и вѣнчикъ съ Императоромъ. (Или стихъ)
При встрѣчѣ съ Императоромъ узнаетъ кто ея повѣршилъ. Отъ Рымъ.

ВНЕЖЕВУ БИМНУ
НИТИПОВЪ БЕТЬ. ОНЪ ВЪ КЕТОВА
НЫКЪ ПАСВЕШЕХЪ. ИКОЖЕЩОЪ

Въ Метрополитанѣ
всѣхъ Архидіаконовъ
Инокентіи Чумарова
Кривоблатъ. Генералъ
Меншиковъ.
О Метрополитанѣ
О Генералѣ. Метрополитанъ.



Имя Пушкинскаго Дома
Во Академіи Наукъ!