

Title: Individual Genius and International Standards in the Age of Typewriting
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Abstract:

The first typewriter was not produced in Soviet territory until 1928, but imported typewriters were widely used in Russia from the beginning of the century. Marked as a Western technology of communication and associated with technologies of competition, typewriters were involved in literary debates from their appearance on Russian soil: the first typewriters for the Russian market, made by American armaments manufacturer Remington, were advertised with images of the pacifist Leo Tolstoy until the company was forced to desist by pressure from the Tolstoy family. Aiming to think about the comparative dimensions of textual media as well as of specific texts, this paper looks at Russian literary allegories of the introduction of the typewriter, especially in Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky's 1926 *Letter Killers Club*, as well as émigré texts that rewrite the same story for a Western audience, especially Vladimir Nabokov's *Bend Sinister*.