

RUSSIAN PRINTS

27 OCTOBER—16 NOVEMBER 1963

SOUTH LONDON ART GALLERY, Peckham Road, S.E.5

1925

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Libraries and Art Gallery Committee of the Camberwell Borough Council wishes to express its gratitude to Mr. Eric Estorick of the Grosvenor Gallery who, in the course of visits to the Soviet Union has made this collection of Russian prints and has now very generously loaned it for exhibition at the South London Art Gallery. Thanks are also due to Mr. Estorick and his staff for their kind assistance towards the preparation of the catalogue.

FOREWORD

Every autumn since 1957 the Camberwell Borough Council has arranged an exhibition with an international flavour as the South London Art Gallery's contribution to United Nations Week celebrations in Camberwell and with the aim of using the arts as an aid to international understanding. Two years ago there was an exhibition of American painting and sculpture. This year, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Eric Estorick and the Grosvenor Gallery, the Libraries and Art Gallery Committee has much pleasure in offering visitors to the South London Art Gallery this introduction to the work of some contemporary Soviet print-makers.

The art galleries of this country contain very few Russian works of any period and only a small minority can, as yet, visit the Hermitage or other great Russian galleries. Indeed the 1959 Winter Exhibition at the Royal Academy must have revealed to many people their almost total ignorance of the Russian heritage in the visual arts. Fortunately, however, today, in the Soviet Union as in other countries, including Great Britain, some of the best work being done by artists is in the field of print-making. Prints are more easily transportable than oil paintings and, as more than one print can be produced from the same block, they can also be more easily acquired.

Outstanding among the print-makers represented in the present exhibition is Vladimir Favorsky, one of the most notable book illustrators of the 20th century, winner of the Lenin Prize and an artist who has wielded considerable influence on other Russian illustrators. Some of his smaller wood and metal engravings may not appear to their best advantage perhaps on the walls of an art gallery, being rather designed to complement the text. Traditional in style, he has a sense of the requirements of the printed page and can interpret, with insight and sympathy, works as varied as Dostoyevsky or Shakespeare, Tolstoy's "Stories about Animals" or medieval folk and fairy tales. In the course of his long life—he was born in Moscow in 1886—his style has shown considerable changes. He has always been a fine craftsman but his later work will probably appeal most to the contemporary taste, particularly the bold black and white lino-cuts of donkey riders, camels, and other travellers, from the Samarkand suite executed in 1942, when he was evacuated there during the last war.

Another artist particularly noted for his book illustration is Anatoli Kaplan, born in 1902 of Jewish parentage. After studying at the Leningrad Academy of Arts he worked for ten years as a scenic artist and designer and some of his more recent work, such as the "Little Goat" series, are decorative in a way that recalls stage designs. As a print-maker Kaplan's medium is lithography. Many of his lithographs in this exhibition are moving, sometimes poignant and sometimes humorous, illustrations to the stories of Sholom Aleichem and to Russian or Yiddish folk songs and traditional tales. The tendency in the West has been towards bold, simplified, and often abstract, design. Kaplan's work is very different. With him the lithograph has been used to produce very subtle results.

Prints by a number of other artists are included in the exhibition. Some of these make bold use of bright colours, for example the still life and flower pictures by Vedernikov. As a child in the noisy market towns of the Volga he learnt much from watching the icon-painters, wood-cutters and potters, at their work. Later he was influenced by the paintings of Matisse.

Whereas a number of the artists in the exhibition turn back for inspiration to their country's classics and folk tales, a few of the prints are more suggestive of the "Social Realism" which one associates with Soviet art. Other artists capture the fascination of the Russian countryside and the atmosphere of its towns, while some charming portraits such as the "Boy without ice-cream" by Alexandra Latash, or "Girl in a raincoat" by Vera Matiukh, will surely have a wide appeal.

This exhibition of prints presents then an interesting cross-section of the Russian art of fairly recent years. Today, when cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union are increasing, and queues wait at Covent Garden for tickets for the Bolshoi, the time is surely ripe for many attempts such as this to breach the artistic barrier which for too long has existed between the Soviet Union and the West.

VLADIMIR FAVORSKY

Wood Engravings

- 1 Second title page to S. Yermolinski's play "Griboyedov"—1917
- 2 Illustrations to Anatole France's story "The opinions of Father Jerome Coignard"—1918
- 3 Views of Moscow—1918
- 4-6 Illustrations to Globa's tragedy "Tamar"—1923
- 7 Illustrations to P. P. Muratov's story for children "Energy"—1923
- 8 Illustration to Lermontov's poem "The Prophet"—1925
- 9-10 Title page and illustrations to Andrei Globa's children's story "Peter-Peter"—1929
- 11-12 Illustrations to Tolstoy's "Animal Stories"—1929
- 13 Illustration to Gogol's story "Ivan Fedorovichshponka and his Aunt"—1931
- 14 Portrait of Mikhail Lermontov—1931
- 15-20 Illustrations to Prosper Merimée's Works—1928-1935
- 21-24 Illustrations and vignettes to George Storm's "The works and days of Michael Lomonosov"—1932
- 25-28 Illustrations to Boris Pilnyak's "Rassказы"—1932

29 Five studies of the actor Orlov in the role of Yusov in Ostrovski's comedy, "Dokhodnoye Mesto"—1933

30 Portrait of the actress Babanova in the role of a boy in Faiko's play, "Chelovek iz Portfellm"—1933

31-33 Illustrations to Prishvin's nature story "Zhen-Shen"—1933

34-36 Illustrations to Sergio Spasski's novel "New Year's Eve"—1932

Linocuts

37-42 "Samarkand Suite"—1942

Wood Engravings

43 Illustration to Krylov's Fables, "The Ape and the Mirror"—1944

44 Minn and Pozharski—1947

45-46 Illustrations to the works of A. S. Pushkin—1948

47-50 Illustrations to Shakespeare's Works—1948

51 Illustrations for articles in "The Children's Encyclopaedia"—1953

Lomonsov as a geographer
The explorer of Sakhalin —
G. I. Nevelski

52 Title page to A. S. Pushkin's "Boris Godunov"—1949

- 53-60** Illustrations to "A word about Igor's Army." The Russian medieval epic poem—1950
- 61** Illustrations to Lermontov's poems, "The Merchant Kalashnikov"—1954
- 62** Illustrations to the "Byliny" (old Russian Folk Tales)—1954

Linocuts

- 63** Four Soviet Artists, V. A. Favorsky, A. N. Kardashiev, I. G. Frich-Chara and N. M. Chernishev—1956
- 64** D. Shostakovich's Quintet — 1955

Wood Engravings

- 65** Vignettes—undated
- 66** Tail-pieces used for ends of books
- 67-68** From the Russian catalogue for the Brussels Exhibition, 1958, "Art in the Soviet Union"

Linocuts

- 69** Poster for disarmament—1961
- 70** Poster "Peace"—undated

A more detailed list of titles to the wood engravings by Favorsky may be obtained on request.

OTHER MOSCOW ARTISTS

Woodcuts & linocuts

Motilevski

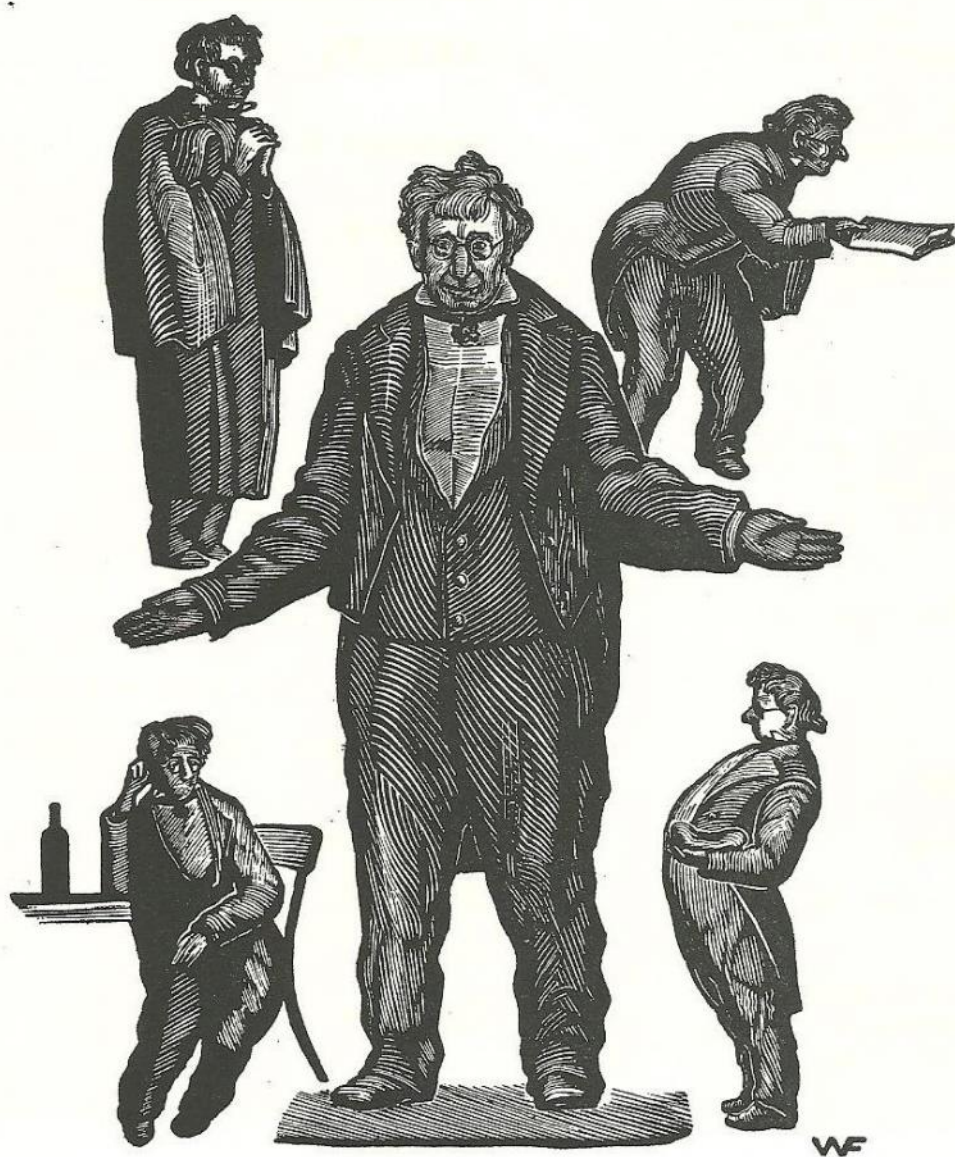
- 71** Marcel Marceau, The famous actor and mimer

Zakkarova

- 72** Daughter
- 73** A Russian market
- 74** Interior
- 75** Collecting water from the well
- 76** Church from "Winter in Pereyeslavi"
- 77** Works yard in Moscow
- 78** Still life
- 79** Winter
- 80** Black Sea

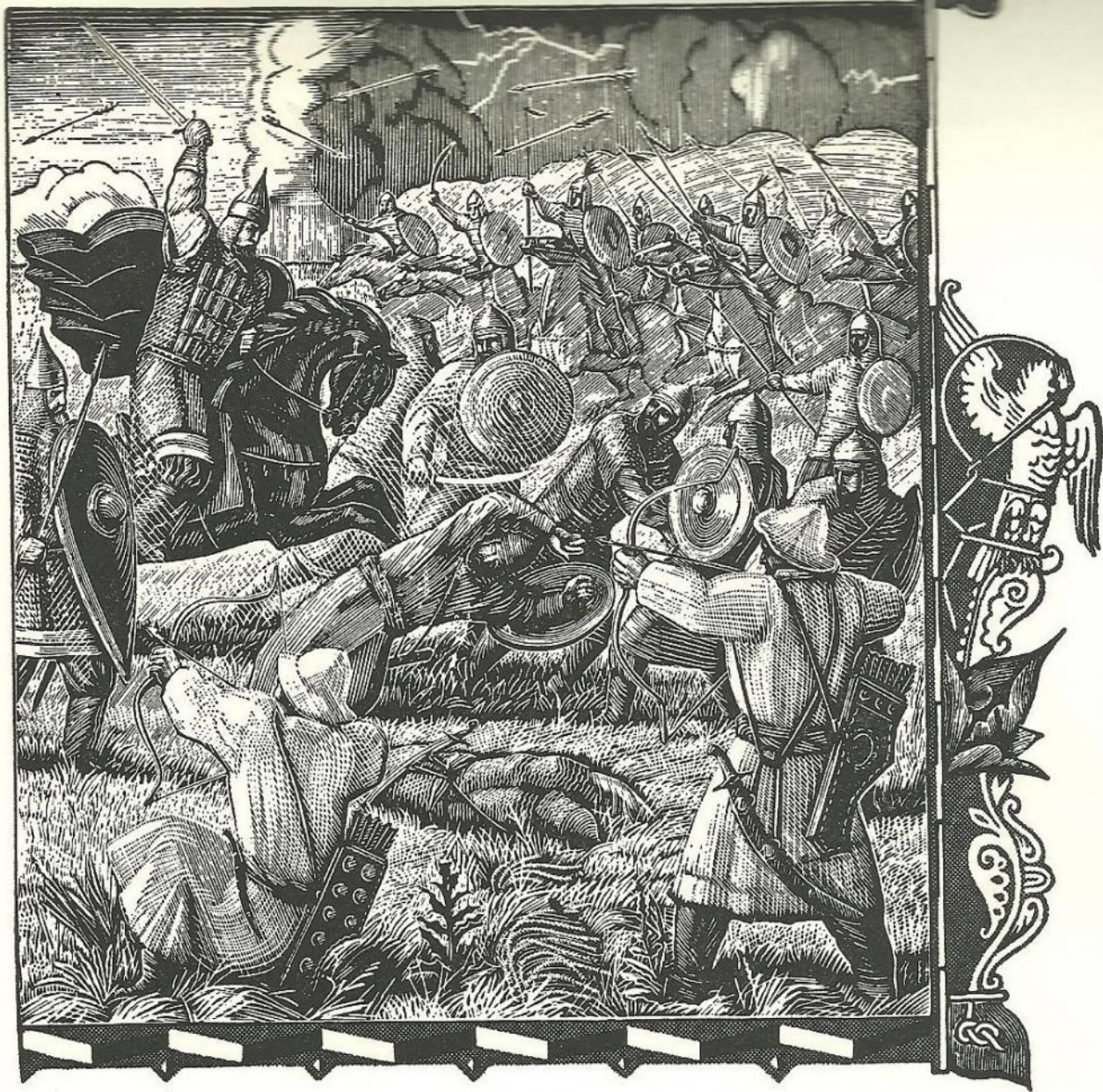
Golytsin

- 81** A chemist's shop
- 82** Everyone has his own problems
- 83** Girl—**artist unknown**
- 84** Horses by a lake — **artist unknown**



Favorsky : Five studies of the actor Orlov in the role of Yusov
in Ostrovski's comedy 'Dokhodnoye Mesto' 1933





Favorsky : ' Slovo O Polku Igoreve ' Igor directing the battle 1950



Morosov : A family in Buryat

Morosov

- 85 Encampment
- 86 Reindeer
- 87 A family in Buryat
- ~~88~~ People from border of Siberia
- ~~89~~ Peasant with deer
- 90 Deer farm

**LENINGRAD
LITHOGRAPHERS****Steinberg**

- 91 " Winter scene "

Kuks

- 92 " Beavers "

Vasnezov

- ~~93~~ " Fantasy "

Mordvinova

- 94 "Boats "

Nemenova

- 95 " Gogal "

Yakobson

- 96 " Snow Maiden "
- 97 " Little girl with scarlet flower "

Sudakov

- 98 " Sailing Boats "
- 99 " Fishing Boats "

Ermalayev

- 100 " Sisters "
- 101 " Stadium "
- 102 " Interior "
- 103 " Listening to the radio "
- 104 " Morning "
- 105 " Return to the fields "

Charnetskaya

- 106 " On the Neva "
- 107 " On the Neva "
- 108 " Palace Square "
- 109 " Street in Winter "

Shenderov

- 110 " Hunger Dance "
- 111 " Dancer fixing her shoe "
- 112 " Dancer adjusting her dress "
- 113 " Ballerina "
- 114 " Spring Flight "
- 115 " Dancer "
- 116 " Ballerina "
- 117 " Ballerina "

Lubimova

- 118 " Eastern Street "
- 119 " Winter's Morning "

Elenkri

- 120 " Flowers "
- 121 " Mimosa "

Vedernikov

- 122 " Nude in an interior "
- 123 " Still life "
- 124 " Harbour "
- 125 " Flowers "
- 126 " Nude in an interior "
- 127 " Still life with toy "
- 128 " Still life "
- 129 " Interior of studio "
- 130 " Nude "
- 131 " Still life with flowers and interior "
- 132 " Model in striped dressing gown "
- 133 " Still life with sailing boat "
- 134 " Girl at table "
- 135 " Pineapple and tulips "

Latash

- 136 " Boy without ice-cream "
- 137 " Puppet Show "

Israelovich

- 138 " Time is going "
- 139 " Vase of flowers "
- 140 " Time is flying "
- 141 " Time is going "

Djagupova

- 142 " Mountain scene "
- 143 " Gladioli on a sunny day "

Skouliari

- 144 " Mimosa "
- 145 " Still life "
- 146 " Vase and Jug "
- 147 " Still life "
- 148 " Still life "
- 149 " Vase of flowers "
- 150 " Still life with caraffe "
- ~~151~~ " Roof tops "

Matiukh

- 152 " At the game "
- 153 " In the ski train "
- ~~154~~ " Manicure "
- ~~155~~ " A girl in a raincoat "
- 156 " At the hairdresser "
- 157 " Skiers "

Nemenova

158 " Marie Kazaries "

159 " Korean dancer "

Kaplan

" The Bewitched Tailor "

160 The teacher's wife shows the
tailor the jug of milk her goat
has just yielded

161 The tailor Shimyon Elie

162 Dodya, the inn keeper

Jewish Folk Songs

163 The golden wedding

164 On the road there stands a little
tree

165 Song for peace

166 Song of songs

" The Little Goat "

167 A verse

168 Frontispiece

169 Title page

**ILLUSTRATIONS TO " TEVIA
THE MILKMAN "**

170 " Supper "

171 " Holiday makers "

172 " In the morning "

173 " Luftmensch "

174 " Tevia's household "

175 " Waiting "

176 " In exile "

177 " Tevia "

178 " In Boiberik "

179 " The tailor's family "

D. Henkin
Evo-9621
EX 43.

THE CAMBERWELL COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL PRINTS

Camberwell has its own Reference Collection of Original Prints by present-day British and foreign artists. The prints are housed in the Print Room at the South London Art Gallery and may be seen daily throughout the year. Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays by appointment.

CAMBERWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL