

Russian narrative non-fiction

Philhellenes

Narrative non-fiction. AST. Moscow 2021. 426 pages

2021 Big Book Award
2021 Yasnaya Polyana finalist

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The twenties of the 19th century. In Greece there is a war for independence from the Ottoman Empire. The revolutionaries have many sympathisers throughout Europe who are willing to voluntarily defend the old culture and fight to preserve the old greatness. This is what they are called: Philhellenes - lovers of the Greeks. Although the Russian Tsar Alexander I is not eager to interfere in the war of others, there are such Philhellenes in Russia too. One of them is the retired Ural staff captain Grigory Mostsepanov. He is sure that he has found a way to radically change the course of the war in Greece, and must tell everything to the Emperor himself as soon as possible.

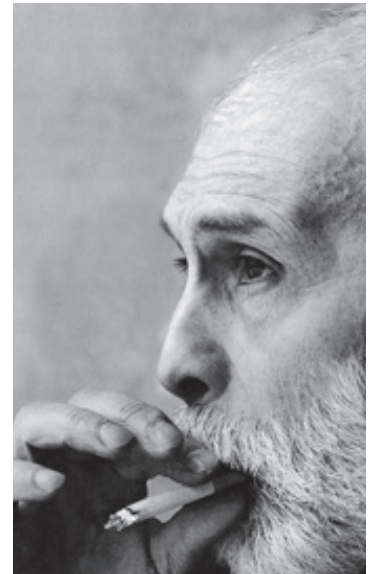
This historical novel, told in the form of letters, diary entries and mental conversations of absent heroes, focuses not only on the Philhellenes of the Urals. Numerous people and representatives of different nations and social classes come to word, which paints a multi-faceted picture of a bygone era.

The plot begins in the factories of Nizhny Tagil, continues in Yekaterinburg, Perm, Tsarskoye Selo and Taganrog, leads from Russia to Nafplio and Alexandria and ends in Athens on the Acropolis. The novel's main characters include Alexander I, the mystical baroness Julia Kriedner, the Egyptian general Ibrahim Pasha and other documentary figures.

"Philhellens" is one of those novels in which characters and destinies that are at first unconnected gradually coalesce into a single ornament; watching this pattern emerge is a particular pleasure for the reader. What connects them here is not simply a whim of the author. It is the war by which they are slowly but inexorably drawn and united.... What seems to begin as a beautiful stylisation turns into a reflection on war, its mysticism and mystery." *Meduza*

Yuzefovich, born 1947 in Moscow, spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin. Yuzefovich is capable of interweaving detailed knowledge of historical fact with masterly literary style into the plot of a thriller. L. Yuzefovich lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Leonid Yuzefovich



THE AUTHOR

translations
15 languages

awards

Big Book Award 2021
Yasnaya Polyana finalist 2021
National Bestseller 2016
Big Book Award 2016
Booker Translation Grant 2016
Russian Booker shortlist 2009
Big Book Award 2009

samples available

english
french and others

other works

Philhellenes
Winter Road
Horsemen of the Desert
The Putilin Series
Kazarozza