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Editorial article / Редакционная статья

World Heritage:
On the 200th Anniversary of Dostoevsky's Birth

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The presented in this issue series of articles devoted to the 200th anniversary of F.M. Dostoevsky's birth is intended to demonstrate the diversity of interests and methods of modern scholars who study the works of the famous Russian writer. They are representatives of different generations, different specialties and specializations (among them are those who dedicated all their lives to the study of Dostoevsky, as well as experts on world literature, historians, and linguists of a wide profile) and various worldviews, but all of them are united by a huge and without exaggeration strong passion for the works and life of the great author. In this collection there are no jubilee generalizations and glorification, the authors of the articles sought, rather, to share their current research, personal understanding of relevant and understudied literary issues.

Many materials are about the relations of F.M. Dostoevsky and his work with foreign cultures, which is quite logical for such journal as RUDN Journal of Studies in Literature and Journalism, and the authors enthusiastically turned to this richest topic, especially given that there are still quite a lot of unexplored subtopics within it. And Dostoevsky's work itself developed under the sign of relativity, in a continuous dialogue, sometimes fiercely polemical, with other cultures, and always remained open to the image or idea of the "other", and showed at the same time clear understanding of the absolute human and divine values. Dostoevsky himself spoke about this openness, in connection with the works of A.S. Pushkin. He called it "universal sympathy" and extrapolated his conclusions to the whole Russian history. Let us quote the famous words that can serve as an epigraph to the articles published in this issue:



“This ability is entirely Russian, national, and Pushkin only shares it with all our people, and, as the most perfect artist, he is also the most perfect exponent of this ability, at least in his work as an artist. Russian people have a disposition towards universal sympathy and reconciliation deep in their souls and have shown this disposition many times in the two hundred years since Peter the Great’s reforms. Having noted this disposition of our people, I could not help but emphasize the great consolation which it provides us with, the light of hope that shines ahead”.

Bio note:

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