

Russian Thick Journals

Tolstye zhurnaly (толстые журналы), literally meaning “thick journals” in Russian, are a unique form of literary and cultural periodicals that have played a significant role in Russian intellectual life since the 19th century. These journals typically contain:

- New works of fiction (novels, short stories, poems)
- Literary criticism and essays
- Social and political commentary
- Cultural analysis

Unlike typical magazines, *tolstye zhurnaly* are book-length publications, often running to several hundred pages per issue. In the Soviet Union and later in Russia, literary and artistic journals with a full volume of 192-256 pages received the informal name “thick journals” (толстые журналы).

The most comprehensive digital archives for *tolstye zhurnaly* are available from East View. These collections are on a platform that features full page-level digitization, complete original graphics, and searchable text. They are also cross-searchable with numerous other East View digital resources.

East View is offering digital archives of ten key *tolstye zhurnaly* in its “Thick Journals” bundle program. Read below for title information and contact us for information on special bundle pricing and trials.



Digital Archives of Russian Thick Journals

Many libraries have physical copies of these journals taking up hundreds of feet of shelf space. East View is digitizing many of these classics, helping to free up valuable library shelf space and giving researchers easier access to these treasures of Russian culture.

The following ten *tolstye zhurnaly* are part of East View’s “Thick Journals” bundle program. Contact us for information on special bundle pricing and trials.

Now Available

Moskva Digital Archive (1957-2024)

Moskva (Москва, Moscow) stands among the prestigious thick journals of Russia and the USSR that defined the intellectual landscape of their time. The journal has consistently published works by contemporary writers, including prose, poetry, journalism, and criticism. Moskva holds particular historical significance as the first publisher of Mikhail Bulgakov’s masterpiece “The Master and Margarita” and Nikolai Karamzin’s monumental work “History of the Russian State.” Its pages have featured outstanding works of Russian literature by authors such as Bunin, Sholokhov, and Yulian Semyonov, alongside acclaimed international writers including Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Ernest Hemingway, and William Faulkner. Read more: eastview.com/moskva

Nash Sovremennik Digital Archive (1933-2024)

Nash Sovremennik (Наш современник, Our Contemporary), a literary periodical of the Soviet and post-Soviet period, was published under the auspices of the RSFSR Union of Writers. *Nash Sovremennik* was a pioneer in finding talent from the Russian *glubinka* and remote provinces, providing these writers with an important literary platform unavailable elsewhere. As a result, the journal came to be associated with the so-called “village” or “provincial prose,” with some of its most important representatives being such writers as Fyodor Abramov, Viktor Astafyev, Vasily Belov, and Vasily Shukshin, among others. Since 1989, the journal has been led by Stanislav Kunyayev and has become an important literary and journalistic vehicle for Russian conservatives and traditionalists, attracting such political and literary figures as Gennadi Zyuganov, Nikolay Ryzhkov, Sergey Kara-Murza, Aleksandr Prokhanov, Zakhar Prilepin, and the controversial late Metropolitan Ioann (Snychev). Read more: eastview.com/nash-sovremennik

Oktiabr' Digital Archive (1924-2018)

Oktiabr' (Октябрь, October) served as a crucial platform for both established and emerging voices in Russian literature. Throughout its history, the journal published works by literary giants such as Sergei Yesenin, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Mikhail Zoshchenko, and Andrei Platonov, alongside international authors including Lion Feuchtwanger, Romain Rolland, and Theodore Dreiser. The archive captures the journal's evolution from its early years through the Soviet period and into post-Soviet Russia, reflecting the dramatic changes in Russian society and intellectual thought. Read more: eastview.com/oktiabr

Znamia Digital Archive (1931-2024)

Znamia (Знамя, Banner), an esteemed Soviet/Russian “thick journal” (*tolstyj zhurnal*), spans over nine decades and serves as a treasure trove of intellectual and artistic contributions. This lively platform for literature, critical analysis, philosophy, and at times, political commentary is published monthly. Throughout its history, *Znamia* has been a pivotal venue for showcasing the works of preeminent authors such as Anna Akhmatova, Alexander Tvardovsky, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Konstantin Paustovsky, Yuri Kazakov, and Yuri Trifonov. In the era of perestroika, beginning in 1986, *Znamia* underwent a significant transformation, evolving into one of Russia's most widely read literary journals and serving as a herald of the perestroika movement. Read more: eastview.com/znamia

Zvezda Digital Archive (1924-2024)

Founded in 1924 in Petrograd (later Leningrad, now St. Petersburg), **Zvezda** (Звезда, The Star) has been a key resource of Russian intellectual and literary circles for a century. The journal's longevity and resilience through tumultuous periods of Soviet history, including the Siege of Leningrad and Stalinist repression, make it an essential resource for understanding the complexities of Russian cultural development over the past century. Read more: eastview.com/zvezda

COMING SOON!

Druzhba Narodov Digital Archive (1939-2024)

Druzhba narodov (Дружба народов, People's Friendship) first appeared in March 1939 as an almanac dedicated to bringing literature from the Soviet republics into a common Russian-language forum. From its earliest issues, the journal's mission was to introduce readers in Moscow and Leningrad to prose and poetry written in Uzbek, Georgian, Armenian, and other languages of the USSR—always rendered into Russian to foster a sense of shared cultural space.

IUnost Digital Archive (1955-2024)

A literary magazine for family reading highlighting prose, poetry and journalistic writing, and which featured Valentin Kataev as its first editor-in-chief. Very popular among Soviet intellectual elite, ***IUnost'*** (Юность, Youth) appealed to the young readership, and contained an impressive poetry section. This publication also featured the significant, and occasionally controversial, works of Akhmatova, Akhmadulina, Okudzhava, Rozhdestvensky, Iskander, Aksyonov, Gladilin, and many others.

Molodaia Gvardiia Digital Archive (1922-2024)

Molodaia gvardiia (Молодая гвардия, Young Guard) launched in Moscow in May 1922 under the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Youth Union. From the start, its mission was both literary and ideological: alongside luminaries like Sergei Yesenin, Vladimir Mayakovsky, and Dmitry Furmanov, it published fiction, poetry, and art aimed at boosting literacy and reinforcing revolutionary values. Across every era—from the fervent post-Revolution years and Stalinist pressures through Khrushchev's Thaw, Brezhnev's stagnation, perestroika, and into today's Russian Federation—*Molodaia Gvardia* has stayed true to promoting Russian patriotism, Orthodox values, and respect for cultural traditions.

Neva Digital Archive (1955-2024)

Neva (Нева, Neva), throughout its history, has remained faithful to the traditions of Petersburg literary journalism. In every issue users will find a balanced mix of contemporary prose and poetry—alongside tightly documented essays and reviews. *Neva's* pages have featured works by such luminaries as Mikhail Zoshchenko, Mikhail Sholokhov, Viktor Kaverin, Lydia Chukovskaya, Lev Gumilev, Dmitry Likhachev, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Dmitry Granin and Viktor Dudintsev, among others. *Neva* was the first Russian journal to publish Robert Conquest's exposé on the Great Terror and Arthur Koestler's novel *Darkness at Noon*. In addition, *Neva* premiered Dudintsev's *White Clothes*, a novel that became emblematic of post-Stalinist literary debates.

Novyi Mir Digital Archive (1925-2024)

Novyi Mir (Новый мир, New World) is a Russian literary magazine that won international fame under its editor Aleksandr Tvardovskii in the 1960s, when Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* was published. It became a watershed moment that signaled a brief liberal turn during Khrushchev's Thaw. In the late 1980s, as *glasnost* took hold, *Novyi Mir* became the first Soviet journal to run previously banned masterpieces—Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*, Platonov's *Kotlovan*, Orwell's *1984*, and Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*—sending its circulation soaring to over 2.6 million copies for the January 1990 issue.

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