

FOREWORD AND A SHORT HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL

A close analysis of the ways the world has read and perceived Dostoevsky at different historical moments can serve as a barometer of the evolution of human thought, our priorities, hopes and fears, and our view of reality over the past one and a half centuries and up to the present day. Dostoevsky had already achieved global popularity by the end of the 19th century, and from the beginning of the 20th century he was already considered a leading thinker; reading and interpreting his novels became a requirement for new generations of writers, philosophers, intellectuals, and ordinary people.

Attention to the work of Dostoevsky, to his complex, contradictory personality, to his multifaceted heritage, can be measured by the change of eras and by the metamorphoses of the modern world. A writer's reception is often accompanied by a change of paradigms, the establishment of new tasks and the emergence of new interpretations of his work. This kind of turning point in Dostoevsky reception came about fifty years ago and is symbolically connected to the 150th anniversary of his birth in 1971. At around that year, so significant for Dostoevsky studies and therefore for this journal, something simultaneously shifted in the Soviet Union and in other ideologically divided parts of the world.

In the USSR in 1971 two museums dedicated to Dostoevsky opened, one in Leningrad and one in Semipalatinsk, a sign that the Soviet government was finally elevating the writer from 'disgrace', opening up the inevitability of the state officially beginning to acknowledge his greatness. Soon afterwards, the publication of the Complete Academic *Collected Works* of the writer would begin, under the editorship of V. V. Vinogradov and later G. M. Friedlander. And in the international context, the year 1971 is significant above all as the moment of the founding of the International Dostoevsky Society (IDS) and the date of its first Symposium, held in Bad Ems (West Germany). The previous year, one of the main pillars of the IDS, the North American Dostoevsky Society (NADS) had been founded.¹

1 One of the founders of the IDS, Prof. Rudolf Neuhäuser, has written an extensive memoir of the history of the society. This work is interesting and rich in detail, but at the same time, its account of the life of the Society is very one-sided and includes a number of important inaccuracies, as pointed out by other founders of the Society, Malcolm Jones and William Mills Todd, III. See Rudolf NEUHÄUSER, "The International Dostoevsky Society: From the Beginnings to the End of its Existence as an Independent Voluntary Organization", *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, Vol. 21, 2017, pp. 13-41; Malcolm V. JONES, William Mills

In February 1972, the first issue of the *Bulletin of the International Dostoevsky Society* was published; this modest typewritten brochure of 28 pages was the *de facto* first stage in the life of the current Journal (Fig. 1 and 2). The author of this introduction was also born in 1972 (but later in the year, in November, just like Fyodor Mikhailovich); this is one reason (apart from the main one, of course) why this introduction is for me, the new Editor-in-Chief of the journal, not just an ordinary account, but rather an “emotional” history of *Dostoevsky Studies*. But much more important than my personal connection to the journal is the connection of *Dostoevsky Studies* itself with our modern times and with the Dostoevsky Studies of today. The journal claims a prominent role in Dostoevsky scholarship: it is the official expression of the International Dostoevsky Society and its regional societies, and it has already proved its authority over its almost 50-year existence. That, by the way, is a story worthy of more detailed research.

The IDS *Bulletin* mentioned above existed from 1972 to 1980 and was published annually under the editorship of Rudolf Neuhäuser. The bulletin was of a hybrid nature, somewhere between an informational newsletter of the Society and a more scholarly publication, sometimes containing lengthy articles by famous scholars.² Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, in his report on the history of the journal, summarized it well: “As a result, nine issues of the *Bulletin* of the International Dostoevsky Society, each amounting to between 25 and 130 pages, were published (nos. 1 to 4 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada; nos. 5 to 9 at Klagenfurt University, Austria). The IDS *Bulletin* contained a mixture of scholarly articles, book reviews, information of the profession, and a bibliography of current publications”.³ Apart from the diligent organizational and budgetary sections put together by the editor-in-chief and publisher Rudolf Neuhäuser, the mainstay of the *Bulletin* was its reports on the Society’s news given by the executive secretary, Nadezhda (Nadine) Natova (1918-2004),⁴ and its Dostoevsky bibliography, collected by the bibliographer

TODD III, “A Letter to the Editorial Board of Dostoevsky Studies”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, Vol. 22, 2018, pp. 7-9. Many aspects of the history of the IDS still await their chronicler; more detailed research on this topic would provide more information about the life of the Society and about its Symposia: eg. it is known that the German TV channel ZDF-TV participated in the first symposium (see “The Foundation of the International Dostoevsky Society”, *Bulletin of the International Dostoevsky Society*, Vol. 1, n. 1, February 1972, p. 3).

² See NEUHÄUSER, pp. 23-26.

³ Horst-Jürgen GERIGK, “Editorial Preface”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, vol. 2, no. 1, 1998, p. 7.

⁴ Victor TERRAS, “Professor Nadezhda Anatol’evna Natov”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. Vol. 9, 1989, pp. 3-5; Nadja JERNAKOFF, “Nadine”, *ibid.*, pp. 7-8; Robert Louis JACKSON, Rudolf NEU-

June Pachuta Farris (1947-2018):⁵ these three, amongst others, were at the heart of the publication that became *Dostoevsky Studies* in 1980, and they remained there for many years.

The decision to turn the *Bulletin* into a fully-fledged scholarly journal was made at the General Assembly of the IDS, held at the IV Symposium of the Society in Bergamo (Italy) in August 1980.⁶ The journal was published by Neuhäuser in Klagenfurt (Austria) out of the local university. Martin Rice (USA) was appointed Associate Editor, and prominent Dostoevsky scholars such as Jacques Catteau (France), Horst-Jürgen Gerigk (Germany), Nina Kaukhchishvili (Italy), and Robert Louis Jackson, Nadine Natov and Victor Terras (USA) were appointed to the Editorial Board (*Fig. 3*).

This was the first series of *Dostoevsky Studies*, which came out regularly every year until 1989: following the first, nine issues of the journal were published, rich with valuable articles and reviews. Its structure has remained almost unchanged to this day. All nine issues of this first series of the journal are available in open electronic format thanks to the work of June Pachuta Farris, who posted these materials on the website of the University of Toronto (<http://sites.utoronto.ca/tsq/DS/issues.shtml>).

Undoubtedly the termination of the first series of the journal was to some extent associated with the historical events of the late 1980s: ‘perestroika’, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the impending collapse of the Soviet Union... the world was rapidly changing, the foundations were shaking the previous order. At the same, in 1989, for the first time in the history of the IDS, the Symposium of the Society was held in an Eastern European socialist state, in Ljubljana (Yugoslavia), and with the participation of a large group of Soviet specialists headed by G. M. Friedlander. Rudolf Neuhäuser was then appointed the new president of the IDS.⁷

However, a tragic family event kept Neuhäuser away from his social and editorial activities, and this, compounded by the journal’s perennial funding problem, ultimately caused the collapse of the first series of *Dostoevsky Studies*.⁸

HÄUSER *et alii*, “In memory of Nadine Natov, 1918-2004”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, Vol. 9, 2005, pp. 221-245.

5 Deborah A. MARTINSEN, “June Pachuta Farris”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, Vol. 22, 2018, pp. 127-128.

6 Nadine NATOV, “The Fourth Commemorative International Dostoevsky Symposium”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. Vol. 1, 1980, pp. 185-186.

7 Nadine NATOV, “Report on the Seventh Dostoevsky Symposium”, *Dostoevsky Studies*. New Series, Vol. 1, n. 1, 1993, pp. 139-143.

8 NEUHÄUSER, p. 36.

Whatever the reason, the Society was left without its journal for five years, until 1993, when the publication was renewed, but clearly in a new iteration, unconnected with the first series: the center of publication moved from Europe to the United States, the name of the journal changed to *Dostoevsky Studies. New Series*; numbering resumed from scratch; rather ambitious intentions were announced – to publish the journal twice a year – and in the future even to move to a quarterly system. The new series was launched by Editor-in-Chief Gene Fitzgerald and Publisher and Editor Charles Schlacks Jr., both from the University of Utah (*Fig. 4*).

After the publication in 1993 of two scheduled issues (Vol. 1, no. 1 and Vol. 1, no. 2), the publication was suspended for several years. At first glance, what happened to the numbering of *Dostoevsky Studies* journal may cause confusion: after a five-year silence, in 1998, Charles Schlacks Jr. brought out a single issue from California: 2-6 (1994-1998) in a single book, within which he declared: “FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND PUBLISHER. With the appearance of this multi-volume I bid adieu to *Dostoevsky Studies: The Journal of the International Dostoevsky Society*. The journal will continue publication elsewhere”.⁹ At the same time, also in 1998, the first Dresden issue of the journal was published (by numbering – Vol. 2 no. 1). While the situation may at first sight cause confusion, one might point out in the context of a journal dedicated to Dostoevsky that in our field of research twice two is five, and that one should not therefore be surprised to hear of the existence of a certain ‘double’ journal-form...

In any case, the situation was successfully resolved: the American publisher, refusing to continue cooperation with the IDS, founded his own Dostoevsky journal in 1999: *The Dostoevsky Journal. An Independent Review*, an advertisement for which he placed in capital letters in the penultimate page of his farewell ‘multi-issue’ of *Dostoevsky Studies*. At the same time, IDS got its journal back, thanks to Horst-Jürgen Gerigk, who took on the burden of organizing the journal’s new life in Germany, first in Dresden (where the first two issues of the second volume, Vol. 2 no. 1 and Vol. 2 no. 2, were published in 1998) (*Fig. 5*), and from the next year onwards in Tübingen, with the respected publishing house Attempto Verlag (later to become Narr Francke Attempto Verlag) (*Fig. 6*). Starting with the third issue of the series (1999), the journal began to come

9 “From the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher”, *Dostoevsky Studies. New Series*, Vols. 2-6 (1994-1998), without pagination. On the outstanding personality that is Charles Schlacks Jr., see Natalia LAIDINEN, “Charles Schlacks with love for Russian culture”, *ORLITA*, 2013, <http://www.orlita.org/шлак-с-любовью-к-российской-культуре/>. (last viewed: 01/12/2020).

out again on an annual basis, one might even say with that Germanic precision which is one of the distinguishing features of its history (*Fig. 7*).

From that time forth, *Dostoevsky Studies* came out under the experienced guidance of Prof. Gerigk, making it as far as the 22nd issue in 2018, which was to be the last paper issue.¹⁰ The journal strongly reflected the German school of Dostoevsky studies, but in terms of content, it always struck a prudent balance between research and materials from different international schools of Dostoevsky scholarship, particularly those of Russia and the English speaking world; this was also due to the close cooperation of the editor-in-chief with the editorial board, and in particular with Deborah Martinsen, President of the IDS in the years 2007-2013 and still a tireless advocate for the journal.

The idea of transferring the journal to the electronic format of open access has matured over the past four to five years after the topic first came up in the meetings of the IDS during the last Symposia in Granada (2016) and Boston (2019). The final decision was made in Boston. The journal wasn't published in 2019: it has taken some time to implement the new phase of *Dostoevsky Studies*, which begins with this issue.

The journal is moving with the times, changing to an online format to reflect the moment we live in, but it does so in harmony with its past, and in particular with the period of the consistent solid leadership of Prof. Horst-Jürgen Gerigk. It is our intention to maintain the same German regularity, putting out an issue of the journal once a year. The numbering continues, and for this reason you find before you the 23rd issue of *Dostoevsky Studies*. The main headings of the journal remain the same: articles, discussions (the "Dostoevsky Forum"), reviews, and news.

There are, of course, some changes: the graphic design of the new issues of the journal is compiled according to the traditions of Italian publishing; with some minor exceptions in particular cases, only two languages will be used: Russian and English; and for the first time there will be no heading 'current bibliography', which has characterized the whole history of *Dostoevsky Studies* so far. The latter requires explanation: the 'current bibliography' has been a valuable feature of the journal since its inception, curated by our much-mourned colleague June Pachuta Farris, who passed away in 2018. The decision of the Editorial Board to end this tradition was not taken lightly. But times are changing, and with today's search capabilities, bibliographies exist within a completely different context, guaranteed by other means such as online databases and

¹⁰ The content and materials of most of the issues of the new series of the magazine, published in Tübingen up to 2018, can be found on the website of the publishing house Narr Francke Attempto: https://www.periodicals.narr.de/index.php/dostoevsky_studies

search engines. A future project will undoubtedly be a comprehensive database in which the community of Dostoevsky scholars can interactively include information about publications devoted to the writer, and the creation of such a database is one of the IDS' tasks for the future.¹¹ The journal cannot compete with technology, so we must allow the Dostoevsky bibliography to continue in a more suitable place online.

We will use only two working languages, as previously mentioned, but with maximum international reach: the vocation of the journal *Dostoevsky Studies* is to help facilitate more and more international cross-fertilization for Dostoevsky scholars from different countries and traditions. To this end, the Editorial Board of *Dostoevsky Studies* intends to develop contacts with other Dostoevsky journals, in the belief that the existence of various periodicals dedicated to Fyodor Mikhailovich is a guarantee of the polyphony that, following Bakhtin, became a symbol of the writer's worldwide reach.¹²

- 11 At the moment there are several valuable resources on the Internet which list works about Dostoevsky and his texts; among them it is worth citing the richest website, "F. M. Dostoevsky", at Petrozavodsk State University, which collects all the writer's texts in contemporary published versions, their concordances, Fyodor M. Dostoevsky's complete letters, an anthology of criticism by his contemporaries on Dostoevsky (1845-1881), the editorial archives of the journals *Vremia* (1861-1863), *Epokha* (1864-1865) and *Grazhdanin* (1872-1879), the literary and epistolary heritage of Mikhail M. Dostoevsky, and Andrey M. Dostoevsky's and Anna G. Dostoevskaya's memoirs and correspondances (<https://philolog.petsu.ru/fmdost/index.htm>). It is also worth citing one of the most exciting developments, the site of Sergei Rublev, *Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. Anthology of life and creativity* (<https://fedordostoevsky.ru/>). For Dostoevsky's German bibliography, there is a page on the German DS website (<http://www.dostojewskij-gesellschaft.de/bibliografie.html>).
- 12 The abundance of periodicals devoted entirely to Dostoevsky should not surprise us, in fact the contrary. In Russia alone, there are two journals, one almanac and one serial publication: these are *Unknown Dostoevsky* (editor-in-chief – Vladimir N. Zakharov, <https://unknown-dostoevsky.ru/>), *Dostoevsky and world culture* (a Moscow journal, editor-in-chief – Tatiana A. Kasatkina, <http://dostmirkult.ru/index.php/ru/>), *Dostoevsky and world culture* (the almanac of the same name, published in St. Petersburg by Boris N. Tikhomirov) and the serial edition of the Dostoevsky group of the Pushkin House *Dostoevsky. Materials and research*. Outside of Russia there is a journal of the German Dostoevsky Society: *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Dostojewskij-Gesellschaft e.V.* (<http://www.dostojewskij-gesellschaft.de/jahrbuch.html>), *The Dostoevsky Journal. A Comparative Literature Review* (editor-in-chief – Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover), the journal of the Dostoevsky Society of Japan *Dostoevsky Bulletin* (<https://www.dsjn.jp/dsjjournal/>), the journal of the Bulgarian Dostoevsky Society *Dostoevski. Thought and Image*, and the Spanish-language journal *Estudios Dostoevski* (editors-in-chief – Jordi Morillas, José-Luís Flores and Alejandro Ariel González (<http://www.agonfilosofia.es/EstudiosDostoevski/>)). It is worth mentioning the existence of the North American Society's active blog, *Bloggers Karamazov* (<https://bloggerskaramazov.com/>).

Finally, I will offer a few words to introduce the content of this issue. The articles section is devoted to five impressive studies. We decided to open an issue with a 'diptych' of works about *The Idiot*. The first deals with the theme of the inability to forgive as the tragic basis of this novel; the author, Deborah Martinsen, has given years of invaluable service to the IDS and its journal *Dostoevsky Studies*, and we feel it appropriate to begin this new iteration with an homage to our dear colleague and mentor, who has done and will continue to do so much for *Dostoevsky Studies*. A no less thorough and original article follows by our Croatian colleague Jasmina Voivodić, who has long been studying the issues of corporeality in Dostoevsky's poetics and here produces a subtle 'diagnosis' of the special 'feverishness' of the main characters of this novel.

Speaking of fever, one cannot help thinking about Rodion Raskolnikov, and the next article, by the American scholar Gary Rosenshield, is devoted to him, and provides an interesting contribution to the important and much-debated topic of the Napoleonic theory of the hero of *Crime and Punishment*.

The last two articles of the section intersect in different ways with the motif of the dialogue of cultures and the perception of the Other: if the Italian Russian scholar Maria Candida Ghidini's study paints a motley picture of the perception of Dostoevsky in the bosom of French culture of the 1920s, the German researcher Christoph Garstka analyzes different aspects of the 'Russia–West' dialectic in Dostoevsky's interpretation, emphasizing the relevance of these issues for today's Russian discourse, since the opinions and statements of Dostoevsky are certainly central to Russia today.

In the section "Dostoevsky Forum", we have the honor to publish an extensive text by the outstanding Russian researcher of Dostoevsky's poetics, Valentina Evgenievna Vetlovskaya, dedicated to a discussion of Horst-Jürgen Gerigk's recent monograph. Lying somewhere between a review and an article, this text is an example of a serious, scientific dialogue of cultures, a frank discussion between schools that study Dostoevsky's work in different ways.

In the reviews section, the reader will find only two posts; both, which are nonetheless extremely valuable, as they deal with two new publications deserving of the attention of Dostoevsky scholars.

And in the last section of the journal, the reader will find interesting information that testifies to the vitality and continuing activities of Dostoevsky societies around the world: in addition to a brief survey of the last IDS Symposium, which was held in Boston in the summer of 2019, there will be information about the preparation of events in different parts of the world to celebrate the upcoming two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky; and information about the recently founded *Es-*

tudios Dostoievski, the first scholarly journal dedicated to Dostoevsky in the Spanish-speaking world.

The editorial board of *Dostoevsky Studies* will continue to gladly publish information about the activities of regional Dostoevsky Societies and fellow journals, so that our community can flourish, and research about Dostoevsky can be constantly enriched with new ideas, views, and developments.

On behalf of the editorial board of *Dostoevsky Studies*,

Stefano Aloe
Managing Editor
(Translated from the Russian by Kate Holland)

Post Scriptum: Just before this issue of *Dostoevsky Studies* was ready for publication, we received the sad news that the founder of our Journal prof. Rudolf Neuhäuser has recently passed away. We remembered much about his key role in the present foreword; nevertheless, giving a rightful account of his impact deserves a special, unhurried approach and it will be a task of the next journal issue: it will be dedicated to Prof. Neuhäuser *in memoriam*.

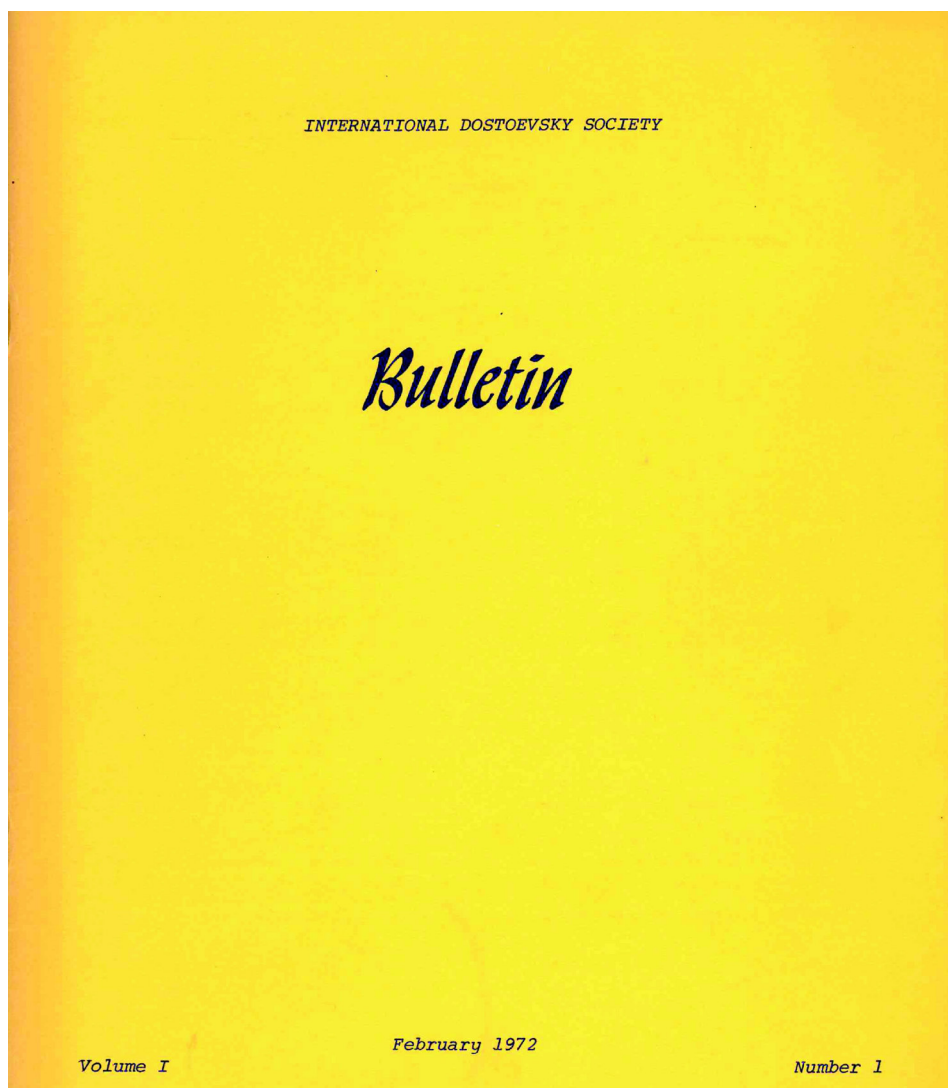


Fig./Илл. 1
Cover of the first *Bulletin of the IDS* (1972)

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Fig./Илл. 2 – Bulletin n. 1: contents

Volume 1, no. 1

February 1972

BULLETIN

International Dostoevsky Society

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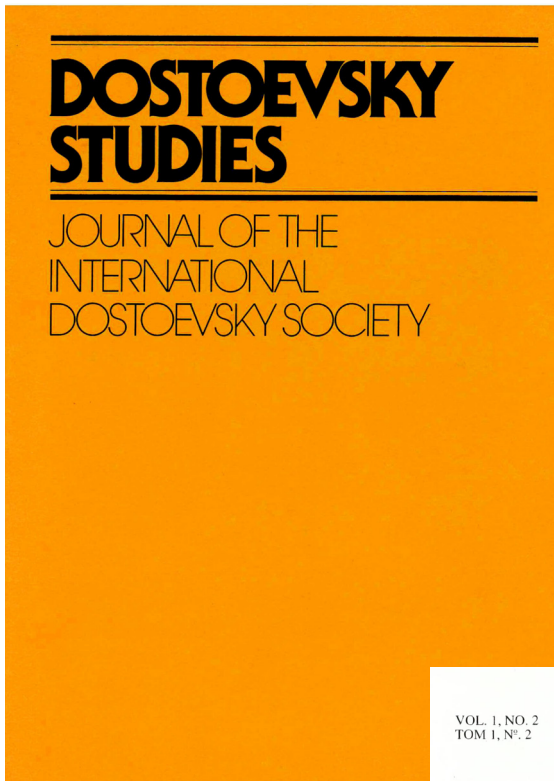


Fig./Илл. 3
Cover of the
Dostoevsky Studies # 1
(first series) (1980)

VOL. 1, NO. 2
TOM 1, №. 2

NEW SERIES
НОВАЯ СЕРИЯ

DOSTOEVSKY ДОСТОЕВСКИЙ: СТАТЬИ
STUDIES И МАТЕРИАЛЫ

The Journal of the International
Dostoevsky Society

Журнал международного
общества Достоевского



Fig./Илл. 4
Cover of the *DS* # 1, n. 2
(New series) (1993)

Charles Schlacks, Jr., Publisher
The Center for Multiethnic and Transnational Studies
University of Southern California

Fig./Илл. 5
The “Dresden cover”:
DS # 2 (1998)

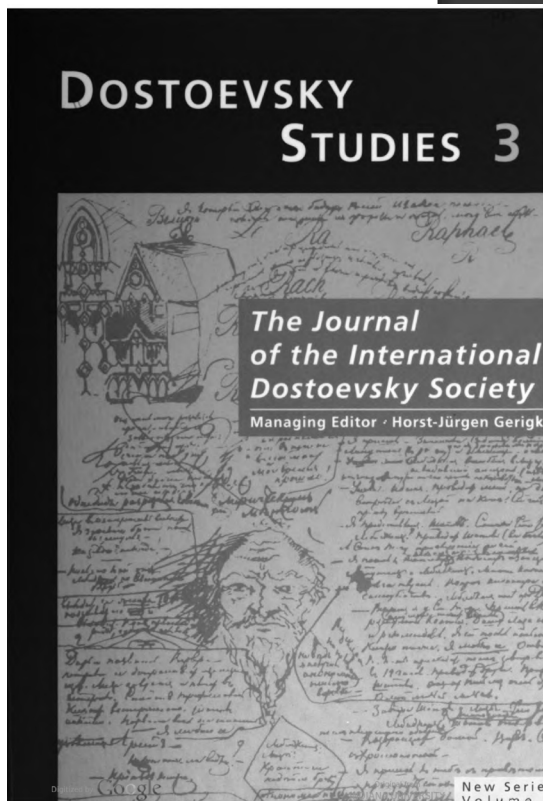
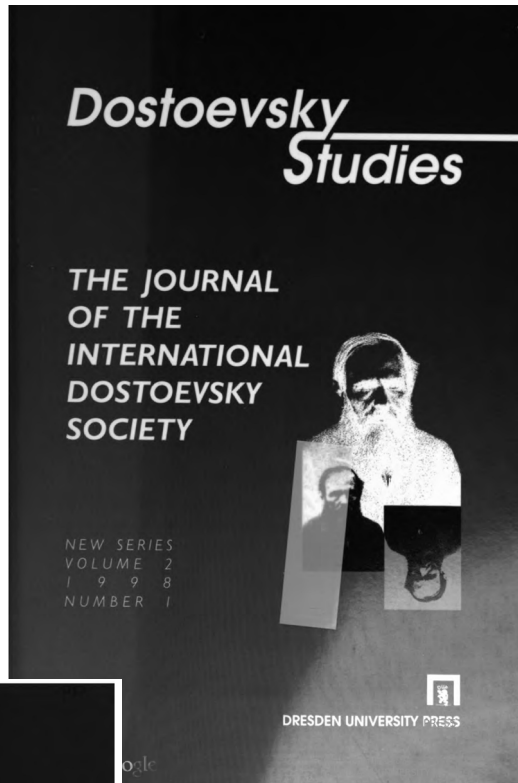


Fig./Илл. 6
Cover of the DS # 3
(1999): the “Tübingen era”

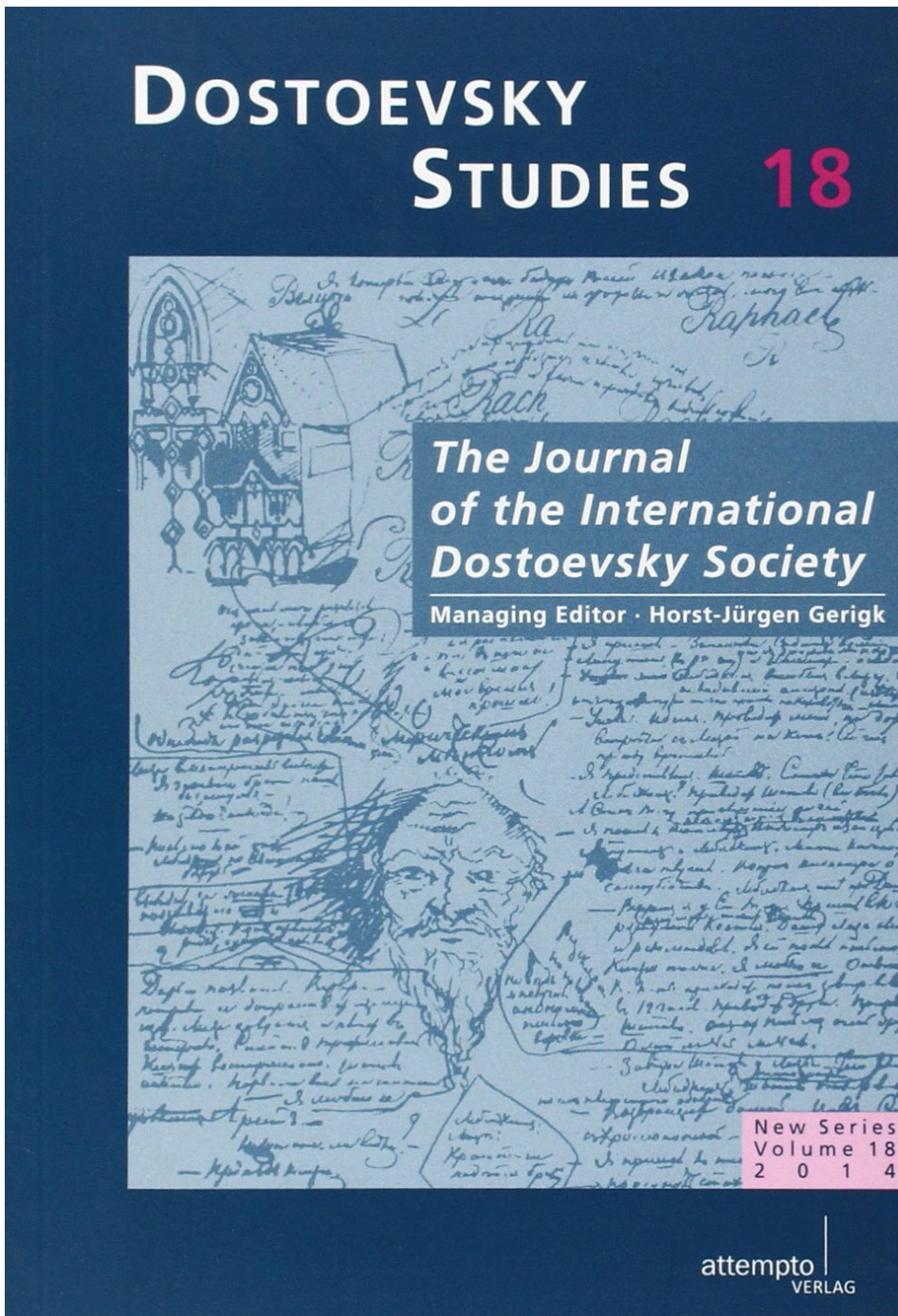


Fig./Илл. 7 – DS # 18 cover (2014)