

A Note on Translations, Transliteration, and Punctuation

All translations from Russian and French texts are mine unless otherwise indicated.

Russian names and other words have been transliterated according to a modified Library of Congress system. The generally accepted spelling of familiar names is retained, even if it differs (e.g., Moscow, not Moskva, Pugachev, not Pugachyov). Tsvetaeva is used, instead of Tsvetayeva, throughout.

Note that Russian “e” is transliterated as “e” or “ye” initially and after vowels; “ē” is transliterated as “yo”; “и” as “i” or omitted preceding “y”; “ы” as “y”; combinations “ий” and “ый” as “y”; “ю” as “yu”; “я” as “ya.” Soft and hard signs are generally omitted.

Tsvetaeva developed her own idiosyncratic use of punctuation, frequently employing dashes and ellipses in both prose and poetry. Where ellipses are the author’s, not Tsvetaeva’s, they are marked by brackets []. I have in a few instances changed punctuation for clarity.