

FROM THE EDITOR

The collection of articles presented in this special volume of the journal *Przeгляд Rusycystyczny* is based on the papers presented at the Grinnell College Russian Department International Symposium *Politics of Russian Popular Culture* that took place in October of 2006. The symposium was organized with the help of a number of Grinnell College and outside constituents: The Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs; the Center for International Studies; the Center for the Humanities; the Associated Colleges of the Midwest; the Grinnell College Convocation Committee; the Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies Concentration; the Departments of Art and Theatre; and Faulconer Gallery. As part of the symposium, there were also several accompanying events: a main-stage production based on Mikhail Bulgakov's novel *Master and Margarita*, directed by Russian actor and director Veniamin Smekhov, an exhibit and gallery talk by Vitaly Komar, and a concert by Russian bard Timur Shaov.

The symposium *Politics of Russian Popular Culture* became a major event on the college campus, and I am especially happy to acknowledge the active student and former student participation in the event. A direct result of this involvement is the introductory article to the collection — written by the Grinnell College Russian Department graduate, Richard J. Walker (class of 2004). The assistant editor of this collection was also a Grinnell student, Bristol Ivy (class of 2007).

I want to thank again the Grinnell College constituents who made it possible for this symposium to take place, and also all my friends and colleagues who participated in the event and contributed to this special issue.

*Anatoly Vishevsky*