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About Our Contributors

Yana M. Boyeva was born in 1950 in the town of Sillamäe (Estonia). Since 1960 she has been living in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). In 1980, she graduated from the Higher Institute of Design and Arts named after Mukhina (now the Academy of Design and Arts). Her artistic interests lie in Russian traditional lacquer miniatures and graphics. From 1991–1994, she participated in the “Deer Park” group of Buddhist painters in St. Petersburg, combining traditional Russian artistic techniques with Buddhist themes. Boyeva has participated in several exhibitions in Russia and Germany (e.g., The Buddhist Society of Hamburg, 1993). Her graphic works have been used in several books printed in Russia. The artist lives with her husband, a 19-year-old son, and two dogs. Her hobbies include Oriental culture and arts, reading works of fantasy, and dogs.

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Andrey M. Burakov, M.D., Ph.D., received his M.D. degree in 1994 from Petrozavodsk State University, and his Ph.D. in 1996 in psychopharmacology from the V. M. Bekhterev Psychoneurological Research Institute. Since 1994, he has been working as a psychiatrist at the Research Laboratory of the Leningrad Regional Dispensary of Narcology. His area of expertise is in the treatment of alcoholism and drug dependency.

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Natalia Bechterevea, M.D., D.Sc., is a neurophysiologist, Professor, USSR State Prize laureate, and Scientific Director of the Human Brain Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg.

Cynthia Clement, M.A., is working on her doctoral degree in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i. Her research interests include the theoretical intersection between mammal

and mentality that is the locus of such mixed physiological and emotional phenomena as psychogenic lacrimation, or tears; and in the psychology of the mystical pole of human behavior, inasmuch as it would seem to act directly contrary to all evolutionary imperatives such as personal comfort, reproduction, and even the sustenance of life through nutrition. The cliff edge at which empiricism, logical positivism and physicalism shelve off into the subjective, transpersonal abyss always tempts her to leap.

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Jeanna Drogalina-Nalimov, M.A., is affiliated with Moscow State University. She graduated from Moscow Linguistic University in 1960. Since 1974 she worked in the laboratory of Mathematical Theory of Experiment headed by Professor V. V. Nalimov at Moscow State University in the group, defined by academician A. N. Kolmogorov, as Nalimov's “linguistic flowerbed.” The transdisciplinary character of the Laboratory gave Professor Nalimov the chance to work not only in the field of mathematical statistics but also in a much broader field which he defined as the “universal (global) ecology of man,” encompassing language and consciousness. Drogalina-Nalimov assisted him for more than 20 years as a translator, editor, and coauthor of publications in Russian and English. In particular, several chapters of Professor Nalimov's book *Realms of the Unconscious: The Enchanted Frontier* were written in collaboration with her; she was also the leading experimenter and prepared the experimental materials, conducted the experiments, and processed the results for the volume.

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Alexander Y. Grinenko, M.D., Ph.D., has been Minister of Health Care in the Government of the Leningrad Region since 1987. From 1981–1987 he was Director of the Leningrad Regional Dispensary of Narcology. From 1964–1981 he worked as a psychiatrist in psychiatric hospitals in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and the Leningrad region.

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Vassily Vassilievich Nalimov (1910–1997), D.Sc., began his professional career in physics but it was interrupted by Stalin's repressions in 1936, from which time until 1954, he lived in prisons, the Kolyma labor camps (Siberia), and "eternal" exile to Kazakhstan (Middle Asia). The spectrum of his thought and activity influenced by external circumstances and his personal interests was very broad: engineering work at plant laboratories and in scientific research institutes; mathematical statistics; applications of experimental design; scientometrics; elaboration of a probabilistic approach to language and consciousness; and philosophy of science and human existence. Since 1965 he was on the staff of Moscow State University and served for ten years as deputy director of the interfaculty Laboratory of Statistical Methods headed by the famous Russian mathemati-

cian, Andrei Nikolayevich Kolmogorov, one of the founders of the modern theory of probability, who frequently called attention to the importance of the "privilege of probabilistic thinking." Later, Nalimov became head of the Laboratory of Mathematical Theory of Experiment. Professor Nalimov published more than 230 papers and 30 books, some of which were translated into other languages—English, German, French, Polish, and Hungarian. Four volumes in English: *In the Labyrinths of Language: A Mathematician's Journey*, *Faces of Science*, *Realms of the Unconscious: The Enchanted Frontier*, and *Space, Time and Life* were described by the late Professor Robert G. Colodny (USA) as a "survey of the physical cosmos and man's intellectual and emotional pilgrimage through it over time."

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Tõnu R. Soidla, Ph.D., D.Sc., was raised in the small town of Rakvere in Estonia. He received his degrees in genetics from Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) University. He has spent the last 30 years or so in this magical and beautiful city, now sadly in a state of much unromantic decay. Soidla is an author of more than 70 scientific papers in genetics, most of them published in Russian. He feels that genetics provides a sense of stability, rationality, and repeatability that the human mind seems to have great need of. At the same time he feels that one cannot deny a complementary, urgent need of being in contact with some mystery of being that one usually finds almost impossible to express. In search of a language to be able to speak about some aspects of this mystery, Soidla was led to the transpersonal movement, gave several "underground" lectures on this topic in the 1970s (the USSR was officially rather unfriendly towards mystics), and during the last six years has published a dozen or so transpersonal studies. During the spring of 1999, the author will be a Visiting Scholar at the University of Hawai'i as

well as teaching a graduate seminar entitled "Spontaneity of Being: Transpersonalism in Russia."

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Leonid Spivak, (1925–1999), M.D., D.Sc., was a psychiatrist, Professor, USSR State Prize laureate, and leading research fellow at the Human Brain Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. For the last 30 years he was one of the leading Russian experts in psychoactive drug therapies. Major book titles: *Psychotomimetics*. Leningrad: Medicina Publishers, 1971 (149 pp., in Russian; with G. Milstein); *Side Effects of Psychopharmacological Therapy*. Leningrad: Medicina Publishers, 1988 (168 pp., in Russian; with V. Raisky & B. Vilensky); cf. his article: Psychoactive drug research in the Soviet scientific tradition, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 1991, 23(3), 271–281.

Evgueni A. Tortchinov, Ph.D., D.Sc., writes: I was born in 1956 in the city of Ordzhonikidze (now Vladikavkaz) in the Caucasus, but my childhood and early youth were spent in the city of Saratov on the Volga River. When I was 13, I became (for reasons unclear even to myself) very interested in Chinese culture, and this determined my future life and career. Thus, in 1973, I found myself

to be a student in the Department of Chinese Philology of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg—the second and informal capital of Russia, and certainly, the first cultural capital of this country) State University from which I graduated in 1978. When I was a beginning student, in my first year, my tutor suggested that I study Chinese philosophy and religion. I agreed, and it was my second fatal step. So it was that I was destined in the course of my life to study the sayings of Confucius, the verses of Lao-tzu, and the sutras of the Buddha. But I became fond of different sinological (and even academic) heresies, such as Taoist alchemy, Tantric yoga, Yogacara idealism, and transpersonalism. The last (and worst) of these heresies sometimes led me far away from Chinese studies, but it was, I suppose, quite beneficial for broadening my horizons. So far I have published three rather voluminous books, a number of small booklets, and a lot of articles of varying quality. Now, my path has just led me to become the chairperson of the newly born (after horrible woes and sufferings of BPM II and III) Department of Oriental Philosophy and Culture of the Faculty of Philosophy of my beloved alma mater. And I hope that this is not the end of my orientalist and transpersonal trip—just another destination in a ceaseless journey. In any case, the trip continues on!

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Julia Trott, M.A., is working on her doctoral degree in the Department of History at the University of Hawai'i and is currently a part-time lecturer in World Civilizations at Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu. She admits to an unfashionable but unrepentant pursuit of cultural and psychological approaches to history, and a total neglect of politics both correct and incorrect. Apart from an early fascination with Central Asian and Siberian shamanistic cultures, she enjoys almost everything that predates the Industrial Revolution. She is writing her doctoral dissertation on British colonial history.

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Henri Volohonsky was born in 1936 in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), Russia, where he studied at the Institute of Chemistry and Pharmacy (1954–59), and as a graduate student at the Institute of Internal Fisheries (1966–68). While in Russia, he worked in various institutions and took part in expeditions to numerous seas, lakes, and rivers. In 1973, Volohonsky moved to Israel, where he worked until 1985 at the Kinneret Limnological Laboratory. In 1985, he moved to Munich, Germany, where he worked until 1995 at Radio Liberty. Volohonsky has authored several books of poetry and prose, and comments on *St. John's Revelation*. He has also translated parts of the book of *Zohar* and has written several works devoted to the topic of symmetry and harmony.

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Alla Yarkho was born in 1945 in Moscow and graduated from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages. For 20 years she worked at Moscow State University as a secretary and translator in the Laboratory of Mathematical Theory of Experiment. She also conducted some research in the domain of psychology and psycholinguistics. At present, she lives in France and teaches Russian language and literature at the University of Bordeaux. The author is married and has two children.

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Mikhail Zlatkovsky was born in 1944 into the family of an officer of the Soviet Army. One grandfather was a captain of the White Guards, the other, a priest. The family name comes from a

Polish baron of the 12th century. Zlatkovsky has a Master's degree in nuclear physics; the thesis was not defended due to political causes. Since 1971 he has been a "free lance artist" (his own description). He has also worked as a chief art director in various Moscow publishing houses. He is a member of the artists and journalists' Union (in Russia), and an honorary member of the French Academy of Fine Arts. He is coeditor of the professional cartoon magazine *Witty World* (USA). The artist has been awarded over 150 national and international prizes in applied drawings (newspapers, magazines, books illustrations, designs, posters, cartoons, animation), including about 30 from other countries: Canada, USA, France, Italy, Japan, Yugoslavia, Turkey, etc.

Zlatkovsky also holds the 1st place in the First Professional PEERS Pool of artists of conceptual drawings (1992–1993) on three nominations: national artist, international artist, conceptual artist. In 1993–1996 he worked in the USA as chief art director in several local newspapers. He now does works for *Literaturnaya Gazeta* (all-Russian issue) as well as being chief art director. Zlatkovsky's artwork reproduced here first appeared in Professor V. V. Nalimov's book entitled *Faces of Science* and is reprinted in this special issue of *Voices of Russian Transpersonalism* (Vol. 5) with the permission of the author.

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