

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Berberova's letters – most of them typed but some handwritten – are from Rittenberg's archive. Unfortunately, Rittenberg's responses to her seem to have been lost.

The following mechanical details deserve to be mentioned:

Dates have been adapted to follow a uniform system. When necessary I have supplemented them in parentheses.

Berberova's punctuation and in some cases her capitalization have been preserved.

Certain minor orthographic corrections have been made. The transliteration of proper names and place names has been modified to follow prevalent norms.

Berberova has a special way of conveying emphasis, underlining typed text and spreading out letters of a word in handwritten texts. These details have been preserved.

The notes provide brief biographical facts about the persons mentioned in the letters. In the case of very familiar names I have limited myself to birth and death dates. No details are furnished for persons who are especially well-known in European cultural history or in this specific context.

Only limited references are made here to Berberova's many remarks in *Kursiv moj* about the people in her life.

I want to thank *Hans Elvessons minnesfond* for fundamental financial support. I am also indebted to my editor Antoaneta Granberg, Karin Grelz, Konstantin Azadovskij, Lars Erik Blomqvist, Thomas Ekholm and Lazar Fleishman for their generous assistance.

The introduction and note apparatus have been translated by the late Charles Rougle, my invaluable friend and colleague.

M.L.