

EDITORIAL NOTE

Not long after Jan Meijer's untimely death the idea arose to dedicate a series of articles to his memory. In order to honour him worthily, the editors decided to welcome articles on Russian literature, language and history, fields of science the development of which Jan Meijer followed closely during his life.

The appreciation for Jan Meijer as a person and a man of letters manifests itself perhaps best in the ready response to our appeal from his friends and colleagues both in East and West.

The original plan to have this volume published by the end of 1982 was thwarted by far reaching economic measures from the side of the Dutch government which meant a direct threat to the further existence of the Institute that bears Jan Meijer's name. Though the government, unimpressed by sound arguments, pursues its destructive policy, the editors felt that trivialities like economic restrictions should not impede a worthier cause.

The editors take great pride in presenting this memorial volume and feel deeply indebted to the institutions that furnished the necessary funds: the *Prins Bernhard Fonds*, the Faculty of Arts and the Jan M. Meijer Institute of the University of Utrecht. Miss Koppelman was prepared to stay on until she had completed the arduous task of typing the

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entire manuscript, rather than immediately leave us in order to secure a position elsewhere. Thanks to her the belated publication did not suffer further delay.

Jan M. Meijer Institute
Utrecht, November 1983

The Editors