

Irina Prikhodko (1944-2014)

Professor Irina Stepanovna Prikhodko passed away on March 25, 2014, at the age of 70.

She has been the inspiration for us, Russian scholars of Shakespeare and his times, the soul of our not-too-large team, ever encouraging and supporting all the plans and projects we did together. An exquisite scholar and a gentle mind, a kind friend and an ever-helpful mentor, a living tradition which connected our generation with that of the great Russian names in the humanities, she will always remain in our hearts.

Irina Prikhodko graduated from Voronezh State University in 1966 and got her Candidate of Philology degree from Moscow State Pedagogical University in 1973 (with a thesis on WH Auden and British poetry of the 1930s). From 1972 to 2003, she was a professor at Vladimir University, and since 2003, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of World Literature (IMLI), Moscow. Her Doctorate thesis was devoted to the mythopoetics of Alexander Blok (she was a major expert on Russia's most famous poet of the Silver Age). Professor Prikhodko's contribution to comparative research of English and Russian literary cultures will continue to inspire us.

She was one of the most prominent Shakespearian scholars of her generation, writing extensively on "Othello", "Measure for Measure", "As You Like It" and "The Tempest" (full bibliography in Russian and English available [here](#)), but her main interest always lay with the Sonnets and especially their symbolism. She was the author of several articles dealing with vegetation metaphors, the role of imagination and other issues of researching the Sonnets. Professor Prikhodko has started preparing the first academic edition of the Sonnets in Russian – a work to be now continued by the Russian Shakespeare community.

Irina Stepanovna was the guiding spirit of the Shakespeare Committee at the Russian Academy of Sciences since its reconvention in early 2000s. She has been a member since 1973 and took up organizational duties in the troubled post-Soviet years, after the death of the Committee's founder, Alexander Anikst. She was the prime organizer of the bi-annual Russian Shakespeare conference. Thanks to her, the conferences provided a great venue for Shakespearian scholars from around the world to meet and discuss English and Russian culture. It is hard to imagine any session of the Committee or a panel at the conference without her profound and tactful remarks, helpful questions and ideas she was always brimming with.

A long-time member of the SAA and the ISA, Irina Stepanovna has lectured as a visiting professor at SUNY Albany in 1994 and Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, in 2001. She was the receiver of awards from the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board and the USIA, as well as multiple Russian prizes.