

Acknowledgments	v
Preface	1
Part One. Elective Affinities	13
1. Ol'ga Freidenberg and Boris Pasternak on Their Personal Experience and on Cultural Values of Their Time	17
A. Recollections of Childhood and Youth: Composition of the Narrative	17
B. Freidenberg and Pasternak Reflect on a Common Historical and Philosophical Background	28
Part Two. The Years of Apprenticeship	43
2. At the Department of Classical Studies: A Female University Student of a New Type	45
A. One of the First Women Enrolled at Petersburg University	45
B. Studying "The Acts of Paul and Thecla" under Zhebelev's Direction	47
C. Tracing Similarities between the Early Christian Apocrypha and the Ancient Greek Erotic Novel	53
D. Freidenberg's Conflict with Her University Teachers	58
3. Studying under the Aegis of Nikolai Marr	69
A. A Foster Child or a Stepdaughter in the Marrist Family?	69
B. Excursus into the Japhetic Theory by Nikolai Marr	71
C. Meeting I. G. Frank-Kamenetskii, Life-Long Friend and Like-Minded Thinker	83
D. Frank-Kamenetskii and Freidenberg Assimilating Cassirer's Philosophical Principles	88
Part Three. Becoming a Mature Scholar	
4. Ol'ga Freidenberg: A Cassirer Scholar in Marrist Garb	99
A. To Yield or Not to Yield to the Authority of Marrism?	99

B.	An Attempt at Creating “Marrism with a Human Face”	106
5.	Freidenberg’s Semantic Paleontology and the History of Folklore	117
A.	The Collective Study of the Plot of <i>Tristan and Iseult</i>	117
B.	The Discussion “What is Folklore”: Freidenberg, Zhirmunskii, Azadovskii	124
6.	Freidenberg and the Formalists: The Broken Connection	131
A.	A Similarity of Macrostructures and Dissimilarity of Microstructures	131
B.	Factors, Facts, and Their Interaction within the Literary System, According to Freidenberg and Tynianov	136
C.	Freidenberg and the Folklorists of the Formalist School: Vladimir Propp and Petr Bogatyrev	139
Part Four. Habeant sua fata libeli		
7.	Suppression and Release of <i>The Poetics of Plot and Genre</i>	151
A.	Reopening the Department of Classical Studies in the Soviet University	151
B.	Travels through the Labyrinths of Power: The Adventures of <i>The Poetics of Plot and Genre</i>	156
8.	<i>The Poetics of Plot and Genre</i> : Content of the Book	165
A.	“Dissimilarity is the Most Essential Form of Identity”	165
B.	Shifts in Meaning/Structure and in Image/Concept Correlations as the Main Operational Principles in the Archaic Semantics	170
C.	Further Examples of “the Heteromorphism of the Forms of Being”	175
D.	Forms of Comedy and Tragedy in Their Dialectical Relation to the History of Communal Perceptions	177
Part Five. The Siege of Leningrad and Its Aftermath		
9.	The Siege of a Human Being and the Technique of Modern Political Myths	183
Part Six. Freidenberg’s Last Decade: The Siege of Humanity Continues		
10.	Historical Aesthetics and the Socio-Historical Method in Literature	195
A.	“I Have Looked Biology in the Eye. I Have Lived under Stalin” (11: 2, 26 June 1945)	195

B.	Ol'ga Freidenberg and Grigorii Gukovskii on Historical Poetics: The Collective Societal or the Socio-Historical Interpretation?	200
C.	Freidenberg in the Late 1940s: "This is the Letter to the World that Never Wrote to Me"	211
11.	<i>Image and Concept</i> : The Last Major Study	215
A.	The Onset of the Anti-Marrist Campaign and Freidenberg's Retirement from the University	215
B.	A New Formulaic Expression for the Antinomy of the Real and the Apparent	217
C.	The Archaic <i>Mimos</i> and the Origin of Greek Comedy and Tragedy	221
D.	Epic and Comedial Laughter or the Comical before Comedy	224
E.	Freidenberg's Conception of a Pre-Aristotelian Metaphor	226
Part Seven. A Reassessment of Freidenberg's Theories		
12.	Freidenberg's Semantics and the Structural Approaches to Culture	235
A.	Semantic Paleontology and the Semiotics of Culture	235
B.	Two Scenarios of Christ's Entering into Jerusalem	243
13.	The Freidenberg-Bakhtin Correlation	247
A.	Freidenberg and Bakhtin on the Role of an Individual in the Social World	247
B.	"The Birth of the Author" and "The Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse"	250
C.	Discussing Laughter in its Relation to Ritual	256
D.	"Events in Life" and "Events of Life" as Two Possible Ways of Combining the Outside World with a Human Being	258
	Epilogue	263
	Index	271