



Anarchists were a small but highly radical group in pre-Revolutionary Russia. Since they lacked printing facilities within their own country, they were forced to initiate their propaganda activities from abroad. During the February Revolution of 1917, however, anarchist literature and periodicals were legalized in Russia and the leaders of the anarchist movement were released from prison and returned from internal and external exile. This collection reveals the eventful history of Russia during the revolutionary era, from the perspective of metropolitan and provincial newspapers and journals published by the most radical political forces. Furthermore, these materials shed new light on the relationship of the anarchists with the Bolsheviks and the Soviet State, and also reveal the impact of anarchist ideas on the literature and art of the period.

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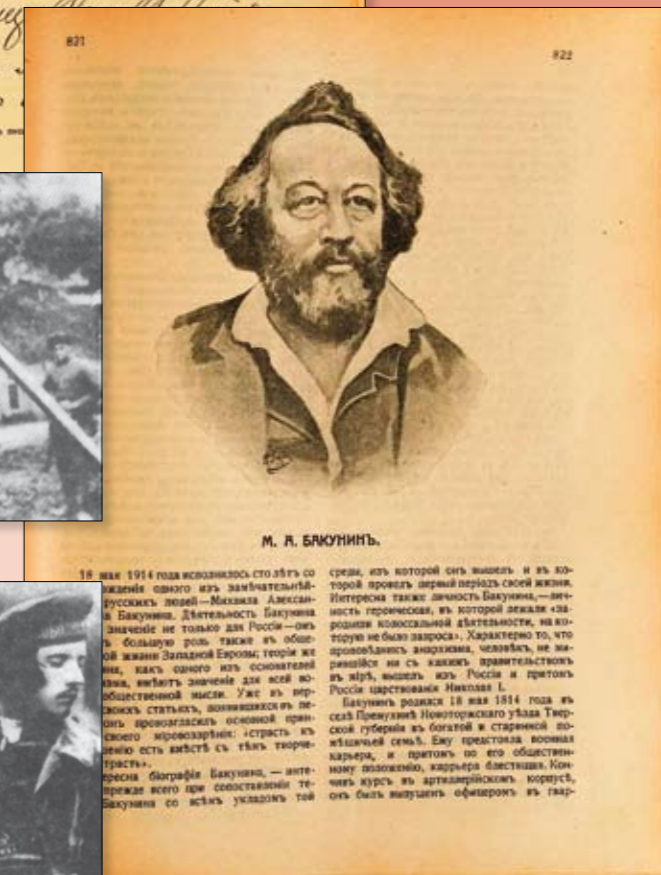
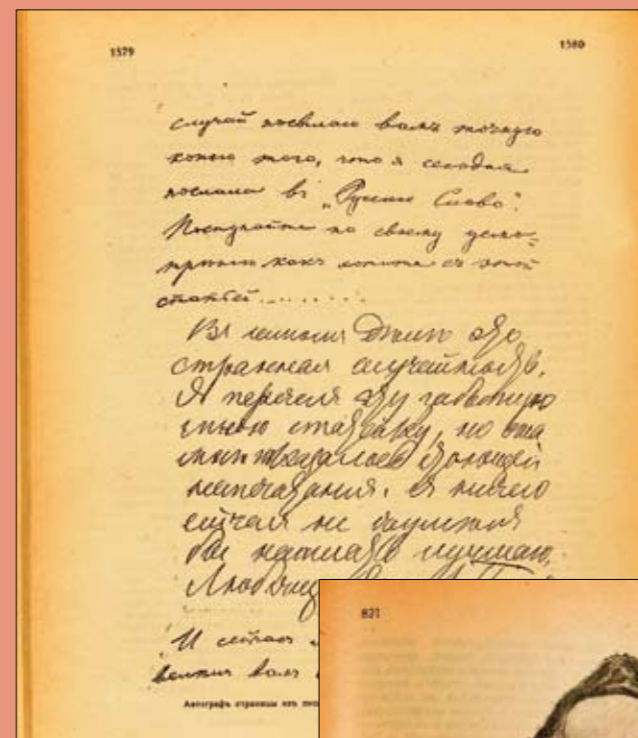
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PRIMARY SOURCE COLLECTION



## Russian Anarchist Periodicals of the Early 20th Century

Material from: The National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg  
The Russian Academy of Sciences Library, St. Petersburg

Advisor: Rashit Yangirov, Moscow



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# Russian Anarchist Periodicals of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Anarchism and the Russian Revolution

Anarchists – being a small but highly radical group in pre-revolutionary Russia - lacked printing facilities within their own country and were forced to initiate their propaganda activities from abroad. During the February Revolution of 1917, the leaders of the anarchist movement (Petr Kropotkin, Apollon Karelin, Vsevolod Volin, Aleksandr Ge and others) were released from prison, and from internal and external exile, and anarchist literature and periodicals were legalized in Russia. This collection reveals the eventful history of Russia during the revolutionary era, from the perspective of metropolitan and provincial newspapers and journals published by the most radical political forces. Furthermore, these materials shed new light on the relationship of the anarchists with the Bolsheviks and the Soviet State, and also reveal the impact of anarchist ideas on the literature and art of the period.



**CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Newspapers and journals published by anarchists in:

- Petrograd
- Moscow
- Kiev
- Kharkov
- Krasnoyarsk

## Periodicals from the Major Cities and the Provinces

The revived anarchist groups issued brochures, pamphlets, newspapers and journals and re-published the old works of the theoreticians of anarchism. From an ideological and political point of view, Russian anarchism was divided into a host of sub-movements. Consequently, the anarchist periodicals were characterized by a wide diversity of content. By the spring of 1918, anarchist groups of various convictions were active in 130 cities and towns all over the country. Various sources indicate that they were publishing up to 55 newspapers and journals. This collection presents the most interesting samples of that period. Leading publications were those originating from Petrograd and Moscow: the newspapers *Anarkhiia* (circulation 20,000 copies) and *Burevestnik*, as well as the weekly journals *Svobodnaia Kommuna* (10,000 copies), *Volnyi golos truda* (15,000 copies), *Golos truda*, *Golos anarkhista*. The newspapers and journals from Kiev, Kharkov and Krasnoyarsk presented in this collection are particularly rare documents, since most anarchist publications from the provinces have not survived.

## Anarchism and Avant-Garde Art in Revolutionary Russia

Special attention should be given to the various connections of anarchism with radical trends in Russian art and literature. The informal alliance of artist radicals with radicals in the political field was strengthened by the fact that the anarchists were actively involved in various organs of new Soviet power during the months following the October Revolution of 1917. Moreover, in these early days, the artistic policy of the Bolsheviks was largely based on the principles of anarchism, and their actions were guided by anarchist manifestos, particularly their decree on the “nationalization of art”(1918). Anarchist ideas had a strong impact on the futurists, concerning a revolutionary transformation of life. Of particular interest is the newspaper *Anarkhiia*, which prominently featured the section “Creative Work”. This section included regular contributions by Kazimir Malevich, Aleksandr Rodchenko, Aleksei Gan, Ol’ga Rozanova, Natan Altman, Arthur Lourié and Nikolai Punin. Their articles represent a wide scope of creative interests among the artistic avant-garde, from music and painting to the “proletarian” theatre and cinematography.

Rashit Yangirov, Moscow

**MAIN TOPICS**

- Russian history in the early 20th century
- Anarchism in Russia
- October Revolution and the Civil War
- The impact of anarchist ideas on literature and arts


**RELATED TITLES**

- Press of the White Movement
- Anti-Soviet Newspapers
- Mass Media in Russia, 1908-1918. Part 1 and 2
- Russian Periodicals and Serials (up to 1917)
- GULAG Press
- Everyday Stalinism
- Russian Political Parties
- Latin American Anarchist and Labour Periodicals (c.1880-1940)
- Archive of Rudolf Rocker, 1894-1958

**PRODUCT INFORMATION**

Russian Anarchist Periodicals of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Medium: online and on microform
- Scope: 19 titles
- Number of fiches: 193
- Number of reels: 1
- Including Marc21 Records



**SUBJECT AREAS**

- Slavic and Eurasian Studies
- History
- Political History