



Nabokov and Lepidopterology

Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977) was an author who because of exile linguistically migrated from his native Russian to English. Nabokov himself translated some of his best known works, 'Speak, Memory' , The Gift, and Lolita, and the process of rewriting is shown in this exhibit. Also famous as a collector and researcher of butterflies, Nabokov lost his collection a number of times due to exile. Nevertheless, his abiding fascination for butterflies can be seen in the specimen books on display here.

May 13-August 21

Language Crossing Borders:

The worlds and writings of Russian and Eastern European Authors

Vladimir Nabokov Владимир Набоков (1899年～1977年)
Gennadii Aygi Геннадий Айги (1934年～2006年)



Aygi' s manuscripts

Gennadiy Aygi (1934-2006) was another author who straddled linguistic borders, in his case Russian and Chuvash. Writing in Chuvash from the age of 15, he switched into Russian in the latter half of his twenties. Reproduction of his hand-written Chuvash poetry as well as Chuvash-language literary magazines and introductory articles from Russian newspapers are on display here. Additionally, the 'texture' of his Russian can be felt here in readings of his poetry.

The Global COE Program 'Reshaping Japan' s Border Studies: Slavic Eurasia and the World' has presented the fruits of research from a variety of perspectives on the Slavic Eurasian region at the Hokkaido University Museum. For our Fifth Exhibition, we have selected six Russian and East European authors with a particularly strong connection to borders.

Through a reinterpretation of the border experiences of these authors and the borders they explored in their works, as well as their cultural, social, historical and religious backgrounds, it will be possible to probe the connections between borders and literature. Focusing on the manner in which the language choice of the authors was dictated by borders, we gain a new vision of these writers from their language. The first part of our Fifth Exhibition shall focus on Vladimir Nabokov and Gennadii Aygi. A particularly importance issue connected to the borders theme is the 'borders between languauges' . Both Nabokov and Aygi were authors who wrote in multiple languages and were at home in multiple cultures.

