

Participating Guests:

- Nathalie Babel, editor of *Isaac Babel: The Lonely Years* (1964, 1998), *Isaac Babel: You Must Know Everything* (1969, 1984) and *The Complete Babel* (Norton, 2002)
- Antonina Nikolaevna Pirozhkova, editor of Isaac Babel, *Sachinennia* (Works), 2 vols. (Moscow, 1990), and author of *At His Side: the Last Years of Isaac Babel* (1996) and *Sem' let s Isaakom Babelom* (NY, 2001)
- Lydia Isaakovna Babel
- Peter Constantine, the translator of the *Complete Babel* (Norton, 2002)
- Olga Angreyev Carlisle, author of *Far from Russia: a Memoir*
- Tianbing Wang, author of the screen play "Red Cavalry" (Writers Publishing House, Beijing)
- Delin Ma, cinematographer and director of the forthcoming film, *Qi Bing Jun*, or *The Cavalry*, based on Tianbing Wang's screen play

Special thanks to the generous donors:

- Toby Holtzman
- Galina Leytes

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We appreciate the efforts of the Hoover Institution Library and Archive Staff, especially, Dr. Elena S. Danielson, Linda Bernard, Cissie Hill, David Jacobs, Lora Soroka and others for their help and guidance in organizing the Babel Exhibition.

Graduate students in the departments of Comparative Literature and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Elif Batuman, Amelia Glaser, and Joshua Sky Walker, made invaluable independent contributions to the design and preparation of the exhibition "Isaac Babel: A Writer's Life (1939-1940)."

The Babel Events were greatly enriched and its participants inspired by the Drama Department production of Babel's play *Maria* under the direction of Professor Carl Weber.

None of this would be possible without the efforts of the Babel Workshop Administrator, Nicole Campau.



International Conference

*The Enigma of
Isaac Babel*

Stanford University

Sunday, 29 February – Tuesday, 2 March 2004

SUNDAY, 29 FEBRUARY

Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion

- 1:30 Welcoming of the participants and guests—Stephen Zipperstein, Co-Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies. Introduction to the Babel Events—Gregory Freidin
- 2:00 Exhibition “Isaac Babel: A Writer’s Life (1894-1940)” from the Irwin T. and Shirley Holzman Collection at the Hoover Institution Archives and other Stanford, Hoover, and private collections
Cissie Dore Hill, Exhibits Coordinator of the Hoover Institution Archives.
- 2:30 Conference Introduction—Arnold Rampersad, Cognizant Dean for the Humanities
- 2:45 Freidin (Stanford), “The Other Babel: The Play *Maria* and Babel’s Petersburg Myth.” Stauffer Auditorium, Herbert Hoover Memorial Building (ground floor)
- 3:30 Discussion
- 4:00 Reception for the conference participants and guests in the Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibition Pavilion
- 4:45 Conference adjourns to the Pigott Theater for the five o’clock performance of Babel’s play *Maria*, directed by Carl Weber and produced by Stanford’s Drama Department

MONDAY, 1 MARCH

Tresidder Oak Lounge (Tresidder Student Union, 2nd floor)

9: 30 AM Morning Session: Babel and Biography

Moderator: Steven Zipperstein (Stanford)

- Reinhard Krumm (Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Germany), “Writing A Biography of Isaac Babel: A Detective’s Task”
- Patricia Blake (Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University), “Researching Babel’s Biography: Adventures, Fiascos and Consummations”

10:45–11:00

Break

- Carol Avins (Rutgers University), “Isaac Babel and the Jewish Experience of Revolution”

12:00

Discussion

1:00–2:00

Lunch for the conference participants and guests

2: 15 PM Afternoon Session: Babel in Context

Moderator: Monika Greenleaf

- Efraim Sicher (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), “Breakdown and Bereavement: Babel, Bialik, and Others”
- Robert Alter (University of California, Berkeley), “Babel, Flaubert, and the Rapture of Perception”

3:15–3:30

Break

- Zsuzsa Hetényi (ELTE University, Budapest), “The Child’s Eye—a Pattern in the Literature of Jewish Assimilation: Babel in Russian-Jewish, American and European Literary Context”
- Alexander Zholkovsky (University of Southern California), “Towards a Typology of ‘Debut’ Narratives: Babel, Nabokov and Others”

4:30–5:30

Discussion

6:00–7:30 PM Dinner for the conference participants and guests

8:00–9:00 PM Evening Session: Babel in Film, a Round Table

- Oksana Bulgakowa (Stanford), chair

TUESDAY, 2 MARCH

Tresidder Oak Lounge (Tresidder Student Union, 2nd floor)

9: 30 AM Morning Session: Babel in Comparative Perspective

Moderator: Gabriella Safran

- Michael Gorham (University of Florida), “Writers at the Front: Language of State in the Civil War Narratives of Babel and Furmanov”
- Marietta Chudakova (Institute of Literature, Moscow), “Diluted and Thinned Out: Babel in Official Russian Literature of the Soviet Period”

10:45–11:00

Break

- Oleg Budnitsky (Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), “Jews and the Red in the Civil War: Red Cavalry in Historical Perspective”

11:30

Discussion

12:30–2:00

Lunch for the participants and guests. End of Conference