

Innokentii Fedorovich Annensky

(1855-1909)

Biography



Innokentii Fedorovich Annensky was born on August 20 (1 September) in 1855 in Omsk, in the family of a public official Fedor Nikolaevich Annensky, and Natalia Petrovna Annenskaya. His father was a chief of the Main Directorate of Western Siberia. When I. Annensky was five years old, his family moved from Siberia to St. Petersburg.

Because of poor health, Annensky attended a private school, and then he studied at progymnasium №2 in St. Petersburg (1865-1868). Since 1869 he studied at the private gymnasium of V.I. Behrens for two and a half years. Before entering the university in 1875, he lived with his elder brother Nikolai Annensky, who had encyclopedic knowledge, was a prominent economist and Narodnik, who helped his younger brother with preparing for the exams and had a great influence on Innokentii.

Upon completion in 1879 of the History and Philology Department of St. Petersburg University, Annensky served as professor of ancient languages and Russian literature. His future job was always connected with education, literature and art. Then he served as the director of the Kiev school. After dismissal because of excessive leniency to the students during the Revolution (1905-1906), Annensky was transferred to St. Petersburg as a district supervisor and remained in that post until 1909, when he resigned just before his death. On November 30 (13 December), 1909, Annensky died on the steps of the Tsarskoe Selo railway station in St. Petersburg.

Creative works

Translations of the tragedies 1894-1903

"Hercules", "Phoenician", "Iphigenia" victim", "Elektra", "Orest", "Alcestis", "Hippolytus", "Medea" etc.

Lyric poetry- Two verse collections:

"Quite songs" (1904)

"Cypress casket " (1910).

Literary Criticism:

"Book of reflection" (1906)

"The second book of reflection" (1909)

Dramaturgy:

“Philosopher Melanippa”, “King Ixion”, “Laodamiya” and “Famira-kifared”

Florentine Influence

The major works written in Florence by I. Annensky were letters and memoirs.

Annensky's first acquaintance with **Italy** was in 1890. His impressions about it we can find in his letters and memoirs created during his trip to **Italy** together with the lecturer and historian E.F Shmurlo. On June 19 / July 1, 1890 he got to **Florence**. During his trip to Italy Annensky also visited **Venice**, **Padua** and **Sorrento**. Being in **Italy** Annensky wrote some letters to his wife, Nadezhda V. Annenskaya.

Each letter represents Annensky's detailed description of his travels, a description of everything that he observed and was amazed at. Reading the letters, the reader immerses into the wonderful world of **Italy**. His notes are meaningful and interesting. They combine knowledge of history, culture and literature, and also his own impressions. These amazing letters preserved life in **Italy**, its landmarks and prominent people of that time. These letters could probably serve as a complete **guide to travel in Florence**, not yielding to **modern travel guides**.

This is a part of one of those letters:

To N. V. Annenskaya, **Florence**, 30/6/1890

“...This **morning is very** interesting: I have received your letter and a telegram, and after visiting several churches, I went to **the Museum of San Marco**, one of the most interesting places of **Florence**. Now it is almost downtown, but in the 15th century it was **an** out-of-town **Dominican monastery**.

For three hours, I have been wandering all alone here **on the ground floor** among the paintings and upstairs in the cells. **First**, you walk into the courtyard. In the middle of **it, there** is a garden: roses are in bloom, then you see a larch, a sycamore, a locust, a magnolia faded in the porch. All around there are **paintings getting** everyone acquainted with the life of the monks, who glorified the monastery. Under the paintings, there are tombstones with touching inscriptions. Then go to damp rooms...”

Learn more:

<http://annenskiy.ouc.ru/osnovnye-daty-zhizni-i-tvorchestva-ifannenskogo.html>

<http://www.tunnel.ru/?l=gzl&uid=1113>

http://pda.coolreferat.com/Творчество_Иннокентия_Анненского

<http://www.aboutflorence.com/>

<http://www.visitflorence.com/>

<http://www.florencewelcome.com>

<http://ru.wikipedia.org/>

Associations

In a letter to his wife, written during his trip to Florence, Annensky wrote about the Museum of San Marco. This museum is known for saved up to now of monks' cells.



Pic.1 is made by Elena K.

I. Annensky outlined in his article that in 15th century it was a Dominican monastery, but at that time it was almost a downtown. In this monastery he spent almost the whole day, studying the architecture of the walls and admiring the green gardens in the museum's yard.

Following Annensky's footsteps, it is possible to observe the characters and species he described in his articles. However, I noticed an interesting thing during the excursion. The writer underlined that the walls of the cells were decorated with paintings of monks who once lived there, but now the biblical motifs are presented on the walls.



Pic.2 is made by Elena K.

Since the days of Innokentii Fedorovich, the Museum of San Marco' has undergone minimal changes, so his writing can be used as a complete guide.

Following the footsteps of Innokentii Anensky, I discovered Florence quite unusual. Florence in which, on the one hand, there are a lot of mysteries, secrets and stories, and on the other hand, Florence in which there are many interesting people, beautiful scenery and delicious food.

So it seems that after a trip to this wonderful city, I will become a writer-foodie and I certainly shall come to Florence once again for my new discoveries. There is a cycle of inspiration here.

Elena Kostyrya