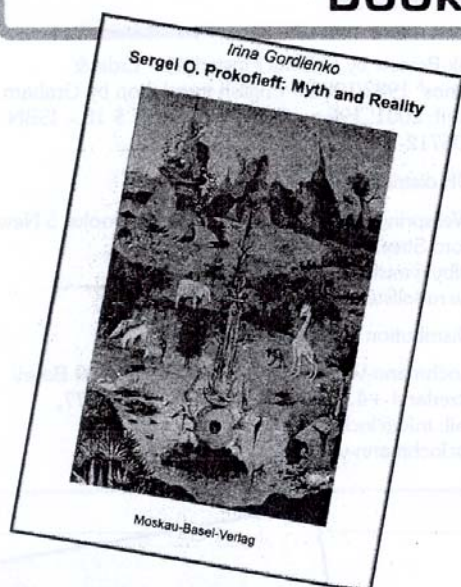


## Book Reviews



### Sergei O. Prokofieff: Myth and Reality

This is a new publication in English of a critical examination of the work of S. O. Prokofieff, translated from the German, originally from the Russian.

The author is a scientist and mathematician in her own right, with scientific publications to her credit. Taking Prokofieff to task for the gap between his interpretation of the body of Steiner's work and what Steiner himself has stated so clearly about the supersensible world, Gordienko outlines for the reader in a close step by step evaluation of Prokofieff's writings, his shortcomings, and the way in which his analysis draws a flawed picture of Anthroposophy.

She makes clear the obvious discrepancies between his picture and Steiner's vision of the spiritual world and its beings, the fundamental concept of evolution and even of the Christology. The Christology is presented in an entirely new light by Prokofieff. Emphasis is placed more on a return to a group spirituality, to a morality dictated from above, rather than an autonomous thinking based on the central importance of "I" development which Rudolf Steiner again and again made fundamental to his whole teaching and which he referred to frequently as the "Christ Impulse". This is a hard hitting, closely reasoned, and razor-sharp reading of Prokofieff's thinking -- perhaps, not a book for the faint-hearted. Yet, its powerful logic is necessary study material,

especially for Anthroposophists, because it has important implications for the direction of the Anthroposophical Society as a whole now that Sergei Prokofieff has been welcomed into its leadership as a member of the executive council. Lest this work be considered an unjust personal attack, let us conclude with a statement by the author: '... errors on the path of occult development, arising from insufficient or incorrect knowledge, can have the most far reaching consequence for his destiny, not only with regard to the psychic health of the human being in his present incarnation, but for his entire future destiny' (pgs. 12-13).

Further, she goes on to point out that: 'Any attempt to criticise such printed assertions is condemned out of a false ethical principle: tolerance towards a person is confused with tolerance of his mistakes. The ideal of brotherly love comes to mean little more than the maintaining "diplomatic relations" with one's



*Irina Gordienko (1964-1999)  
as a student*

Irina Yurievna Gordienko, born in Moscow in 1964, studied biology, mechanics and mathematics at Moscow State University. After the successful completion of her studies, she published a series of scientific papers on set theory and general typology in specialist publications both in Russia and abroad. Her considerable knowledge of Anthroposophy combined with her academic training led her to undertake this study of the work of Prokofieff, which led her to some surprising results. Tragically, Gordienko died in a traffic accident in 1999.

## Book Reviews

neighbour, while remaining indifferent to his spiritual destiny' (pgs. 13-14).

The distinction needs to be made between the personal element and the objective search for the truth. As Steiner makes very clear, "a false result of investigation in the spiritual world is a living reality: it is there, and one has to battle with it, do away with it." (p. 125, English translation, 22/10/1915, GA 254).

Content: How the Myth arose / Prokofieff's Concept of Evolution / The Spiritual World and its Beings in the View of S. Prokofieff / Prokofieff as Propagandist and Teacher of Morals / Christology in an Entirely New Light / Prokofieff as Meta-Historian and Researcher into World-Karma / Prokofieff as Renewer of the Mysteries / Anthro-posophy of Jesuitism / Annexe:

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Irene Diet

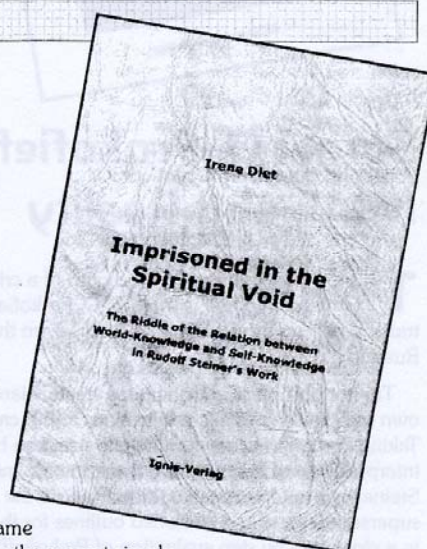
### Imprisoned in the Spiritual Void

*The Riddle of the Relation between World-Knowledge and Self-Knowledge in Rudolf Steiner's Work*

One of the tasks of this book is to provide an answer to the following questions: How can a prison of mental representations arise from a study of Rudolf Steiner's work? And – how is it possible for this prison to be dissolved again?

As a basis for this inquiry, selections were taken from the writings of two authors (Jostein Saether and Sergei Prokofieff), which could be substituted by others, and thus only serve as illustrations. At the same time, it became clear in the course of the inquiry, that errors and untruths are not simply mistakes in the interpretation of the universal connections, but are, potentially, also a ground upon which our thinking can be developed and strengthened.

2003, 94 pages; £ 14 / us \$ 20 / € 15; ISBN 3-906482-04-9



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