

Pavel Nosachev:  
The Dazzling Darkness of Paganism: the Theme of Antiquity in the  
works of Evgeniy Golovin

Evgeniy Golovin was one of the key figures of the Soviet and post-Soviet esoteric underground from the 1960 to the 1990s. The Western reader may be familiar with his works through monographs and articles by Mark Sedgwick (e. g., *Against the Modern World: Traditionalism and the Secret Intellectual History of the Twentieth Century*). Even in his youth, ancient mythology formed the background on which Golovin deployed his theories about esotericism, alchemy, and gender. Golovin knew four European languages besides Latin and Greek, and read all the literature on Antiquity which was available to him from Soviet libraries. This paper will discuss how his understanding of Greek myths were mediated by the scholarship of Johann Bachofen, Jacob Burckhardt, Friedrich Nietzsche, and others, such as and the Russian philosopher (and elder contemporary of Golovin) Vladimir Losev. Yet Golovin also transforms the theories of these researchers through his poetic worldview and esoteric philosophy, urging his followers to return to the lost world of Antiquity through inner esoteric practices.

Keywords:

[Occultism](#), [Russia](#), [Traditionalism](#)

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