

1962

## Russian Nights

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#### Recommended Citation

Fleckenstein, Lawrence C. (1962) "Russian Nights," *The Angle*: Vol. 1962: Iss. 1, Article 15.  
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol1962/iss1/15>

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## **Cover Page Footnote**

Appeared in the issue: Volume 7, Spring, 1962.

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Listen to the wind, scurrying across blank tundras  
Flinging crystal pellets against orbed windows red  
With gleamings from golden ikons, steaming samovars--  
The wind, primieval harp of the great heart-land,  
For ages has moaned on the breast of Mother Earth.

Mongol and Cossack have walked with hoofprints  
Black through harvest fields, golden-white;  
But the manna has always grown again golden-white  
To sustain and nourish the stargazing Muzhik.

The wind now wanders and cries,  
Mongol and Cossack still ride--  
But there amidst the stars  
Golden ikons glimmer still.

LAWRENCE C. FLECKENSTEIN