The authors are greatly indebted to the Russian Institute for Cultural Research and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for financial support for the present study; to the Russian Foundation of Fundamental Research, which made possible a discussion of many Russian reports at a conference in Moscow in July, 1994; to the Kultur-Kontakt Foundation (Austria), for the opportunity to publish a preliminary form of the reports; to the Russian Foundation for Research in Humanities (grant 1995-6-18668) and the Research Support Scheme of the Higher Education Support Programme, grant no. 641/1995, which made preparation for publication of the Russian version of the book possible; and to Andrey J. Elez, L. Petrunina, and M. Hevesi for their contribution at the discussion and translation stages.

The Russian Institute for Cultural Research also wishes to express its gratitude to Gary Caldwell for his help with editing the volume in English, and to Simon Langlois for his support and his co-ordination of the publication of the book in English.

Finally, we are grateful to Käthe Roth for her stylistic revision of the book.