I follow a simplified version of the Library of Congress system when transliterating Russian texts. The simplification concerns the use of dia-critical signs, omitted in all but one case. While the majority of contemporary Russian texts seldom distinguish “ë” and “e” characters, in my transliterations a diereses (umlaut) separates an accented – stressed – “ó” (found in the first syllable of such English words as “yore”) from an unaccented – unstressed – “e” (as in the second syllable of “never”). Thus the Russian equivalent of the English noun “roar” is spelled “rëv” (and not “rev” or “ryov”), and the first syllable in the Christian name of the author of “Silentium” is spelled “Fëdor” (not “Fedor” or “Fyodor”). Depending on the source text, I differentiate between old and new orthography, as in the ending of “sumrachnyia” (fem.) and “sumrachnye” (masc.) in the nominative plural forms of the adjective “sumrachnyi” (gloomy). I follow the same transliteration system for surnames. Thus I have “Solov’ëv” and not “Soloviev” (or “Solov’yov” and “Solovyov”), barring those instances where doing so would go against unambiguously expressed individual preferences (I retain the spelling of “Nabokoff” or “Schakovskoy” whenever my sources dictate such choices).

My citations from Vladimir Nabokov’s works follow his transliteration. Like his views on transliteration, his “idea of transliteration” continued to evolve after he announced his arrival at its “final” version on 27 August 1950 (see NWL, 280). He adhered to his “Method of Transliteration” throughout the Eugene Onegin opus (see EO, 1:xix–xxiii), whereas earlier materials may have such spellings as “moujik” for “muzhik” (English “peasant man”), or “Joukovski” for “Zhukovskii” (or “Zhukovski” in EO). His transliteration of Bulat Okudzhava’s
“Sentimental’nyi romans” of 1966 – along with that of its author’s surname – diverged from the “Method” (“dobryy” and not “dobriy,” “Okujava” and not “Okudzhava”). For the sake of authenticity I preserve such variants in my citations.

All unattributed translations are mine.