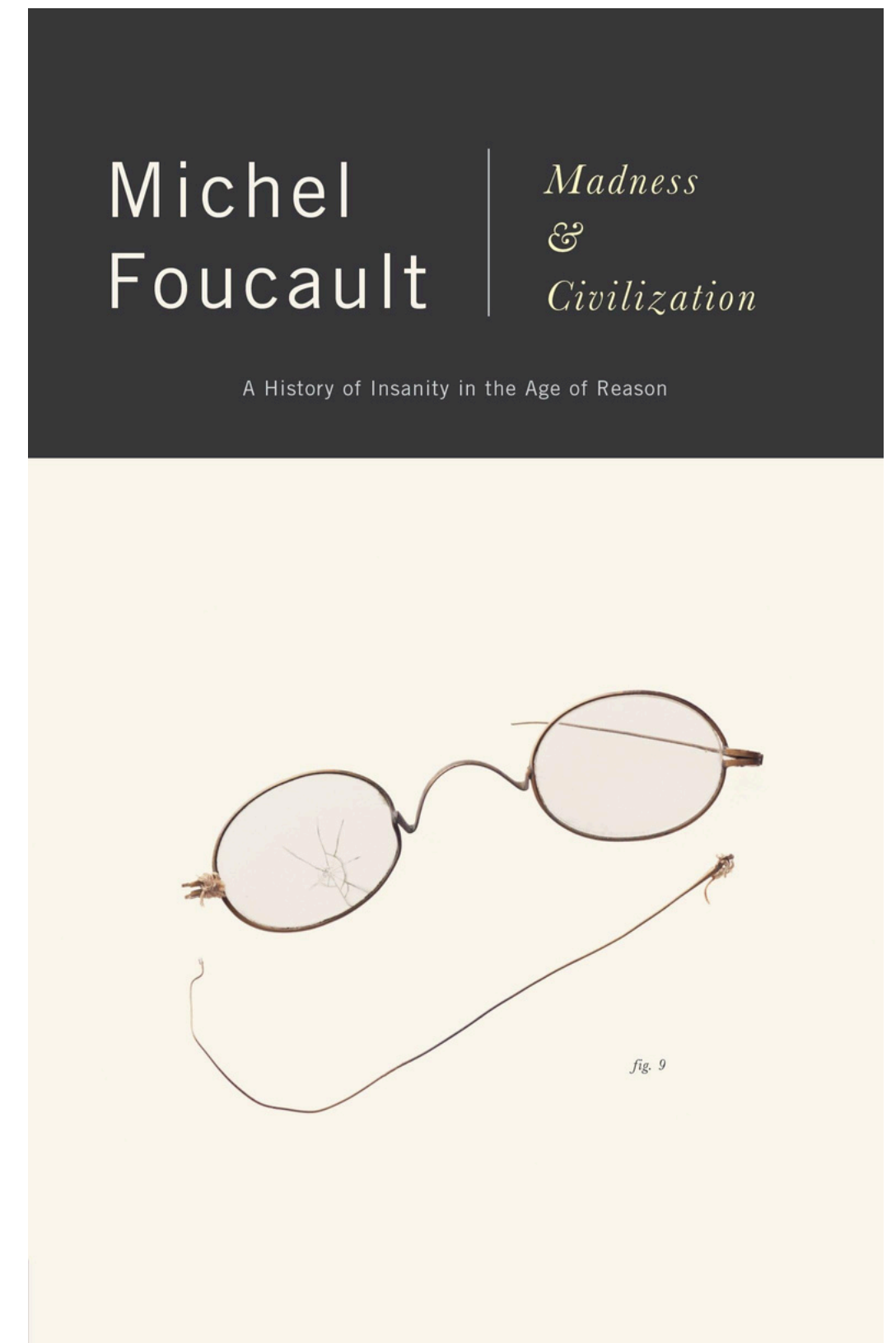




'Pathologization of dissent': Soviet psychiatry against dissidents

Renegades, Dissidents, Bureaucrats: Topics in Soviet Intellectual History
Ivan Shamansky

“In the serene world of mental illness, modern man no longer communicates with the madman: on the one hand, the man of reason delegates the physician to madness thereby authorizing a relation only through the abstract universality of disease; on the other, the man of madness communicates with society only by the intermediary of an equally abstract reason, which is order physical and moral constraint, the anonymous pressure of the group, the requirements of conformity” (Foucault 1965, p. x).





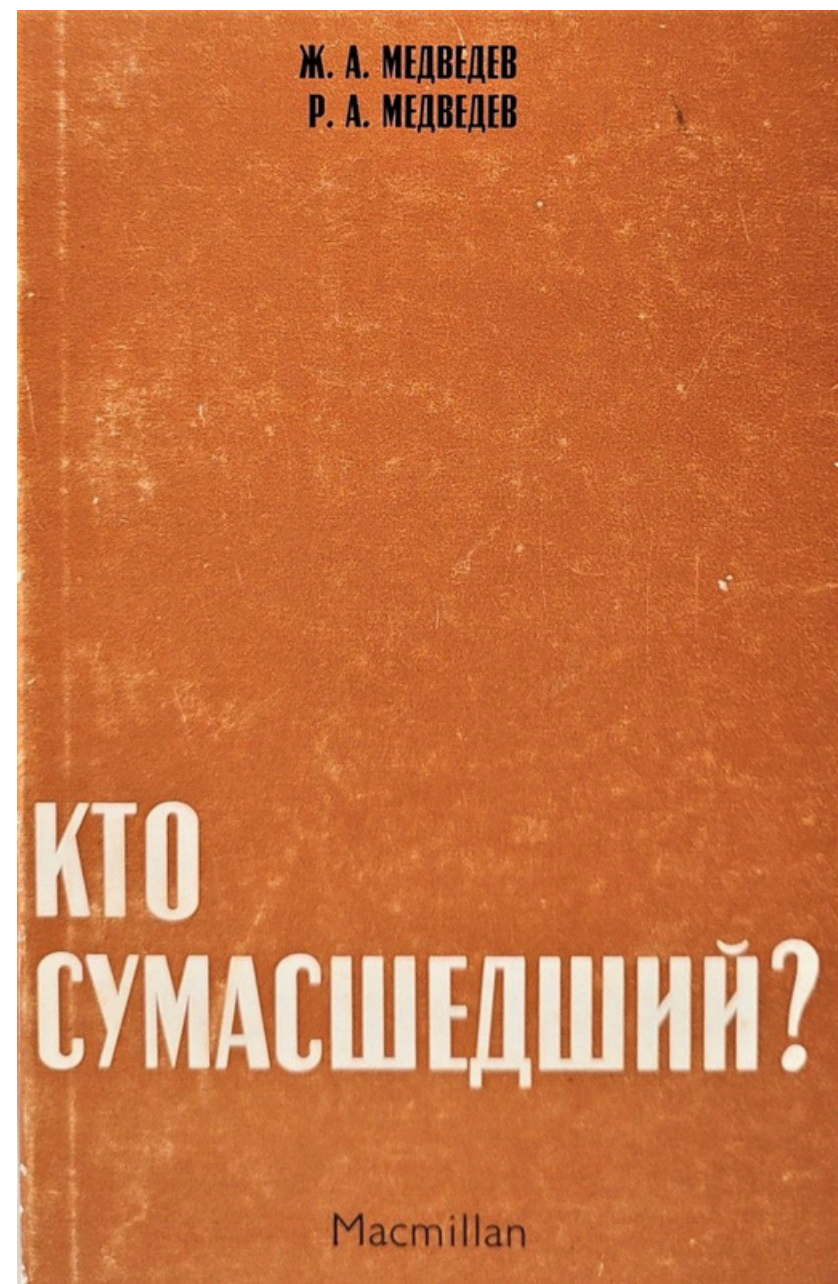
Andrei Snezhnevsky,
the chief of Soviet
psychiatry from 1951
to 1987.

“And who was to deny that our Soviet reality was nothing more than an imaginary schizophrenic world populated by made-up Soviet people building a mythical communism?”

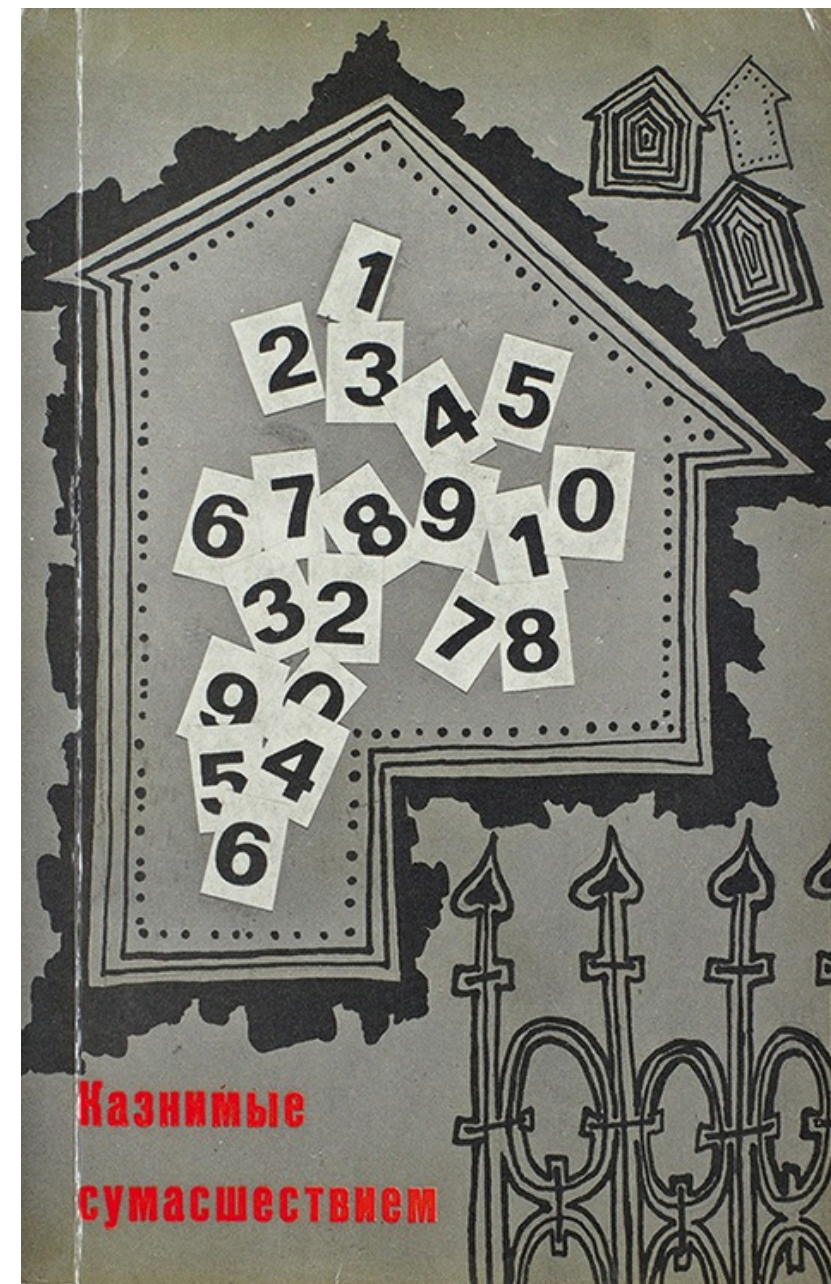
“like a paranoiac consumed with a fantastical idea, [the state] cannot and does not want to acknowledge reality; it turns its delirium into reality and forces its reasoning on everyone.” (Reich 2014, p. 568)

(Vladimir Bukovsky quoted in Reich 2014, 2020).

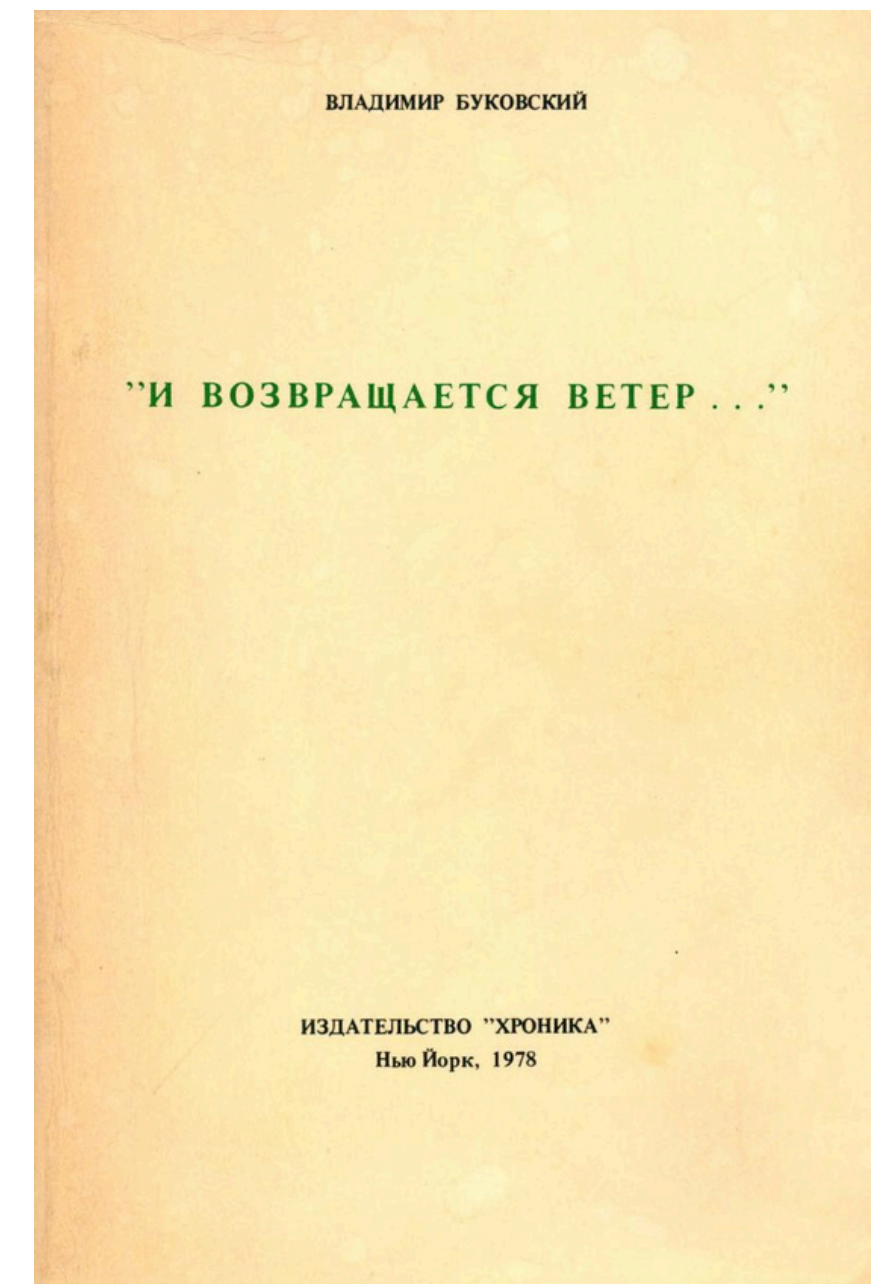
Dissidents' writings on psychiatry



Zhores and Roy Medvedev, Kto symashedshii? [A Question of Madness] (1971)



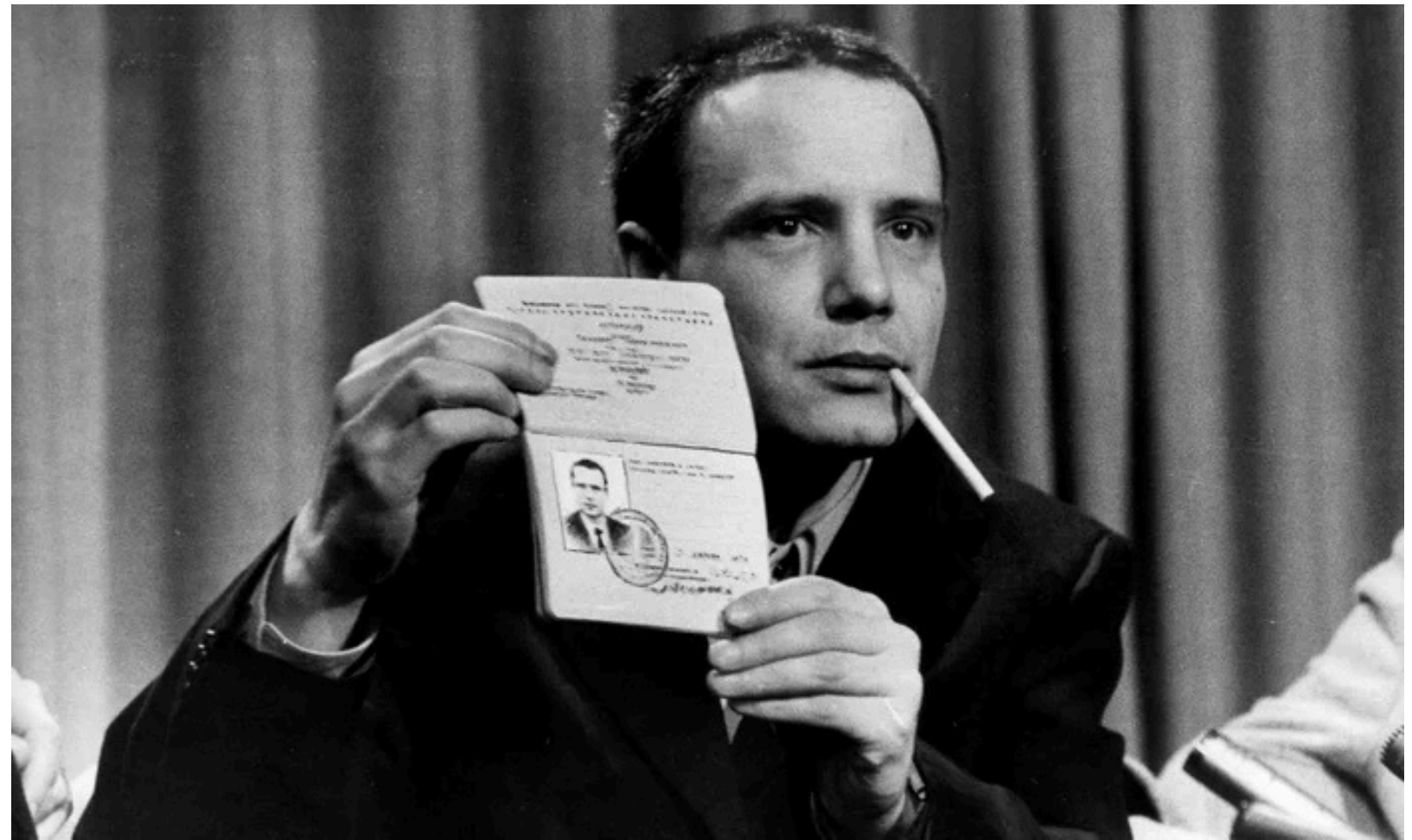
Kaznimye Sumashestviem [Executed by Madness], a volume (1971)



Vladimir Bukovsky, "И возвращается ветер..." [To build a castle] (1978)



Semyon Gluzman



Vladimir Bukovsky

Types of psychiatrists from 'The Manual on Psychiatry for Other-Thinkers'

Ученый: сохранил «юношескую» страсть к психиатрии, считает ее своим призванием. Для него психиатрия — научная дисциплина (хотя и с оговорками). Как правило, относит (или: «не относит» — в подлиннике неясно, — переписчик) инакомыслие к психиатрической компетенции. Не любит участвовать в экспертизе невменяемости: «Я врач, а не следователь»... Достаточно трезв, чтобы понять конъюнктуру, но постарается «не пачкаться»: помогите ему своей правильной тактикой.

Обыватель: интеллект и специальные знания не выше среднего. Себя считает умным и опытным врачом, а свой жизненный стиль — желательным эталоном для других. В рамках «общего курса» социально активен, хорошо развита приспособляемость к внешним условиям («социальная мимикрия»). Не понимает таких явлений, как сюрреалистическая живопись («разве лошади летают?»), современная поэзия («а где же рифмы?») и т.п. Искренне считает аномальной вашу социальную позицию, основные аргументы: «Ведь была квартира, семья, работа. Зачем же вы?» С этим совре-

'The Researcher': "...For him, psychiatry is a scientific discipline (albeit with reservations)... He does not like to participate in insanity examinations: "I am a doctor, not an investigator"... **He is sober enough to understand the situation, but will try not to "get his hands dirty":** help him with your correct tactics."

'The Philistine': "Average intelligence and specialized knowledg...**Does not understand such phenomena as surrealist painting ("do horses fly?"), modern poetry ("where are the rhymes?"), etc.** Sincerely considers your social position abnormal, main arguments: "After all, you had an apartment, a family, a job. Why did you do it?" We do not recommend discussing abstract subjects, philosophy, physical theories, etc., or contemporary art with this modern "rentier" — try to stay on his level..."



Natalia Gorbanevskaya, 'Free Health Service' (1971)



Zhores Medvedev, 'The Rise and Fall of T.D. Lysenko' (1969), 'The Question of Madness' (1971)

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