



Были очи

Были очи острее точимой косы
По зегзице в зенице и по капле росы,

И едва научились они во весь рост
Различать одинокое множество звезд.

Осип Мандельштам

There were eyes

There were eyes sharper than a whetted scythe
A puppy in the pupil and a droplet of dew...

And having come of age, they only just learned
To distinguish the solitary mass of stars.

Osip Mandelstam (1891-1938)

*translated from the Russian
by Roger Pulvers*

Reproduced by permission of Roger Pulvers. This poem was written on 9th February 1937, shortly before Mandelstam was arrested for "counter-revolutionary activities." He died on the way to the prison camp.

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