

Pushkin Project in Omaha, Nebraska

During a visit to Russia, Mark Sconce and his wife Nancy Bounds heard so much about Pushkin's life and were so impressed by performances of his works that on their return home they decided to arrange a program commemorating the 160th anniversary of the poet's death. The event, held at Nancy Bounds Studios in Omaha on February 2, 1997, was attended by 32 guests. Mark Sconce opened the program by outlining Pushkin's life; and he was joined by Joan Hennecke and Jamie Lewis in reciting some of his works. The performance aimed at presenting "the whole man," including excerpts from Pushkin's lyric poetry, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Bronze Horseman*, and *The Gypsies*.

The success of the anniversary program has prompted the organizers to launch a "Pushkin Project" that aims at giving a North American Pushkin Prize to a promising poet between the ages of 15 and 21. The prize will be awarded in 1999, the 200th anniversary of Pushkin's birth. The organizers are hoping to raise \$10,000 for the project and are soliciting donations, to be sent to Mark Sconce, Mgr., Nancy Bounds Studios, 11915 Pierce Plaza, Omaha, NE 68144 USA (402-697-9292; fax 402-697-9272).

Reported by Mark C. Sconce