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PREFACE

Ethel Tobach, Editor
American Museum of Natural History

I became aware of the first three documents presented in this issue of the Journal some years ago when I made the acquaintance of Dr. Deborah Malakhovskaya at The Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Physiology in the city then called Leningrad. Dr. Malakhovskaya is the daughter of one of the most productive Russian comparative psychologists, B. I. Khotin, whose career was cut short by a political policy that did not approve of the kind of research he was doing, and apparently, of the people doing such work. His biography testifies to these statements, and he should be honored for his steadfastness and bravery, as should all other scientists and people who have been, and are, the victims of societal repression.

The number of people who made this issue of the Journal possible testify to the international significance of the events for the scientific community that concerns itself with the study of the development and evolution of behavior. This community owes a special thanks to Dr. Malakhovskaya who persevered in her responsibility to the history of the science and made these documents available, and to her husband, Dr. Lev Malakhovski, a linguist whose expertise was always available as consultant and arbiter of the many different possibilities open to me as editor in the difficult task of translating the material.

In the course of the communication difficulties engendered by the profound changes in the former USSR and the new Russia, I received the help of colleagues in Moscow: Leonid Baskin, I. I. Poletaeva and A. F. Semiokhina, for which I thank them. In New York, I was aided especially by the prodigious talent and hard work of Ruth Newman who assisted in every phase of the editing, and without whose help this issue of the Journal would not have become a reality. The assistance of Charles I. Abramson and Alexander Skolnick is gratefully acknowledged as well, as is the work of Patricia Brunauer and Muriel Williams, who produced the hard copy.

Because of the difficulties of communication with the various individuals abroad, I have had to make demanding decisions as to paragraphing, spelling, language, reference citation and so forth. I accept the responsibility for these decisions. The sequencing of the documents is also my decision and was based on the customary format of the Journal. This foray into the discipline of history was fraught with uncertainty, and I apologize to the historians who will find fault with the shortcomings of the presentation. I trust that the material is of sufficient intrinsic interest to stimulate scholars to continue in the discovery of the appropriate documents and information that will further enlighten the scientists and historians about this period in the history of the discipline.

I particularly wish to thank the commentators who took time out from their own research to write for this issue of the Journal. I found their articles informative and fascinating in the intriguing ways in which they complement and contradict each other, reflecting the complexities of the societal processes by which the three documents were produced, and I trust the reader will find the materials worthwhile.