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Zykov, Leonid, ‘Nikolay Punin – adresat i geroi liriki Anny Akhmatovoi’ [‘Nikolay Punin – the addressee and hero of Anna Akhmatova’s poems’], *Zvezda* 1995 no. 1, 77–103 (followed by ‘Iz perepiski A. A. Akhmatovoi i N. N. Punina’ [‘From the correspondence of A. A. Akhmatova and N. N. Punin’], ed. Leonid Zykov, 104–14); on 1 July 1997, shortly before his final illness began, IB dictated the following note to Henry Hardy about this article:

This article is by a man called Zykov, the husband of the granddaughter of Punin, AA’s third husband. The article, as you see, was written some years ago, and now Zykov, his wife Anya Kaminskaya and someone else have sent me this old article, with affectionate greetings, via one Matthew Altham, of New College (I do not know him). The article maintains that the references to me in AA’s poem, and especially in *Poem Without a Hero* (The Guest from the Future) are, for the most part – they do not quite say entirely – in fact references to Punin, who died in a Siberian camp (I think in the 1970s) – with whom a very intimate, loving correspondence with AA is printed in the same issue. The thesis is that it was the critics, led by the great Zhirmunsky and supported by virtually everyone else, who invented me as the addressee of the relevant poems. Zhirmunsky came to see me in Oxford some years ago (he was getting an Honorary Degree) and gave me the full list of poems relevant to me – on, he said, the direct request of AA. The apparatus is enormous, and I think the intentions are sincere. no. clear reason is given about why the true addressee is Punin, for whom I act as a ‘mask’. They do not think this is my fault, but that the critics, for no. known reason, invented me as the addressee.

IB also wrote a long letter about the article to Matthew Altham, dated 3 July.