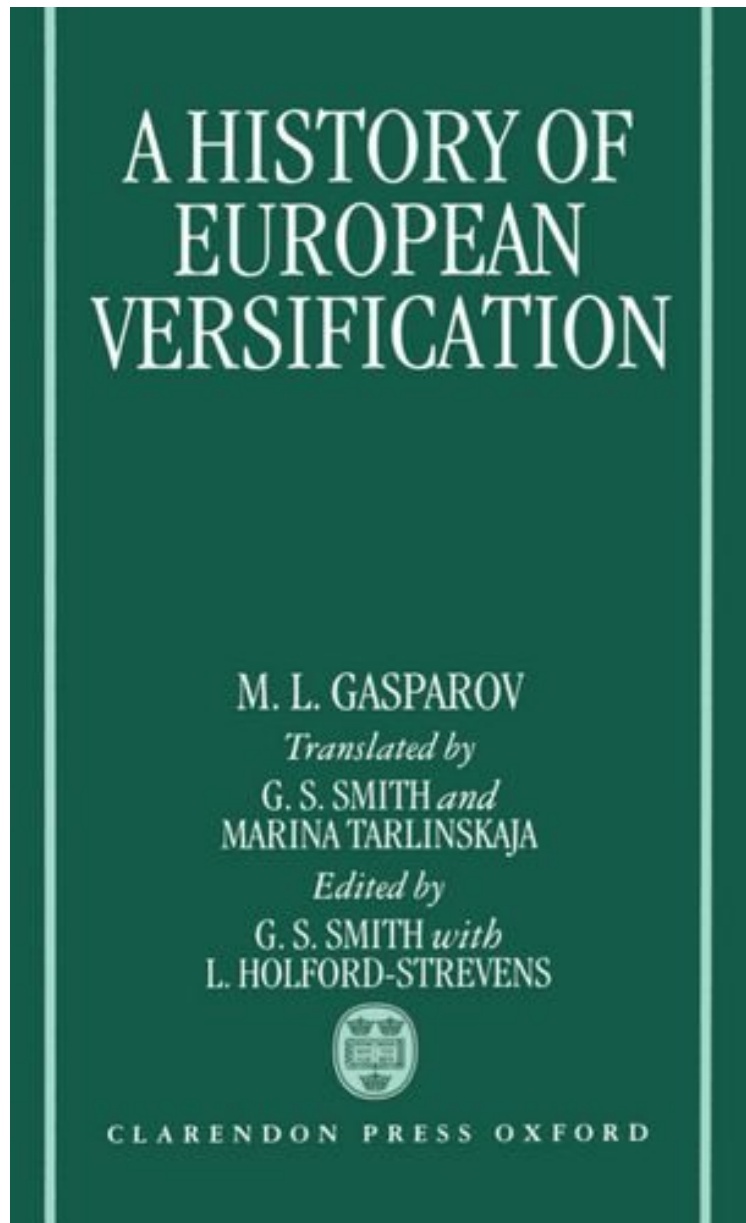


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## A History of European Versification

*M. L. Gasparov*

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**M. L. Gasparov : A History of European Versification** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of European Versification:

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Ground-breakingBy A CustomerGasparov rules, period. I've always known that, I just regret there are not too many people with the capacity to appreciate it.First, he seems to be about the

only major scholar advocating a scientific approach to humanities, especially to the study of literature. Second, this book is the one and only history of Indo-European versification from its mysterious proto-sources to the avant-garde of today. Third, its scope and wealth of information is simply amazing. Fourth, as anything written by Gasparov, this book is lucid and accessible even for a person without any special interest in versification as a separate branch of poetics. There are minor flaws, which any specialist in any particular language or verse might notice; but there is no one possessing this breadth of knowledge and such grasp of the matter. Last but not least, there are such kids' questions as "why poetry exists at all" and "what is the difference between poetry and prose"? "Serious" scholars are afraid to ask them or tackle them - more for fear of defeat than because of anything else; Gasparov's answers them elegantly and effortlessly. A very ambitious, and very successful opus.

Examining poetry written in 30 languages (from Irish to Belorussian) and over several millennia (from classical Latin and Greek to the experiments of the contemporary avant garde), this is the first detailed history of European versification. Gasparov shows how the poetry of English, French, Russian, Greek, and other European languages has developed from a single common Indo-European source. The book's account is liberally illustrated with verse examples, both in their original languages and in translation.

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Russian  
From the Back Cover  
When we read a poem composed in blank iambic pentameter, it reminds us of Shakespeare. When we read a poem composed in long lines without rhyme or rhythm, we think of Whitman. In this ground-breaking study of the history of European versification, M. L. Gasparov shows how such chains of association link the poetry of numerous languages and diverse ages. Examining poetry written in 30 languages (from Irish to Belorussian) and over several millennia (from classical Latin and Greek to the experiments of the contemporary avant-garde), the book traces the ways in which the poetry of English, French, Russian, Greek and other European languages has developed from a single common Indo-European source. The account is liberally illustrated with verse examples, both in their original languages and in translation.  
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M. L. Gasparov is at Academy of Sciences. G. S. Smith is at University of Oxford. M. Tarlinskaya is at University of Washington, Seattle.