



THE YEAR IN QUESTION
1936

THURSDAY 23 APRIL, TUESDAY 26 MAY OR THURSDAY 16 JULY

A year of destruction and creation, 1936 saw Germany occupying the Rhineland and the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War; the annexation of Ethiopia by Italy, the beginning of the purge of Russia by Stalin and the abdication of Edward VIII; but it also saw the completion of the mighty Hoover Dam, the Olympics in Berlin; the first publication of 'Gone With the Wind' and of Life Magazine, groundbreaking exhibitions of Abstract and Surrealist art in London; Frank Lloyd Wright's Johnson Wax Building in Racine Wisconsin; the publication of Walter Benjamin's seminal 'The Work of Art in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction' as well as Keynes 'General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money'. It was a year of remarkable, lasting literature by TS Eliot and George Orwell. Above all, this was a year of marvellously uplifting music, from Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf' to Rachmaninov's 3rd Symphony and Bartok's 'Music for Strings Percussion and Celesta'; from Bing Crosby's 'Pennies from Heaven' to Billie Holiday's 'Summertime'; it saw the musicals 'Show Boat' and 'Swing Time', the best of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Benny Goodman and Noel Coward, and the films of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

MEET 10.30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at Pushkin Society

ENDS 3.30 pm Pushkin Society

COST £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine