

ENGL 300 Introduction to Theory of Literature
Professor Paul H. Fry

Jurij Tynjannov

[In formalist historiography,] the prime significance of major social factors is not at all discarded. Rather, it must be elucidated to its full extent through the problem of the evolution of literature. This is in contrast to the establishment of the direct “influence” of major social factors, which replaces the study of *evolution* of literature with the study of the *modification* of literary works—that is to say, their deformation.

Jurij Tynjanov, “On Literary Evolution” (1927)