

Near Cherepovets, Russia

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Recommended Citation

Huck, Kake () "Near Cherepovets, Russia," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 15.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol1/iss1/15>

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Near Cherepovets, Russia
by Kake Huck

Near Cherepovets
the Sheksna River
rainbows in our wake.

Vivid iridescence marks
a leader's lust to break the Past,
the Church, the Land—to build the New.

Sterile spore of smokestacks
grays the bank beside the boat;
grease and acid tinting sky and stream.

Behind, the shining green veneer
of Rybinsk Reservoir is sky to
seven hundred suffocated towns.

Rain dribbles through metallic fog,
spattering the deck, our hands, our thoughts
like syphilitic spunk.

Covering my head, I watch
a crouching fisherman hunt
swimming wounds
his cats will never eat.