Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction	1
1. Interpreting Baba Yaga	8
Earliest Documentation and Literary Adaptations	12
Mythological Approaches	16
Baba Yaga and Ritual	21
Structuralist Studies	31
Psychological Approaches	34
Marxist Approaches	38
A Descriptive Approach	39
Conclusion	40
2. The Witch at Home and Abroad	44
Baba Yaga and Folk Belief	53
Baba Yaga's Sisters and Cousins	61
3. Baba Yaga and Children	85
Baba Yaga, the Boy, and the Oven	85
The Boy and His Brothers at Baba Yaga's House	108
Baba Yaga and the Kind and the Unkind Girls	110
Other Tales with Girl Heroines	131
Baba Yaga in Other Genres of Children's Folklore	134
Conclusion	136
4. The Hut on Chicken Legs	140
The Quest for the Firebird, the Water and Apples of Youth, and the	
Tsar Maiden	140
The Hero Searches for His Lost Wife	147
Episodic, Humorous, and Anomalous Appearances	153
Baba Yaga's Specific Features as a Donor	154
5. The Ambiguous Baba Yaga	169
The Dragon Mother	169
The Three Underground Kingdoms	176
Baba Yaga as a Warrior	179
Baba Yaga Gouges Out Men's Eyes	182
Baba Yaga Turns Men to Stone	184

Baba Yaga Sucks a Maiden's Breasts	187
The Hero Rescues His Sister and Brothers	189
Herding Baba Yaga's Mares	190
The Hero Deceived and Sent on Deadly Errands	193
A Tale Derived from Folk Epic and Two Anomalous Tales	197
The Hero Searches for His Lost Wife	198
Running from the Ogre	200
A Woman Searches for Her Lost Husband	207
The Wedding in Folktale and Traditional Life	216
The Supernatural Spouse	220
Conclusion	223
6. The Evil Witch	227
Baba Yaga as a False Mother	227
Baba Yaga as Polyphemus, Competitor, and Evil Advisor	228
Baba Yaga as Koshchei's Partner	229
The Heroine Comes into Conflict with Her Brother	234
Baba Yaga as Usurper	235
The Maiden without Hands and the Marvelous Children	243
Humorous, Satirical, and Anomalous Tales	249
The Villain Baba Yaga in a Folk Epic Song	252
Conclusion	254
Conclusion	257
Appendix I: Selected Tale Texts	277
Appendix II: Index of Tales	303
Bibliography	315
Index	353
Index of Tale Types	357
······································	

/