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Holodomor

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Holodomor

Taylor Diken

Gaylord boxes hold acid-free folders hold dried wood pulp
and ink the storyteller
except when it's not
except when it burns

Gaylord boxes stacked on dusty shelves stacked
on concrete floors stacked
on burial grounds, the old myth come to
life in the files, the obsolescence of discs,
the stories that haunt

This is a new nation for us,
us pinkos, us Rusnaks
gathered at St. Elias speaking our own po-našemu
no organ for the choir
heritage inherited without fear of reprisal

They can't take our memories if we hold them in our tongues
(and we never could afford ink,
anyway) but tongues are desperate for some taste
other than ash and the kontakion

And burial grounds hold archives hold history
just not ours.

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