

Title: *Life of Chernyshevsky*: Nabokov's Homage to Kiukhel'becker
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Several scholars have considered Nabokov's *Life of Chernyshevsky* as a response to Formalism. In "How Nabokov's *Gift* is Made," Paperno argues that the novel *The Gift* in its entirety is a response to Formalist methods, and argues that the biography of Chernyshevsky may be read as a realization of what she terms a "literary utopia of total organization" in connection with Formal and Structural methods (Paperno, 313). Marina Kostalevsky argues that Eichenbaum and his *Molodoi Tolstoi* played a major part in Nabokov's composition of the biography. Finally, Henrietta Mondri argues that one of Nabokov's two addressees is Tynianov and connects *The Life of Chernyshevsky* with Tynianov's critical work on parody.

While Formalist methodology has inarguably proven a productive line of scholarly investigation for *The Gift* and the biography of Chernyshevsky contained within it, there is evidence that the 19th-century literary figure of Kiukhel'becker, taken from a Formalist viewpoint, adds a new and unexplored significance to this area of research. This paper will pursue the idea that Nabokov responds to and comments on Tynianov's work in *Life of Chernyshevsky*, with specific regard to Kiukhel'becker. In form and content, the *Life of Chernyshevsky* can be read as a response to Tynianov's work, in light of both his "discovery" of Kiukhelbecker and his literary biography *Kiukhlia*.

References:

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