

Title: Adultery by the Book: *Who Is to Blame?* in Natalie Herzen's Affair
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Recent years have seen a renewal of interest in the story of Herzen's family drama and its reflection in his memoirs, particularly with the staging and publication of Tom Stoppard's trilogy *The Coast of Utopia*. In her comprehensive introduction to a special double issue of *Russian Literature* Irina Paperno notes, "From the beginning to the end, this relationship [between Herzen, his friend Georg Herwegh, and Natalie Herzen] was meditated by literary models" (3). In the same volume, Kate Holland insightfully analyzes Herzen's and Natalie's use of George Sand's novels to interpret their experience.

One of the points Holland makes (with a reference to Malia 270), is that Sand's *Horace*, and specifically its love triangle, served as a model for Herzen's *Who Is to Blame?* and, subsequently for the presentation of the love triangle in *My Past and Thoughts* (180-81). My paper will dispute this claim by analyzing Herzen's references to his own novel and to *Horace* in *My Past and Thoughts*. I will also show how Herzen's depiction of his reading of *Who Is to Blame?* against the background of Natalie's affair brings into focus his inability to recognize his novel as a script for his wife's behavior, or, as he says, as "the prophecy of [his own] fate" (Gertsen X:259).

Bibliography:

Gertsen, A. I. *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii*. 30 vols. Moscow, 1954-56.

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