

Title: Among Honest Contrabandists: Pechorin as a Rogue Hero in Lermontov's "Taman"
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In my presentation I argue that Pechorin, the protagonist and occasional narrator of Mikhail Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time*, stands at the intersection of literary elaboration and an aspiration for documental authenticity, evidenced in the novel's apparatus of explanatory prefaces, different narrators, and ostensibly "authentic" sources such as diary notations. This blend of creation and reproduction is displayed most clearly in the short story "Taman." At once the last section of Part I and the first part of Pechorin's diary (which continues in Part II), "Taman" is also a model Romantic adventure tale and simultaneously a first-person narrative, based on Lermontov's similar adventure in Taman' in 1837. While Pechorin appears firmly rooted in a specific, hegemonic social and political system, he unwittingly undermines this system through his fascination with the contrabandists in the story. Rather than a criminal, though, Pechorin is a *rogue*, wandering in and out of the rule of law or social expectations as he pursues new experiences. In my talk, I will attempt to answer the following question: how does the figure of the rogue embody and develop the contrast between Pechorin's two facets – as a historically representative hero and a literary hero? The analysis of the rogue in "Taman" will also shed light on a related question: is Pechorin truly a hero of his time, or is he also a hero *for* his time, i.e. a period of historical instability in Russia which finds its master narrative in Lermontov's "chain of stories"?