

Title: "*Eugene Onegin* in Process: Canto VII, 1827-28"

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Abstract:

Canto VII of *Onegin* was composed over the years 1827 and 1828, with long pauses. In 1827 Pushkin divided his attention between Canto VII and the historical romance "The Blackamoor of Peter the Great." In 1828 *Onegin* had to yield to the whirlwind composition of *Poltava*, the heroic verse narrative. Pushkin was still feeling his way toward prose, and he returned to the familiar terrain of the poema from which *Onegin* had emerged. "The Blackamoor" and *Poltava* were Pushkin's alternatives to *Onegin* in 1827 and 1828, but they both helped to define the author's thinking about issues of maturation, "manhood" and the like, issues which he also tried to resolve in this phase of *Onegin*. Peter the Great acts as the mentor of maturity in both works which frame the writing of Canto VII of *Onegin*. This paper takes us to the intersection of several contemporaneous lines in Pushkin's work.