

Title: The Dreaming Mind in Realist Fiction: Grigorovich and Chekhov
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Abstract:

This paper is on the exchange in letters and fiction between the realist writers Dmitri Grigorovich and Anton Chekhov on the representation of dreams in literature. I will discuss Grigorovich's "Karelin's Dream," Chekhov's "Sleepy" and the letter exchange in which the two writers debate how to represent the activity of the dreaming mind. While Grigorovich stays within a realist code of broad social critique in "Karelin's Dream," Chekhov considers the strange materiality of dreams and explores the boundary between fantasy and reality. The paper will show something of the range of realist aesthetics - from social critique to the representation of obscure psychological phenomena - while also examining how Chekhov explores the relationship between the mind and its surroundings to form a theory of perception.