

Title: Pavel Katenin's *Invalid Gorev* and the Challenges of Community

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Abstract:

While scholars have argued that Russian literature failed to produce an epic about one of the most traumatic events in its modern history – the War of 1812 – until Leo Tolstoy, this paper will examine a much earlier example, the little-studied narrative poem styled after Homer's *Odyssey* by the poet Pavel Katenin, *Invalid Gorev* (1835). This work combines a folkloric register with classical allusions and meter to consider one of the primary issues facing the Decembrists (with whom Katenin had many connections) and liberal nobles in general: the experiential gulf between peasants and nobles.