

Title: Literary Journalism in Imperial Russia: Of Women? By Women?

Author: Katya Jordan, Brigham Young University

Abstract:

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the practice of writing and publishing magazines by women in 19th-c. Russia. Although literary journalism in imperial Russia has been a subject of scholarly interest for some time, women's magazines as a unique segment of this enterprise have for the most part been overlooked. As literary journalism began to engage a wider audience, the task of propagating culture became secondary to the shaping of public discourse around an expanding range of social and political concerns, including the woman question. Although the work of publishing literary periodicals was predominantly a male endeavor, a small number of magazines were run by female editors who solicited contributions from female writers that would explicitly cater to female readers. Seeking self-expression as they resisted representation, these women tended to bring their own unique perspectives into the public discourse. By focusing on *The Vase*, a women's magazine dedicated to fashion and literature, I will show how women's perspectives differed not only from the predominant and traditional view but also from each other and how their voices intertwined in the process of creation of non-authoritarian discourse.