

Title: The Prosaics of Housekeeping in Goncharov's Novelistic Imagination  
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Iulii Aikhenvald has called Ivan Goncharov "a poet of the room, a bard of the household, ... a troubadour of everyday life." To varying degrees, all three of Goncharov's novels (which the author famously saw as one work) treat the subject of everyday domestic activity and contain relatively detailed descriptions of home and estate life.

A number of Goncharov's characters are either producers or consumers of popular non-fiction about domestic affairs. For instance, the young Aduiev translates articles about agriculture, while Tushin and Tatiana Markovna enjoy reading works about estate and house keeping.

In the course of his work as a censor, Goncharov became exposed to the flourishing market of domestic manuals, treating all manner of minutia about the home. For example, Goncharov served as censor for an 1859 work, which instructed the readership about the proper ways to "wash, clean and generally keep" women's clothing.

Goncharov's own prose often exhibits a fixation on a wide range of prosaic topics such as menus, grocery shopping, house cleaning, the sale of grain, the maintenance of forests and so on. What is one to do with the relative abundance of details more fit for a treatise on how to run one's home than a novel? This paper undertakes an analysis of the role of prosaic details in Goncharov's novelistic compositional technique, while contemplating possibilities for cross-contamination between the genres of novel and popular non-fiction about the home and estate.

Contextualizing Goncharov's fictional house and estate keepers (Aduieva, Pshenitsyna, Tushin, Berezhkova and Marfen'ka) within popular instructional manuals on the same subject makes it possible to offer a glimpse into the cultural history of home economics in nineteenth-century Russia as well as to treat some of the formal aspects of Goncharov's prose.

#### Bibliography

Aikhenvald, Iulii. *Siluety russkikh pisatelei*. Berlin: Slovo, 1923.