

Title: Liubov' Krichevskaja's "Emma": Rethinking Jane Austen's Influence on Russian Literature

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The influence of Jane Austen on nineteenth-century Russian literature has been largely a matter of speculation (Nepomnyashchy 2007). The scholarly study of lesser-known women writers, however, has uncovered more direct evidence of Austen's influence, specifically in the work of the Kharkov-based writer, Liubov' Iakovlevna Krichevskaja (1799-1841?). As if invoking "models of an authoritative female voice" (Hodgson 1996: 208), Krichevskaja gave the eponymous heroines of her two novellas *Korinna* and *Emma* (1827), names that are not only strikingly non-Russian, but are also the titles of novels by two of the most popular woman writers of the early nineteenth century: Madame de Staël and Jane Austen, respectively. Krichevskaja, with her knowledge of French, was undoubtedly acquainted with de Staël's bestselling *Corinne* (1807), and it is quite possible she read a French translation of Austen's work (Bour 2007). Moreover, Krichevskaja's *Emma*, like Austen's, is a comedy, ending in the happy marriage of the heroine, while her *Korinna*, like de Staël's, is a tragedy, ending in the eponymous heroine's untimely death, suggesting that Krichevskaja was indeed making an intertextual nod to her more famous forebears. This paper explores Austen's influence on Krichevskaja through analysis of the sentimentalizing French translations that would have been available to Krichevskaja and through close comparative readings of Austen's and Krichevskaja's work.

Works Cited

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