

Title: "Not to Leningrad, but to Petersburg": Reading Tsyarkin Reading Dostoevsky
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Abstract:

Beginning in the Thaw Dostoevsky's works began to see greater publication leading a major upturn in readership. The popularity would never cease, reaching its height by the 1970s. The trend was marked by such notable occurrences as the rediscovery and republication of Bakhtin's *Problemy poetiki Dostoevskogo* in 1963, the eventual opening of the Dostoevsky House Museum in 1971, the beginning of publication of his *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii* in 1972, and the release of the major motion picture *Dvadtsat' shest' dnei iz zhizni Dostoevskogo* in 1980. Dostoevsky's novels became a part of the school curriculum and he became such a well-entrenched figure in the popular cultural mindset that he began to appear as a character in fiction himself. This paper looks at Leonid Tsyarkin's 1982 novel *Leto v Badene*, which retraces the steps of Dostoevsky and responds to his texts, and asks about the role of this writer, his myths, and his "Petersburg" in the creating of one's own literary persona in the period of Stagnation.