

Date: Thu, 24 Sep 1998 18:55:47 -0400 (EDT)  
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Subject: Forward: SA Conf Proposal

Subj: abstract of paper topic  
Date: Thu, Sep 24, 1998 4:50 AM EDT  
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X-From: 071JOS@muse.wits.ac.za (Sherman, Joseph, Professor)  
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Dear Dr Shandler:

I have pleasure in submitting for consideration an abstract of a paper I should like to offer at the Sholom Aleichem Conference in Amherst next April. I shall look forward to hearing from you in due course.

"GOD AND THE TSAR": PERSIFLAGE AND PURPOSE IN GOGOL'S "OVERCOAT" AND SHOLOM ALEICHEM'S "IBER A HITL".

It has been suggested that "What is most prized today in Sholom Aleichem's work owed its inspiration to Gogol." From a close comparative reading of Gogol's "Overcoat" and Sholom Aleichem's "Iber a hitl", this paper seeks sharply to distinguish the function of Gogol's satire from that of Sholom Aleichem. The paper will argue that while Gogol's satire is fundamentally committed to upholding Tsarist autocracy, Sholom Aleichem's satire dissects that autocracy's crippling effect on Jewish self-esteem. Focusing on the similarities of the deconstructive literary techniques deployed by both authors in these two stories, this paper aims to identify their creators' radically antithetical socio-cultural, political and spiritual aims.

Should this proposal be accepted, I should be grateful if you could let me know how long each speaker will be allowed for each presentation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours

Joseph Sherman