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Literary Scholarship in Late Imperial Russia (1870s-1917): Rituals of Academic Institutionalism (Hardback)

By Andy Byford

Maney Publishing, United Kingdom, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 248 x 172 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The turn of the twentieth century was a decisive moment in the institutionalisation of Russia's literary scholarship. This is the first book in the English language to provide an in-depth analysis of the emergence of Russia's literary academia in the pre-Revolutionary era. In particular, Byford examines the rhetoric of self-representation of major academic establishments devoted to literary study, the canonisation of exemplary literary historians and philologists (Buslaev, Grot, Veselovskii, Potebnia, Ovsianiko-Kulikovskii), and attempts by Russian literary academics of this era to define their work as a distinct form of scholarship (*nauka*). By analysing a range of academic rituals, from celebrations of institutional anniversaries to professors' inaugural lectures, and by dissecting the discourse of scholars' obituaries, commemorative speeches and manuals in scholarly methodology, Byford reveals how the identity of literary studies as a discipline was constructed in Russia. He provides not only a unique insight into fin-de-siècle Russian literary scholarship, but also an original approach to academic institutionalisation more widely.



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Reviews

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