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Abstract

In this working paper, on the basis of several thousand archival readers' letters from all over the Soviet Union, I draw a social portrait of the reading audience of the leading Soviet literary journal *Novyi mir* from the late 1940's to the late 1960's. I discuss in detail such characteristics as gender, age, ethnicity, party and Komosomol membership, places of residence, occupations, backgrounds, as well as certain relationships between these characteristics and the tactics of the letter-writers' verbal self-expression.