

Techniques of Satire

Humor Research 2

Editors

Victor Raskin
Mahadev Apte

Mouton de Gruyter
Berlin · New York

Techniques of Satire

The Case of Saltykov-Ščedrin

by

Emil A. Draitser

Mouton de Gruyter
Berlin · New York 1994

Mouton de Gruyter (formerly Mouton, The Hague)
is a Division of Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin.

⊗ Printed on acid-free paper which falls within the guidelines of the
ANSI to ensure permanence and durability.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Draitser, Emil, 1937—
Techniques of satire : the case of Saltykov-Ščedrin / by Emil A.
Draitser.
p. cm. — (Humor research ; 2)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
3-11-012624-9 (alk. paper)
1. Saltykov, Mikhail Evgrafovich, 1826—1889 — Criticism and
interpretation. 2. Satire, Russian — History and criticism.
I. Title. II. Series.
PG3361.S3Z64 1994
891.73'3—dc20
93-43693
CIP

Die Deutsche Bibliothek — Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Draitser, Emil A.:
Techniques of satire : the case of Saltykov-Ščedrin / by Emil A.
Draitser. — Berlin ; New York : Mouton de Gruyter, 1994
(Humor research ; 2)
ISBN 3-11-012624-9
NE: GT

© Copyright 1994 by Walter de Gruyter & Co., D-10785 Berlin

All rights reserved, including those of translation into foreign languages. No part of this
book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or
mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Printing: Gerike GmbH, Berlin. — Binding: Lüderitz & Bauer, Berlin.
Printed in Germany.

*To my children, Alina, Max, and Svetlana.
May laughter never leave your life.*

Why has my heart become so sad? It is strange. It is a pity that nobody noticed one honest character in my play. Yes, there was one honest, noble character who acted throughout my play. This honest, noble character was - Laughter. Noble because he decided to step forward despite the low esteem in which the world holds him. [...] Nobody stood up for Laughter. I am a comic writer, I have served him honestly, and that is why I must defend him. No, Laughter is more meaningful and profound than people are accustomed to think.

Nikolai Gogol, "On departing the theater after performance of a new comedy."

