

The Limits of Self-Representation: Russian Imperial Censorship of Ukrainian Drama,
1881–1917

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The paper presents the history of plays, written in the Ukrainian language in 1881–1917 and reviewed by the censors of a St Petersburg Censorship Committee. Based on the materials from the collection of Drama censorship of a St Petersburg State Theater Library's Manuscripts Department and Russian State Historical Archive, it discusses the peculiarities of these plays, which were permitted and banned by the censors for public performance and publication. The paper argues that what is today considered a "Ukrainian" theatre should be called a "Little Russian" theatre as the censors meticulously prohibited all plays, which, in their opinion, hinted at Ukrainian national aspirations.