

*Abstract*

Michail Semenovič Ščepkin, *Il principe P.V. Meščerskij*

Michail Shchepkin's autobiographical sketch, dedicated to Prince Meshchersky, represents a fragment of unfinished memories published by the actor between 1847 and 1863 on various magazines, newspapers and almanacs.

The text was first printed, together with another episode, in 1851 in the almanac "Kometa" with the title *Dva otryoka iz zapisok artista M.S. Shchepkina* [*Two Fragments from the Memoirs of the Artist M.S. Shchepkin*], then became the sixth chapter of his memories since the first collected edition of 1864.

Shchepkin writes about how his stage formation was deeply impacted by Prince Meshchersky, amateur actor, interpreter of Sumarokov's comedy *The dowry [gotten] by deception* in 1810. During the performance, despite the initial reproach for Meshchersky's simple style, Shchepkin understands that the prince is able to create a coherent and true character and that he is capable of emotionally capturing the spectator, mainly because of the simplicity and naturalness of his acting style. Since that experience, Shchepkin undertook a real aesthetic conversion, definitively setting up his acting style on the new anti-classical principles and launching a major reform of the Russian scene.