

The Bakhtin Circle and Ancient Narrative

ANCIENT NARRATIVE

Supplementum 3

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Bakhtin's ultimate value—full acknowledgements of and participation in a great dialogue—is thus not to be addressed as just one more piece of “literary criticism;” even less is it a study of fictional technique or form (in our usual sense of form). It is a philosophical inquiry into our limited ways of mirroring—and improving—our lives.

Wayne C. Booth, Intro., *Problems of Dostoyevsky's Poetics* (1984).

We do not know what kind of world we live in. The novel wants to show it to us.

M.M. Bakhtin, “Toward a Stylistics of the Novel” (1940).

‘In any case, I hate everything that merely instructs me without augmenting or directly invigorating my activity.’

Goethe as quoted by Nietzsche, “On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,” *Untimely Meditations* (1874).