

Mediating Shakespeare in Socialist Times - Romanian Editions of Hamlet

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Abstract

The article focuses on the Romanian editions of Hamlet that were published in communist times, within the context of a propaganda that held the view that tragedies like Hamlet had to be considered to be "optimistic", where "the new" was supposed to defeat the retrograde "old". After analyzing the 1959 edition which included references to Marx, Engels or to Soviet critics such as Mozorov or Smirnov, all being requisites in all critical studies of the time, the essay then looks at Vladimir Streinu's 1965 bilingual edition and the second edition of Levițchi and Duțescu's already canonical Romanian version of "Hamlet", edited by Cornelia Comorovski (1974).