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**Summary.** Leskov's work provides a rich material for studying the life of the Russian province of the XIX century. The article examines the writer's works; from which you can get an idea of what areas of work were developed on the Oryol land. Leskov texts allow you to see what made their fortune merchants, representatives of the middle class, what they traded in the villages of the Oryol region.

**Keywords:** Leskov, Oryol province, merchants, crafts, crafts.

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