

New World

REVIEW



Irinel Liciu and Gabriel Popescu of the Bucharest Ballet

New World

REVIEW

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Chaucer in Warsaw

by MARGARET SCHLAUCH

WITH THE HELP and support of the Ministry of Higher Education I received a leave of absence of a full month last autumn to be spent in philological research in England. Most of the hours between nine AM and five PM I devoted to reading in the British Museum. My main interest was an analysis of some obscure 16th-century texts featuring the colloquial speech of ordinary people used for the first time as a literary medium. (What I want to do is to show the pioneer linguistic efforts in this field which throw light on the great successes of Shakespeare and his contemporaries in reflecting the discourse of average citizens: an achievement rarely if ever attempted in the Middle Ages.)

It was a new experience for me, obviously, to appear in England as an emissary of the Polish section of the New World. I may say right here

and now that the experience was a pleasant one from beginning to end. The fair omens began during my brief interview with a most polite and gracious immigrations officer (will the US Immigration Service please take note?) at London airport. As part of our interview, he asked me about the purpose of my visit. "To read in the British Museum!" I exclaimed blissfully—"And what is your *forte*, Madam?" he asked. "Old and Middle English language and literature," I replied. Then seeing a momentary startled look on the face of my interlocutor, I added: "Yes, we teach *Beowulf* and Chaucer in People's Poland. You'd be surprised!"—"I am, rather," he vouchsafed; and with a stamp on my passport and a wave of the hand I was sent on to the waiting bus for transport to the city. The formalities had consumed about 10 minutes at most.

When I was *not* reading in the British Museum I enjoyed meeting academic colleagues in various fields, especially philology, and also some artists, writers, fellow-visitors in the modest hotel where I lived, and rank-and-file citizens whom I met by accident. I shall never forget, for

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instance, the rather bored clerk of a theatrical bureau functioning in the lobby of a large hotel, who was engaged in getting me a ticket to the Old Vic performance of *Julius Caesar*. I explained that I could not wait beyond a certain date "because I am leaving for home." "Back to the States?" he asked indifferently, having spotted my American intonation. "No, back to Poland," I said. What a reaction that got! "Tell me more" was the theme. So I explained my reasons for existence, so to speak, as quickly as possible, and the clerk said excitedly, "We have a Polish lad working in the restaurant as waiter; he was here during the war and married an English girl"—a not uncommon story, I may add—"and I *know* he'd like to talk to you!" Willy-nilly, I found myself sitting in that lobby, talking to a white-coated waiter from the dining room (in Polish) and explaining that though there are difficulties, though the handicaps are great and one could criticize details of execution, this and this and this tremendous task has been carried out. . . . I remember too sitting in the anteroom of the Polish consulate, waiting to register my address in case a message were to come to me from family or friends in Warsaw, and observing a perfect stranger (as it appeared) walk in from the street. He addressed the receptionist in Polish: "I should like to speak to the Consul."—"What about?"—"It's about—returning back home." (I could almost hear the catch in the throat: a symptom I can terribly well understand). "Oh—well do come in; the Consul will see you very shortly!" was the cordial response. A significant accidental experience.

There were many others of the sort, mostly among intellectuals. It

might be interesting to summarize some of the queries addressed to me, and the general sense of my replies.

Among academic colleagues, questions often dealt with the program of studies for English philology in Warsaw, which is at present the only center carrying on studies in it toward the higher degrees. I told a friend of many years' standing, now visiting professor in Oxford, about our requirement of a year of Old English and a year of Middle English under the new five-year study program. "I wish we could ask as much of our students," he commented wistfully.

"What English literature do people read in Poland?" a number of persons asked me. They were amazed when I told of the passion with which people devour translations of English and American classics. The vision of bus and train riders immersed in tales by Dickens and Thackeray, Mark Twain, Melville, Fielding and William Godwin (besides Conan Doyle and Graham Greene for lighter moments) left them quite speechless. "Why, *nobody* reads Dickens and Thackeray here!" cried one pedagogue, "except of course as part of a required list for examinations."

Planned intellectual and artistic activities seemed to represent for some a Cause for Alarm. Nevertheless, when I explained how it works out in detail, the system appeared quite reasonable. Such questioners were interested to learn of the co-operation between universities and the Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Higher Education in projecting advanced research so that it will have an inner sense and an external correlation with the needs of the country. After all, the people who do the planning are also to a large extent those who are involved

in carrying it out. I, as researcher in medieval English and head of the English department of Warsaw University, am also member of the Academy committee on Modern Philology and consultant of the Ministry in that field. What I tried to emphasize is that when mistakes are made (and who will deny that they are made?), they are committed by oneself or one's peers, not by outside authorities concerned only with matters of publicity and profit: the kind of outsider we don't have to deal with here.

The same sort of questions were posed by individuals active in the field of creative art, including writers, painters, sculptors and the like. So far as the plastic arts are concerned, about which I do not know very much, I could only say that here too there is a democratic organization which places the responsibility for mistakes, where they are made, upon the specialists themselves. Where unofficial tabus exist, as they sometimes do under any system, I strongly believe they should be brought out into the open and discussed. On this principle I have always acted, here as elsewhere. In the arts of theater, painting, music and sculpture this principle has always been acknowledged in Poland; in practice it is being followed with increasing consistency.

About the field of scholarly publications I happen to know more. Any book submitted for consideration is referred to two or more experts in the subject concerned, who send in written judgments, often very detailed, about questions of accuracy, intrinsic merit and pertinence to contemporary needs. On the basis of these remarks the editorial committee tries to decide whether the proposed work fits into the broad

requirements of higher learning as defined in many conferences of specialists in the recent past. When a program of translations is being considered, polyglot experts from outside are invited to a detailed discussion (featuring black coffee for refreshment) at which a wide range of new and old works is surveyed. I have participated at such discussions where the possibilities considered varied from somber Scandinavian novels of the 19th century to the better type of American "Westerns" designed as literature of entertainment pure and simple.

The main point is, as I tried to make clear, that the undoubted achievements and the occasional mistakes are the doing of insiders presumably competent in their fields. If they have sometimes interpreted the public's needs and wishes narrowly, they are certainly doing so less and less at the present time. In one respect it may safely be said that they have never erred, unless it was on the side of excess caution. At no time have the publishers and consultants overestimated the hunger of the reading public for good things of the past. With us it is the great classics of all literatures which are most eagerly bought and enjoyed. This fact is itself eloquent of the type of culture we are building up in Poland.

I should be the last one to exaggerate the effectiveness of isolated individual contacts between representatives of various national cultures, but I do have the impression that my informal conversations in England had a certain value in explaining to friendly listeners the way things work in Poland. We can all hope, I think, that the opportunities for such interchange will increase in the future.

Peaceful Competition on Olympus

THE WINTER OLYMPICS held this year in Cortina D'Ampezza, Italy was a brilliant festival of sports and international friendship, casting a warm glow over a winter season somewhat chilled by the blustering winds of political controversy. Peaceful competition—the high purpose of the Olympics—could not have been more perfectly realized than it was in the snowy Italian mountains.

Here were gathered the finest young athletes from 32 countries to try their skills on the ice, the ski-jump, the bob-sled runway. Here would be lost or won the wreath of victory that would grant its winner immortality in the annals of the world sports. Revived some 60 years ago, the Olympic games reach back to the great contests not only of sports but of music and poetry that marked the flowering of Hellenic civilization.

This was the first appearance at the Winter Olympics of a Soviet team. After their fine showing two years ago at the Summer Olympics in Helsinki, sports enthusiasts looked forward to their entry this year as a real challenge. The speculations in the press, however, preceding the opening of the games, reflected the all too familiar attitudes of general

anti-Soviet feeling — allegations of Soviet participation as being merely another form of "propaganda," preposterous charges of "professionalism" against the Soviet athletes, sinister implications that Soviet contenders would be outside the bounds of what these commentators vaguely term "good sportsmanship."

If such ideas had entered the minds of the contestants from other countries, the harmony that prevailed through all events must quickly have dispelled such notions in the exhilarating contests that called forth from all of them the highest skill, strength and endurance.

The exquisite skill of the young American girl, Tenley Albright, in the figure-skating contest, seems to have won universal applause, especially enthusiastic because Miss Albright had suffered a leg injury in the preliminary try-outs, an obstacle she overcame with consummate ease in the final contest itself. It was such warm-hearted appreciation for all extraordinary accomplishments that appears to have marked the whole course of the games. One more testimony—if more are needed—of the universal desire to approve generously of all accomplishments that attest to the skill, courage and endurance

of the human spirit where ever, and how ever, expressed.

Typical of the atmosphere prevailing throughout was the comment of the United States hockey coach, Johnny Mariunici, as reported in the *New York Times* of February 2, at the end of the hockey games in which the Russians had placed first, ourselves second, and the Canadians third. He expressed sorrow over our defeat of the Canadians and then went on to say: "But boy, those Russians really deserved that gold medal! They are really a great team — a really great team! They did not make one mistake throughout the tournament. But I'd hate to play against the team Canada sends to the world championship next year."

Again and again the press, so full of dark forebodings about the Soviet entry before the games began, in reporting the actual opinions of the participants echoed Mariunici's whole-hearted sentiments of real "good sportsmanship": the generous acceptance and delight in superior performance.

The fact that the Soviet Union was the winner in the winter games, it is clear from the press, meant to the other countries participating only a renewed challenge for the Summer Games to be held in Melbourne, Australia this year. From the comments reported they saw the challenge in terms of raising the level

of their performances by more intense training, more rigid discipline, and a more perfect devotion to the ideals of the Olympic Games themselves. In other words, the experience of the Winter Olympics served to reinforce their allegiance to the fruitful concept of peaceful competition—the meaning and goal of this great international contest.

Avery Brundage of Chicago, who is president of the International Olympic Committee, in a broadcast speech had the following remarks to make in the course of his address:

We are glad to welcome the youth of the world here, regardless of race, religion or political belief. The great trouble in the world today is a lack of understanding of human relations, and nothing does more to dissipate this lack of understanding than the friendly contest on the field of sport.

We hope that the politicians of the world will adopt the same principles of fair play and good sportsmanship that prevail in the Olympic movement.

The significance of the modern revival of the classical Olympic games has grown with the years and today presents a shining example to all the peoples of the world of how further steps can be taken in the growth of real international competition based upon understanding and friendship.

ONE MILLION APARTMENTS

THIS YEAR housing equivalent to about a million medium-size apartments has been built in the Soviet Union. In addition, half a million houses have been built in rural areas throughout the country.

How the USSR Treats The Juvenile Delinquent

by ELIZABETH MOOS

"RUSSIA has little juvenile delinquency though the newspapers recently have been shrilling about hooliganism," wrote editor Jess Gorkin after an extended tour of the Soviet Union this fall. In his report in *Parade*, Sunday pictorial of Knoxville, Tennessee, Mr. Gorkin explained this absence of delinquency by saying that the Soviet child "simply has no time to misbehave."

He describes the six-day school week, the seriousness with which study and home work are regarded, the rich opportunities for after-school activities in sports, hobbies, arts and sciences, the summer camps and excursions. Mr. Gorkin was impressed by the disciplined behavior of young people.

Not only Mr. Gorkin has commented recently on the good behavior of Soviet youth. Stewart Alsop, writing in the *New York Herald Tribune* last June expressed amazement at the conduct of young people at the all night parties which are tradi-

tional at the end of the school year when the streets of Moscow were filled with thousands of young people. "everyone well-behaved, the girls downright demure . . . everyone having a marvelous time . . . dancing, holding hands . . . having fun till five in the morning."

Dorothy Thompson, writing in the *Ladies Home Journal* of February, 1956, about her visit to the Soviet Union, comments:

"Russian school children are the best behaved, in and out of school. If any I had the opportunity to observe on a journey this past fall and early winter to eight European countries. . . .

"In a subway or bus a Russian boy or girl immediately stands up to give his seat to an older man or woman; during intervals in the children's theaters (there are four of them in Moscow, all with professional actors, and always crowded) the children, milling through the corridors or in the refreshment rooms, chatter noisily, but during the performances they are absolutely quiet, do not speak to one another or disturb others. . . ."

Certain it is that the vast majority of Soviet boys and girls, who have every opportunity for a com-

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plete education, no worry about future employment, no economic reason to delay marriage, young people to whom all roads are open, are growing up to be well-adjusted, socially useful and happy members of society.

Nevertheless, as Mr. Gorkin wrote and as our press has frequently reported, the problem of undisciplined behavior, hooliganism and crime among youth still exists and deeply concerns the Soviet people. "Hooligans are causing a lot of anxiety," wrote *Trud*, the trade union paper.

Though statistics are not available, a study of the press and magazines for the last two years indicates that the number of acts of hooliganism or crimes by minors is extremely small. Many cases of undisciplined or anti-social behavior, which in some countries would not be considered newsworthy, are reported and discussed. For example, a writer in *Literaturnaya Gazeta* (the Literary Gazette) was "shocked to observe young men dancing with a cigarette dangling from their mouths, others whistling in a movie." Such "uncultured" behavior, in the opinion of many Soviet people, may lead to hooliganism and crime. That is why stories of delinquency are always related to the upbringing of the offender, his school and family background.

Stories about young offenders are never sensationalized. The press appears to take a responsible and constructive attitude. There are no lurid details, no pictures, little opportunity for a young potential criminal to feel "heroic." Reports always emphasize the question of responsibility. Is the family at fault? Did the Communist Youth organization do all it should have done? What did teacher and school do? What about friends and neighbors? "It's Everybody's Job," is a headline frequently

used in reporting anti-social acts by young people.

Although the number of instances seems to be small and although the Chief of the Moscow Militia has reported that crimes among young people had been cut down to 25 per cent of the pre-war level, it would seem that the Soviet Union takes seriously the saying of the Soviet educator, Makarenko, that: "In bringing up our youth we cannot allow even a fraction of a per cent of spoilage." One would like to have data on the number of cases, but it is the *type* of offense and the *methods* used in handling the offender that are of special interest.

Robbery and speculation or black-marketeering are the most common crimes at the older level. Drunkenness, fighting, swearing, ostentatious swaggering or "foppishness," making a nuisance in public places such as street cars, movies or parks, is anti-social behavior and may be considered "hooliganism" if accompanied by insulting language and if obviously expressing a "cynical and contemptuous attitude toward society."

In many cases drunkenness accompanies and is a contributing cause of such behavior. An educational campaign against drinking, particularly among young people, has been under way for some time. Recently all bars were closed; liquor may be had only in restaurants. The government has also tried to control drunkenness by increasing prices of hard liquor. It should be remembered that historically drunkenness was very prevalent in tsarist days. It has not been entirely eliminated in one generation.

Some crimes are conspicuous by their absence: sadism, sex crimes, torture or planned murder. The very rare cases reported of murder by

young people were associated with fighting, robbery or drunkenness.

One of the reasons for the absence of brutality may be the fact that, in the Soviet Union, youth finds no models for sadistic acts, no gangster heroes in literature or film. There are no "killer" movies, and no Soviet pictures and films glorifying "sex"—that is, showing the degradation of women and sex crimes or perversions.

The Soviet attitude toward sex annoys some Western observers. Mr. Whitney in the *New York Times* of January 1/56, deplores the fact that the Soviet Union does not provide public exploitation of the female form, but he admitted that "the Soviet Union does manage to avoid those extremes of commercialization of sex which are repulsive to many in the West."

A much more profound study than this brief article would be needed to analyze adequately the reasons for the fact that anti-social and criminal acts are still committed by young people in the Soviet Union. The Chief of the Moscow Militia has blamed "families broken by war or divorce" and "over-indulgent parents." Soviet commentators cite "remnants of capitalist ideas" or "Western influence" in regard to dress, manners, and attitudes; parents who spoil or neglect their children; parents who have themselves worked and suffered to build the new society but now mistakenly try to spare their children any hardships, and encourage them to be lazy; others who fail to do their own job, leaving all responsibility to the school; youth organizations that fail to provide interesting activities for their members or condone anti-social behavior; trade unions or community groups that look the other way when a

young person shows signs of starting on the road to hooliganism. All these are called to task in editorials and letters.

An educational campaign against hooliganism and undisciplined behavior is going on not only in the daily papers but in educational journals, parent and youth magazines and the *Literary Gazette*. In these discussions participate parents and young people as well as experts. In fact, one of the best ways to follow the campaign is through the letters to the press. Such letters are important in the criticism and self-criticism that is such an effective method of education and progress in the USSR. Newspapers are required to answer within thirty days every letter of complaint received. The reply may or may not be published in the paper, but the writer must be assured that the complaint has reached the proper quarter and that something is being done about it.

For example, as a result of a mother's letter to *Trud* (the trade union organ) complaining of the swearing and the misbehavior of children in her community, a conference of 400 men and women workers of the Mednogorsk Copper and Sulphur Combine, of Chkalov province, met and took action. They set up committees for supervising after-school time, for improving recreation facilities and for building a new clubhouse; they debated questions of home discipline and regime.

For many weeks the youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, carried on a debate through letters about the anti-social acts of a young man who, when drunk, insulted a girl at a dance. They discussed, "Why did the boys not throw him out; were they cowards?" "What should the girl

have done?" "Who is to blame because the young man got that way?"

A poignant letter of self-criticism in *Trud* of November 24, from a mother whose 19-year-old son was arrested for complicity in a robbery, expressed the feeling of responsibility for *all* young people that the Soviet Union is trying to inculcate. Her son's best friend, whose father was a drunkard and whose parents quarreled and neglected him, was the principal in the robbery. The boy committed the crime, he said in court, because he wanted to go to jail to revenge himself on his parents. The mother tells how, though she saw the young boy suffering, she did not like to interfere in other people's affairs.

"I am to blame for two mistakes I made," she wrote. "I did not interfere. I did not go to the father's place of work or to the school. I did not carry out my duty as a citizen. Nor did I fulfill my duty as a mother. I alienated my son. We are responsible for them (our children). I realized this too late and have paid too dear a price. May other parents learn from my bitter experience."

Seeds of hooliganism develop in schools where there is disorder, said the Minister of Education of the RSFSR at the annual conference in 1955. "Lack of discipline at schools if not checked in time can take on a mass character. . . . Soviet pupils who destroy school discipline, show disrespect to their elders, may fall under the influence of hooliganism . . . and in some cases be started on the road to crime."

The moral education or discipline of young people in schools is a major theme in educational journals and at conferences. As the goal of universal education for ten years is

being approached, this question increases in importance for all boys and girls will soon be at school until they are 18 years of age.

In all discussions of improving discipline certain ideas are reiterated and are important if we are to understand how problems of behavior are attacked in the Soviet Union.

Punishment must always be examined not only for its effect on the offender but on the group of which he is a part. Discipline is not to be confused with simple obedience—conscious discipline, self discipline is the goal. If the force of public opinion of the offender's group does not support the punishment, it will be futile. Corporal punishment may never be employed. Expulsion from school is considered the last recourse and if it is resorted to, the Department of Education must direct the student, if he is under 16 years of age, to another school. Such expulsion does not close the road either to entering another educational institution or to a job.

In an effort to get up-to-date and accurate information about the treatment of delinquent minors in the Soviet Union, some specific questions were sent to the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee, and to VOKS (Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries). In reply, the following information was received:

"Hooliganism" is a term used in Soviet criminal law. It is applied to acts committed with evident disrespect for society. Verbal insults, threats of physical violence, acts of public nuisance are considered hooliganism "if distinguished by exceptional cynicism or insolence."

Up to the age of 18 a person in the USSR is considered a minor.

There are no special juvenile

courts. Cases are taken before the General Court but must be handled under the following conditions: Cases concerning minors may be dealt with only on a day when no adult case is brought to court for trial. Each juvenile case must be judged within ten days from the beginning of the case. Parent or guardian and a representative of the school or institution where the young offender studies or works must be present. The court is required to provide a defender for the minor. In examining the case, the court must determine whether the act is the result of neglect by parent or guardian or improper attention to upbringing. In particularly malicious instances of neglect or lack of supervision, parent or guardian is held criminally responsible. In case of material damage to property of the state, social organizations or any individual, the parent or guardian is responsible for full payment.

Petty thefts or anti-social acts of minors, if brought before a court, are not handled as criminal cases. If the offense is not a repeated one, and if the court feels that the parent or guardian can bring the child up properly, he will be sent home in their care, on probation for a given period. If there is reason to feel that the parent or guardian is incapable of bringing up the child properly or if such acts have been repeatedly committed, he will be directed to a work colony.

In about half the cases, minors are given a "conditional sentence" and sent back, with a warning to parents that if another anti-social act is committed the child will be required to serve a sentence in the colony. At the end of the probation period, if the child has behaved properly, the sentence is removed.

There are no probation officers. The Department of Education, social organizations, the trade unions (if a worker), parent or guardian are responsible for supervision.

The work colonies to which a minor may be sent are entirely separate from adult work colonies. Here the child is under the care of experienced teachers and continues his general education. At the same time, he is given training in good work habits and equipped with work qualifications in some field. The children's colonies have well-equipped workshops and facilities for agriculture. A situation is created in the children's colonies in which re-education can take place. Collective work is emphasized and the young person is given an experience in socially useful activity which develops self-discipline. Corporal punishment and the "bread-and-water" type of punishment are prohibited. The effort in the colonies is to create a new attitude toward society.

If the young person shows improvement in behavior and a good relation to work and study he may be allowed to return home after having served no less than a third of the time set by the court. When the term is completed, the young person may return home or, if he has no home, the district or village body must provide him with a home and a job.

Some years ago, Professor Berman of Harvard University, who studied and wrote about the treatment of the juvenile delinquent in the Soviet Union, noted that responsibility for misdeeds is always placed on the adult—the parent, teacher or community; and that "the youthful offender is treated in accordance with his needs, not punished for misdeeds."

FRIENDSHIP COUNCIL TO APPEAL SACB RULING

ON FEBRUARY 8 the Subversive Activities Control Board set up by the Internal Security Act of 1950, (the McCarran Act) found the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship subject to registration as a "Communist front organization" and as such allegedly aiding the Soviet Union in what the Act terms a world-wide subversive conspiracy.

In reaching its decision, the SACB ignored testimony given at the hearings by prominent leaders in public affairs, the academic world, in science and religion connected with the National Council, and based itself mainly on the word of informers such as Louis Budenz who admitted they had no direct knowledge of the organization.

In fact, the SACB condemned the National Council because it has consistently worked for accommodation and friendship between the United States and the Soviet Union in the interests of peace and America's own security—a position accepted by President Eisenhower at the Geneva Summit Conference.

The nature of the SACB decision is epitomized in its description of Corliss Lamont, a former president of the NCASF, as a "Communist party functionary." Branding this as "absurd beyond words," Mr. Lamont issued the following statement:

This contemptible and dishonest decision by the witchhunting SACB is designed to prevent public-minded citizens from working for the patriotic purpose of abolishing war and hydrogen bombs through American-Soviet cooperation and understanding. . . . Every day America continues to lose influence in the world by Government agencies and officials making fools of themselves.

The National Council has announced that it will continue its activities, which it is firmly convinced "are in the best interests of the American people and directed toward maintaining world peace and security." It will petition the Circuit Court of Appeals for a review of the case, and if necessary will carry it to the Supreme Court, which now has under consideration the decision of the SACB against the Communist Party. It is difficult to see how the U.S. Supreme Court could reach any other decision than that the McCarran Act, which constitutes, in fact, an outlawry statute, is unconstitutional.

Details of the methods used in the colonies, of the treatment of young offenders in court, in school and at home, can only be obtained by first-hand observation. We can but hope that social workers and other persons concerned with finding solutions for the problem of

juvenile delinquency in our own country soon may visit the Soviet Union, and that Soviet teachers and social workers may be invited to visit our courts and institutions. Both Soviet and American experts could not but benefit by an exchange of experience.

China Tames a Roving River

by TALITHA GERLACH

"**N**OW you are crossing the 'Little Yellow River,' said my traveling companion as our train emerged from a tunnel, sped over a new bridge and continued on its journey winding up into the mountainous region north and west of Peking. Yes, there it was at our feet—sometimes blue, sometimes green, gurgling merrily over its gravelly bed—a sparkling sunlit stream, looking innocent enough!

Its real name on the map is the Yung Ting River, colloquially dubbed the "Little Yellow River," because through the centuries it has looked and acted like its giant counter-part "China's Sorrow." Heavily silted, it has carried sand and rich soil from its upper reaches down to the sea, building up its bed decade after decade only to inundate the Hopei plain at times of high water, causing disastrous damage to fields and crops, peasant homes and human life, not to mention the havoc visited upon the thriving cities near the

coast—just like the great Yellow River itself.

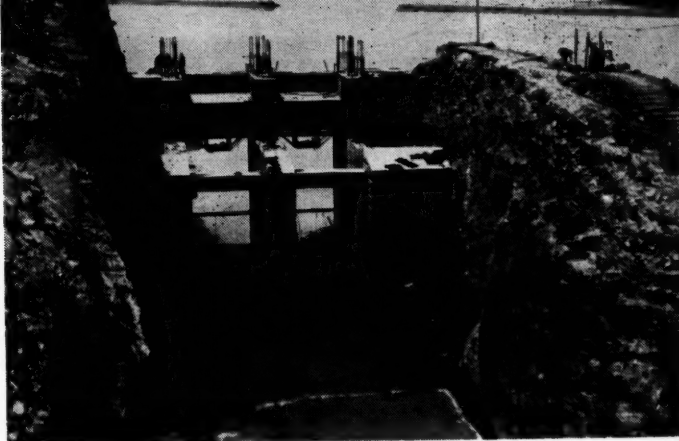
Residents in China a few years back will remember the unprecedented flood of 1939 when overnight the rushing waters of the Yung Ting River inundated the important commercial city of Tientsin up to the second story windows. The Kuomintang government had ignored the lessons of history and the Japanese forces occupying North China at that time had given no warning of the approaching flood so that even partial measures to save food supplies, factory equipment, manufactured goods, let alone provide emergency relief, first aid and medical facilities, had not been taken. Governments in the pre-liberation days had filled volumes with paper plans for controlling the Yung Ting River but nothing of a fundamental nature had ever been done to harness this rampaging, destructive river and its tributaries.

By contrast the People's Government of China had no sooner been inaugurated in 1949 than extensive plans were set in motion for harnessing the Yung Ting and at long last forcing it to serve the people.

The objective of our one-day trip from Peking was the Kuan Ting Reservoir, the first step, but only the

TALITHA GERLACH has spent many years as a YWCA secretary living and working in China. She is well acquainted with the country and knows both the old and the new China.

The gates of the Kuan Ting Reservoir and the Yung Ting River beyond. The gates, 143 feet in height, will regulate the flow of water from the reservoir to the river's lower reaches. —Eastfoto



first, in bringing this tempestuous river and its tributaries under control. The total plan is completely comprehensive and includes preventing soil erosion by extensive afforestation, constructing three retention basins to hold back the waters of the Yung Ting River and the two large rivers which form it—Sang Chien Ho and Yang Ho, providing water for extensive irrigation in the rich Hopei plain, navigable waterways and four hydroelectric power stations* which will greatly increase the electric power supply for Peking, Tientsin, Kalgan and Inner Mongolia and bring electricity to the countryside, to the coal and iron mines of Men T'ou Kou and Shih Ching Shan and to the iron and steel plants already developing in this area.

But the construction of this comprehensive water conservancy project in North China is not an isolated measure to benefit the people in this part of the country. The new railway from Peking to Paotow, which is now being extended through Inner Mongolia to connect with the trans-Sibe-

rian railway, provides a short route which will greatly reduce the travel time to the Soviet Union replacing the former longer one through Shenyang (Mukden), Changchun and Harbin to Manchuli at the border. It was this new Peking-Paotow railway which we travelled from Peking to the Kuan Ting Reservoir.

The route lies through delightfully scenic country—first skirting the Western Hills beyond Peking with the steel plant of Shih Ching Shan and the coal mines of Men T'ou Kou on the horizon, then after one hour gradually climbing up through the rugged mountain gorges with vista after vista of craggy peaks, precipitous cliffs, terraced farm land and hillside fruit orchards, zig-zagging across the Yung Ting River eight times and darting through no less than 63 tunnels, the longest taking more than four minutes to traverse. Spending one-fourth of the travel time from Peking to the Reservoir in tunnels enhances all the more the rugged scenic beauty of the trip.

As we emerged from the sixty-third tunnel, we saw the first hydroelectric power plant, now nearing completion, nestling on a mountain

* The hydroelectric plant at the Kuan Ting Reservoir went into operation on January 1, 1956.

slope below us. In another moment the train stopped. We alighted, climbed upward for one brief minute to the wide motor road on top of the dam and there before us in one breath-taking vista lay a blue expanse of lake—the new Kuan Ting Reservoir. "Its area," remarked my companion, "is four times that of present-day Peking."

We strolled along the west bank of the lake to the control tower where a guide joined us. He gave us many facts and figures about the construction work, describing how the control tower, the sluice gates and spillways operate to hold back and then gradually release the Yung Ting River when in spate. In fact, even when the Yung Ting is not running dangerously high, this reservoir and its control system save the Hopei plain from flood. In 1953, two other rivers in the plain were nearing flood height, only a slight augmentation of the water rushing into the multi-mouthed estuary at the coast would have caused a disastrous flood, but the waters of the Yung Ting River were held back. Thus fields, crops, cities, peasants and city dwellers were spared a disastrous flood and in this one year, the value of the property and crops saved from damage equalled the total cost of constructing the Kuan Ting Reservoir.

Security from floods, prevention of soil erosion and provision of cheap electric power are among the fundamental benefits accruing to the people and the country from this North China water conservancy project, yet already many related amenities are taking shape.

The reservoir has been stocked with a million fish which in three years time will provide an ample supply of fresh fish for this inland area, Peking and other cities nearby. To-

day a small fleet of motor boats, sail boats and barges is the forerunner of pleasure and sight-seeing boats. The shores of the reservoir are being planted with fruit trees, shrubbery and young forests. One workers' sanitarium has been completed and others will be constructed within the next few years. Already the climate is changing perceptibly from hot, dry summers to a cooler, refreshing degree of comfort. The modern highway which parallels much of the railway holds the promise of an easy one-day motor outing to Kuan Ting Reservoir from Peking in the near future. At present there is one train on every week day from Peking making the round trip in twelve hours, of which three are spent at the reservoir. But on Sundays two trains are run to accommodate the crowds from the nation's capital which are constantly coming to visit the Reservoir over the weekend.

The records from the ancient part tell us that the "Little Yellow River" was originally known as the Wu Ting River, the "never settled river." The Ch'ing Dynasty K'ang Hsi, determined to save his people from this untamed river, built a dyke 180 li (sixty miles) long to hold back its waters for all time and promptly renamed it the Yung Ting River or the "forever settled" one. History also records that no sooner had the dyke been completed than the river changed its course, leaving the dyke high and dry and useless, while the Yung Ting continued to flood the Hopei Plain at will. But it is only today under the People's Government of China that the river is being forced to live up to its name and what is more, its waters are being controlled and utilized to bring countless benefits and formerly unimaginable happiness to the people.

Ancient Chinese Fables

taken from Chinese classics that date from the 3rd to the 1st century B.C.

THE FARMER WHO WAITED

ONCE upon a time there was a farmer who owned almost two acres of land and lived quite well. One day when he was on his way to plough, he saw a rabbit running so fast that it crashed into a tree and fell dead.

"That's fine!" thought the farmer to himself. "I can get rabbits without doing any work. What an easy way to make a living!"

He laid his plough and hoe aside, and let his fields run wild. Every day he just sat beside the tree and waited for rabbits to come and knock themselves to death.

He waited day after day, while the peasants around him gathered in their harvests.

But no rabbit ever hit the tree again.



THE SPEAR AND THE SHIELD

LONG, long ago, in the land of Chu, there was a man who made shields and spears. "Buy my shields," he would say. "They are very strong. Nothing in the world can penetrate them!"

He also lauded his spears, saying: "My spears are the sharpest in the world. They are so sharp they can pierce anything!"

One day someone asked him: "If we use one of your spears to pierce one of your shields, what then?"

The man from the land of Chu could find no answer.



Drawings by Chang Chen-yu

THE PIGEON AND THE CAT

ONE DAY a pigeon met a cat.

"You look busy," said the pigeon. "Where are you going?"

"I'm moving," replied the cat. "I can't live in these western parts any longer."

字图

AMERICAN BOOKS AND SOVIET READERS

by ALEXANDER ANIKST

IT IS no exaggeration to say that among the many foreign works published in the Soviet Union this year the Russian translation of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* has enjoyed the widest popularity. It appeared in one of the issues of *Foreign Literature*, a new magazine with a circulation of 75,000, the aim of which is to acquaint Soviet readers with the latest works of foreign writers. The novel is soon to be published in book form.

The success of Hemingway's story is due to the keen interest here in the art of this recognized master of present-day American literature, the majority of whose works have been published in Russian. Soviet readers were particularly attracted to this work because they discerned in it a new feature not observed in Hemingway's earlier works, namely, the awakening of the author's faith that a man's life is not meaningless, that his labor, efforts and sacrifices are not in vain, that side by side with the older generation whose strength has already been sapped by life's struggle, a new generation is

rising—represented by the old fisherman's friend, the boy.

There have been many disputes in our country concerning the philosophical meaning of the narrative and a group of students of the Lenin State Pedagogical Institute in Moscow wrote an open letter to Hemingway in this connection, which will be published in one of the forthcoming issues of *Foreign Literature*. Deeply moved by the narrative, the students ask the author whether their interpretation is correct.

Such contact between readers and writers is very widespread in our country. It assumes different forms including correspondence, readers' conferences at factory clubs with the participation of writers, and the publication of readers' letters in newspapers. It is to be presumed that this form of contact will extend to Soviet readers' relations with foreign authors, as exemplified by the above mentioned students' letter.

Our youth is very much interested in foreign literature generally. It was no accident that Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* was first staged in our country by the Leningrad youth theater, the Lenin Komsomol Theater. It has been an outstanding success.

The older generation likewise shows great interest in American

ALEXANDER ANIKST is a Professor of Contemporary Western Literature and lectures in several of the higher educational institutions in Moscow.

literature. One of the country's foremost theaters—the Moscow Art Theater—is now playing Lillian Hellman's *The Autumn Garden*. The cast is composed of the finest representatives of the older generation of actors trained by Stanislavsky, including People's Artists of the USSR Yershov, Stepanova and Androvskaya. The production is being staged by Nikolai Gorchakov, known to American readers by his book *Stanislavsky's Stagecraft Lessons*.

Lillian Hellman is very popular with our audiences. Nearly all her plays have appeared on the Soviet stage. *The Little Foxes* and *Another Part of the Forest* are in the regular repertory of Moscow's Mayakovsky Drama Theater which is guided by the outstanding stage director Nikolai Okhlopkov.

One of our touring theater companies has staged Dalton Trumbo's *The Biggest Thief in Town*. In response to Soviet reader interest in American drama, the Art Publishers and Foreign Literature Publishing House are preparing a collection of works by American playwrights which includes plays by Arthur Miller, Clifford Odets, Maxwell Anderson, William Saroyan and others. The Foreign Literature Publishing House, which issues many books by foreign authors each year, is also preparing a volume of William Faulkner's short stories.

I write of our plans because we Soviet people always look into the future. In nearly forty years our experience has convinced us that our plans are generally not only realized, but exceeded. What I have indicated concerning forthcoming publications is far from complete, for, actually, many more books by American authors will be published.

But what about the Soviet people's acquaintance to date with twentieth century American literature?

Publication of such prominent writers as Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Upton Sinclair, Eugene O'Neill, Sherwood Anderson, Pearl Buck, John Steinbeck, John Dos Passos, Ernest Hemingway, Erskine Caldwell, Richard Wright, Howard Fast, Michael Gold, Albert Maltz and Josephine Herbst has been particularly extensive.

Among authors whose individual works have been published in Russian, mention should be made of Konrad Bercovici, Edna Ferber, Joseph Hergesheimer, Zona Gale, Floyd Dell, Ben Hecht, Fannie Hurst, Elmer Rice, William Woodward and Edgar Rice Burroughs.

This does not include many other writers whose works have been published in our country. I have deliberately chosen diverse names to illustrate how broadly American literature is represented in Russian translations. Complete information will soon be available in a reference book of translated literature now being compiled by the USSR Central Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow.

Libraries of foreign literature have been established in a number of Soviet cities. It should be noted that our acquaintance with American literature is not confined to translations. There are fifteen specialized educational institutions in the Soviet Union which give a thorough grounding in foreign languages, and each has an English department. Their main job is to train teachers for secondary schools and institutions of higher learning. In addition, English is taught in many schools as well as at every univer-

sity, institute and college. That is why so many thousands of people in our country read books in English. Many of us read American authors in the original. We even have a special publishing house which puts out literature in English and other foreign languages. It publishes chiefly classical literature and works of authors already recognized as masters of modern literature.

I know there are American writers very popular in your country who are as yet little or altogether unknown to Soviet readers. But it would hardly be incorrect to say that many American readers do not know a number of our writers who have advanced to the fore in recent years. For example, are many American readers familiar with the novels of Vera Panova, Vassily Grossman, Vera Ketlinskaya, Benjamin Kaverin, Boris Gorbatoov and of many others who have written interesting books? Have they read Leonid Leonov's new novel entitled *The Russian Forest*, or seen the new plays by Nikolai Pogodin, Alexander Shtein, Alexander Kron?

It must be admitted that our mutual acquaintance with each other's literary achievements could be much better. As far as our country is concerned, we are, as I have outlined, doing a great deal to acquaint Soviet readers with the finest examples of present-day American literature. We hope that these efforts will be reciprocal.

In addition to American literature, the works of writers of many other countries are likewise widely published in our country. Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, China, India, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Den-

mark, Canada, Australia—it would require an extensive list to enumerate all the countries whose literature is translated and published in the Soviet Union.

But to return to the publication of American literature in the USSR, we have always been deeply interested in the American people's life and culture. As in your country, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn have become popular heroes of our children. With Natty Bumppo, our boys wander in the American forests and share in the Klondike adventures of Jack London's heroes, while the older generation find much in common with the heroes of Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway and other American writers. Without having read their works one cannot be considered a cultured person.

In particular, I want to emphasize the fact that in our country a knowledge of American literature is not the exclusive domain of intellectuals—it has been brought within the reach of the broad masses of workers and collective farmers. Only the other day I received a letter from a young soldier in which he objected to my interpretation of Dreiser's *Jennie Gerhardt* in the foreword of that book. The question that agitated him most is whether it is correct to assert that Lester really loved Jennie despite the fact that he parted with her. The same sincere concern over the fate of many characters is shown by other readers too.

In my opinion these and similar facts testify that there exists all the necessary prerequisites for the growth and strengthening of cultural and spiritual ties between our peoples.

Medicine for All

by AMY SCHECHTER

THIS is in the new Rumania which inherited, among other benefits of semi-colonialism, the highest infant mortality rate in Europe—over 19 per cent, in some regions at times as high as 70 per cent.

A small plane flying over the wild, forested mountains rising in the center of the country circles over an isolated village. The pilot looks for a possible landing place, finds none, and parachutes down to a waiting group a package of medicines for a village child. A call for the medicine had come through to the medical aviation center.

The special point here is that in old Rumania, with prices of medicine in the luxury brackets, the child's peasant parents would have been unable to get the medicine at all, let alone have it delivered as a rush order by plane.

The recent opening of the first Rumanian penicillin factory is an item in the advances made during the first Five-Year Plan just ended, in its way as important as the rapid expansion in this period of the new machine-building industry created postwar in a country that formerly imported over 95 per cent of all its industrial machinery and equipment; or the creation of the first electrical industry; or the chain of new power stations, and electrification of more villages in

these five years than in 60 years before 1944.

Prewar Rumania had no pharmaceutical industry. Medicines were imported, priced sky high. Foreign trusts, especially Germany's I. G. Farbenindustrie (whose services to Nazism included the supply of the gases for the Gestapo's slaughter chambers), maintaining Rumania as a market for their products, succeeded in blocking the establishment of domestic pharmaceutical enterprises. The country had a wealth of the necessary raw materials, but things were fixed so that these were exported at low prices; and the finished and semi-finished products were imported at high prices. The same situation operated in regard to the whole, largely foreign-controlled, industrial set-up.

What existed was a number of so-called pharmaceutical specialty laboratories; the great majority, foreign financed, were limited to processing imported products, or acting as sales media for foreign manufacturers.

After the people's regime took over, the government created a General Directorate for the Medical Drug Industry, which took over all the country's laboratories and other set-ups operating in the field, and began the complicated job of organizing the basis for a modern pharmaceutical industry out of them.

Here, as in setting up other new industries, the Soviet Union gave constant organizational and technical aid.

The result to date has been the creation of an industry that already meets the demand, at reasonable prices; and output is scheduled to increase 100 per cent in the course of the second Five-Year Plan that began on January 1 of this year. There were three consecutive price cuts during the Five-Year Plan just ended. In the case of day-to-day necessities, such as vitamins, cuts in 1953 and 1954 were sometimes as high as 70 per cent. Another price cut is scheduled for early this year.

In the villages, over 4,000 pharmacies were set up in the local cooperative stores. In all, the industry now produces over 500 medicines, including the most complex products.

This is only one factor, but an important one, in the campaign that within ten years after the war has resulted in a constant drop in infant mortality, already less than half the pre-war figure.

The new industry has been especially successful in developing the manufacture on a mass scale of certain products, such as aspirin and atropin, now available for export.

An important part in the technical development of the industry has been played by the Chemico-Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and the Antibiotics Research Institute. The practical first fruits of the Antibiotics Research Institute is the opening of the large, modern penicillin factory mentioned previously. Commercial production of other antibiotics is scheduled to begin shortly.

The general summing up of achievements at the end of the Five-Year Plan, also is applied to this industry. Productivity in 1955 rose 285 per cent over 1949; one reason

that the successive price cuts have been possible. Total 1955 production was up 441 per cent over 1949; synthetic products, on which special stress was laid, were up about nine-fold.

Some of the age-old scourges of Rumania—malaria was a major one—are being successfully fought with products made by the Institute of Serums and Vaccines. The Institute dates back to 1921, founded by a disciple of Mechnikov, Professor I. Cantacuzino. But under the old regime, the institute to a large extent operated in a vacuum. It is only in the last few years that its activities were directed towards practical aid in combating disease among the masses of the population.

Today the Institute operates in greatly expanded form; it has a department for scientific research, and a production department for the manufacture of serums and vaccines. These products are being successfully used in fighting infectious diseases: there have been mass vaccinations of hundreds of thousands against tuberculosis, diphtheria, and other illnesses. Certain groups, selected by age and occupation, are periodically vaccinated against typhoid fever, tetanus, scarlet, fever, whooping cough, etc.

The scientific research department of the Institute works for constant improvement in the quality of the serums and vaccines produced, and on the study of certain specific regional factors. Anti-epidemic stations in various parts of the republic assist in this latter activity, and branches of the Institute operate in major universities.

Government prizes awarded to men working at the Institute highlight the practical character of its work in the field of malaria, and for contributions in the battle against typhoid.

Britain Marks Annual Month Of Friendship With the USSR

MR. PAT SLOAN, General Secretary of the British-Soviet Friendship Society, has sent us a report of "Friendship Month" held during November last in England. These Friendship Months arranged by the BSFS in cooperation with the British Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR, have become annual affairs. The latest Friendship Month marked a great advance over previous years in activities designed to strengthen the social and cultural ties between the British and Soviet people.

One feature of the month is the exchange of friendly messages. On this, Mr. Sloan reports:

Our campaign for trade union, co-operative and other messages reached the highest level since the war. . . .

This year 12 national trade unions, the United Nations Association, the Bishop of Birmingham, and organizations representing 2,500,000 sent messages through our Society. In addition 3 national trade unions (Miners, Boilermakers, Paperworkers) and 57 Labor M.P.'s sent messages direct to the USSR.

Messages of reply were sent by corresponding organizations and individuals in the Soviet Union.

The main cultural feature of the month was the presentation by the BSFS of the Moiseyev Dance Ensemble at London's Empress Hall, where the Ensemble performed 25 times to a total audience of 97,000, including a Royal Command Performance. It

also performed on both commercial and BBC television.

The Ensemble received an excellent press in England. The *London Times* gave a detailed review of the "delightful" program, adding:

The girls are graceful and charming, the boys jolly and exuberant. Whether the village green or the music-hall stage is being evoked, they communicate their enjoyment with a marvelous zest—it is a captivating entertainment.

John Barber wrote in the *Daily Express* that "As spectacle, it was irresistible"; the *News Chronicle* critic called it "a performance of artistic richness without compare"; the *Daily Mail* wrote that nowhere in Europe could dancers be seen with such "strength, vitality and technical perfection." The *Stage* declared: "The group itself, concentrating entirely upon folk dancing, is a collective star." The *Financial Times*:

These boys and girls are the pick of the folk dance teams from all over the USSR, selected and trained by People's Artist Igor Moiseyev at the Moscow Grand Theater. They are virtuosos.

Equally enthusiastic comment appeared in almost the whole British press.

Among other cultural events of the month, the Soviet violinist Leonid Kogan and the pianist, Eugene Malinin, had well attended concerts in

BRITAIN-USSR AGREE ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES

A BROAD program of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges has been agreed upon by Britain and the Soviet Union, according to the *New York Times* of Feb. 7. The plan covers visits between representatives of Soviet universities and those of Oxford and Cambridge; the Shakespeare Memorial Theater is to exchange visits with the Moscow Art Theater, and the Sadlers Wells Ballet with the Bolshoy Theater Ballet. The accord was made with the semi-official British Council and was announced by Christopher Mayhew, a Member of Parliament, and Nikolai A. Mikhailov, Soviet Minister of Culture.

London's Royal Festival Hall and in Birmingham and Cardiff. Kogan appeared on two radio and one TV program, and Malinin gave a recital in Manchester.

A group of fifteen Soviet artists, led by Mr. Innozemtsov from the Ministry of Culture, performed in seven cities in England and three in Scotland, while various members of the group performed in fifteen other cities.

Mrs. Lydia Kislova, English-speaking member of the board of VOKS (USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries), visited England as the guest of the BSFS during the month, addressing nine meetings. She was received by the Lord Mayors of Birmingham, Coventry and Stratford and the Mayor of Wolverhampton. Among the private visits made by Mrs. Kislova was tea with Lady Churchill for whom she had been interpreter when the latter visited the USSR during the war.

A group made up of Soviet Academician Tsitsin, Professor Gudzev and Mr. Zhukov attended a number of events in both England and Scotland.

Trade union ties were strengthened by the visit of Mrs. Vera Tsvetkova, President of the Ivanovsk Regional Council of Trade Unions. Primarily interested in the textile industry, she spent a good deal of time in Manchester, and visited local com-

mittees of Weavers' Unions in five other textile centers. She spoke at ten of the Friendship meetings.

Noting the marked increase in broad support for Friendship Month this year, in official circles as well as among the public, Mr. Sloan says in his report:

Not only the Greetings messages showed this, but also the messages to the Official Opening of Friendship Month, from Earl Russell, Lord Russell of Liverpool, Lord Boyd Orr, Lord Beveridge, Sir Robert Boothby, M.P., and Sir Beverly Baxter, M.P. Both Mr. Roland Casasola and Mr. George Elvin spoke at the Stoll meeting on behalf of their unions.

In many places official civic welcomes were extended to the Soviet guests. The high light of these was in connection with the Wales-USSR concert featuring Kogan and Malinin. This was combined with a visit by the Soviet Charge d'Affaires who, with Mr. Sloan, was the guest of the Mayor of Rhondda during the day. Mayors, Lord Mayors and officials of other Welsh cities attended Friendship Month events. Altogether Lord Mayors and Mayors of 22 cities took part in some way in Friendship Month. In Belfast, Soviet artists were not only greeted by the Lord Mayor, but shown around by the Minister of Finance of North Ireland.

Americans See Soviet Technology

SOVIET technological progress has been strikingly brought to the attention of the West in at least two very exciting fields—the development of those near-miracle electronic computing machines, and the emphasis now placed in the USSR on automation.

A group of American automation experts recently witnessed both and were unstinting in their praise. The Americans were Nevin L. Bean, technical assistant to the general manager of the automatic transmission division of Ford, in Livonia, Mich.; Dr. Albert C. Hall, former professor at M. I. T. and now general manager of research of Bendix Aviation; and Dr. Welden H. Brands, engineering manager of Westinghouse.

Among the things that they saw was the Soviet Union's electronic computer designed by the Institute of Precision Mechanics and Computation Techniques. In one second the machine can perform between 7,000 and 8,000 arithmetical operations. (See photos on next page.)

In addition, the machine can trans-

late from English into Russian. The English is punched on a tape on one part of the machine, and it comes out translated into Russian on a tape from another part of the machine.

At the Kaganovich Ball Bearing Plant where there is now in operation a fully automatic production line and two additional similar lines are now under construction, the American visitors spoke highly of the Soviet engineers who designed the process and the Soviet machinery that was built.

"I have never seen a better example of automation in my life," said Mr. Bean after touring the ball bearing plant, according to the *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 1955.

The director of the factory told his American guests that there was no problem of absorbing workers displaced by the introduction of such labor-saving machinery, adding that the plant's shortage of skilled workers was so acute that the displaced men were immediately drawn into other sections of the plant.

An example of part of an actual translation from English into Russian done by the Soviet electronic computer, BESM. The English text is fed into the machine, and the Russian translation emerges from it on tape.

INTRODUCTION

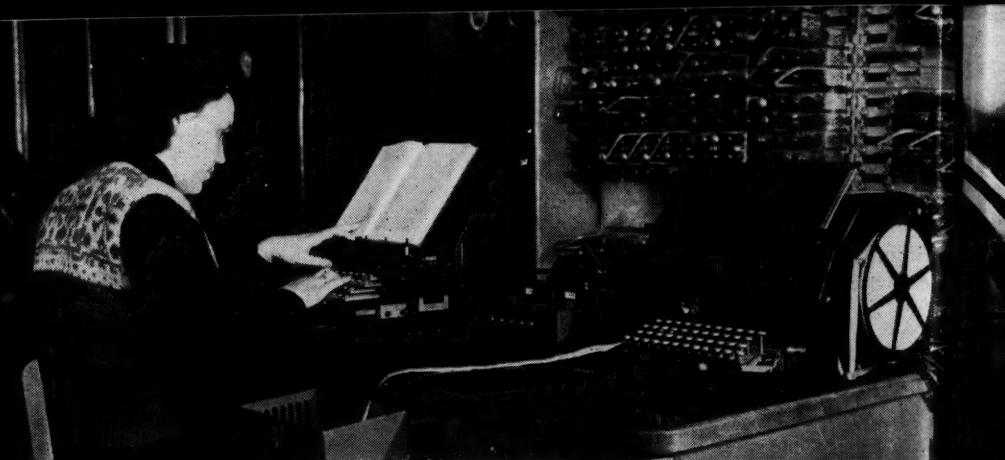
When a practical problem in science or technology permits mathematical formulation, the chances are rather good that it leads to one or more differential equations. This is true certainly of the vast category of problems associated with the

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

ЕСЛИ ПРАКТИЧЕСКАЯ ЗАДАЧА В НАУКЕ ИЛИ ТЕХНИКЕ ДОПУСКАЕТ МАТЕМАТИЧЕСКУЮ ФОРМУЛИРОВКУ,

ТАКЖЕ ДОБОЛЬНО ВЕРОЯТНО ЧТО ЭТО ПРИВОДИТ К ОДНОМУ ИЛИ БОЛЕЕ ДИФФЕРЕНЦИАЛЬНЫМ УРАВНЕНИЯМ.

ЭТО ВЕРНО БЕЗУСЛОВНО ДЛЯ ОБШИРНОЙ КАТЕГОРИИ ЗАДАЧ СВЯЗАННЫХ С ФИЗИКОЙ И ИНЖЕНЕРИЕЙ



Soviet electronic computer, BESM, at work on translations. Technician (upper photo) punches English text into the machine, and (lower) the Russian comes out on tape.

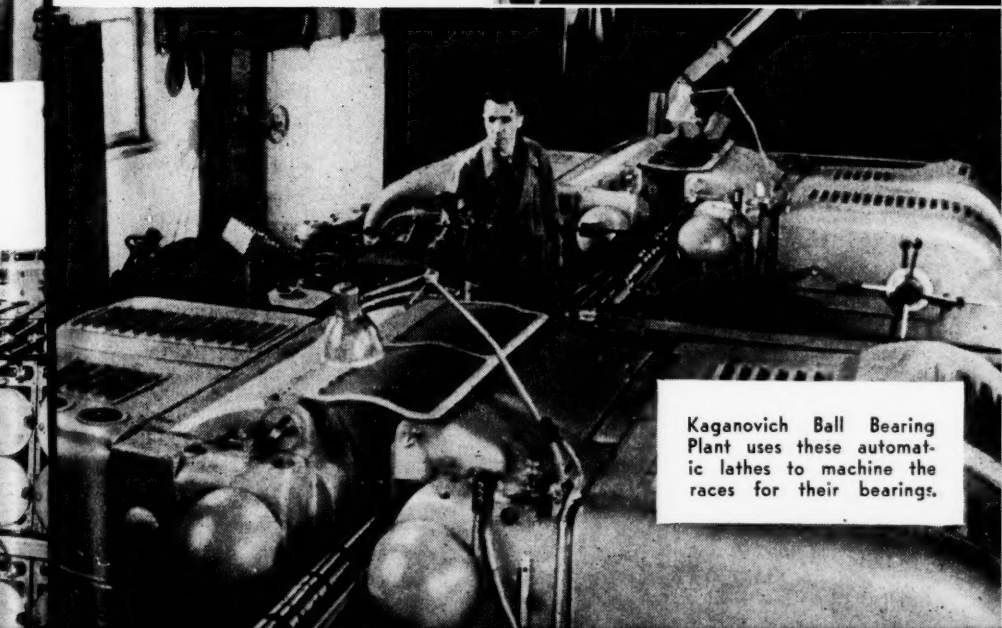
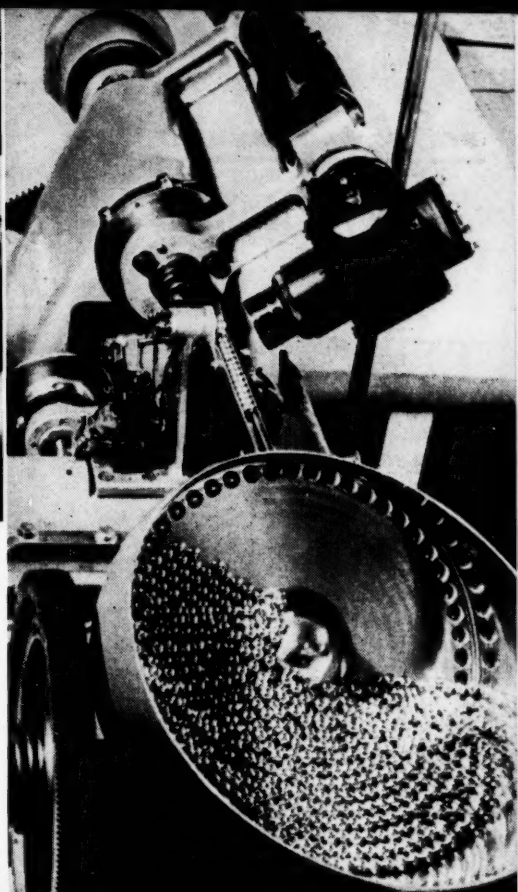
The BESM electronic computer, which can solve 7,000 to 8,000 arithmetical operations in one second, is being set for a complicated mathematical problem. For recent American opinion of the high level of Soviet technology, see previous page.





Setting an automatic lathe (above).
Right: Electronic control of bearing
surfaces at the Kaganovich Plant.

Soviet Machines for Translation Computation and Automation



Kaganovich Ball Bearing
Plant uses these automat-
ic lathes to machine the
races for their bearings.

Two Roads—Force or Friendship

by JESSICA SMITH

THIS is being written in the month in which the American people celebrate the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln. Such anniversaries should be the occasion for a special stocktaking of the measure in which our country today carries on the traditions of the great events with which these two great names are connected. The celebration in the same month of Negro History Week gives further meaning to this stocktaking—for the position of the Negro people in the United States today is one of the main touchstones of how true we are to the noble aims of our Revolution and Civil War.

This stocktaking must include both domestic and foreign policies of our government. Our relations with all the rest of the world are affected by what is happening here at home. Our foreign policies are directly reflected in our domestic ones.

There is a grim backdrop behind all the foreign policy pronouncements of U.S. leaders today, visible to all the world, but of which they themselves seem hardly aware, as they keep their backs turned to it.

Ugly and shocking pictures appear on this backdrop.

The mangled body of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till deep in a Mississippi river because he took seriously the words of our Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and refused to declare himself inferior to the white man who killed him.

The hate-distorted faces of a mob, threatening death with words and rocks to Miss Autherine Lucy because she takes seriously the human rights guaranteed to her under our Constitution, and specifically the right to non-segregated education, upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The murdered bodies of Negroes in other Southern states who take seriously the right to vote guaranteed by the 14th and 15th Amendments. . . .

What do they think, the peoples of the world, when against this backdrop they hear the pious words of men who refuse to make agreements on which the lives of all the people of the world depend because, they declare, *other nations* refuse to peoples the right to free elections, condone force and violence, suppress human rights?

Have we the right to demand of other nations that they conform to our particular brand of democracy, when democracy and freedom of elections have not been achieved in our own South, where a reactionary minority imposes its will and subverts the Constitution through mob violence?

Government leaders and Presidential aspirants are counseling "moderation," "gradualism." Is not the entrance of *one Negro student* into the University of Alabama moderate and gradual enough for them? And it is the Negroes seeking their rights and defending their human dignity

who are asked to be moderate and gradual, not the White Councils, the new Klansmen, who are thereby encouraged to continue their force and violence.

This shame in our America today cannot but affect our relations with all the rest of the world. These happenings at home, along with "brink of war" foreign policies, stockpiling of ever more fiendish atomic and hydrogen weapons and threats to use them, are alienating people everywhere. They see a clear connection between what is happening in the South, United States alliances with white supremacists and their supporters in Asia and Africa, and the efforts to hold back the liberation movements sweeping the colonial world, through the Seato and Baghdad pacts.

All of this should be kept in mind when judging the meaning and effect of the Bulganin-Eisenhower correspondence and of the Washington Declaration issued at the end of the Eden visit.

The Bulganin-Eisenhower Correspondence

The Administration's rejection of Premier Bulganin's offer of a treaty of friendship and cooperation was based on exactly the same terms presented at the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference which Walter Lippmann described at the time as having in them "no room for maneuver, no material for bargaining, no chance for trading" (*New York Herald Tribune*, November 15, 1955).

In effect, though couched in moderate terms, the President offered the USSR a program of capitulation to U.S. demands as a condition for a conciliatory attitude on the part of the Administration.

He asked that the Soviet Union accept the Western proposal for free elections in Germany, although the USSR had already made clear it would not favor elections held under conditions denying free expression to the people of Germany themselves and designed to set up a unified Germany committed to remilitarization and to joining the Western Military alliance, NATO. He proposed, in effect, "the liberation" of the countries of Eastern Europe, although the USSR had made clear it could have no part in determining the return to these countries of the reactionary elements their people had repudiated. The President asked the acceptance of his "open sky" plan, which the USSR had already agreed to consider if coupled with a plan for eliminating the arms race. He asked acceptance of proposals for East-West interchange which the Soviet Union considers would mean interference in internal affairs, on the basis of the kind of propaganda inciting their peoples to revolt to which they have already been subjected by "Radio Free Europe" and other American-sponsored agencies. (For fuller treatment of these points, see December NWR, p. 38.)

The *New York Post* (January 30), commented that the President should have found some answer to Bulganin rather than outright rejection, and that "too much of the letter sounds as if it were written with John Foster Dulles standing over Ike's shoulder while William F. Knowland held a gun at Dulles' ribs."

In the general outpouring of press headlines and stories warning against this new "propaganda maneuver" of the Russians, some made the point that the Bulganin letter was an attempt to play up to the President in the belief that he is

less belligerent than Dulles and others.

And what is wrong with that? This idea was further borne out by statements made in Moscow by Khrushchev to New York attorney Marshall MacDuffie on the same day the letter was delivered here. Speaking warmly of the President, Khrushchev said that the Russians "knew him from the war and he always kept his word." He continued: "My comrades and I are convinced the American leaders, among them President Eisenhower, basically strive for peace and do not want war."

In this direct correspondence with President Eisenhower, the Soviet Premier was renewing an effort begun after the Geneva summit conference, when he wrote to the President offering ideas for a solution of the disarmament deadlock, but was never fully answered because of the President's heart attack. Bulganin was also pursuing the Soviet policy of seeking solutions through bilateral negotiations to the problems the foreign ministers conference had failed to solve.

The first Bulganin letter, described by the White House announcement as "friendly," was delivered personally to the President on January 23 by Ambassador Zarubin.

Recalling the joint decisions made at Geneva to try to ease international tensions, the Soviet premier emphasized the key role of American-Soviet relations, and the historic grounds for their improvement:

The history of the relations between our two countries is convincing proof of the fact that their friendly cooperation, based on a striving for mutual understanding, mutual respect for sovereignty, and later also on the common struggle against the forces of aggression, conforms to the

highest interests of the people of both countries.

It cannot be considered accidental that, with the exception of the period of foreign intervention against the young Soviet Republic, the peoples of our states have never been at war with each other, that there have never been nor are there now any irreconcilable differences between them, that there are no frontiers or territories that might become an object of dispute or conflict.

Mr. Bulganin recalled the President's own words at Geneva that the American people want to be friends with the Soviet people, and that there are no natural differences, territorial or commercial rivalries between the two nations.

He continued that he felt that with further efforts and time the serious differences that had arisen between the two countries in the cold war period could be solved; that improvement in American-Soviet relations would make it easier to stop the armaments race and utilize economic resources to improve the well-being of the peoples.

He then proposed the conclusion of a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with the aim of improving American-Soviet relations, and upholding the peaceful principles of the UN Charter. He concluded that he envisaged such a treaty "in the spirit of the draft enclosed."

The essence of the draft treaty is contained in the following chief provisions:

Article 1: The contracting parties will develop and strengthen, in the spirit of sincere cooperation and mutual understanding, friendly relations between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States of America on the basis of equality, mutual respect for state sovereignty

and non-interference in internal affairs.

Article 2: The contracting parties have agreed, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations organization, to settle all their international disputes by peaceful means alone.

Article 3: The contracting parties will promote the development and strengthening of economic, cultural and scientific cooperation between the two states on the basis of mutual advantage and equality.

President Eisenhower's reply of January 28 expressed thanks for the letter and agreement with the need and possibility of improving American-Soviet relations. He stressed this nation's desire for peace, and told the Soviet premier:

There is, indeed, no honorable thing that we would not do if we were convinced that it would promote a just peace in the world.

He then proceeded to point out that the two nations are already bound through the UN Charter to the commitments proposed in the draft treaty, and asked how the situation could be improved by merely "repeating these words in bi-lateral form."

He said it was not words but deeds that counted, charged that the Soviet Union had rejected the proposals of the Western foreign ministers, and "in various parts of the world, embarked upon a course which increases tensions by intensifying hatreds and animosities." The President then outlined the terms, cited above, the acceptance of which would elicit from the administration "a spirit of conciliation."

While the Bulganin proposal was thus rejected, Eisenhower's final words "I shall look forward to a further expression of your views,"

at least left the door open for further correspondence.

Premier Bulganin, replying February 1, expressed satisfaction at the "friendly tone" of the President's note. He said his government still believed the time was ripe for an American-Soviet friendship treaty.

Answering the President's objections that the draft treaty merely repeated provisions of the UN Charter and his reservations as to its bi-lateral nature, Bulganin declared that improvement in the relations of the two greatest world powers would only serve to strengthen the UN, and pointed out that the United States itself had become party to many bi-lateral treaties since the creation of the UN. He said his country was prepared to conclude similar treaties with Britain and France, and that its proposal for a treaty between the NATO and Warsaw states remains open.

Agreeing that it is deeds, not words, that count, Bulganin said he felt that a treaty binding both countries to put their obligations into practice would in itself represent a concrete act. He recalled a number of concrete steps already taken by the USSR, including reduction of its armed forces and military appropriations, withdrawal from the Porkkala military base in Finland, and the treaty with Austria, adding:

In the Soviet Union it is thought that other states might also back up their declarations with specific deeds. Meanwhile, to be frank, Mr. President, it must be said that not only have certain great powers failed to take similar action, but on the contrary much is being done to increase international tension.

As illustrations, he cited the increase in U.S. military appropria-

tions and in military bases in countries bordering on the USSR, recent belligerent statements by military leaders of NATO and by "leading personages" of the United States, such as the recent one advocating a "brink of war" policy. Bulganin declared that the Soviet leaders felt that the President's "open sky" plan under conditions of an unrestricted armaments race would only intensify that race, but that it would be a different matter if accompanied by agreement on armaments reduction. He continued:

One cannot fail to note also that the obligation of the USSR and the USA to solve all questions in dispute between them by peaceful means alone, which signifies a refusal to use force or threats of force in their relations, including atomic and hydrogen weapons, would indeed have a calm effect on the international situation and would create more favorable conditions for reaching agreement on other unsettled international problems.

He pointed out that the Soviet Union had tried to meet the Western proposals half way at the foreign ministers conference and explained why they could not be accepted in their present form. He repeated his belief that a treaty of friendship and cooperation would help in the solution of all these problems, and closed with assurances that the greatest attention would be given to any further ideas the President might wish to express on the subject.

The Eisenhower-Eden Parleys

The Eisenhower-Eden Declaration of Washington must also have had a strange effect on the people of the world against the background we have

described, and has, in fact, met a cool reception everywhere. The bland assertion that 600,000,000 people have attained nationhood in the past ten years through Anglo-American assistance was heard by people well aware of the sacrifices they themselves have made and must still make to secure their independence. It must also be noted that they heard the vague general promises of economic assistance against the background of the concrete offers of economic aid underdeveloped countries are receiving from the Soviet Union.

Interestingly enough, on the very day the Eisenhower-Eden documents were issued, the press carried an account of a report of the Japanese Economic Planning Board to the effect that the United States is losing the battle of economic aid to Southeast Asia and the Middle East. According to a dispatch by Foster Hailey in the *New York Times*, February 2, the report gave these reasons:

- 1) The Soviet Union is offering easier terms and is taking payment in surplus commodities such as cotton and rice.
- 2) Moscow is not dictating how the money is to be spent by a recipient nation, as is the case with most United States loans and grants.
- 3) The Soviet Union is not linking its program to military commitments, as is the United States.

While the fact that the Bulganin correspondence initiated on the eve of Eden's arrival was interpreted in Washington as a move to "split the United States from its allies," and Sir Anthony and the President expressed their determination to remain firm against "Soviet efforts to inflame old antagonisms," it was no outside influence that created the deep Anglo-American contradictions

that underlay the Washington talks. The unity proclaimed consisted chiefly of Mr. Eden's surrender to the will of John Foster Dulles, who carried the ball in the conversations.

Deepest of these conflicts concerns the matter of Middle Eastern Oil, the main cause of Middle Eastern troubles today. Sir Anthony made no headway in his efforts to maintain the positions of the British oil monopolists against the U.S. oil interests whose efforts to drive out their British rivals are unceasing. The bankruptcy of Western policy was exposed in the continued stress on the Baghdad Pact, which has aroused so much resistance among the peoples and governments of the Middle East, and in the failure to take any steps toward meeting the offers of the Soviet Union to participate in finding a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict that would be in the interests of the peoples themselves.

Eden was able to get no commitments on such questions of concern to Britain as the ending of H-bomb tests (after England has exploded one of its own), no assurances against involvement in war over Quemoy and Matsu Islands, or on giving the People's Republic of China its rightful place in the UN. On the vital question of relaxation of trade embargoes, especially against China, the only concession was that they should be "periodically reviewed."

Reaction in Great Britain indicates that the British people will not be satisfied with these results. An alternative to these policies, which are designed to maintain East-West conflicts and keep the cold war alive, will undoubtedly be presented during the forthcoming visit of Bulganin and Khrushchev to England, as it has been presented to our country in Bulganin's letters to Eisenhower.

Khrushchev Stresses Peace

That the USSR intends to continue to press for a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the United States, as well as with Britain, France and other states, was made clear in the major speech of Nikolai Khrushchev at the opening of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR on February 14. (Fuller treatment of this and other speeches in our next issue.)

Khrushchev emphasized peaceful coexistence as the consistent fundamental principle of Soviet foreign policy, and the only alternative to devastating war. He listed collective security in Europe and in Asia and disarmament as the three major problems "whose solution can create the basis for a stable and lasting peace." He reaffirmed the readiness of the USSR to agree on ending tests of thermonuclear weapons as a beginning toward disarmament. He proposed that peaceful economic competition replace the arms race. He said the former Marxist-Leninist principle that war is inevitable while imperialism exists no longer holds true, since the socialist and peace forces of the world have become strong enough to prevent war. While asserting the conviction of Soviet leaders that the socialist system would triumph, he made clear that there could be no question of armed intervention in other countries to achieve this and stressed the possibility of peaceful transition to socialism. He stressed the Soviet position that the most complex questions can be solved by negotiations.

These conciliatory statements clearly call for the thorough review of Administration cold war policies increasingly demanded by the American people today.

Style and Achievement In Soviet Architecture

RECENT developments in the field of Soviet architecture and building, along with the decision to make a great increase in housing one of the main goals of the 1956-60 Five-Year Plan, show the immense concern of the Soviet leaders in overcoming housing shortages, and in providing convenient, comfortable, simple and beautiful living quarters and surroundings for the people. The recent forthright criticisms of past mistakes are accompanied by energetic measures to correct them.

Americans, who have been so free to criticize both the lack of sufficient housing in the Soviet cities and the over-ornateness of some of the buildings that have gone up in the last few years, should have been the first to welcome the efforts to provide more housing and the trend toward greater simplicity.

But the real situation was completely obscured by the false and sensational reports in the American press on the eve of the departure from this country of the Soviet housing delegation. These reports sought to give an impression of unwarranted Government and Party interference in the work of Soviet architects. They spoke of a far-reaching "purge," specifically of Alexander V. Vlasov, a member of the delegation, who was supposed to have been dismissed from all his posts, stripped of his decorations, put under some sort of "arrest" while his family were held as

hostages in Moscow to insure his return. While several of the papers later carried inconspicuous corrections, lies unfortunately have longer legs than truth. The fact was that Vlasov had not been dismissed as Chief Architect of Moscow as reported, but had resigned that job when he was promoted to the directorship of the Academy of Architecture. He has remained the head of the new joint Academy of Construction and Architecture.

It is difficult to understand how American correspondents in Moscow could have misread so completely the decision printed on the front pages of the Moscow press or so little regarded their professions as to send such completely distorted accounts.

The November 4 decree "On eliminating waste in building design," issued on behalf of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and bearing the signatures of Bulganin and Khrushchev, was published in *Pravda* and *Izvestia* of November 10.

It noted the tremendous scale of construction work going on; then it declared that at the same time major defects in planning and buildings had retarded the necessary progress. Describing some of these defects, it said:

Many architects, carried away by ostentatiousness, concern themselves chiefly with embellishing the facades of buildings; they do not work on

improving the interior design and equipment of apartment houses and flats, and they ignore the need for providing comfort for the people, the demands of economy and the normal use of buildings.

Completely unjustified towerlike superstructures and numerous decorative colonnades, porticos, and other architectural excesses borrowed from the past have become characteristic of apartment houses and public buildings, as a result of which state funds have been overexpended in housing construction in the last few years to an extent which would have provided many million square meters of living space for the working people.

The decree listed examples of such wasteful and showy building in Moscow and other cities, naming the architects responsible. In Moscow it noted particularly the Leningrad Hotel, where it said that as much money was expended on building a 354 room structure as would have been needed on an economically planned 1,000 room hotel. Here only 22 per cent of the space was taken up by hotel rooms, the rest being devoted to lobbies, corridors, and so on, while excessive funds had been expended on luxurious interior decorations.

The only reference in the decree to Vlasov was the following:

Comrades Chechulin and Vlasov, the former chief architects of the city of Moscow, not only did not wage the necessary struggle against the squandering of state funds in design and construction; they even allowed excesses in the designs they themselves drew up.

Awards were withdrawn from certain other architects because of the major wastefulness with which they had carried out their prize-winning designs, through which they had, in

fact, deprived workers of necessary housing facilities. The awards committee was criticized for incorrect standards. A few architects were relieved of special official posts, but none deprived of the opportunity for further work.

The decree criticized the widespread use of a "palatial style" and excessive use of polished granite and marble in sanatoriums, railroad stations, and some industrial and agricultural structures, which had at the same time been lacking in essential conveniences for their users.

It was pointed out that the 1955 plan for standardized designs for housing, industrial and public buildings, hospitals, schools and so on had not been properly fulfilled. A large part of the blame was laid on the former Academy of Architecture for having been too divorced from real life and the needs of the people, for basing much of its work on a "one-sided aesthetic concept" and an uncritical attitude toward the classical heritage of architecture.

The main burden of all the criticisms in the decree was that the mistakes that had been made had retarded the necessary rise in the living and cultural conditions of the working people. It urged:

In designing and constructing buildings and other structures, architects and engineers should pay primary attention to questions of proper planning—the provision of the greatest amount of comfort, the proper arrangement of apartment houses, schools, hospitals and other structures, and also the planting of residential areas and districts with greenery. . . .

Soviet architecture should be characterized by simplicity, severity of form and efficiency. Buildings and other structures must be made at-

tractive not through the use of contrived and costly decorations but by linking the architectural form organically with the purpose of the building, harmonious proportions, correct utilization of materials and parts and high quality of work.

It declared that socialist realism in architecture meant the developing and augmenting of classic traditions, discarding any blind, mechanical copying of archaic forms, taking only the best from the past, and always having in mind the needs of the present day in adapting old or creating new forms.

The Second All-Union Congress of Soviet Architects opened in Moscow on November 26 and continued for eight days. Over 700 delegates, representing 7,000 members and candidates of the Architects' Union attended. They came from every constituent and autonomous republic, from many far-flung localities. They heard ten major reports. Among the participants in the lively discussions were many who tried to defend the ornateness and extravagance that had been so sharply criticized. But the majority, and above all the architects of the new generation, welcomed the criticisms and strongly supported the government decisions.

Among recent projects which came under criticism were some of the newest of the stations of the celebrated Moscow subway, and the too-costly decorative features of the Volga-Don canal.

Vlasov, who had been elected a member of the presidium of the Congress, made one of the major reports. His subject was the problems of science in the sphere of construction and architecture in the light of present day needs. He acknowledged the justice of the criticisms that had been made, and drawing on his

own observations in the United States, pointed out that the scientific and technical side of engineering and construction in the USSR lags behind world standards, from which much can be learned. He emphasized the need of developing better methods of calculating stresses, greater knowledge of the technology of precast, reinforced concrete and new insulating materials.

In an interview published in the Soviet press at the end of the Congress, Vlasov noted the hospitable welcome the housing delegation had received from the officials of their host organization, the National Association of Home Builders, and many others they had met in the United States, and the eagerness with which their questions had been answered. He continued:

At the construction projects engineers and workers gladly informed us of the methods of their work and, in turn, asked us a lot of questions about our constructional practices. This atmosphere of cooperation and good will enabled us to get a fair knowledge of United States house-building practices within a comparatively short period, and to benefit from it to a certain extent. We have brought back much factual material.

But while much stress was given to shortcomings and mistakes, the tremendous achievements of Soviet architecture and building were also made clear at the Congress. No one can belittle the extent of this achievement, especially in the post-war years, when one remembers the vast devastation of cities and villages in the world war, that 25,000,000 people were deprived of their homes, and that all have been rebuilt.

Charts, diagrams and photographs, as well as many of the reports, recorded how many fine and beautiful

structures have in fact gone up. These impressive records of accomplishment showed that from 1926 to 1955, 2,019 new cities and workers' settlements have been built in the USSR; that over 8,000 industrial establishments have been rebuilt or built anew since the war; that war-destroyed cities like Stalingrad, Sevastopol, Minsk and others have risen from the ruins in more beautiful form; that 2,368,000,000 square feet of living space have been built since the war in the cities alone, while 400,000 houses a year have been going up in the countryside. All this is aside from the thousands of hospitals, schools, clubs and many other buildings serving the people.

The main concern of the majority of those present at the Congress was to decide how to build houses better, faster and more cheaply. They resolved to do this, and to turn their attention more to interior planning for comfort and convenience than to showy outward effects. In urban areas neighborhood planning will be more widely used, with buildings grouped around playgrounds, shopping centers and other amenities, and plenty of greenery. The Congress adopted the Government and Party decisions as its program.

Through these and other methods, the Soviet architects and builders have resolved to do their part in overcoming the housing shortage in the new Five-Year Plan, fulfilling their role of making architecture serve the people in a socialist society. In their final resolution they declared:

There is not and cannot be a more honorable creative task for Soviet architects, patriots of their homeland, than that of furnishing our people with comfortable dwellings,

schools, hospitals and other buildings, with beautiful, well appointed towns and villages.

This new, healthy trend in Soviet architecture indicates how mutually helpful continued and closer interchange can be in this sphere. It is welcome news that a housing delegation from the United States will visit the Soviet Union. One important form of interchange was the arrangement worked out by the Soviet delegation which visited this country with Professor Steinbrueck, head of the School of Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle. Third year architectural students in Moscow and Seattle are to work simultaneously on the same assignment—plans for a 30,000 volume library. When the plans are completed they will be exchanged, with the idea that each group may benefit from any helpful points in the other's plans. Mr. Vlasov commented on this plan in an interview in the *Moscow News*:

I think this is a useful undertaking. It is an illustration of the boundless potentialities for cultural exchange in all spheres—and we could see that the American people are very eager for such exchange.

Earl Smith, President of the National Association of Home Builders, has announced he would head the American construction team this summer on its trip to the Soviet Union. Through the "exchange of viewpoints and technical information" with the Russians, he felt his organization "extended the good work started by President Eisenhower in Geneva." The visits, he added, are "not only a good and humanitarian thing," but also "just good plain business."

Building US-USSR Friendship

by HOLLAND ROBERTS

THE LONGING for peace and friendship with the Soviet Union that lay dormant under the frozen crust of the cold war, sprang to sudden life last fall. The whole world was surprised and overjoyed by the spontaneous and full hearted response that the visiting Soviet farm delegation received not only from Midwest farmers but from the whole American people. It was a warm indication that despite the atmosphere of the last ten years, the American people want peace and will clasp friendly hands with the Soviet people whenever they can.

This breaking of the ice has opened great opportunities for the work of the American Russian Institute of San Francisco. Shortly after the Soviet farmers' visit, a retired farmer from the Pacific Northwest wrote to the Institute asking if he could borrow our Soviet films to take to farm groups throughout the wide areas of the Northwest. Since then he has shown recent Soviet films like "The Crimea," "Children in Summer" and "Kazakhstan" to some seventy farm groups meeting in homes, small halls or at outdoor picnics. At the same time he has distributed popular literature on the facts of Soviet life.

HOLLAND ROBERTS is the President of the American Russian Institute in San Francisco, and Director of the California Labor School.

Describing his work, a friend wrote the Institute: "He is determined to take the truth to the people and only shrugs at the rebuffs he gets in some places . . . he has managed to reach a large number of people . . . he doesn't charge any admission and foots all of his own expenses."

Stimulated by his success, the Institute is planning the same kind of cultural work among California farmers. Several farm groups have now arranged for the showing of Soviet films and much interest is expressed in the readable new pamphlet, "U.S.A. Welcomes Soviet Farmers" recently issued by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. Meridel LeSueur, distinguished Midwest writer, who will be in California for the next few months, plans to give some lectures among California farmers on the influence of the Midwest upon Soviet agriculture and the contribution of Soviet agriculture to American.

Perhaps most satisfying of all the rich work of the Institute is the interest expressed by students, teachers and research workers throughout the country requesting information about Soviet life and culture. A letter from a little girl in Wyoming, for instance, asks for "information and pamphlets on Russia including information on its industries, government, natural resources, agriculture and chief crops. Thank you. I sure appreciate it. P.S. We're studying about Rus-

sia in school and it will sure come in handy. Thanks."

A letter from a teacher in the Northwest requests, "pamphlets and pictures on life in the Soviet Union to be used in my elementary school classroom." A graduate student in Texas writes, "I am interested in any pictures or articles dealing with contemporary art of the Soviet Union . . . very little is available in the local libraries. I believe that one of the best means of promoting friendly relations between nations is the exchange of educational and cultural ideas. The subject of my thesis will be 'art as a medium for the expression of ideas.'"

An instructor in social studies in California writes: "Our sophomore classes are currently undertaking a survey-study of the historical development of modern Russia. We are particularly anxious to have any kind of supplementary material which will help us in our exploration of this area. . . ." He asks for "literature, charts, maps, posters, etc." These excerpts are typical of dozens of letters from teachers on the elementary through college level and students from the fifth grade through graduate school.

For twenty-five years the American-Russian Institute has carried on its work in San Francisco of cementing friendship between the two countries through a deepening of understanding of the life and culture of the Soviet Union. It has been a source

of authentic information about the Soviet Union to educators and educational institutions all over the country and to prospective travelers to the USSR. Its 3,000 library and its collection of late Soviet periodicals is widely used. Its Soviet music and art library is available for rental. Schools and churches borrow its films and exhibits and its regular fortnightly film showings and lectures are well attended. Its doors are open six days a week including Saturdays to accommodate research students and workers. Visitors are always welcome to make the Institute a center to come to when they are in San Francisco.

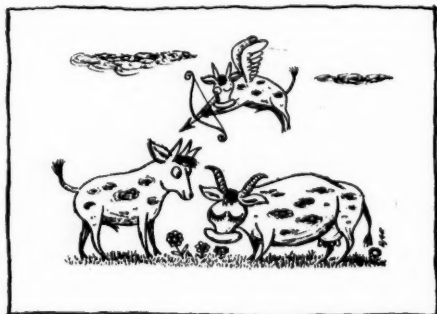
The Institute has just published two timely and informative pamphlets: "Krushchev and Bulganin in India," and "Krushchev and Bulganin in Burma." These pamphlets capture a dramatic moment in history . . . the tremendous swell of hope and determination of the Asian people for peace and freedom. These pamphlets can be ordered through the Institute.

Among the services that the Institute offers to the community are its exhibits and Soviet color films on sports, travel, agriculture, music and art in the Soviet Union. A list of available films will be mailed on request. It also welcomes requests for information on travel in the Soviet Union. Address the American Russian Institute, 90 McAllister Street, San Francisco.

URGES GREATER CULTURAL EXCHANGE

SPEAKING to a House Education subcommittee of her recent visit to the Soviet Union, Mrs. Norman Chandler, wife of the publisher of the Los Angeles *Times*, urged adoption of a cultural exchange program that would remove the finger-print requirements and would encourage American artists to perform in the USSR.

LAUGHS FROM THE POLISH PRESS



A TV NIGHTMARE

SUPPOSE a Soviet television studio, four months after the Geneva Summit Conference, had presented a program entitled "Nightmare in Red, White and Blue," announced as an "actual film story of how the United States of America had got its start through violent revolution" and grown to a "world-wide conspiracy" to insure capitalist domination of the earth.

Suppose this "actual film story" had skillfully interwoven historic fact and hate-inspired fiction, documentary films and scenes of violence from such movies as "Birth of a Nation" and "Gone With the Wind." Suppose it professed the deepest sympathy with what the American people had suffered from the oppression and injustice that led to the Revolution and the Civil War, and then sought to show that the people of the United States are today living under worse tyranny, injustice and enslavement than they have ever known. Suppose this program had pictured the whole life of the American people in terms of violence. Suppose it showed only the sordid and ugly aspects of American life, with truth and fiction inextricably interwoven, nothing of progress, nothing of our country's contributions in science and culture, industry and technology, nothing of the high standard of living so many of our people enjoy, nothing of all that is strong and healthy and hopeful in our America today.

Suppose the Vice-Minister of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union, the equivalent of our Department of Justice, had introduced this program as a "stirring documentary" driving home the "real truth" about capitalism, and urged every Russian to see it.

Suppose at the same time it was being shown to the people of the Soviet Union, the same story was being broadcast over Radio Moscow to the people of our country, a story ending with a poetic quotation promising liberation. . . . "The walls will crumble at a word and freedom greet you in the light, and brothers give you back the sword."

The reaction of the U.S. government and the American people to such a program, the bitter onslaughts on the Soviet Union for killing the spirit of Geneva and raising the cold war to new heights, can be well imagined.

Turn all this around, substitute the USSR for the USA, and you have a description of NBC's *Nightmare in Red*, shown on a national TV hook-up in December and January, given numerous private showings, introduced by Mr. Tompkins, Assistant U.S. Attorney General and head of the Internal Security Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice, as a "documentary" every American should see to learn the "real truth" about the Soviet Union and Communism, and beamed to the people of the USSR, "over Radio Liberation, the anti-

Communist radio station in Germany that is supported by Americans," as Mr. Tompkins proudly announced.

The nightmare, as indeed it was, was made up of "celluloid ghosts found in a six-month search of seventy-six sources," according to an article in *The Reporter* of November 17. The things they could not get, the article went on, were borrowed from two Russian film epics directed by Eisenstein, "Potemkin" and "Ten Days that Shook the World," "splicing them together so deftly with the 'live' reels that only an expert could separate the two."

The nature of the "live" reels can be gathered from the fact that their sources included the Paris flea market, private collections of White Russians, and films taken from captured Nazi archives.

All this, with the glaring omissions that deprive the film of any relation whatever to reality, were recommended as a "stirring documentary" by a U.S. Government official.

Sponsor of the program was Armstrong Cork Company, big linoleum rug corporation.

It is significant to note that the original showing had to be postponed because General Motors' Pontiac division withdrew from sponsorship. While GM gave no explanation, *Variety* reported at the time:

... informed persons on Ad Row have no doubts in their mind that General Motors is adopting discretion as the better part of democratic valor and future trade. . . .

The *Reporter* article noted the "exquisite irony" of the idea that this program might endanger the sales of Pontiac to the Soviet Union, commenting, "What is bad for Gen-

eral Motors is bad for us. Don't let's be beastly to the Russians—if trade is at stake."

Much more than trade is at stake. Such vicious examples of cold war propaganda carried on under official sponsorship can only serve gravely to increase the dangers to peace.

One of our readers has sent us a copy of *The Durham Observer*, December 29. It seems that the sponsor for some reason decided not to show the Nightmare in Durham, N. C., so station WTVD opened its TV-viewing rooms to the public. The paper carries an editorial blasting the film as a "shockumentary" and pointing out that some of the most shocking scenes were not taken from real life. The writer wondered what the author's point was in showing that the civil war in Soviet Russia was hard on the people, adding:

It was hard to tell from the program whether other civil wars are more comfortable or whether he meant there would be no civil war without communism. He obviously was forgetting another civil war, unless Jefferson Davis or Abraham Lincoln was a Communist.

This is just one indication that such poison can no longer infect the American people, with the new antidotes at hand that have been a by-product of Geneva, and the growing American-Soviet interchange revealing realities not found in the distorted images of nightmares.

Emil Gilels and David Oistrakh are among these antidotes. So are the farm and housing and other delegations. So are the Soviet sportsmen who gave such a fine account of themselves at the Winter Olympics. So is the Soviet educational system called by a recent U.S. visitor, Dr.

Homer Dodges, "The finest in the world" (*N. Y. Times*, Nov. 10, 1955). So are the renewed offers of friendship for America from Soviet leaders—and many, many other things that are part of a reality which could not possibly exist under such a system of enslavement and terror as the Nightmare seeks to foist upon the

people of our country as the truth.

Let us make an end to the nervous disorders that are both cause and effect of the cold war and all the nightmares it has induced, and depend rather on the facts and the truth that a healthy awakening now happily taking place will make available to all the people of America.

Times Military Expert on Those Balloons

"BALLOONS launched by the military for military purposes have again raised the issue of the credibility of the United States Government," wrote military expert Hanson Baldwin in the *New York Times* for Feb. 19, thus taking issue with the Administration's contention that these balloons were launched for meteorological observations alone.

Mr. Baldwin noted that U.S. armed forces had nothing to do with the propaganda balloons launched by the American-financed Free Europe Committee which have also occasioned protests from the USSR and East European countries. (However, Radio Free Europe admittedly received official U.S. cooperation and indeed was the carrier of the Christmas "liberation" messages of the President, the Secretary of State and other U.S. officials.)

The *Times* commentator spoke of the number of army-launched balloons recovered by U.S. authorities with the weather and "other data" recorded by their instruments.

Referring to the contentions of the Pentagon and the State Department that the balloons were for meteorological purposes only, Mr. Baldwin wrote: "The Russians . . . had some pretty hard evidence in the form of cameras and presumably the pictures they had taken, to convince them that the Wash-

ington answer was not the whole truth. In fact, the Washington announcements did not appear to convince all in the Pentagon or Washington's hard bitten corps of newspaper correspondents."

Mr. Baldwin declared that the most serious effect of the incident was the "doubt cast upon the word of the U.S. Government, particularly since this was not the first time during the cold war that "incomplete, belated or distorted announcements from Washington have cloaked the whole truth or created doubt." He wondered whether the considerable expense of this "fantastic" incident was justified.

Acknowledging the decision of the Administration to stop further flights of balloons over the USSR, in answer to its first protest, the Soviet Government in a second note stressed again the dangers to aviation and human life of balloons carrying loads up to 1,433 pounds and releasing from great heights ballasts of from 440 to 600 pounds. The Soviet note declared that none of the captured balloons had equipment designed to measure meteorological data, and that films showing Soviet territory had indicated the real motives for the flights. The Soviet Government offered to send exhibits of the captured balloons to this and other countries, accompanied by experts to give technical explanations of their equipment.

My First Elk

A Short Story

by GEORGE MDIVANI

WE PUSHED ON and on. The only sound was the swish of our skis on the frozen snow. We were so engrossed in thoughts of the hunting ahead that we were oblivious of fatigue, of the frost that stuck thousands of sharp needles into our faces, or the raw wind.

Our guide, a tall, broad-shouldered bear of a man in a sheepskin jacket, was up front tracing the ski track. This made the going easier, but still we had to work hard to keep up with him.

Four times that day we came upon elk tracks, and each time the five of us took up stations while the guide and his helpers beat the woods. But the elk vanished before we even caught a glimpse of them.

Our day's hunting was coming to an end. We sat down on our skis in a

circle and began to swap old hunting stories.

Suddenly the guide ran up, panting. "An elk!" he shouted. "An old bull with hooves this size!" And he spread his hands about two feet apart.

Within half an hour we had all taken up stations, with the setting sun at our backs. I faced a glade surrounded by young firs interspersed with birches and aspens. On my right lay a gully, and on the left a snow-covered forest road. My friends were posted on the sides, a good hundred yards away and out of sight. When the guide showed me where to stand, he whispered, "Keep a sharp eye out. The elk's bound to come this way."

Later I learned that he had whispered the same words to each of the other four.

I stood, in my white camouflage robe, behind a small fir tree from where I covered all the forest exits for seventy yards round. As I waited, gripping my gun, my one wish was to catch sight of the elk, even if only for a second. He would never get away from me.

Never before had time passed so slowly. It was so quiet I could hear my heart beat. Minutes like those are the height of a hunter's bliss.

Then I heard a noise in the distance. It was like the sound a village night watchman makes with his clapper. It was coming closer, fading for a while every now and then. I thought it was the guide beating the trunks and branches of trees with his stick.

But soon the spreading antlers of a huge elk appeared over the tops of the



small trees, still a good distance away. He continued to advance in my direction, his antlers making that rattling noise as they brushed against the branches.

I don't think I was ever so excited in all my life, but I remembered to hold my fire: a poor shot at that range could have spoiled everything.

The elk, escaping from the guide, slowly came nearer and nearer. Now I was sure he would never get away from me.

I had never seen an elk before, neither in the zoo nor in the woods. I had thought he would be about the size of a bull or a horse, but the animal that emerged in the forest clearing was a giant, a handsome giant on strong and slender legs, his proud, antlered head rising above the young trees.

Although I could have fired, I took my time. He was now clearly mine, anyway. If he came still closer, I thought, I might be able to hit the surest spot, the shoulder-blade.

The elk did not see me. After standing motionless a few seconds, listening, he again advanced. Suddenly, about 15 paces away, he must have scented me, for he stopped dead. He stood there looking at me with sad, human eyes, the eyes of a doomed creature, as though sensing that he had fallen into a trap and an incautious movement might cost him his life.

Still in no hurry to shoot, I now calmly studied his dark, greyish-brown body, with the light-grey underbelly. I also studied the antlers and counted twelve branches on them; that meant he was twelve years old.

In those few seconds a sort of bond arose between us. Now I felt ashamed to shoot him. In all my long hunting experience I had never aimed at a horse or a cow. Why did I now have to shoot that proud, handsome, peaceful animal? Damn the hunting. The very fact that I could have killed an elk was quite sufficient.

But I was a hunter, after all. I had to shoot. Yet I was powerless to raise my gun.

The elk's alarm seemed to have passed. After another look at me he turned and walked slowly towards the thicket, glancing back every now and then.

After a while he stopped and looked at me again, as though still not believing the miracle. At that moment I thought of my friends who were so impatiently awaiting a successful shot. As though he had read my thoughts, the elk gathered his powerful body for a leap. An instant later he disappeared from sight.

Again I heard the snap of branches, so like a night watchman's clapper. This time the sound grew fainter and fainter.

But somehow I did not regret what had happened.

When my friends came up and saw by the tracks that the elk had been only fifteen paces away and I could have killed him without any difficulty, they called me all the names they could think of. Among other things, they said I was chicken-hearted.

I bore their mockery like a stoic. In my heart of hearts, I had a warm, joyous sensation: I had seen my first elk, not in a zoo, but at large, in the forest.

The guide was the most puzzled of all. He simply could not understand why I had not fired, and kept shaking his head reproachfully for a long time.

Translated from the Russian



A Magnificent Boris Godunov

by SIDNEY FINKELSTEIN

BORIS GODUNOV, screen play by N. Golovanov and V. Stroyeva, based on the opera by Mussorgsky and the tragedy by Pushkin, directed by V. Stroyeva. A Mosfilm Production, presented by Artkino. Boris Godunov, played by Alexander Pirogov; Dmitri the Imposter, by G. Nellep; Pimen, by M. Mikhailov; Varlaam, by A. Krivchenya; The Fool, by I. Kozlovsky, and Marina, by L. Avdeyeva.

THE SOVIET FILM *Boris Godunov* is one of the great achievements of cinematic art in our time, one that will be listed with honor in every history of the cinema worthy of the name. In saying this I know that I come into direct conflict with the majority opinion of the New York movie critics, and I have no desire to insinuate that these hardened veterans of years of movie-gazing have no eye for a good movie, whether it comes from Hollywood, the Soviet Union or anywhere else. But there are more things in heaven and on earth than are contained in Hollywood's philosophy, even though that philosophy of fast-moving entertainment and crackling drama has served

wonderfully well at times. The real question is, how does one re-create for the cinema one of the great masterpieces of opera?

The movie critics' answer to this is undoubtedly that they are paid to judge movies, not operas; they are movie lovers, not music lovers. And to film one of the classics of opera with respect for the intentions of the composer and playwright is to break one of the fundamental laws of a Hollywood movie, which is that a movie must appeal to "everybody."

But this is not the philosophy of the makers of *Boris Godunov*. Instead of making the laws of fast-moving entertainment dominant, and squeezing, changing or ripping up the opera to fit, they have placed the camera eye at the service of the tremendous conceptions of Pushkin and Mussorgsky. The result is that those who care little for great opera or great music will find this, as an "entertainment," a little slow-moving in places. And while the acting is in the great tradition of the Russian theater, it is "operatic" acting, meaning that it has to be done on broad lines for big audiences.

But one remembers the excitement here when, some years ago, television cameras were turned on the first night performance at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. If Hollywood were to follow suit, and turn its cameras on some of the fine Metropolitan Opera productions, such as *The Marriage of*

SIDNEY FINKELSTEIN'S books include "Art and Society," "Jazz: A People's Music," "How Music Expresses Ideas," and "Realism in Art."

Figaro or *Don Carlos*, would the result be a step upward or a downward for the movies? I think it would do honor to the movie industry to bring these masterpieces to millions. And so I suggest to the *New York Times* and *Herald-Tribune* that before the production goes off, they send their music critics to view it. He will find a production of *Boris Godunov* such as he has never seen at the Met, and one that people have joyfully travelled thousands of miles to see.

In describing the merits of the movie in this way, I do not mean that the Soviet producers have simply turned the cameras and microphones on the opera house production. But the dominant thought is that of respect for one of the great creations of musical dramatic history; a version that would do honor to Pushkin (whose play Mussorgsky used) and Mussorgsky. There have been a few cuts, although not important ones, to bring the film version within two hours.

The settings are pretty much those of the opera production, although the camera has added some space and depth. Where the directors and cameramen have really shown their art and imagination is in the treatment of the crowd, and this is a legitimate and profound expansion of Mussorgsky's idea. For one of the great achievements of his opera is the central place they give to the masses of people, as a moving force in the historical dramas he re-creates.

And the Soviet movie-makers have used the camera to give the mass of people a rich life, so that we seem to know and recognize each of them as people. It is in this breakdown of the crowd, into a set of rich characterizations, that the movie both "interprets" the drama in a deep and illuminating way, and offers lessons that will be studied, I think, not only by lovers of music but by lovers of the camera art at its greatest.

The singing is collectively splendid, in the great tradition of creating one all-over unified style. Individually, there are weaknesses. Although Pirogov's is one of the justly famous characterizations of Boris, in its combination of language, music and action, his voice tends to be somewhat unfocussed in places. Nello, who sings the role of the pretender, Grigory, is a straightforward but unsubtle tenor. However in the role of the old monk, Pimen, and Kozlovsky as the "beggar-saint," together with the wonderful performance of the chorus, will be enough to make any lover of operatic art cherish this production for a long time.

An outstanding aspect of the film seems to have remained unnoticed by the New York critics. It is that the producer, the guiding hand and mind of this film, is a woman, Vera Stroyeva. It is a somewhat different role for a woman than any I have noticed in what calls itself "the film capital of the world."

OISTRAKH—"A GREAT ARTIST"

DAVID OISTRAKH, the Soviet violinist who recently toured in the U.S., was hailed by Winthrop Sargeant in the *New Yorker*, December 3, 1955, as "the finest performer on the violin to come to light in the generation or so during which I have been listening." Mr. Sargeant said, "This conclusion is the result of a detached and sober analysis of the way Mr. Oistrakh plays the fiddle, and from a comparison of his artistry with that of other violinists who have recently appeared hereabouts. . . . He was at every moment in complete command of his instrument and of every phraseological subtlety of the music. . . . Altogether, as you may have gathered, I think Mr. Oistrakh is a great artist."

Another Look at the Witch Hunt

SO HELP ME GOD, by Eric Jackson.
The Viking Press, New York, 1955.
288 pp., \$3.50.

THE REACTION to the American witch hunt continues to find expression in fiction and provides heartening evidence of the changing atmosphere in our country.

Such a book as Felix Jackson's "So Help Me God" stood little chance of publication four years ago, and no chance at all of appearing as a serial in Redbook Magazine, which published it before the current trade edition was released.

Outraged by the suicide of a client he had defended before a Congressional witch hunting committee, conservative Wall Street lawyer Spencer Donovan, who is devoted to traditional American principles of fair play, decides to do something about it.

What he does is to write an anonymous letter to the House Un-American Committee accusing himself of Communist membership. He is out to prove that even an "innocent" man can be victimized and destroyed by the fomented atmosphere of anti-Soviet hysteria in the nation.

He proves his point—at great expense of mental and emotional suffering; he loses his law clients, his fiancée breaks their engagement; his closest friend deserts him; and despite his innocence of any political ties he comes close to being destroyed.

The plot-idea is, of course, a gimmick, and the author is less interested in characterization and the motivation of character than he is

in the clever situation he has contrived.

But the book—despite its obvious shortcomings—makes an important point: and that is that the unprincipled character of the witch hunters is such that they will not hesitate to act on no evidence whatsoever to make headlines for themselves and to work up hysteria for the sake of their ultimate purposes.

Even though the author implies, without stating it, that it is all right for people who are *not* "innocent" of Communist membership or sympathy to be hounded to prison or death—but wrong for the politically pure to be so treated—"So Help Me God" is on the side of decency against the degenerate aims of the creators of cold war psychology.

—ALVAH BESSIE

AN ARTIST LOOKS AT WAR

STUDIO ASIA, by John Groth. *World Publishing Co., New York, \$4.95.*

ALTHOUGH the blood-letting has ceased in Korea the record assembled in the words and the brilliant drawings of John Groth remains a vivid and searing reminder of what that war was like.

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Her schedule is as follows: Southern area, March 15-April 20; Ohio and Michigan area, May 4-22; Chicago area, May 23-June 12; Wisconsin and Minnesota area, June 14-July 6; North and South Dakota, Montana and North Idaho, July 6-31; Washington and Oregon area, month of August; California, September 5-October 15; En route eastward, through Utah, South Idaho, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, Chicago area, Ohio and Pennsylvania—month of November.

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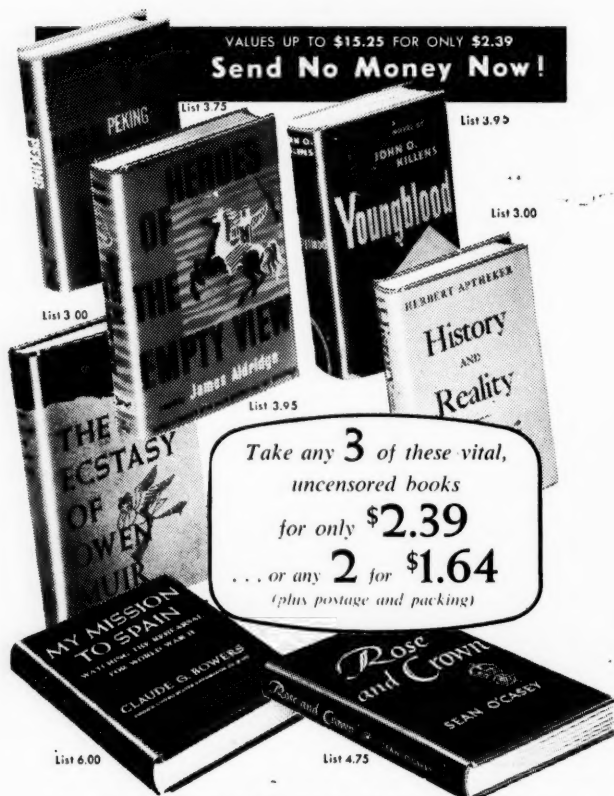
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