

surrounds certain episodes in Vyshnevetsky's life and to draw conclusions about his relationship to the Cossack movement. The research has been handicapped by very limited sources. Despite this obstacle, Vynar has uncovered much useful data about Vyshnevetsky and removed some of the perplexities.

Among the interesting topics discussed are Vyshnevetsky's participation in the fortification of the Cossack base on Khortytsia Island, his ties with Moscow, and his sudden downfall and death. Unlike Soviet historians, who see the initiative in organizing the Cossack movement as coming from the "lower" strata of society, Vynar finds that the aristocracy exercised "great influence" upon the evolution of Cossackdom. Vyshnevetsky is depicted as the chief promoter of the Cossack movement in the mid-sixteenth century. The central motive behind his activities was opposition to the Tatars. Plausible as such arguments appear, they are not clearly supported by the documentary evidence submitted. Many doubts remain about Vyshnevetsky's role in Cossack history that the author's arguments have not dispelled. For example, if aristocrats like Vyshnevetsky were so influential in the genesis of the Cossack movement, how did their ideas gain support and why were these men chosen as leaders instead of others? The author has suggested possible answers, but his conclusions are often unconvincing. The book, nonetheless, contributes helpful insights into the life of "Baida" Vyshnevetsky and his time and shows how he became a living symbol of the Cossack movement.

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BERING'S VOYAGES: AN ACCOUNT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE RUSSIANS TO DETERMINE THE RELATION OF ASIA AND AMERICA. 2 vols. By *F. A. Golder*. American Geographical Society, Research Series, no. 1. New York: Octagon Books, 1968. x, 371 pp. xi, 290 pp. \$17.50.

Since the 1930s Soviet scholars have carried on research on Russian geographical exploration and discovery, and the voyages of Vitus Bering into the North Pacific have received their share of attention. Outside the Soviet Union in the same period, however, very little attention or research has been devoted to either of these subjects. It is consequently a sad commentary on the status of Western research and interest that the reprint of Golder's two volumes on Bering's voyages is the only English-language publication of any importance on the subject since they were first published by the American Geographical Society in the 1920s.

These volumes are facsimile reproductions of the original two volumes, identical in nearly every respect. The major change is the reduction of the large fold-in "Chart of the Voyage of Bering and Chirikov in the *St. Peter* and *St. Paul*" in volume 1 to half the size of the original. It is easier to open out, but most of the place names have become so small that it requires a magnifying glass to read them. Also, the chart has been moved from a position after page 345 in the original to one after page 348 in the reprint, without a corresponding change in page designation in the table of contents. Otherwise the two volumes are a quite satisfactory job of reprinting.

The limits of the contents of these two volumes are indicated in the title: most, though not all, of the material presented concerns the voyages themselves, made in 1728 and 1741 respectively. Rather little is said about their purpose and the preparation for them, in themselves topics of much interest. Of the other voyages, those to

Japan by Spanberg and Walton and those along the Arctic coast from the White Sea to the Lena and farther east, which together with Bering's second voyage constituted the Second Kamchatka Expedition, again very little is said, and mostly in passing. Furthermore, except for the first three chapters of the first volume, a matter of twenty-four pages, the two volumes are given over entirely to the second voyage, a reflection of the more detailed documentation of this voyage. In part 1 of the first volume, Golder presents Peter's brief orders for selecting the officers of the first expedition, his brief instructions to Bering, Bering's account of the voyage, the so-called "Short Account" presented to Empress Anne, and Nartov's report of Peter's statement of the purpose of the voyage—all of these in chapter 2. Part 2 is made up of the official order of the Second Kamchatka Expedition (abridged), dated December 28, 1732; the logbook of the *St. Peter*, Bering's vessel on the second voyage; Waxel's report on the voyage of the *St. Peter*; the journal of Chirikov's vessel, the *St. Paul*; and Chirikov's report on the voyage of the *St. Paul*.

The second volume is given over almost entirely to Steller's journal of the sea voyage from Kamchatka to America and return, translated and in part annotated by Leonhard Stejneger. Steller was the German naturalist who sailed with Bering on the *St. Peter* and whose account is a valuable addition to the logbooks and journals of the first volume. For a fuller account, however, of the context of the two voyages one has to turn to Golder's other work, *Russian Expansion on the Pacific, 1641–1850* (1914). Golder devotes more than half of this work to the two expeditions, their objectives and the preparation for them, and to the other voyages of the Second Kamchatka Expedition.

In *Bering's Voyages* and *Russian Expansion* Golder has provided the most extensive account in English of Bering's voyages, and for that reason his works are the basis of many derivative accounts of them by others. But his treatment is far from complete. Soviet scholars have brought to light much new material relating to the origin of and preparation for the voyages, and to their place in Russian imperial policy in the first half of the eighteenth century, especially under Peter. The purpose of these voyages, especially the first, is in need of re-examination, a task which this reviewer is now carrying out. The traditional view, perpetuated by Golder, that Peter sent Bering to determine whether Asia and America are joined or separated, whether a water passage between the Arctic and Pacific exists, does not stand up after careful examination of old and new material. In short, though the republication of these two volumes will no doubt meet the needs of libraries and those individuals who have been unable to acquire them in the secondhand book markets, study of Bering's voyages will bring more profitable results by turning to the materials, both documentary and monographic, put out by Soviet scholars in the last three or four decades.

A minor concluding caveat: Golder's translations from the Russian are not always to be trusted, and his abridgments of documents are in a few places misleading.

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ARAKCHEEV: GRAND VIZIER OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE. By *Michael Jenkins*. New York: The Dial Press, Inc., 1969. 317 pp. \$5.95.

Michael Jenkins, of the British diplomatic service, has filled a long-felt need in presenting to the public the first biography in any language of Count Aleksei