

In general, the account is critical of the Bavarian administration despite its real accomplishments in organizing the political life of the country. The author believes that Greeks should have been brought into higher positions in the administration sooner, and that representative institutions should have been introduced earlier to modify the monarchist-centralist system. The king's use of foreign-policy issues as distractions from domestic problems is also discussed. The chaos in the country after the assassination of Capodistrias and the subsequent divisions among the Greek political leaders is perhaps underestimated. This account, which is based principally on Bavarian archives, but also uses Greek and British ones, presupposes a knowledge of Greek history and is designed more for the specialist in the field. It is nevertheless to be highly recommended as a fine discussion of the problems facing the new national state and of the difficulties faced by foreign administrators in attempting to introduce what were in fact Western political forms into a Balkan area.

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RUSKAIA LITERATURA V SIBIRI PERVOI POLOVINY XVII V. By
E. K. Romodanovskaia. Novosibirsk: "Nauka," 1973. 172 pp. 72 kopeks, paper.

This monograph is one of a growing number of Soviet studies on Siberian culture. The author seeks to demonstrate that in the first half of the seventeenth century an intellectual awakening occurred east of the Urals that was manifested *inter alia* in a rudimentary, regional literature. Regional literature is defined as the creative writing of a given region which reflects the character, values, and aspirations of the local population. Although Siberian literature "developed as an organic part of general Russian literature," it acquired well-defined characteristics such as self-awareness, a reluctance to accept central authority, and a taste for the literary genres of an earlier age.

Romodanovskaia directs attention to three Siberian works of the 1630s—the *Esipov Chronicle*, the *Narrative About the Towns of Tara and Tiumen*, and the *Tale About the Visions and Miracles of the Icon of Our Lady of Abalatsk*. The chronological proximity of these works and their diverse subject matter mark them as generators of a regional literature before 1650. In the first part of her study the author deals with Siberian literary sources, the dissemination of Russian literature in Siberia, and biographical data concerning two of Siberia's most influential early writers, Archbishop Nektarii and Savva Esipov. In part 2, the best-known works of the period are analyzed and questions are raised about the literary genres they represent.

Although the author centers attention on substantive matters of the most important works, her evocation of the milieu in which they appeared holds greater interest for this reader. Romodanovskaia's evaluations are cogent and her scholarship is prodigious, but what impresses one is not so much the quality and distinctive character of the early Siberian writings as the reality of a literary life in the raw frontier environment of Moscow's eastern settlements in the seventeenth century. The author's reconstruction of this neglected phase of cultural life is well organized and executed.

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