

THE AMERICAN IMAGE OF RUSSIA, 1775–1917. Edited with an introduction by *Eugene Anshel*. New York: Frederick Ungar, 1974. xii, 259 pp. \$9.50.

Nations' images of one another are as important as they are elusive, and pluralist America's view of its chief rival in the world illustrates this point particularly well. It is, therefore, all the more desirable to try to bring some order into the apparent chaos, and the book under review has achieved this objective with remarkable success.

Anshel's anthology, prefaced by an informative introduction, shows that Tocqueville's famous prediction that the world would eventually be polarized around the two giants is supported by the special attraction Russia has always held for Americans—and, indeed, on the attraction America has always held for Russians. The author has collected pertinent and fascinating examples of this love/hate relationship in the minds of politicians, artists, businessmen, journalists, and travelers of every description.

Covering the years up to the Bolshevik Revolution, the book deals with the period when the latent conflict had not yet decisively shaped the rudimentary relations between the two countries. In this respect, the forthcoming publication of the volume covering the Soviet period should be even more welcome.

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WOMEN IN EXILE: WIVES OF THE DECEMBRISTS. By *Anatole G. Mazour*. Tallahassee, Fla.: The Diplomatic Press, 1975. x, 134 pp. \$15.00.

Professor Mazour, whose *The First Russian Revolution, 1825* has introduced almost four decades of undergraduates to the idealistic young officers of 1825, turns in this slim volume to some of the rebels' dedicated wives. Fourteen of eighteen Decembrist wives went to Siberia with their exiled spouses, and the author depicts the human cost with telling statistics: "Six of them had to leave behind a total of thirteen children, several of whom died. New children were born in Siberia, but conditions were so harsh that seven mothers lost an aggregate of twenty-two children."

Only four of the women are treated in any detail—Ekaterina Trubetskaia, Maria Volkonskaia, and two French brides, Praskovia Egorovna Annenkova (née Pauline Geueble), and Camilla Ivasheva (née Ledantu). Ninety-five pages of narrative are followed by a brief epilogue and thirteen documents—mainly extracts from letters and official orders. Biographical notes on thirty Decembrists and a select bibliography are included in the book.

Although the author's attitude is understandably enthusiastic, one line can serve to illustrate his fulsome style: "Cuddled by privilege, pampered by wealth, tenderized by leisure, and made effeminate by education, they miraculously turned into pillars of strength . . ."

Unfortunately, this stirring saga of wifely devotion has been published in a lavish edition selling for fifteen dollars, when it, undoubtedly, would have been more available to undergraduates as a paperback.

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