

PUSHKIN ON LITERATURE. Edited and translated by *Tatiana Wolff*. London: Methuen, 1971. xviii, 554 pp. \$24.00. Distributed in the United States by Barnes & Noble, New York.

When N. V. Bogoslovsky's edition of Pushkin's critical prose first appeared in 1934, it bore two titles: *Pushkin-kritik* (on the right-hand side of the page) and *Pushkin o literature* (on the left). Now, after almost forty years, scholarly fission has produced a handsome pair of English-speaking twins: Carl Proffer's *Critical Prose of Alexander Pushkin* (Bogoslovsky on the left) in 1969, and, two years later, Tatiana Wolff's *Pushkin on Literature* (Bogoslovsky on the right).

Twins, perhaps, but not identical twins. For Miss Wolff's compilation is by no means Proffer *redux*. Whereas the American adopted a selective approach to the poet's prose, but included germane essays by several of his more notable contemporaries, the English scholar is encyclopedically devoted to Pushkin alone. The result of her indefatigable combing of his articles, prefaces, letters, notes, and diaries, published and unpublished, rough drafts and fair copies, is a volume that well exceeds her predecessor's in exhaustiveness and length. Moreover, unwilling to accept the limitations of her own title, she has interlarded her selections with a lengthy biographical sketch (ninety pages), appended a catalogue of the non-Russian books in Pushkin's library (thirty-six pages), added to this a solid "Select Bibliography" (ten pages), rounded things off with a voluminous index (twenty pages), and thrown in a batch of handsome illustrations (ten pages) for good measure.

The book is, then, more of an omnium-gatherum than its title suggests. And what—given Miss Wolff's industry and editorial competence—is wrong with that? Her translations are idiomatic and accurate; her selections judicious and independent (she does not follow Bogoslovsky slavishly); her biography, if somewhat rambling, is lively and informative; the seriousness of her scholarship is, in short, evident throughout. The result approximates a "Pushkin handbook," which manages to cram more information about the poet between its two covers than any volume I know of in English. *Molodets!*

One small complaint. Considering how wide Miss Wolff has cast her nets, one wonders that she did not think to include those views on literature which the poet expressed in verse. Some are pointed; many are revealing. Their inclusion would have made this excellent ancilla to Pushkin studies even more complete.

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POLITICAL APOCALYPSE: A STUDY OF DOSTOEVSKY'S GRAND INQUISITOR. By *Ellis Sandoz*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. xviii, 263 pp. \$8.95.

DOSTOEVSKY: WORKS AND DAYS. By *Avrahm Yarmolinsky*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1971. xiii, 438 pp. \$12.50.

Sandoz's thoughtful book deserves careful study. It is concerned with Dostoevsky's "politics" only in the broadest sense of that word, being a study of his philosophical anthropology and religious metaphysics. "Literary considerations are largely left aside as better to be examined by more expert commentators" (p. 83). As a result,