

MYKHAILO HRUSHEVS'KYI I NAUKOVE TOVARYSTVO IM. TARASA SHEVCHENKA, 1892–1930. By *Liubomyr Vynar* [*Lubomyr Wynar*]. *Ukraïns'ke Istorychne Tovarystvo*. Munich: "Dniprova Khvyliia," 1970. 110 pp.

This slender volume, published under the auspices of the Ukrainian Historical Society, attempts the difficult task of assessing in a small space the impact of the famous Ukrainian historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky on the Shevchenko Scientific Society in L'viv. It is clear that without Hrushevsky's leadership the society would not have attained the high level it reached. From 1897 to 1913, during the presidency of Hrushevsky, the society became a remarkable scholarly enterprise, performing unofficially the role of a Ukrainian academy of sciences. Researches, publications, and a library were developed under the direct initiative of the president, who thus successfully bridged the division between the Russian and Austrian Ukraine. Vynar's account is factual and objective. It does not conceal the quarrels between Hrushevsky and some Galician scholars, and it dwells briefly on Hrushevsky's complex and authoritarian personality. The author, perhaps, leans a little too far toward Hrushevsky's side in devoting the whole final section to the rather tenuous relations between Hrushevsky and the Shevchenko Society after 1913.

The monograph points to the urgent need for a full-length book on Hrushevsky. Not only was he a remarkable historian of the Eastern Slavs, whose views are of great interest to a student of Russia and the Ukraine. He was also, as this book shows, a superb organizer of work and men, not only scholars, but in his later years of politicians too. However, it is here, in his activity in the Central Rada, that there is much to criticize in his methods. In one sense, towering above his contemporaries as he did, he failed to bring out the best in them. The breadth of his vision, the tensions of his life, and the contradictions of his personality will prove a real challenge to a future biographer.

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DIE SHITOMIRER ARNDTS: EINE FAMILIENCHRONIK AUF DEM HINTERGRUND HUNDERTFÜNFZIGJÄHRIGER GESCHICHTE DER WESTLICHEN UKRAINE. By *Nikolaus Arndt*. Würzburg: Holzner-Verlag, 1970. 151 pp. DM 36.

Although biography and genealogy, because of the present-day accent on sociology and mass movements, do not at the moment constitute a major concern of historians, this new work helps us recall their value. It has some traits of provincialism insofar as it contains, in part, family matters of a chiefly personal and private interest, but it also illustrates historically significant issues which so many works floating in the thin realms of statistical averages, generalizations, conceptualizations, and intellectualism necessarily lack. It is through details that the history of the Arndt family conveys to us a concrete understanding of many aspects of general Russian history and can correct preconceived notions.

We learn realities about "level of economic development" and effects of political pressures on everyday living; we hear why Germans like the Arndts, poor weavers at home, were attracted to Volhynia, how they adapted to their new surroundings and how the surroundings adapted to them, what contributions they made to the rise of industry and to education and culture in the regions of Łódź, Shitomir, and other places, and how they gradually gave up their occupations as artisans, rented and

bought land, and became speculators, progressive entrepreneurs (one became a miller who early modernized his mill through the use of steam power), administrators, and politicians. We see how they adjusted to their neighbors—Ukrainians, Russians, and Jews whom they befriended, and how these people reacted to them. They were generally friendly relationships, despite a certain amount of jealousy manifested toward the capable, enterprising, industrious newcomers. Indeed, eventually the enterprising spirit of the Arndts and other German immigrants was transferred to the native peoples, just as native ways impressed themselves upon the Germans. Thus a leveling process was brought about, speeded up by the Russification of the Arndts, their intermarriages, the conversion of many to Orthodoxy, and their use of the Russian language even at home. The Revolution hit the Arndts hard, but their attachment to the country and their ability and progressive attitudes made it possible for most to adjust and for some to serve the new state with distinction (the son of close friends of theirs of German origin, Sviatoslav Richter, is the famous Soviet pianist). Only Hitler's insane policies put an end to the fruitful connection which had been established.

The author seems to have inherited much of the sympathetic and generous view of life of his ancestors as he describes them, and thus the positive side in the history of the Arndts in Russia is accentuated. He is critical of the tsarist government and its officials, and he makes interesting remarks about difficulties that arose, not so long as the Arndts remained German, but when they became integrated, and thereby distinctions disappeared and competition on an equal level resulted. It is the description of such sidelights and of the innumerable details and events in daily life that adds an important dimension to our view of a number of Russian social developments.

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MONGOLIA: A PROFILE. By *Victor P. Petrov*. Praeger Country Profiles. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1970. vi, 179 pp. 5 maps. 8 pp. of photographs. \$7.50.

The book under review gives general information about the nature, population, political system, economy, and history of that part of Mongolia which, since 1924, has been known as the Mongolian People's Republic, after it had been called Outer Mongolia for almost three hundred years. It can be recommended to general readers and, as an introduction to Mongolian studies, to university students. The book is, in general, good, although criticism is justified regarding the historical part (pp. 21–51). The author divides the history of Mongolia into the periods of Genghis Khan, from him to Tamerlane, and from Tamerlane to Red Mongolia. The events in Tamerlane's empire and in the Golden Horde had no influence on the history of what later became Outer Mongolia. Instead, more details should have been given with regard to the events in Ming China, the rise of the Manchus, their conquests, and their rule over Mongolia. A brief but useful bibliography is supplied to which C. R. Bawden's excellent *Modern History of Mongolia* (London and New York, 1968) and A. J. K. Sanders, *The People's Republic of Mongolia: A General Reference Guide* (London and New York, 1968) should be added. An index of place names, people, and authors concludes the book.

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