

## A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Beginning with this issue, the *Slavic Review* becomes entirely the responsibility of the University of Illinois staff. The many inquiries we have received suggest that a word or two on editorial policy would be welcomed by our subscribers and potential contributors.

Our overriding objective during the transition period has been to maintain the high scholarly standards established by my predecessor, Donald W. Treadgold. We are heavily indebted to the former editor and his staff, Leila Charbonneau and Susan Zawalich, for kind and patient assistance during the past year. I have myself been quite fortunate in obtaining the services of Barbara Colson as Associate Editor and of Birute Lanys as Assistant Editor. The changing of the guard is now complete, and I am confident that our readers will find the new staff able and willing to match the high standards set by Seattle.

Certain technical changes have been introduced concerning the submission of manuscripts for consideration by the *Review*. These are described on the inside back cover of this issue and are designed to speed the process of reviewing manuscripts and to hold down the cost of producing the journal in these inflationary times. The suggested limit of twenty-five double-spaced typewritten pages for submissions to the *Review* is not, however, merely a technical change. We face a strict constraint established by the Board of the AAASS on the average length of each issue. Meanwhile, the number of manuscripts being submitted has been growing and the general quality seems to be rising as well. The only way that we can hope to accommodate potential contributors and the varied interests of our readership is to restrict the length of articles we publish.

Given the diversity and complexity of the subjects covered by the *Slavic Review*, the editor must rely heavily upon the judgments of established experts in evaluating manuscripts. As the refereeing process is and must be anonymous, providing expert opinions on the manuscripts we receive is an unsung and seldom-rewarded contribution to the profession. The writing of book reviews is more rewarding, but, as we seek to review all relevant books, we have an enormous appetite for reviewers. The *Review* is therefore the product of the profession at large, and it can only be as good and as comprehensive as the members of the profession are prepared to make it.

Although we accept full and ultimate responsibility for what appears in print in the journal, our conception of the editor's job is not primarily to make decisions on the strength of our own specialized knowledge but to serve instead as the center of a communications network. This network brings the work of young scholars to the attention of the established. It heralds new

developments and discoveries. And it also transmits criticisms designed to improve the quality of work being done in the field. In our view, the *Slavic Review* itself is merely the visible tip of this communications network, and we expect to be judged as much for the assistance we render on manuscripts we decide not to publish as for those we select to feature.

JAMES R. MILLAR