

RUSSIAN-ENGLISH DICTIONARY OF ELECTROTECHNOLOGY AND ALLIED SCIENCES. By *Paul Macura*. New York, London, Sydney, Toronto: Wiley Interscience, a division of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1971. x, 707 pp. \$32.50.

Large and well-prepared specialist dictionaries are particularly welcome. They contain terms not found elsewhere, provide the best coverage of the vocabulary of their fields, and offer the greatest chance of solving a problem in the shortest search time. Professor Macura's dictionary fulfills all these functions. It contains about sixty thousand entries and is the largest of its kind. It will be most useful to anyone concerned with Russian electrotechnology.

There are, however, some inadequacies which might well be corrected in future editions. A specialist dictionary must have some size limitation, and here it has been achieved by excluding certain "nontechnical" words and most irregular forms. This creates no difficulties for the professional linguist, but will be inconvenient for technologists who have only a moderate grasp of the language. The defect could be largely eliminated without adding much to the bulk of the dictionary by using high-frequency vocabulary data. Word counts, giving the frequency of occurrence in the specialist texts, have been made for Russian electronics literature (the first appeared in 1968 in *Statistika rechi* published by "Nauka"). These lists should be used as the criterion for inclusion. It is not satisfactory to exclude words on the grounds that they are found in literary studies.

Another shortcoming can be put right more easily. Every specialist dictionary should list similar works covering the neighboring fields with which it overlaps. The preface mentions only two dictionaries, also published by Wiley. This seems to be more of a commercial advertisement than a scholarly or technical reference. The lexicographer has also failed to mention his sources, although this should be done both as a matter of acknowledgment and as a guide to the encyclopedic information on which his work is based. The latter is particularly important in technology, where the use of bilingual equivalent terms tends to obscure the differences in national practice.

But these criticisms should not detract from a very substantial achievement. Many people will have cause to be grateful to the author.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

As much as I enjoyed Ralph Carter Elwood's "Lenin and *Pravda*, 1912-1914" (*Slavic Review*, June 1972), I must take issue with his final paragraph. This would tie everything into a bow, proving, as it were, that in March 1917, as in the years 1912-14, Stalin and other conciliation-minded *Pravda* editors were, as usual, disdaining Lenin's doctrinaire hard line. The analogy is not as neat as Elwood would have us believe.

The *Pravda* editors pruned Lenin's first "letter from afar" in ways they considered necessary to make it suitable to the situation in Russia. This could be