
REVIEWS

THE ENSERFMENT OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTRY. By *R. E. F. Smith*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968. xiv, 180 pp. \$7.25.

READINGS FOR INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION: MUSCOVITE SOCIETY. Selected and translated by *Richard Hellie*. Chicago: Syllabus Division, The College, The University of Chicago, 1967. iii, 320 pp. Paper.

One is surprised to find that R. E. F. Smith's book is not a monograph on the development of serfdom in Russia, as promised by the title, but essentially a translation of documents, although the title page does not indicate the fact. Translations of fifty-six documents, from 1125–32 to 1649, are offered, each of them preceded by an introductory paragraph characterizing the document and sometimes explaining the more important Russian terms. The documents themselves carry no critical apparatus, and intentionally so. In the introduction (27 pp.), signed by R. H. Hilton and R. E. F. Smith, we read: "This little book is not intended as a critical text . . . or an examination of the terminology . . ." (p. 2). There is, however, for terminological guidance a glossary that lists the English translations of 138 Russian terms (a few remain in their Russian form) followed by their Russian equivalents and explanations of the meanings. There is also an index of the Russian terms in the glossary listing each with a numerical reference to its English equivalent. The book ends with a list of sources, with a closer characterization of some of them, and a general index.

Can the enserfment of the Russian peasantry, a most intricate and difficult problem, be clearly understood after having read this book? The introduction is not of great help, for in a very brief space it covers an enormous territory. Not only is the beginning of Russian serfdom updated to at the very least the early twelfth century, but a comparison with Western developments has been undertaken. The result is that the reader gets fewer answers than new queries. Most of the documents have been well selected, but even with the help of the introductory paragraphs the English text alone in most cases is not sufficient documentation, in the absence of evidence that such a term of a controversial character has been translated in the only possible way. And some of those terms represent arduous problems for a translator! The term *shil'tsy*, for example, has been translated as "attendants," and in the glossary there is an explanation: "petty gentlemen attendant on the court and hence of Moscow rank." This does not really explain who they were. A note would solve the difficulty: sons of Moscow *dvoriane* (and of provincial *dvoriane* selected for service in Moscow) who were starting their career at the tsar's court, where they lived. *Dvoriane* is another term difficult to translate, certainly not "gentlemen," which is not equivalent! There are other major shortcomings.

It would be ill advised under the circumstances to rely on Smith's translations without having the Russian original at hand, and even with the parallel use of this original, one should proceed slowly and most cautiously to avoid inadequate or imprecise interpretation.

The reader will be on more secure ground in placing his trust in Richard Hel-

lie's book. Mr. Hellie is a very cautious translator, so cautious that when a major difficulty is faced, the Russian term, although thoroughly explained in a note, is left untranslated—for example, *okolnichii*, rank second to that of a boyar, or *zhilets* (discussed above). This may be bending over backward, but certainly is not misleading. On the other hand, so much is explained in the notes that the understanding of the text is conveyed most adequately. The scope of this book is wider, for it covers Muscovite society as a whole, which Hellie follows group by group in nine chapters, involving many texts, some of them quite extensive. He has drawn heavily on the Law Code (Ulozhenie) of 1649, having translated *in extenso* chapters 7, 8, 11, 19, 20, and 22, next to a partial translation of chapters 10, 15, and 21 (in all, 338 articles of the Ulozhenie, which certainly is a sizable contribution). He also has translated the Toropets Administrative Charter of 1590/91 (pp. 34–47), and the petition on forbidding foreign merchants to trade, 1648–49 (pp. 66–91). Chapter 7 is devoted to “The Enserfment of the Peasantry” (pp. 92–232), while chapter 8 deals with “Bondage in Muscovy” (pp. 233–301). Hellie's division of his texts according to the stages of enserfment, each stage preceded by his analysis of it, throws much light on the process of enserfment and contributes to its understanding. The book would require more polishing, and further search for English equivalents of the Russian terms would be most desirable, but even as it stands now, this modestly presented endeavor deserves scholarly praise.

MARC SZEFTEL
University of Washington

RUDE AND BARBAROUS KINGDOM: RUSSIA IN THE ACCOUNTS OF SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH VOYAGERS. Edited by *Lloyd E. Berry* and *Robert O. Crummey*. Madison, Milwaukee, and London: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968. xxiii, 391 pp. \$7.50.

This is a good edition of valuable sources: a selection of the most important writings on Muscovy by Englishmen who came as traders and diplomats following the discovery of the White Sea route by Richard Chancellor in 1553 and the establishment of the Russia Company a year later. It includes the account of Chancellor's voyage, in the Clement Adams version; the *First Voyage* (1557–58) of Anthony Jenkinson; Sir Thomas Randolph's brief description of his mission of 1568–69; the verse letters of George Turberville, who was Randolph's secretary; Giles Fletcher's *Of the Russe Commonwealth*, first published in 1591; and Sir Jerome Horsey's *Travels*, a record of his almost continuous residence in Russia from 1573 to 1591. Texts are modernized but based on original manuscripts or first editions, with substantive variants recorded when they are not available elsewhere. Graceful and perceptive essays introduce each author and evaluate his work; a general introduction sets the historical background. The scholarly apparatus also includes extensive textual commentaries, a comprehensive and accurate glossary of Russian terms, and two maps. Although the editors accept joint responsibility for the product, the preparation of the text is primarily credited to Mr. Berry and the introductory material to Mr. Crummey, the commentaries being a collaborative effort.

I would trade Turberville's amusing but trivial poems for some more of Horsey. But this may be an eccentric taste—Horsey is often more trouble than he is worth. In general the selection is very sound, even to the inclusion of Fletcher's work. Al-