

LETTER

TO THE EDITOR:

Professor Maurice Friedberg's recent review article on Soviet Russia's bibliophiles (December 1976) contains much valuable information and several wise observations about this topic. Curiously, no mention is made of two unique private collections of Russian literary verse that their owners built up steadily throughout their lives. They are the collections of I. N. Rozanov (1874–1959) and A. K. Tarasenkov (1909–56), collections that are remarkable not so much for their size as for their comprehensive coverage of their subject area. Rozanov's collection, which includes many volumes with authorial inscriptions to Rozanov, is now housed in the Pushkin Museum, Moscow, and is fully described in *Biblioteka russkoi poezii I. N. Rozanova: Bibliograficheskoe opisanie*, V. V. Gol'dberg et al., comps. (Moscow: Kniga, 1975). Tarasenkov's collection, described by his widow, M. O. Belkina ("'Glavnaia kniga': Istoriia odnoi biblioteki," *Novyi mir*, 1966, no. 11, pp. 195–224), was the basis for his posthumous *Russkie poety XX veka, 1900–1955: Bibliografiia* (Moscow: Sovetskii pisatel', 1966). It might further be noted that although Tarasenkov was an orthodox literary critic, Rozanov, a highly respected professor at MGU, was almost the only scholar to publish articles on formal as well as thematic aspects of Russian poetry throughout the Stalin era.

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