

The only major shortcoming of this very readable book is its presentation. More careful checking of the text and of the picture captions would have prevented a number of needless mistakes.

GRAEME J. GILL
University of Tasmania

WITH TROTSKY IN EXILE: FROM PRINKIPO TO COYOACÁN. By *Jean van Heijenoort*. Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1978. xii, 164 pp. Photographs. \$12.50.

This slim, extremely modest addition to the literature on Trotsky is written by a person who, in the 1930s, served Trotsky for seven years as secretary, translator, and bodyguard. The book contains a brief foreword and afterword, sections on Prinkipo, France, Norway, and Coyoacán, and a ten-page "Appendix: Correction of Errors in Writings About Trotsky." The appendix attacks "errors" in works appearing between 1935 and 1977, which were written by such people as Isaac Deutscher, André Malraux, and Natalia Sedova (Trotsky). The best part of the book is the thirty-six photographs that are included.

The relative scholarly uselessness of the book is a by-product of the author's goals. Expressly avoiding "a critical examination of the personality of Leon Trotsky, of his ideas or his character," van Heijenoort aims instead "to recreate the atmosphere in which Trotsky lived and worked during his years of exile," to amass "bits of information" that may help a scholar "uncover a fact or identify a document," and "to correct errors in the writings about Trotsky over the years" (pp. v and vi).

Although the "atmosphere" that van Heijenoort re-creates is interesting, it does not add to our historical understanding of Trotsky. The errors which he notes are relatively insignificant and often petty: "in the photograph caption, change 'at Barbizon in November 1933' to 'in Saint-Palais in August 1933,'" or "in the caption for the picture on page 133, change '1933' to 'August 1933,'" and in a third, "[In Barbizon, Trotsky] shaved off his thick, grey goatee, so as to look like a middle-class French intellectual." Actually, Trotsky shaved his goatee in Saint-Palais, on October 9 . . ." (pp. 152 and 156). The appendix further weakens the book.

Consequently, *With Trotsky in Exile* can be recommended only to the most highly specialized research libraries.

SAMUEL A. OPPENHEIM
California State College, Stanislaus

LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY. By the *Institute of Marxism-Leninism, CPSU Central Committee*. Leaders of the World Biographical Series. New York: Pergamon Press, 1977. xiv, 240 pp. Photographs. \$10.00.

LEONID I. BREZHNEV: PAGES FROM HIS LIFE. Written under the auspices of the *Academy of Sciences of the USSR*. Foreword by *Leonid I. Brezhnev*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978. 320 pp. + 40 pp. plates. \$11.95.

These two books represent the ascendancy of Brezhnev's personal status in the USSR and the popularity of détente. The outburst of media events connected with his seventieth birthday in 1976 included the preparation of an official biography for the Soviet populace, which now appears in English, not with the imprint of Progress Publishers in Moscow, but from the private sector in Great Britain, Pergamon Press. Somewhat earlier this publisher had announced the intended publication of a collection of the writings of Brezhnev, with a biographical introduction, but as far as I can determine, that project was cancelled, not a surprising decision in view of the audience appeal