

Platonov's narratives sometimes have an old-fashioned ring, but they are basically clear and well told, embellished with well-chosen excerpts from the sources, and the student will find these works engaging and rewarding. His interpretations are usually persuasive, though not always. At one point (p. 112), for example, Platonov remarks that Boris "served no private or class interests"; yet he later (p. 123) contradicts himself, when he states that the sovereign "acted in the interests of the middle classes of Muscovite society at the expense of those of the aristocracy and the enserfed masses."

One final point, of another order, may be noted. Into the popular-survey style of *Boris Godunov*, Platonov injects a lengthy, scholarly examination of charges that Boris plotted the murder of Tsarevich Dmitrii, and subsequently contrived his own election to the throne. Carefully weighing the evidence, he rejects both counts, and thus establishes the book's *raison d'être*. Taking his stand against the malicious indictments of Godunov scattered through the chronicle literature, and perpetuated by a pleiade of historians, by Pushkin's drama and Moussorgsky's opera based on it, Platonov declares in the closing lines of the book: "It is the duty of historical scholarship to restore the character of Boris Godunov."

SAMUEL H. BARON

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

ARCHIVALISCHE FUNDSTÜCKE ZU DEN RUSSISCH-DEUTSCHEN BEZIEHUNGEN: ERIK AMBURGER ZUM 65. GEBURTSTAG. Edited by *Hans-Jürgen Krüger*. Osteuropastudien der Hochschulen des Landes Hessen, series 1. Giessener Abhandlungen zur Agrar- und Wirtschaftsfor-schung des europäischen Ostens, vol. 59. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1973. viii, 199 pp. DM 48, paper.

This collection of essays is part of a series that has produced many distinguished volumes, and it is dedicated to a scholar of Baltic descent who greatly contributed both to our knowledge of Russian-Western economic and cultural relations and to our documentation of the history of Russian administrative personnel. Besides the editor's preface on Erik Amburger, the volume contains twelve studies, mostly of a *Quellenkunde* character, and includes some heretofore unpublished source materials from the end of the seventeenth century (1667) on. All these materials (except an essay by Dietger Langer on K. D. Kavelin's memorandum concerning the land reform and the publication by Peter Scheibert of a 1712 letter by Peter the Great) pertain at least in some respects to Western relations, testimonies, or influences (and, contrarily to the title of the book, not only German ones). Even the essays on the two Baltic scholarly figures, the great naturalist Karl Ernst von Baer and the paleontologist Christian Heinrich Pander (both members of the Russian Academy of Sciences), undoubtedly belong to that category.

Two studies concern Russian foreign relations: Hans Schenk's essay on the unsuccessful French mediation in the Northern war and Boris Lukin's contribution to the history of Russian and Latin American scholarly relations from 1717 to 1915. There is a comparative study by Hans-Jürgen Krüger of the Russian diary of Ludwig Gruno, prince of Hessen-Homburg (1723), with Bergholz's classic testimony on Peter the Great's epoch. There is a study by Otto-Heinrich Elias of Wilhelm Hetling's testimony in French on Emperor Paul's coronation

(1797), also in the framework of other testimonies. Two studies concern the German population under Russian rule, whether colonists or the Baltic Germans: Winfred A. Kohls's essay on the treatment of the colonists' problem by the Russian press under Alexander III and Inge Auerbach's article on Alexander V. Meyendorff's efforts in favor of Baltic German refugees after World War II. Finally, two studies deal with theater and literature, always in the same thematic context. The first is Georg von Rauch's study of Pastor J. G. Gregory's German poem, complimentary to the Russians (and obviously to the tsar!), written in 1667 in Stuttgart. The second is Hans-Bernd Harder's thorough article on the contributions by N. M. Karamzin, Lyon 1790 (in German prose), and A. I. Turgenev, Stuttgart 1827 (Russian verse), to the *Stammbuch* of the German poet, Friedrich von Matthisson.

This tribute to Amburger is a valuable collective performance, not only because it makes available to the students of Russian-Western relations much heretofore unpublished material but also because of its high methodological level, which would have been appreciated by the meticulous scholar so honored.

MARC SZEFTTEL

*University of Washington (Emeritus)*

A DISCOURSE CONCERNING THE JUST CAUSES OF THE WAR BETWEEN SWEDEN AND RUSSIA: 1700-1721. By *P. P. Shafirov*. Introduction by *William E. Butler*. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana Publications, 1973. xii, 294 pp. \$35.00.

Shafirov was certainly one of the most interesting persons raised to prominence by Peter the Great; and his defense of what we might call Peter's "aggression" against Sweden, written for both foreign and domestic consumption, is no doubt one of the most important literary monuments of the reign. The volume under review contains first and foremost a photographic reprint, from a faulty microfilm supplied by the Lenin Library, of Shafirov's (and Peter's) "Razsuzhdenie, kakie zakonnye prichiny . . . Petr Pervyi . . . k nachatiu voiny protiv Korolia Karola 12 Shvedskogo 1700 godu imel . . .," which apparently was compiled for the most part in 1716 and first published, in St. Petersburg, the following year. It was reprinted twice, in Moscow in 1719 and in St. Petersburg in 1722, the latter in an edition of twenty thousand! This is followed by a reprint of the contemporary English translation of the semiofficial German edition of the "Razsuzhdenie," which was not complete: neither the German nor the English translation included the original introduction and dedication or the original appendix of supporting documents drawn from Russian archives, some of which may now be unavailable. And with these Mr. Butler, of the University of London, has provided an introductory essay and an index, the former contributing useful details about Shafirov and the history of the text based partly on research in the Soviet Union as well as an interesting commentary written from the point of view of a specialist in international law.

But other historians, particularly Petrine specialists, will find some of Butler's suggestions regarding the historical context and significance of the "Razsuzhdenie" precarious, if not untenable; and linguists may find the remarks in their direction too rudimentary. Moreover, besides being available in the main Soviet libraries,