

useful supplement to Boss's book in this area. Her conclusion is that dozens of key words (and hence, concepts) of science were stabilized in the Russian language *before* Lomonosov. She shows, for example, that the Newtonian idea of "gravity" was familiar in Russian, and the terminology to describe it was surprisingly widespread and uniform, before 1740. Her conclusions contradict Boss's more traditional comments on this subject in his appendix, "Gravitation and Language."

HERBERT LEVENTER

State University College of Arts and Science, Geneseo, N.Y.

THE THREE EMPRESSES: CATHERINE I, ANNE AND ELIZABETH OF RUSSIA. By *Philip Longworth*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972. xi, 242 pp. \$7.95.

Popular history can perform a valid function for both the specialist and the generalist. To the available published sources, mostly secondary, the author brings scholarly judgment, producing a work whose justification lies not in its originality but in the synthesis it offers those who choose not to pursue the topic further.

Longworth has enjoyed success with previous ventures into this genre: his Suvorov biography put to excellent use recently published materials, and his Cossack survey provided a convenient if controversial overview of a complex subject. In both instances the themes were manageable, the sources abundant and of reasonably high quality. Lacking similar advantages in the present study, Longworth compensates by relying on superficial diplomatic and travel accounts to present three essays of roughly equal length describing Catherine I, Anne, and Elizabeth—"a sot, a sadist, and a nymphomaniac" (to cite the introduction). Exposed to this framework—so frequently reserved for the fourth empress, Catherine II—the unsuspecting reader will logically assume that Russia sank to the depths of degradation in the post-Petrine era, and lose sight of its economic and military achievements. The reader may find the end product entertaining; he will not, however, find it particularly enlightening.

DAVID M. GRIFFITHS

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ENDURANCE AND ENDEAVOUR: RUSSIAN HISTORY, 1812–1971. By *J. N. Westwood*. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1973. viii, 472 pp. \$16.00.

This is a systematic historical account, stretching from 1812 to the period of "Stalin's Heirs." It is a solid but uninspired narrative of the important events, issues, and facts of 159 years of Russia's history. The author's purpose, however, is somewhat difficult to grasp. If it was to prepare a college textbook for use in this country, he must be criticized for failing to employ the pedagogically useful devices of numerous subheadings, charts, and photographs. If he intended to provide a survey of the latest scholarly knowledge in the field, presenting new insights and syntheses, it must be said that he falls short of the mark.

Both the style of writing and the manner of analysis are disturbing to this reviewer. Although the facts are accurate, the genteel style makes all people and