

Caragiale was a forerunner and innovator of European standing. See, for example, I. Constantinescu's *Caragiale și începuturile teatrului european modern* (Bucharest: "Minreva," 1974).

Without exhausting its much too complex subject, Professor Tappe's book is a good source of information.

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DIE RUSSISCHEN LEHNWÖRTER DER FINNISCHEN SCHRIFT-
SPRACHE. By *Angela Plöger*. Veröffentlichungen der Societas Uralo-Altaica,
vol. 8. Wiesbaden: In Kommission bei Otto Harrassowitz, 1973. iv, 377 pp. +
17 pp. maps.

Loanword studies between Baltic Finnic and Slavic have a history of some three hundred years, although concentration on mapping the situations within single languages (Estonian, Veps, Karelian) in relation to Russian dates from the past twenty years only. A. Plöger's dissertation (Hamburg) is the first on Finnish. The basis of her work is the codification in *Nykysuomen sanakirja* (*Dictionary of Contemporary Finnish*, 1951–61) and her study thus includes considerable dialectal and colloquial material, but she has also used the unpublished dictionary archives in Helsinki. She traces the history of the field showing how particular words entered the discussion. The bulk of the book is a dictionary list (pp. 44–237) with each entry giving detailed information on (1) word history and occurrence in Finnish, (2) current meaning, (3) etymology within Russian, (4) commentary (on the entrance to the discussion, problematic phonetic and semantic changes, weighing the theories proposed, and so forth), and (5) references to literature.

Thereafter (pp. 238–92) she gives a thorough scrutiny and mapping of the rendering of Russian sounds in Finnish. Feature by feature the dictionary section is regrouped for proof and easy reference, and the material is enhanced by tabular/diagrammatic summaries. The result is a network of reliable correspondences for chronological inferences and a real tool for future research. She provides the same service for morphology as well (for example, the fate of parts of speech, oblique cases, suffixes, and so forth, in the process of transposition), and includes the typical semantic adjustments. This last domain is extended with a treatment of the integration and status of Russian loans in Finnish. The last chapter treats doubtful or misleading etymologies (10 items, among them: *hirsi*, "log"; *ies*, "yoke"; *ruoska*, "whip"; and *vaino*, "persecution"). The book thus does not bring in new material (it seems to be all used up), but processes the old into a finer product. A bibliography and geographic distribution maps round off the work.

Plöger's study is a classic. She approaches all the material available from all the traditional angles, employing solid well-tested methods. She adds precision, however, and produces a handbook that achieves exactly what one would expect or hope for under this title.

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