

evidence that they remain suspended in the air. All is, obviously, predicated on the convincing character of the previous three chapters, which are supposed to carry the day.

Professor Keenan, however, has asked us to accept assertions he could not convincingly demonstrate. All questions and all doubts are *negatively* useful, for they call for answers. Answers will be forthcoming from scholars who specialize in the Muscovite sixteenth century, and more light will be thrown on this topic. This will be welcome. Pending those answers, however, one must say in all objectivity that Professor Keenan's ambitious structure does not modify anything substantive in our picture of Muscovite history. His great capacity for ingenious rapprochements seems to have led him not to the clarification of issues but to the creation of difficulties where they did not exist. Beware of temptation by the demon of hypercriticism!

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THE ROMANOV. By *Virginia Cowles*. With color photographs specially taken in Russia by *Victor Kennett*. New York: Harper & Row, 1971. 288 pp. 157 black and white, 34 color photographs. \$15.00.

For readers of the *Slavic Review* the worth of this book lies mainly in its pictures. I do not mean to undervalue the contribution of the author. Miss Cowles, an American writer long resident in Britain, has evidently consulted most of the traditional English-language works dealing with the eighteen Romanov rulers. She writes with zest and enthusiasm. Readers who can just relax and enjoy it will find her account breezily entertaining, and will learn a lot about the private lives of the monarchs.

Readers of a critical bent, on the other hand, will notice enough imperfections of various kinds to keep them on their toes. A few of these are pitched for amateur copy editors (the nobles are said to "flaunt" a law rather than flout it; "prevaricate" is used when what is meant is "procrastinate"); but most are for the Russian specialist. There are many minor twists of proper names, such as Kostromo for Kostroma or Hellman for Gel'fman or Helfman. Some of them (like those two) are repeated—which provides at least internal consistency. Numbers are treated casually (for example, Nicholas I was not eleven years younger than Alexander I, but more like nineteen; and serfs of both sexes in 1861 numbered only a little over half of the forty million mentioned). And there are other sorts of misstatements, such as that at the time of Custine's visit Russia "boasted three universities—Moscow, Petersburg, and Kiev," or that "yamshchik" is a "special name" applied only to drivers of troikas.

Beyond the peccadilloes are more serious defects. Some of them reflect the fact—for which we in the field, and not Miss Cowles, are collectively to blame—that the quality of scholarship on the Romanov tsars and their personal and court life has not been uniformly high. But Miss Cowles has made things worse by restricting her use of languages and her choice of sources, and by leaning on the sensational, the sexy, or the brutal—with the result that lay readers will come away fascinated by a gallery of odd characters but poorly or inaccurately informed about many basic facts concerning them and their broader environment.

The book contains over thirty splendid full-page color photographs, mostly by Victor Kennett, and over 150 additional prints and photographs in black and white.

These illustrations of palaces, people, and paraphernalia are both enjoyable and instructive. Together with what solid meat there is in Miss Cowles's narrative, they make a work which should not be ignored even if it should have been much more carefully written.

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U ISTOKOV KRUPNOGO PROIZVODSTVA V RUSSKOI PROMYSHLENNOSTI XVI-XVII VEKOV: K VOPROSU O GENEZISE KAPITALIZMA V ROSSII. By *E. I. Zaozerskaia*. Moscow: "Nauka," 1970. 476 pp. 1.97 rubles.

In 1953 E. I. Zaozerskaia published an impressive monograph on light industry in Russia during the first quarter of the eighteenth century (*Razvitie legkoi promyshlennosti v Moskve v pervoi chetverti XVIII v.*). The roots of large-scale industrial production in Russia go back to the seventeenth and even the sixteenth century, however, so even that book discussed activities of the pre-Petrine period. With the present volume Madame Zaozerskaia turns her full attention to the origins of large-scale production in early modern Russia. Studies in this area by P. G. Liubomirov and others have by no means exhausted the subject, so Zaozerskaia's contribution is welcome.

Zaozerskaia investigates the production of salt, iron (with some attention to copper), and cloth (ranging from crude woollens to silk). She takes ten workers in an enterprise in this period as the major index of "large-scale production." Productivity and profitability are other, but—as I interpret her discussion—subsidiary indices. The forms of production considered are diverse: manufactories, peasant and *posad* (artisan suburb) production, monastery workshops, and such large premanufacturing state enterprises as the Oruzheinaia Palata or Aleksei Mikhailovich's linen factory at Izmailovo.

The author has done a remarkable amount of research with primary materials, both archival and published, and has made extensive use of secondary literature. Her problem, of course, is that since sources usually shed little light on the internal life of the enterprises with which they deal, she is sometimes forced to make arbitrary assumptions on whether or not an enterprise is "large-scale," or even concerning its characteristics as an industrial enterprise. On the other hand, she is judicious in interpreting information she feels the sources do disclose. She admits the generally feudal character of labor in even the most advanced enterprises; she makes no sweeping claims for the extent of industrial modernization or capitalist development during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; she does not press the case which was once made for regarding Russian innovations of the period as indigenous. As is so often true of economic history, style (probably) had to be sacrificed to exactitude and detail, but her study of small-scale iron production ("melkie promysly," pp. 199–253) is almost a masterpiece of its genre: lucid, forceful, engaging.

Although this book is a major achievement, some critical comments are in order. A book on this subject should certainly discuss salt, iron, and textiles—but the exclusion of industries such as paper, gunpowder, and glass is neither justified nor justifiable. Moreover, the three industries the author selected are handled in strikingly different ways: salt-making occupies almost half the volume and is subjected