

1185 and that it was composed by an unknown poet in the hope of persuading the princes to unite in a concerted effort "to block the gateway of the steppes."

The second book is an analytical study of the chronicles which attempts to define scope and trends in the writing of the individual chroniclers. The author emphasizes the importance of Tatishchev's *History* for this aspect of his research, convincingly defends Tatishchev against the accusations of falsification made by S. L. Peshtich in 1961, and then proceeds to analyze the information derived from Tatishchev. This leads him to conclude that the author of the *Slovo* may have been the boyar and author Peter Borislavich, who, according to Rybakov, was one of the best educated and informed of the secular chroniclers of that period. Borislavich would seem to fit the features of the *Slovo*'s author as adumbrated in the previous book—that is, possessing a spirit which soared above the petty conflicts of the princes (whom he did not hesitate to censure), lacking Christian motivation (whereas full use was made of pagan symbolism), and revealing a complete understanding of the political interrelationships of the times. Although Rybakov does not insist on the acceptance of his somewhat audacious hypothesis, it does seem more soundly based than those of other scholars who have sought to discern the personality of the *Slovo*'s author. Of course, to accept Rybakov's theories one must accept his asseverations of Tatishchev's veracity. Even then, many questions remain in this attempt to prove that a chronicler could have been a great poet and shared the ideas revealed in the *Slovo*. Rybakov admits this difficulty, but points out that there is also a vast dissimilarity in style between Pushkin's poem *Poltava* and his uncompleted history of Peter the Great in prose.

The books regrettably have no indexes.

NIKOLAY ANDREYEV  
University of Cambridge

THE TALE OF THE CAMPAIGN OF IGOR: A RUSSIAN EPIC POEM  
OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY. Translated by *Robert C. Howes*. New  
York: W. W. Norton, 1973. x, 67 pp. \$6.95, cloth. \$1.75, paper.

The *Slavic Review* has not generally sought reviews of literary works translated into English. An exception has been made in the present case because despite the excellent translation by Dimitri Obolensky and those by Serge Zenkovsky, Vladimir Nabokov, and, most recently, Sidney Monas with Burton Raffel, there has been no accurate translation with accompanying historical introduction to permit the English-speaking reader to enjoy this mysterious and beautiful masterpiece of medieval East Slavic culture. It is this lacuna that Mr. Howes has attempted to fill.

In part he has succeeded. In fact the chief virtues of this edition are the historical introduction, the numerous historical footnotes and the appended genealogical table of princes mentioned in the work, and a translation of the Hypatian Chronicle account of the ill-fated campaign of Prince Igor. It may well be argued that some of Howes's introduction is not really essential, and one certainly would wish to dispute certain of his remarks (such as those concerning the Conference of Liubech).

By and large the historical information Howes provides is useful and accurate. His discussion of the *Slovo* as literature is less so. He gives us a list of tropes, but he makes no mention of the language, the rhythmic effect of which is such a powerful element in the work. Nor does he mention the important ques-

tions of genre and structure. His title claims that the *Slovo* is a "tale" but also an "epic poem," and the reader is left puzzled because the translation and notes give him nothing to judge the "poetry" by, and the narrative offers precious little to relate to ordinary notions of a tale.

Howes has chosen to follow the example of Ivan Novikov, whose 1938 translation into Modern Russian divided the work into sections, each with an explanatory title. But Howes's real debt is to Vladimir Nabokov, as he states. He has followed Nabokov (who followed A. I. Sobolevsky and others) in transposing the account of the solar eclipse from its First Edition position preceding the apostrophe to Boian to a point following Igor's conversation with his brother Vsevolod. Unfortunately, Howes neglects to mention his transposition, which such modern commentators and translators as D. S. Likhachev, Zenkovsky, Obolensky, and Monas have rejected as unwarranted.

He also follows Nabokov in assuming that the first battle, won by Igor and his allies, was with the main Polovtsian forces led by Khans Gzak and Konchak, who then fled toward the Don. Most commentators and the majority of translators of the *Slovo* assume that Igor's initial encounter was with an advance party of the Polovtsians and that the main forces of Gzak and Konchak came up from beyond the Don to defeat Igor on the following day.

There are several other infelicities of translation: *pardus* is everywhere translated as leopard rather than cheetah, which the frescoes of the Saint Sofia Cathedral in Kiev indicate was kept as a hunting animal. Prince Iziaslav's retinue is covered by birds' feathers rather than their wings (*ptits' krily*), while Igor in his escape kills geese and swans "morning, noon, and night" rather than for "breakfast, dinner, and supper." Fortunately, we are spared many of the monstrosities of previous translations into English: Nabokov's "Bloody effulgences herald the light" becomes "The blood-red sky heralds the dawn," for instance. Certainly no one will agree with Howes's interpretations of all the *loci obscuri*, and he readily admits to uncertainty concerning some of them. In general, the translation reads well, if it may too often lack the inspiration of the original.

On balance, it still seems to this reader that Obolensky's translation remains the best in English. Published in the *Penguin Book of Russian Verse*, it has the great virtue of serving as an accompaniment to the original text. Despite the virtues of Howes's edition there is still room for an excellent, inspired translation of the *Slovo o polku Igoreve* with careful, scholarly annotation. Until that time, Howes's edition fills the need adequately.

JACK V. HANEY  
*University of Washington*

THE GALICIAN-VOLYNIAN CHRONICLE: AN ANNOTATED TRANSLATION. By *George A. Perfecty*. With an editor's preface. Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies, vol. 16, II: THE HYPATIAN CODEX, part 2. Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1973. 159 pp. Genealogical table. DM 38, paper.

The translation and annotation of old Rus'ian texts is an unenviable task, owing to their complexity and obscurity. This is indeed true of the Galician-Volynian Chronicle (covering the years 1201-92), which has received insufficient attention and has never been rendered in a proper scholarly translation, much less one in English. Professor Perfecty offers a "free (but faithful) rather than a literal interpretation of the chronicle." He has "found it necessary to substitute indirect