

## TO THE EDITOR:

In his review of a pair of recently published travel guides for the Soviet Union (*Slavic Review*, September 1975, pp. 601–3), Theodore Shabad complains that “the perfect product” has not yet appeared.

While neither I nor their publisher, I am sure, would claim perfection for them, I nonetheless think it a pity that Mr. Shabad did not refer his readers to the excellent travel guides for the Soviet Union published by the Nagel firm of Geneva. The latest (5th!) edition of their guide, *URSS: Nagel Encyclopédie de Voyage*, was published in 1973, and, at 1,072 pages, is far superior in both scope and quality to the Fodor guide reviewed by Mr. Shabad. In fact, I would say that the Nagel guide is indeed a worthy successor to the prerevolutionary Baedeker guides.

For those who prefer English, an English translation of the 5th edition is available. And for those who want a slimmer volume, Nagel, from time to time, publishes separately in French and in English the Moscow and Leningrad sections of the complete guide. I, and I am sure many others, have found the Nagel guides indispensable to fruitful tourism in the Soviet Union.

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