

teenth century, although several important accounts by foreigners are to be found in that period. A comprehensive survey of Siberian historiography is needed. This book does not provide it, but is an important step in that direction.

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VOICES IN EXILE: THE DECEMBRIST MEMOIRS. By G. R. V. Barratt.  
Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1974. xxii, 381 pp.  
Plates. \$18.50.

Professor Barratt's book provides us with excerpts from fairly reliable memoirs of eight Decembrists, plus a few other contemporary commentaries on the revolt of December 14, 1825. Accounts of the Decembrists' encounters with Western ideas, their participation in the revolt, their arrest and imprisonment, their journey into exile, and their life in Siberia are included in the volume. The accounts do not tell us a great deal that the casual student of Russian history does not already know, but, because the tale is told by men of some literary talent, it has a particular dignity that provides a sensitive and sympathetic portrayal of the Decembrist movement.

Professor Barratt's introduction and the brief biographical/historical comments with which he introduces the writings of each Decembrist are hardly more than a repetition of very well-known information (and misinformation) that we have had in English since Professor Mazour published his survey of the Decembrists in 1937. Barratt's style is often unclear and is sometimes difficult to follow. His statement that "the first translated volume of memoirs to appear by one who actively participated in events of December 1825, and who paid the price of exile—Herzen's own reminiscences, *My Exile to Siberia* (London, 1855; 2 vols.) are obviously disqualified by their author's absence from the conspiratorial scene in that year" (p. 337) is only one obvious example among many.

The quality of Professor Barratt's prose carries over into his translations, which are sometimes ungrammatical or ambiguous. The footnotes (the major scholarly effort in the volume) are a curious combination of helpful commentary and trivial information. For example, in M. A. Bestuzhev's account of the revolt (for which we are not given page references), Bestuzhev notes that "I dressed myself up in my brother Nikolay's old naval half-coat" (p. 63). There is a footnote to this seemingly insignificant statement which, the curious reader will find, tells us that: "Serving at naval headquarters in St. Petersburg and later in Kronstadt, some three hours' sail away, Nikolay would have had a ready supply of naval coats on leaving port in 1823" (p. 350, n. 31). In all fairness, however, one should mention that the notes also include some useful references to Russian sources. But one is surprised to find more than thirty references to Professor Mazour's cursory treatment of the Decembrists, while the far more penetrating and scholarly work of V. I. Semevskii, *Politicheskie i obshchestvennye idei dekabristov*, or the more detailed, though admittedly encyclopedic, work of M. V. Nechkina, *Dvizhenie dekabristov*, appear not to be mentioned at all. It is equally curious that Professor Barratt does not refer to Professor Raeff's *The Decembrist Movement*, a work which provides very useful translations of important documents, as well as an introductory essay that is still probably the best summary statement on the Decembrists available in English.

In conclusion, one puts down Professor Barratt's book with very mixed feelings. It is nice to have an English translation of excerpts from some Decembrist memoirs. Unfortunately, aside from what passing interest it may have for the very casual reader, the book is of limited value. Still, it is good to see that the Decembrists are again becoming a subject of interest to Western scholars after several decades of neglect.

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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF IU. SAMARIN AND BARONESS RAHDEN (1861–1876). Edited by *Loren Calder*. Translated from the Second Edition of D. Samarin, Moscow, 1894, by *Terence Scully* (from the French), *Helen Swediuk-Cheyne* (from the German), and *Loren Calder* (from the Russian). Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University, 1974. 267 pp. \$5.95, cloth. \$3.50, paper.

It is somewhat difficult to understand the necessity for this book or for what audience it is intended. Samarin is, of course, an important figure and a new study of him would be welcome. But a translation of his correspondence with the Baroness Rahden can be of interest only to a relatively small group of specialists on nineteenth-century Russian intellectual and political history, most of whom, I should think, could read these letters in the editions of 1893 or 1894. (To be fair, one should add that only major libraries are likely to have one or another of these earlier volumes, and that it is difficult to read the original letters through without knowing French, German, and Russian.)

The correspondence is not entirely devoid of interest to the reader with a more general knowledge of Russian history. The principal issue between the two was the privileged position of the German minority in the Baltic provinces. Samarin's long hostility to the aristocratic particularism of the Baltic Germans is somewhat softened here by the fact that his correspondent, Edith Rahden, was a member of that alien group, as well as a dear and respected friend. There are also a few interesting observations on other issues of the day—this or that aspect of the reforms of the 1860s—but the correspondence is really no more than a good source for Samarin's biographer.

Nor is the English edition particularly impressive in its execution. Loren Calder's introduction is unsophisticated in its conceptualization of Slavophilism and it is poorly written. Here, for example, is Calder's translation of a remark by Peter Struve: ". . . as distinct from Kireevski and Khomiakov . . . the mind of Samarin was not a philosophical-constructing, but a civil-servant arranging and regulating [one] . . . the mind of Samarin was the mind of a statesman and political thinker" (p. 20). It is also unclear what Calder means when he writes that Samarin's *Borderlands of Russia (Okrainy Rossii)* "was written to combat the autocratic, class character of Russian policy in the 1860's. . ." (p. 20).

Terence Scully's translations from the French are better than Calder's from the Russian, but they are scarcely elegant and on occasion they are quite inaccurate. Small but irritating mistakes ("teaming" instead of "teeming"; "elucubrations" instead of "lucubrations") abound. The volume is indexed, but a much more ambitious set of notes would have helped to guide the general reader through the