

were his own countrymen but who were impatient and suspicious of ecclesiastical control.

Hitherto, Şaguna's story has, in fact, not been told satisfactorily. The fullest biographies of him, works of disciples, were overadulatory, while other works, especially those of the pseudohistorians of the first years after 1945, either presented a distorted picture of the man and his work, or passed it over too shortly. Professor Hitchins holds the balance very fairly. His analyses of Şaguna's outlook on the problems involved, political, social, cultural, and national, are, if somewhat repetitive, also thoughtful and often illuminating. The story of Şaguna's activities is necessarily closely interwoven with the general history of the period, toward our knowledge of which some of Professor Hitchins's pages make useful contributions: the present reviewer knows of no other verbatim translation into English of the "Sixteen Points" adopted by the famous mass meeting of May 16, 1848. It is the more regrettable that Professor Hitchins, for some inexplicable reason, consistently passes over in complete silence, or at best, with only a passing allusion, the larger events within the framework of which all this took place. The Sixteen Points were themselves drawn up in preparation for the forthcoming vote which the Transylvanian Diet was to take at the end of the month on the question of the union between Transylvania and Hungary; this in its turn was to constitute Transylvania's answer to the wish for the union expressed by the new, autonomous, Hungarian Diet. The very convocation of the Diet is left unmentioned, and even the fact that it met and voted *nem. con.* for the union is mentioned only retrospectively, and in a single line. This is only one of the very many omissions of facts vital to the understanding of the events which Professor Hitchins does record. It is greatly to be hoped that he will repair them in a later edition of his interesting essay, which a few hours' work spent in consulting any standard history book would make immeasurably more readable, and even for most readers, more intelligible. While performing this work he might check his pages on a few minor points. We are told, for example, that the Hungarian minister of education, Baron Eötvös, was Şaguna's "friend from university days": but there is no mention anywhere of Şaguna's having attended any university; certainly not Eötvös's of Pest.

The bibliography is long, but eclectic. Poor Jorga must have turned in his grave when he found his name omitted from it.

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HISTORY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND MODERN TURKEY, VOLUME I: EMPIRE OF THE GAZIS: THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1280-1808. By *Stanford Shaw*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976. xvi, 351 pp. \$23.50, cloth. \$12.95, paper.

Stanford Shaw's new book will be welcomed by all who concern themselves with Ottoman history and the role the Turks played in Europe, Russia, North Africa, and the Near East. With the appearance of the second volume, it will be the first substantial English-language work to cover the complete course of Turkish history from the thirteenth-century Ottoman *beylik* up to and including the contemporary republic. Relying upon many years of experience as a particularly successful professor of Ottoman history, the author has prepared a text well suited to students and others seeking a clear, organized, and balanced introduction to a very broad and difficult topic. This new publication will certainly go a long way toward countering that stubborn anti-Turkish bias which has warped the Western view of the Ottomans and their achievements:

This latest study draws heavily upon Professor Shaw's earlier works as well as from the writings of other scholars in Turkey, Europe, and the United States who in the last thirty years have made fundamental contributions to more or less specialized aspects of the field. In addition, the author acknowledges his debt to the official Ottoman chroniclers whose annals he has exploited systematically. Last, but not least, tribute must be paid to his own primary research in the Turkish state archives. The original material which he has incorporated pertains largely to the reign of Sultan Selim III (1789–1807), but new information from Ottoman documents enriches other chapters as well.

Despite the warm reception which this new history deserves, some caveats are necessary. The book is not written in an attractive prose style. Misprints are frequent and the spelling of personal and place names is often inconsistent or simply incorrect. These problems are typical of contemporary publishing, and are perhaps inevitable where several languages are involved. The same considerations do not apply to factual errors. Although basically sound, the present volume reveals insufficient attention to accuracy and detail. Defects drawn from one chapter will suffice by way of example. The Passarowitz Treaty (1718) is described without reference to the very significant Ottoman cession of the Temesvár *sancak*. Later on, this omission leads Professor Shaw to state that at Belgrade (1739) the Habsburgs "surrendered all their gains at Passarowitz." In fact, the Banat of Temesvár remained part of the Habsburg Monarchy until its collapse in 1918. Again relating to Austro-Turkish affairs, there was no "Ottoman campaign against Austria in 1736." One year later, the Austrian army began hostilities with an attack upon Ottoman Nish. This offensive proceeded by way of the Morava and not the Vardar River which is, of course, further to the south. As for François de Tott (1733–93), he could scarcely have fled to France during the Rákóczi Rebellion which had ended in 1711. Faults such as these are representative of a general carelessness which seriously mars an otherwise useful work. Should these flaws be removed in a future edition, this book will become a text of enduring value.

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THE FAMILIAR LETTER AS A LITERARY GENRE IN THE AGE OF PUSHKIN. By *William Mills Todd III*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. xii, 230 pp. \$15.00.

This fine book represents the first serious attempt to examine the informal (but not exactly private) correspondence carried on within the group later thought of as the Pushkin circle, with a view to establishing the correspondence as literature, defining its generic status, and in the process, setting it off from kindred categories such as the slender classicist tradition of Russian literary letter writing which owes most to Fonvizin and Karamzin. Listing the eight main chapter headings will illustrate the book's strategy: chapter 1, "The Epistolary Tradition in Europe and Russia"; chapter 2, "Arzamas and Its Approach to Epistolary Tradition"; chapter 3, "Content: Principles of Selection"; chapter 4, "Characterization and Caricature"; chapter 5, "Literary Criticism in the Letters of Arzamas"; chapter 6, "Style and the Illusion of Conversational Speech"; chapter 7, "Organizational Principles of the Familiar Letter"; and chapter 8, "The Parts of a Letter: Openings and End Games." Throughout, the work is well-informed, scrupulous, lucid, urbane, and on the whole, it succeeds admirably in its purpose. Where it seems to beg the question, that is, tailor its generic criteria to fit its corpus, the author is far from unaware of the problem (itself familiar) and contrives to dispel or shelve one's doubts; with the exception, perhaps, of the still