
PAPERBOUNDS

THE GENTLE BARBARIAN: The Life and Work of Turgenev. By V. S. Pritchett. Vintage (Random reprint), 1978. 243 pp. \$3.95

Ivan Turgenev, whom Henry James called "the novelist's novelist," was a 19th-century political dissident who chose to live much of his life in the West. Hence, many of his papers are preserved in France, England, and Germany, rather than in his native Russia. Britain's prolific critic and writer of fiction V. S. Pritchett (his *Selected Stories* were published in 1978) uses these materials to depict Turgenev's years abroad and particularly the bachelor author's passion for Spanish-born soprano Pauline Garcia Viardot, which seized him in 1843 and lasted until his death in 1883. New information plus Pritchett's keen critical eye make this one of the best studies in any language of Turgenev's major novels (*Rudin*, *Home of the Gentry*, *On the Eve*, *Fathers and Sons*) and short stories (*First Love* is his most famous). More's the pity that Pritchett passes so lightly over the now largely forgotten Turgenev plays, which were unsurpassed on the Russian stage until Chekhov came along.

THE LEGACY OF SACCO AND VANZETTI. By Louis Joughin and Edmund M. Morgan. Princeton, 1978. 608 pp. \$5.95 (cloth, \$25)

When this book was first published in 1948, the *New York Times* called it a "definitive history" of the celebrated 1920s' murder case. The description still applies to this cool study of the impact of the trial and execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, obscure Italian-born anarchists, for a \$16,000 payroll robbery in Braintree, Mass., on April 15, 1920, in which two men died. The case was in the courts for six years during an era of U.S. history marked by a climate of anti-Red

hysteria, chauvinism, and ethnic prejudice. The late Professor Morgan, a Harvard Law School authority on evidence, carefully examined the full legal record of the trial. He did not attempt to judge guilt or innocence, but he concludes that the conduct of the trial made the accused "victims of a tragic miscarriage of justice." The non-legal repercussions are discussed by social historian Joughin, who describes what happened in the United States and abroad. Anti-American demonstrations, possibly the first, occurred throughout Western Europe after Sacco and Vanzetti were electrocuted on August 23, 1927. Joughin also analyzes the enormous literature the case engendered: articles, poems, novels, and plays—among the latter, Maxwell Anderson's *Winterset* (1935).

CURING CHRONIC INFLATION.

Edited by Arthur M. Okun and George L. Perry. Brookings, 1978. 310 pp. \$4.95 (cloth, \$11.95)

Brookings's Okun and Perry have organized the papers of their institution's 25th "Panel on Economic Activity" into a book on inflation that is not incomprehensible to the layman. Laurence S. Seidman of the University of Pennsylvania analyzes the probable effects of tax-based incomes policies (TIP), whose ultimate objective is to lower and control the rate of increase of prices; among various possible TIPs he favors the imposition of a penalty tax on employers who grant excessive wage increases. Florida State University's Abba P. Lerner takes a different tack: slowing inflation through the use of federal "wage-increase permits." Such permits would be fully tradable in a competitive market "like a share of IBM in the stock exchange," allowing an employer who wished to increase his adjusted wage bill by more than 3 percent annually to do so

through acquiring permits from others who were reducing their wage bills. The problems that both businesses and the IRS would face in implementing any kind of TIP are reviewed by U.S. Treasury Department officials Larry L. Dildine and Emil M. Sunley. The administrative difficulties are large but not, they believe, insurmountable. However, they decline to evaluate the tradeoff between red tape and gains in moderating wage and price increases. Brookings' Robert W. Crandall reviews other ways in which the federal government could reduce inflation—by putting Social Security on a sounder basis, substituting direct for indirect taxes, changing both farm and foreign trade policies. Princeton University's Albert Rees notes the widespread skepticism concerning all of the proposed new anti-inflation policies. Neither he nor any other contributor offers much solace to citizens whose reaction to the economics of their daily lives is "Stop the spiral—we want to get off."

THE VOICES OF SILENCE. By André Malraux. Princeton/Bollingen, 1978. 661 pp. \$9.95 (cloth, \$40)

André Malraux (1901–76), a hero of the French Resistance in World War II, became France's Minister of Culture during the De Gaulle years. He was also a master of modern criticism, whose three-volume work, *The Psychology of Art*, appeared in English in 1949–50; later refashioned as *Voices*, it was first published in the United States in 1953. Malraux invented a new set of classifications for grouping his judgments and insights. Instead of writing about, say, Renaissance painting or Greek sculpture, he discusses the "museum without walls," "the metamorphoses of Apollo," "the creative process," and the "aftermath of the absolute." These categories give him freedom to range widely; thus, describing the use of the horse as a motif on coins, he can write

that, regarding the horse, "civilized and barbaric races had more in common than as regarding Man." Malraux points out that the art museum did not exist until roughly 200 years ago. A large share of our heritage derives "from peoples whose idea of art was quite other than ours, and even from peoples to whom the very idea of art meant nothing."

A NEST OF HOOKS. By Lon Otto. Univ. of Iowa, 1978. 141 pp. \$4.95 (cloth, \$8.95)

This volume, the ninth recipient of the Iowa School of Letters Award for Short Fiction, contains 28 stories ranging in length from a single brief paragraph ("The Rules") to 39 pages ("The Siege"). One is not surprised to learn that the collection's author, 30-year-old Lon Otto, wrote only poetry for a number of years; his closely focused stories show an artisan's love for the rhythm and movement of language, for the telling small detail. Cataloging "a strangeness in the world that could only be borne in fiction," Otto shows men and women at the mercy of the contraptions with which they surround themselves. Bicycles, houses, cameras, submarines all take on a life of their own. Many of the stories in this good book concern fishing. In one of the best, the narrator imagines himself gone fishing with his long-deceased grandfather. The title: "I'm Sorry You're Dead."

PROUD SHOES: The Story of an American Family. By Pauli Murray. Harper, 1978. 300 pp. \$4.95 (cloth, \$12.95)

In 1956, when this book was first published, its subject was still hush-hush in many circles, and it flopped commercially. Now, interracial marriage is accepted as a topic to be discussed, as the author does, with dignity, not shame. Murray, a former law professor who in 1977 became the first black female ordained an Episcopal priest, tells the story