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Book Review. The Captive Nations: Nationalism of the Non-Russian Nations in the Soviet Union by Roman Smal-Stocki

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The Kilgour Collection of Russian Literature, 1750-1920, With Notes on Early Books and Manuscripts of the 16th and 17th Centuries. Pref. William A. Jackson. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard College Library, 1959. Unpagged, \$17.50. [Distributed by Harvard Univ. Press.]

This volume not only catalogs the outstanding collection of first editions of Russian literature acquired by Bayard L. Kilgour, Jr., and now housed in the Houghton Library, but prints facsimiles of the title pages and also gives collations, to make it possible to determine whether a copy one may see is the same as one that is at Harvard. The translations of the titles and the collations and descriptions were made by Elisabeth Stenbock-Fermor; they are designed to be of use not only to Russian specialists, but to those with limited knowledge of Russian.

The collection is strongest in the great writers of the nineteenth century, especially Puškin. The collection of Russian literature, 1750-1920, includes 1323 items. In addition, there is a catalog of the collection's twenty-five literary manuscripts, several of which were published in Russian Literary Archives, edited by D. Čiževsky and M. Karpovich (New York, 1956). Not only the books themselves are of interest, but often their provenience. The catalog includes photographs of thirty-five bookplates and thirty-six labels and stamps, indicating individual former owners—including, among others, tsars, tsaritsas, grand dukes, and important libraries.

The collection also includes, under the heading Early Books and Manuscripts, three books printed by Ivan Fedorov in the sixteenth century and one by Onisim Radiševskij in the early seventeenth century, and also one sixteenth and one seventeenth century manuscript. The book is beautifully printed; the facsimiles are clear, with collations conveniently and clearly arranged for easy use, and the Index is designed to make easy reference possible. The book is indispensable to anyone in this country who needs to deal with Russian first editions.

J. Thomas Shaw
Indiana University

Roman Smal-Stocki. The Captive Nations: Nationalism of the Non-Russian Nations in the Soviet Union. New York: Bookman Associates [c. 1960]. 118 pp., \$3.50.

This short but rich book by Professor Smal-Stocki of Marquette University, presented originally in a summary at the First Annual Round Table Conference of the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Georgetown University, in 1958, is an introduction and an outline to the study of the historical background and of the aspirations of the Non-Russian nations in the Soviet Union.

The author reveals, on the basis of the Russian census of 1897, that the Russians in the Russian Empire then constituted a minority

of 42.7 per cent, and the Non-Russians a majority of 57.3 per cent (p. 24). Even the census of 1939 still showed Russians as a minority in the U. S. S. R. The results of the 1959 census had not been made available at the time when the book under review was written. Otherwise the author would have stated that the percentage of Russian population for the first time exceeded 50 per cent.

The book presents many interesting facts of the fate of some selected nationalities of the Soviet Union. Special attention is paid to nations which proclaimed their independence after the dissolution of the former Russian Empire. Several chapters are devoted to the discussion of the Soviet nationality policy, its theory and practice, which has changed to a certain degree tactically during the last forty years. The author explains in some detail the struggles of Non-Russians against Russians in the endeavor of creating independent national entities.

The foreward by Professor Leo Dobriansky of Georgetown University stresses the significance of the understanding of the force of nationalism by the United States.

Jurij Fedynskyj
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

London, February 1961

To the Editor:

In his review of my last book, Portraits of Russian Personalities (Oxford) in the current issue [Winter 1959—Ed.] of your journal, Professor G. Struve quotes from my preface where I drew attention to numerous writings of major nineteenth century Russian authors, published since the October Revolution, and to freshly documented studies of them which have been written by Soviet critics. He then contests my statement that these "have not yet been assimilated in foreign estimates of nineteenth century Russia." He finally asserts, without substantiation, "such studies which Mr. Hare mentions in his preface, plus several others, have certainly been assimilated and utilised in such works as E. H. Carr's monumental study of Bakunin, A. Yarmolinsky's and D. Magarshak's biographies of Turgenev, E. J. Simmons' volumes on Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky."

For the sake of brevity, I will confine my comment to correcting two of these misleading assertions. First, E. H. Carr's biography of Bakunin (for which I have expressed the highest admiration in my book) does not in fact refer to numerous important statements in Bakunin's writings, which I have quoted to illustrate my own interpretation of him, which differs, incidentally, from that of E. H. Carr. Further, since E. H. Carr's biography was published in 1937, one might suggest that in the intervening twenty-three years enough interest has been shown in Russian revolutionaries to justify a fresh attempt to sum up Bakunin's present significance.