

### Natalie Herzen

I AM AFRAID that an error crept into the selection of Natalie Herzen letters which you published in the April ENCOUNTER, based on my book *Daughter of a Revolutionary*. The final excerpt should not have been dated "[1870s]" but rather 1931, the actual year in which Natalie Herzen recorded her reminiscences of the last incidents involving Nechayev in the early 1870s and her meetings with Lopatin.

MICHAEL CONFINO

Tel Aviv University  
Israel

### "Bourgeois Ideology"

IT MUST be obvious to all your readers that Mr Klaus Mehnert is being coy to the point of irresponsibility [ENCOUNTER, "Letters", May, p. 90]. Blue-jeans, indeed! It is of very small point to be able to see what young people may be wearing on the streets of Moscow and Leningrad, and not to have the faintest idea of what has been going on in the hearts and minds of the Russian people. No land of cultural aspiration and libertarian yearning—and this has been true since Pushkin—can reconcile itself to the disgraceful blinkers, gags, and ear-plugs with which the Bolshevik censors have tried to keep Russia deaf, dumb, and blind.

The cries for liberty from the Pasternaks and the Solzhenitsyns are, as I tried to point out in my original letter (March, p. 92), nothing more and nothing less than the classic demands for cultural freedom which were put forward (and realised!) in the early modern era of the English, French, and American revolutions. Call it "middle-class democracy", if you will; or think of it, if you must, as "bourgeois ideology." The essential point of it—may I repeat it?—was formulated by John Milton in 1644 in his *Areopagitica: for the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing*. What is the whole movement of *Samizdat* in contemporary Russia all about if not this? Or, in Milton's words in his translation from Euripides—and that's how reactionary Mr Mehnert's fearless, self-confident Bolsheviks are: turning the clock back thousands of years to pre-Euripidean times!...

*This is true liberty when freeborn men  
Having to advise the public may speak free,  
Which he who can, and will, deserves high praise,  
Who neither can nor will, may hold his peace;  
What can be juster in a state than this?*

(Poems of John Milton, ed. Bateson, p. 288)

J. L. B. PHILLIPS

Oxford

### You're Welcome, in Excelsis

DEAR BOOK REVIEW EDITOR: I am a one-priest team and would deeply appreciate any kind of apostolic push you could give to my humorous-spiritual wares. Enclosed are a couple of my Jesuit Books.

*Big Thanks in Domino,*  
FR. WM. ARMSTRONG, S.J.

Jesuit Books  
Seattle University

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**John Wain** is Oxford Professor of Poetry. His recent critical work, *Samuel Johnson*, is published by Macmillan....

**James Chace** is Managing Editor of the American quarterly, *Foreign Affairs*, and for a number of years helped Anthony Hartley to edit the magazine *Interplay*. He is a Lecturer in Political Science at Yale University, and author of *A World Elsewhere: The New American Foreign Policy* (Scribner's, 1973)....

ADMIRERS of **Goronwy Rees's** "Column", which appears regularly in ENCOUNTER under his pseudonym, R, will be delighted to learn that a collection of these articles, called *Brief Encounters*, has just been published (Chatto & Windus, £3.25)....

**Golo Mann** is the author of numerous books, including *The History of Germany Since 1789* (Chatto & Windus, 1968). Among his articles in ENCOUNTER are "Napoleon" (December 1969), "The History Lesson" (August 1972), and a personal memoir of W. H. Auden (January 1974)....

**Clive James** is TV critic for *The Observer*. A collection of his literary criticism, *The Metropolitan Critic*, has just been published by Faber....

**P. N. Furbank** is the author of *Reflections on the Word "Image"* (Secker & Warburg, 1970), and is writing the official biography of E. M. Forster. His article on "Mendacity in Mrs Gaskell" appeared in the June 1973 ENCOUNTER....

**Richard Lowenthal** is Professor of International Relations at the Free University in West Berlin. His numerous articles in ENCOUNTER include "What Prospects for Socialism?" (February 1973), "A World Adrift" (February 1972), and "Unreason and Revolution" (November 1969)....

**Desmond Stewart**, who contributed an article on "Egypt's Embattled Writers" to the August 1973 issue of ENCOUNTER, is the author, among other books, of *The Middle East: Temple of Janus* (1972). His biography, *Theodor Herzl*, has just appeared in the U.S. (Doubleday), and will be published by Hamish Hamilton later this year....

THE contributions in this issue by **Sir Duncan Wilson** and Professor **Alexander Dallin** are based on remarks made at the Salzburg Seminar on East-West Relations, organised by Mr Abraham Brumberg, at which Professor Karel van het Reve's paper, "Unofficial Russia" (ENCOUNTER, February) was originally delivered.

Gravesend

**WAILING WALL:** Children at a secondary school in the Gravesend area of Kent have the blessing of their headmaster to scrawl four-letter words, slogans and obscenities on one of the walls of their building. The wall has been "specially set aside" by the head for graffiti.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

London

**SUCH LANGUAGE:** *The three wild nights with a smiling stranger in a Manchester hotel room recounted with such zest by the Duchess of Bedford would seem to have improved in the telling since she last revealed the story in print 12 years ago. The story is of the occasion in 1946 when a man she did not know pushed his way into her hotel room and kept her there.*

In 1962, the Duchess wrote in the "Sunday Pictorial" under her own name: "My ordeal lasted for 36 hours. My captor never spoke. When I came out of a nightmare-ridden sleep he was gone."

However, in her book "Nicole Nobody", published by W. H. Allen yesterday, not only was she in the room for twice as long (three days), but the "nightmare-ridden sleep" had become something much more exciting.

"He was a superb lover. I was introduced to a kind of sensuous animal loving that I did not know existed. I am not ashamed. It was an awakening that every woman should experience" is the 1974 version.

"Later when I told them the story, my friends refused to believe it," said the Duchess in the "Pictorial" story by Bernard McElwaine.

"The book's account was very interesting as her memory has changed considerably over the years. She was very coy then about how this man kept her captive. I asked her about toilet facilities, did she yell for help, was the tap water fit for drinking, did she check the hotel register afterwards? She never answered me satisfactorily," said McElwaine today.

One last interesting difference: in 1962, the man's smile was described by the Duchess as "terrible, intense and icy."

In the book, it has mellowed to "a gentle-giant smile."

EVENING STANDARD

Dallas

**TEAT FOR TAT:** Re our sign at the recent Nefta-Gaz Exposition in Moscow [writes the Technical Translator of the Otis Engineering Corp of Dallas]. The Russian for "completion" does indeed mean "orgasm" in street language. But we are nevertheless stuck with the term, as any copy of the Soviet-published "English-Russian Oil Trade Dictionary" will readily attest. In trade jargon like ours, which is fraught with such unpedigreed English phrases as "mating parts," "male and female threads," "bastard connections" and "no-go nipples," per-

haps your comment on our display (which received a merit award from the Soviets) was only teat for tat.

TIME MAGAZINE

London

**LADY AND GENT:** *A suggestion that a new street in Eastwood, England, near the birthplace of D. H. Lawrence, should be named Chatterley Mews after the woman in Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover," has some folks up in arms. Eastwood's housing committee chairman Margaret Coe said: "I am not standing for a name like that. Why must the people of Eastwood always be classed with this type of filthy literature? Lawrence was a great author, but as far as 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' is concerned, he was a dirty old man and a peeping tom." As a name, Miss Coe would prefer Lawrence Court.*

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Phoenix

**WILD WESTERN:** Five people have been jailed at Phoenix, Arizona in the past six months, and 133 arrested, for failing to return overdue library books or pay the fines incurred.

EVENING STANDARD

London

**MOVING THE ACCENT:** *On changes in pronunciation, the tendency in contemporary speech is to move the accent as near as possible to the first syllable of a word. Most of us now habitually pronounce the word "adult" with the stress on the first syllable: we didn't 50 years ago.*

The tendency, if it exists there, is less obvious in America. There "advertisement" is normally pronounced with the accent on the third syllable. In Britain, this is considered vulgar, meaning by that that it is a pronunciation used by the relatively uneducated. But sometimes the British tendency is overridden by American example. Take the words "harass/harassment." We put the stress on the first syllable, Americans on the second. I notice that BBC reporters increasingly use the American pronunciation.

Again, in some instances the British tendency is reinforced by American usage. Outside the ancient universities, it seems to me that every scholar in this country under the age of 60 puts the stress in "research" on the first syllable.

This is the accepted American pronunciation, and in the United States they go in for research. But it is also in line with the British tendency. I shall go on pronouncing [writes Walter Allen] "research" in the old-fashioned English way till my dying day: not, I hope, out of snobbery or anti-Americanism, but because I obscurely feel that the new pronunciation of the word to some degree distorts the meaning.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

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