

**DEAN ACHESON: The State Department Years**

By David S. McLellan  
Dodd, Mead, 1976  
480 pp. \$17.50  
L of C 76-8482  
ISBN 0-396-07313-1

In this study by political scientist David McLellan, Dean Acheson emerges as an arrogant rationalist, whose close associations with Justices Brandeis, Holmes, and Frankfurter reinforced his natural resistance to suffering fools—and enthusiasts—lightly. His character assured that as Under Secretary (1945–47) and Secretary of State (1949–53) he would be at the center of controversies. Among Acheson's achievements, McLellan emphasizes the development of a strategic foundation for U.S. policy toward Russia and his NATO diplomacy. Among Acheson's failures: his inability during the Korean War to separate vital from peripheral strategic interests. The author achieves admirable analytic balance despite the fact that key documents for 1950–53 remain classified and unavailable.

—*Samuel F. Wells, Jr.*

**RUSSIAN LITERATURE TRIQUARTERLY**

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One would think that every major work of Russian literature had long since been made accessible in translation to American readers. Not so. But in 1971 two enterprising scholars, working from their living room, did something about it. The Proffers produce three bound volumes a year of translations of Russian prose and poetry. Their startling "finds" so far include stories by Nobel Prize-winner Ivan Bunin and poems by the gifted young emigré Joseph Brodsky. The current volume is a compilation of writings by Russian "futurists." Coming up: a collection of two centuries of satire, and works by the long-suppressed "fantastic realist" Mikhail Bulgakov.

—*S. Frederick Starr*

**JAPAN AND CHINA: From War to Peace, 1894–1972**

By Marius B. Jansen  
Rand McNally, 1975  
547 pp. \$13.95  
L of C 74-19516  
ISBN 0-528-66600-2

This product of 20 years' research and reflection by a leading U.S. scholar owes its existence to his belief, shared by many, that East Asia will remain "the sharpest test for American understanding and wisdom in the last quarter of this century." His comprehensive and incisive description of the intricate political and cultural interplay between China and Japan as they responded to the impact of the Western world covers the dramatic