

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

Edited by Carl R. and Ellendea Proffer
Ardis (2901 Heatherway,
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104)
\$6 vol., \$15.95 yearly
ISSN 0-88233-881

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

period from the Sino-Japanese War of 1894 to Premier Tanaka's visit to Chou En-lai in 1972. Both the Japanese and the Chinese still have a long way to go to attain as integrated a view of their own recent histories as Jansen achieves.

—Toru Haga

A NATION OF BEHAVERS

By Martin E. Marty
Univ. of Chicago, 1976
239 pp. \$8.95
L of C 76-7997
ISBN 0-226-50891-9

Old ways of defining ourselves religiously are breaking down. Even the Catholic-Protestant-Jew distinctions, still central to most U.S. thinking as late as the 1950s, have lost importance. With a sensitive ear for current language, Marty, a professor of religious history at Chicago, suggests that Americans are using a new sixfold typology: Mainline Religion; Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism; Pentecostal-Charismatic Religion; New Religions (including those of Asian origin); Ethnic Religion (including African); and Civil Religion. These designations, which reflect differences in religious social behavior rather than avowed beliefs, tell us little we do not already know. But Marty's overall picture of the American religious scene will affect evaluations and policies as ecumenical institutions, representing chiefly mainline religion, are supplemented by new approaches to cooperation among much more diverse groups.

—John B. Cobb, Jr.

**DIANYING: An Account of
Films and the Audience
in China**

By Jay Leyda
MIT, 1972, 515 pp. \$6.95
L of C 78-175719
ISBN 0-262-12046-1

When Leyda's Chinese wife Si-lan in 1958 received an invitation to work as a choreographer in China, he accompanied her to Peking where they spent most of 1959-64 and he undertook the task of examining the Chinese film archive. From his work emerged two books: *Films Beget Films*, a classic on the use made of archive footage in various countries, and *Dianying*, which takes its title from the Chinese word for movies, literally "electric shadows." Some readers may be put off by the long synopses of popular Chinese films. But many social and political clues are embedded in this material, and future historians will no doubt thank Leyda.

—Erik Barnouw