
NEW TITLES

*History***THE LIVES OF ROGER CASEMENT**

by B. L. Reid
 Yale, 1976, 532 pp. \$25
 L of C 75-18184
 ISBN 0-300-01801-0

Roger Casement, a former British consul knighted for his service to the Crown, left England for Germany in 1914 to fight for Irish freedom. He was captured by the English and sentenced to death. In this well-researched psychological portrait, historian Reid asserts that Casement landed in Ireland in April 1916 in order to stop, not foment, the bloody Easter Rising, which he believed was doomed to failure. Confirming that Casement's captured diaries contained authentic accounts of his homosexuality, Reid condemns British Home Office officials and the prosecutor who circulated key pages to other highly placed Londoners, including the American ambassador. By seeing to it that Casement was widely condemned as a moral degenerate, the British Cabinet vengefully ensured that this man of deeply divided personal and political loyalties would be hanged.

FROM GEORGES SOREL: Essays in Socialism and Philosophy

edited by John L. Stanley
 Oxford, 1976, 388 pp. \$15
 L of C 75-16902
 ISBN 0-19-501715-3

Turn-of-the-century Europe appeared to its critics as a mosaic of static, mediocre societies, set in their dull and unjust ways. From the Cubists to such now classic writers on bureaucracy as Robert Michel, the intellectuals often reacted impressively. But they did not enrich the field of political and social philosophy. The renowned Georges Sorel (1847-1922), remembered for his *Reflexions on Violence*, produced contradictory writings that attest principally to tireless effort. This intelligent Frenchman could neither submit to his era's conventional wisdom nor transcend it with a coherent set of answers to its problems. He remains important, however, for the start he made on the critical examination of the moral content of social movements and Marxist thought. This anthology provides the first English translations of many of his essays and reviews. A sample Sorelism: "If the reductionist [Marxist] for-

mulas of history conceal the true nature of phenomena from the eyes of an inattentive observer and hide fundamental change beneath an apparent social physics, reality nonetheless comes to light from time to time, manifested in an obvious way. Revolutions, accumulations of conclusive actions, and great men escape all determinism."

**THE RUSSIAN ROCKE-
FELLERS: The Saga of
the Nobel Family and the
Russian Oil Industry**
by Robert W. Tolf
Hoover, 1976, 269 pp. \$14.95
L of C 76-284
ISBN 0-8179-6581-5

Oil, not dynamite nor peace prizes, made the Nobel name famous in Russia. Immanuel Nobel emigrated to St. Petersburg from Sweden before the Crimean War and made armaments for the Tsar; his sons Robert and Ludwig (brothers to Alfred, the prize donor, who lived mostly in Paris) dominated the Baku oil industry at the end of the century and competed successfully with Standard Oil and the Rothschilds for a share of the world market. In 1916 two-thirds of the oil consumed by Russians was produced by the Nobels. This scholarly monograph by a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer provides the first serious account of the Nobel family and the oil industry in Imperial Russia, a history suppressed in the Soviet Union. The sources are Swedish, Russian, Norwegian, German; the readable style smoothes a historical journey into the world before OPEC.

**PATIENCE WRIGHT:
American Artist and Spy in
George III's London**
by Charles Coleman Sellers
Wesleyan, 1976, 281 pp. \$14.95
L of C 76-7193
ISBN 0-8195-5001-9

Working with a handful of his subject's letters and much logical inference, Sellers, librarian emeritus of Dickinson College, has written the surprising life and times of a little-known Revolutionary patriot-spy. Patience Lovell Wright, born in 1725 on Long Island in a vegetarian, Quaker household, grew up to be a renowned wax-sculpture portraitist and a woman of "aggressive intelligence and wild marauding energy." The widowed Mrs. Wright lived in England from 1772 until her death at 61 in 1786. Dreaming of a peacefully united America and Great Britain under a republican government, she entertained the politically powerful of George III's London and sent secret reports of their plans, hidden in hollowed-out wax busts, to the Continental Congress. Shortly before her