

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