

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 ROCKEFELLERS: 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

death, her sister wrote an unsigned letter to Benjamin Franklin, suggesting that a tract of land be awarded Mrs. Wright for her services ("Mr. Pain has been Considerd why not Mrs. Wright"). Patience Wright never got her land, but she is remembered in Britain's *Dictionary of National Biography* as well as the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

GUERRILLA: A Historical and Critical Study

by Walter Laqueur
Little, Brown, 1976
462 pp. \$17.50
L of C 76-22552
ISBN 0-316-51469-1

In this exhaustive but carelessly edited analysis, historian Laqueur proves beyond question that guerrilla movements defy easy generalization. There is no all-encompassing formula that helps explain why some guerrilla wars succeed and other fail. Most do fail. In the 19th century, no guerrilla movement managed to win without the support of a regular army, foreign or domestic. (The same was true in Vietnam, where Hanoi's regular battalions were essential to Communist victory.) And despite the political achievements of some 20th-century efforts (in Cuba, Algeria, Portuguese Africa), the conditions conducive to continued success of guerrillas have faded with decolonization and the absence of the turmoil and distractions of general war. Guerrillaism, says Laqueur, is on the decline: "The retreat into urban terror, noisy but politically ineffective, is not a new departure but . . . the end of an era."

SUN YAT-SEN: Frustrated Patriot

by C. Martin Wilbur
Columbia, 1976, 413 pp.
\$16.50
L of C 76-18200
ISBN 0-231-04036-9

Born in a Macao fishing village, educated by Christian missionaries, revered today by hundreds of millions of Chinese as *Kuo Fu* ("Father of the Country"), Sun Yat-Sen (1866-1926) did not live to see Mao's revolution. Sun dreamed of ridding his homeland of Manchu corruption. Captured in an early, abortive uprising against the monarchy (Canton, 1896), he was condemned to death. He escaped and spent the next 16 years abroad, working furiously as publicist-evangelist for a democratic China among foreign officials, newsmen, financiers, and his overseas compatriots. Late in 1911, he sailed from the United States for Shanghai as the first, provisional President of the Republic. Amid fac-