

BOOKS and REVIEWS

Inside Russia Today

By John Gunther. 505 pp. New York. Harper Bros. \$5.95.

Reviewed by BYRON FARWELL

Russia is too big and complex to be covered in one book—but John Gunther has done it. "Inside Russia Today" is a tour-de-force reporter's dispatch, a history, a series of personal profiles, and an analysis of international diplomacy. Gunther's subjects range from suicide to Sputniks, from propaganda to prostitution, from airports to attitudes, from Marx to medicine. "No writer wants his pages to look like a gazetteer," Gunther says, and he has had a formidable task in avoiding just this, for his book is jammed tight with facts and statistics. He has succeeded, however, in sorting and putting in order his vast accumulation of notes. His thousands of facts and figures are made very readable indeed by his reporter's style and his spicing of anecdotes, personal observations and impressions.

GUNTER has many good things to say about his subjects: "The Russians are a terrific, a tremendous, a magnificent people. In some respects they closely resemble Americans—in good humor, robustness, curiosity, gregariousness, capacity for analysis, capacity for organization, inventiveness, aptitude for technical skills, and so on."

But he makes a careful distinction between the people and Rus-

sian government. There is little that is new in Gunther's description of communism. He does, however, include a number of interesting sketches of Soviet leaders and an appendix on personalities which he calls "an informal 'Who's Who.' There are more quotations in this book than in any of the other 'Insides.'"

MOST INTERESTING, however, are the hundreds of odd little facts and observations Gunther has woven into his account. The USSR is bigger than all Latin America. Russians consume twenty-seven million bottles of champagne a year. Tea is served to women in cups and to men in glasses. A beautiful girl was seen with false teeth of stainless steel. He never saw a girl with sunglasses or anyone with a cigarette lighter. Russia has 225,000 miles of rivers. Russians have never seen a comic strip or read a gossip column. No Soviet mother has ever seen a diaper. To obtain a driver's license one must prove that he is able to disassemble and assemble an engine. Russian women are being officially encouraged to make themselves pretty.

IN SPITE of some unusual findings—Russians are puritans; they have little interest in Marxist theory—none of the major conclusions are either startling or profound. Gunther is a reporter, not a political analyst, and he is a reporter he is first-rate. He has seen clearly and records accurately and vividly. To collect his information, John Gunther and his wife traveled twelve thousand miles over the Soviet Union. The result is a 574 page book (with five maps and no pictures) that is Gunther's finest work to date.

The Winthrop Woman

By Aysa Seaton. 587 pp. Boston. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$4.95.

Reviewed by FRED MALLENDER

"My ungenerous niece" was how John Winthrop, puritan governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, characterized Elizabeth Ponce Winthrop, the Winthrop woman. That she was, but she makes a marvelous central character for Miss Seaton's new novel. Elizabeth as a child of seven had already established a reputation as a rebellious individualist. Throughout her life she never deviated from her belief in the dig-

nity of the individual; and for this belief, she suffered both from the persecution of men and the torment of the soul.

THERE WAS no place where Elizabeth could find freedom and peace. She was continually running afoul of those in authority in England, Boston and New Amsterdam. She had the bad habit of saying what she believed publicly and of supporting those individuals or groups who were in disfavor.

Because of this "The Winthrop Woman" literally covers a large area. There are vivid descriptions of puritan New England, the English countryside, New Amsterdam, and places in between. The characters, partly historical, partly fictional, are very well drawn and continually interesting. This is particularly true of Governor Winthrop and Elizabeth. However, no character is too insignificant for Miss Seaton to bestow on him a distinct personality.

THIS is shown in the development of Elizabeth's three husbands. All of them are introduced into the narrative before they are to assume an important part. So skilfully is this done that their new importance flows smoothly into the novel rather than resulting in an abrupt digression to sketch their background.

Nolte Honored At Lake Forest

Winthrop H. Nolte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford S. Nolte of 4313 Meadow lane, Birmingham, was recently recognized by Lake Forest college in Illinois at their traditional honors convocation.

Nolte received the Warren A. Peterson memorial award, given to the senior majoring in business administration who has a good academic record and has made a marked contribution through extracurricular activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Howard W. Sawyer, Atty. 17191 Swift, Detroit 7-7134
STATE OF MICHIGAN - The Probate Court for the County of Oakland in the Matter of the Estate of Julius T. Fitzgerald, Deceased.
At a session of said court, held at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1958.
Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.
Order appointing time for hearing claims.
Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 15th day of August, 1958, at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, Michigan.
All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims at said hearing and prior to said hearing to file written claims therewith with this Court and with the Secretary of this estate, under oath containing sufficient detail to inform the Secretary of the nature and amount of the claim.

It is further given that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this matter by delivering a copy of this order to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this matter.
And it is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eclectic, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.
ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Decker in Norfolk

William E. Decker, former, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Decker of Arthur street, Birmingham, recently arrived at Norfolk, Va., aboard the attack cargo ship USS Arneb, after a six month, 33,000 mile trip around the world on a science mission.

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