
AUTHORS

Max Hayward (who has translated both Abram Tertz' *The Trial Begins* in our January issue and *New Year's Fable* in this current number) writes: "This is the first work of **Vladimir Dudintsev** to be published since *Not by Bread Alone*. It can be read in various ways. It has, for instance, been elaborately deciphered as an allegory in which the reformed bandit chief is a chastened Party Leader trying to remedy the evils of the past. It could also be taken more simply as a homily, in a science-fiction setting, on the hallowed theme of '*labor vincit omnia*.' . . . But whatever significance, allegorical or otherwise, may be attached to it, perhaps the most interesting thing about it is the fact of its publication. In 1956 Dudintsev was very severely mauled for, in effect, creating a new type of hero in Soviet literature: namely, the lone rebel who is prepared to fight for the truth as he sees it, not as the authorities will it. In thus raising the individual above the cowardly and conservative 'collective,' Dudintsev was upsetting the Socialist Realist axiom that the way to success and glory lies through service to a higher truth mysteriously in-

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vested in the Party and the 'masses.' . . . Four years ago the high priests of the doctrine, pretending to speak in the name of outraged public opinion, were able to hound Dudintsev and others like him into silence. Now Dudintsev has produced this tale whose promethean hero is a worthy successor to Lopatkin of *Not By Bread Alone*. It has been calmly published in the leading literary monthly *Novy Mir* and there has been no outcry from any quarter. The only criticism published so far accepts it as a seasonable moral tale, adding only a mild reproof on account of its 'obscurity.' . . . Its publication serves as a further indication of the great change for the better in the position of Soviet writers since they held their Third Congress in May last year. In his address Khrushchev gave a promise that they would be allowed to run their own affairs with greater freedom, particularly in matters of editorial policy. Judging by the re-admission to print of an unrepentant Dudintsev, the promise is evidently being kept. . . ."

R. H. S. Crossman is completing a book on Israel, a sequel to his *Palestine Mission* of fifteen years ago. The new work will be published by Hamish Hamilton, London and Atheneum, New York. A second article on "Bevin and Ben-Gurion" will be appearing in *ENCOUNTER* next month.

Morroe Berger has visited Egypt regularly since his American military service in the Middle East during the war years. He has published a book on the Egyptian Civil Service, and is at present Professor of Sociology at Princeton University.

If any reader has a copy of the January 1960 issue which he no longer requires, we should be happy to buy it back for 3s. (or replace it with a copy of any other available issue). Please send copies, which should be in reasonably good condition, to the Business Manager, *ENCOUNTER*, 25 Haymarket, London S.W.1.

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