

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES IN THE USSR: MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. By *Patricia Kennedy Grimsted*. Studies of the Russian Institute, Columbia University. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1972. xxx, 436 pp. \$22.50.

The first volume of Professor Grimsted's long-anticipated guide to Soviet archives and manuscript repositories meets all expectations. The book represents the fruit of scholarly research in some of the institutions, personal examination of the facilities in many others, interviews with the archivists and librarians, and collation of the experiences of a great many scholars who have engaged in research in the Soviet Union. Although intended primarily for the foreign scholar working at home on Russian materials or planning archival research in the Soviet Union, the guide will undoubtedly prove of use to the Soviet scholar as well, since no other modern and comprehensive survey of its type is available.

The book begins with an historical survey of the organization of archives in Russia and the Soviet Union, a brief procedural guide regarding access to materials and work with them, and an annotated general bibliography of publications related to Soviet archives. The bulk of the book is devoted to an examination of individual repositories, grouped according to their administrative affiliation. Professor Grimsted provides in each case a short historical sketch, indicating the repository's predecessor organizations and the most important collections housed in it. Where possible she also indicates the working conditions. Finally, for each repository she lists and annotates the most important published guides and descriptions of holdings.

For the uninitiated, what Professor Grimsted has to say about access and availability of materials, problems of obtaining microfilms, and the like, makes the book indispensable, although it should be stressed that changes in policy can very quickly make previous guidelines inoperative, to use a current phrase. Since the book went to press, there does seem to have been an improvement in the availability of some inventories in some archives, but in that same period the regulations for obtaining microfilms of manuscript material in Academy of Sciences repositories have been tightened: this reviewer discovered in 1971-72 that BAN and LOII require permission from Moscow to make such microfilms and no longer can rely simply on the decision of their directorates, as Professor Grimsted indicates (pp. 210, 214).

There is very little fault to be found with Professor Grimsted's meticulous and extremely thorough work. Some information about organizational changes or the history of individual collections is unnecessarily repetitive (for example, the reorganization in the 1930s of what became TsGADA; the fate of the Załuski library, which was in GPB). There appear to be no major omissions in the bibliographies, although one can report happily that since the guide went to press some additional archival reference works have appeared. About the most significant correction in annotation that might be made is that *Arkheograficheskii eshegodnik* ceased to publish its bibliographies (referred to on pp. 57, 107, 109) following the issue for 1967.

Such criticisms are indeed minor; one looks forward to the appearance of the second part of Professor Grimsted's guide—which will cover regional archives and manuscript collections.

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