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The Space around Us

H. Glazer

A. Edward Tyler

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he has used so often in his professional engineering papers. The reader will not find the flowery, emotional, enthralling imaginings of a novel, but rather a personal history that is made even more fascinating by its dispassionate, dramatic, step-by-step recounting of facts and events. A serious student of prerevolutionary Russia and the counterrevolutionary period during which the Soviets solidified their control, will find not only corroborative evidence of major occurrences, but also firsthand accounts of happenings that have been clouded by disagreement in the literature about this epoch. With the approach of an engineer and a teacher, the author provides both sides of each problem with honesty and clarity, admitting his own mistakes and poor judgment during those hectic years. Professor Tschebotarioff was born into a military family, and was a Cossack (translatable as armed frontiersman) of the Don River area. Trained as an army artillery officer, he saw service on the western front against the Germans/Austrians in World War I, and finally fought on the side of the White Russians in the Don region. The value of this study to the history of this era stems from the Professor's position as interpreter and aide-de-camp to the Ataman of the Don Cossack Army and to other senior officers, and from the 'inside' information to which he thereby became privy. This book is highly recommended to the student of Russia who is attempting to understand the background and motivation of its peoples.

L.E. STIFFLER
Commander, U.S. Navy

Tyler, A. Edward. *The Space around Us*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964. 239 p.

As suggested by the title, so evocative of the title of the late Rachel Carson's widely read book, an analogy is drawn between the sea and the sky in Mr. Tyler's *The Space around Us*. 'The space around us is like a sea,' the author states in his opening sentence, and then presses his aqueous analogy by describing the ocean of electromagnetic particles in outer space and the effect of the solar *wind* on this ocean. His observations on the Van Allen belts, the 'travelers in Space'—sun, planets, meteors, and comets—and the space race, include such orbital data as a consideration of the high altitude megaton blast of 9 July 1962 and a useful log of space projects. The sea-space relation is continued in a very interesting chapter on navigation in space, or 'astrogation,' offering a salty comparison to the sailor's problems in the middle of the Pacific. Mr. Tyler devotes

attention also to the specialized fields of communicating with and tracking satellites, the role of modern electronic computers in space age calculations, chemical propulsion systems, and new developments in engines. In his chapter on life in space, or exobiology, there is an entertaining account of an annual convention of UFO fans and their reports on their space 'experiences.' Almost equally amazing are the scientific advances in tools for 'seeing' in space, and the prospects of the laser for use in communications and lunar exploration. After a discussion of the men who have been important in modern space research, including von Karman, Van Allen, the American astronauts, and von Braun, the book ends with some speculation about where we are going in this dynamic new environment.

H. GLAZER
Chair of Physical Sciences