

Others who perpetuate this error include W. K. Matthews (*Russian historical grammar*, London, 1960, p. 79), S. P. Bevzenko (*Istorična morfologija ukrajins'koji movy*, Užhorod, 1960, p. 209) and the editors of the new Bulgarian etymological dictionary, so that Bułachaŭ finds himself in good company.

Comment on adjectives derived from the Common Slavonic word for 'stone' seems to miss the point: *kaměnъ and *kamenъnъ differ in form not because they are based on nominative and oblique stem (*kamy, *kamen-) respectively, but because they employ two different suffixes (-n- and -ъn-). Bułachaŭ follows the

traditional line in his morphological analysis of the adjectives of dimension: *vysokij* and *nizkij* contain the suffixes -ok- and -ъk- respectively. Another analysis seems possible. This would interpret the vowels o and ъ as belonging to the stem, leaving -k- as the suffix in each case.

The above remarks are not intended to detract from the general merit of Bułachaŭ's book, whose data will no doubt in due course be subsumed into a historical dictionary of the Byelorussian language. One's only regret is that such a dictionary is not yet available.

H. Leeming

Jolliffe, J., ed. *Auberon Herbert, a composite portrait*, Compton Russell, 1976, 79 pages, illustrations.

It is a measure of the stature and many-sidedness of Auberon Herbert's unforgettable personality that fourteen different pens were required to do his portrait justice. Among the contributors to this composite portrayal of a well-known alborussophile are a handful of well-known English writers and public figures, two friends from Italy, a Byelorussian bishop, a Polish journalist, an Exmoor farmer, an M.F.H. and a president of the British Academy. Three of these were members of the Anglo-Byelorussian Society, of which the Chairman, Hon. John Jolliffe, is the editor of this pleasant literary tribute to a dedicated champion of the oppressed.

Notwithstanding his predilection for 'convivial hospitality', as Bishop Sipovič moderately observes, Auberon Herbert was a shrewd diplomat and advocate, as well as a reliable and warm-hearted friend, of those whose cause he espoused. His achievements as past Chairman of the Anglo-Byelorussian Society, and his involvement with the Byelorussian Catholic mission are described in a valuable paper by Bishop Sipovič. Other contributors bear witness to his solicitude for Byelorussian affairs, even though initially, as one of them remarks, they may not always have grasped the precise whereabouts of Byelorussia. In letters to the press, at official functions and cocktail parties, even in

Exmoor country kitchens, Auberon was ever prepared to expound to the general public, or to intimate friends the rights of Byelorussia and the integrity of her heritage. That he was not entirely unsuccessful in his efforts is recorded by those who knew him, and felt moved to add their own tribute to this graceful literary garland. Byelorussians in Britain will long remember those 'glorious champagne parties'; his beaming presidency at involved, and not always exciting lectures on abstruse points of linguistics; his kindly shepherding of Byelorussian schoolboys to meets of the Exmoor staghounds; and his witty, well-informed speeches at the opening of some Byelorussian library or club.

The material in the composite portrait is thoughtfully presented, and the successive papers form a coherent and eminently readable whole. Anecdotes and humorous incidents of a type which Auberon would have relished abound, together with affectionate recollections of his numerous picaresque adventures and convivialities. He emerges as a great-hearted, idealistic and courtly figure, bent on knight-errantry in a 'world that was no longer made to his measure'. These features of his portrait contribute to making the collection an eminently entertaining biographical study of a great and good man.

Guy Picarda