ABOUT THE COVER

If the Russian novel came out of Gogol’s “Overcoat,” then Russian “political pornography” sprang from beneath the petticoat of Catherine the Great. That, at least, is the impression left by one of the most famous examples of the genre: Thomas Rowlandson’s “An Imperial Stride” (1791). However, the unique series of erotic watercolors analyzed by Ernest Zitser, and reproduced in this issue of Russian Review, demonstrates that the sources of a specifically Russian tradition of graphic political satire are actually much more diverse than would appear at first glance. (Image courtesy of the Department of Prints & Drawings, The British Museum, BM Satires 7843.)

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THE RUSSIAN REVIEW (ISSN 0036-0341 [print], ISSN 1467-9434 [online]) is published quarterly on behalf of the University of Kansas by Wiley Subscription Services, Inc., a Wiley Company, 111 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774. Periodical Postage Paid at Hoboken, NJ and additional offices. Postmaster: Send all address changes to THE RUSSIAN REVIEW, Journal Customer Services, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148-5020.

INFORMATION FOR SUBSCRIBERS The Russian Review is published in four issues per year. Subscription prices for 2011 are: Institutions: Print only–US$242.00 (The Americas), £190.00/$170.00 (Rest of World); Online only–US$242.00 (The Americas), £190.00/$370.00 (ROW); Print and online*–US$279.00 (The Americas), £219.00/$426.00 (ROW). Personal: Print and online*–US$48.00 (The Americas), £41.00/$41.00 (ROW); Online only–US$46.00 (The Americas), £39.00/$58.00 (ROW). AAASS Members: US$40.00 (The Americas), £31.00/$31.00 (ROW). Students: Print and online–US$35.00 (The Americas), £30.00/$30.00 (ROW). Student subscribers must send proof of status along with their payment. *Prices are exclusive of tax. Australian GST, Canadian GST and European VAT will be applied at the appropriate rates. For more information on current tax rates, please go to www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/tax-vat. The institutional price includes online access to the current and all online back files to January 1st 2007, where available. For other pricing options, including access information and terms and conditions, please visit www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/access.

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PUBLISHER The Russian Review is published by Wiley Periodicals, Inc., 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148-5020. Wiley Periodicals, Inc., is now part of John Wiley & Sons.

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