



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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