## **PREFACE**

ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES in the study of Russian internal and foreign policy in the nineteenth century is the insufficiency of material on the lives and thought of the principal statesmen and administrators. This deficiency is particularly apparent for the careers of the three men chiefly responsible for the conduct of Russian foreign relations-K. V. Nesselrode, A. M. Gorchakov, and N. K. Giers. Although state papers presumably drafted by them, and a collection of Nesselrode's letters,1 exist, there is little other material available from which one can draw a clear picture of their personal characteristics and their views in general. The following memoirs, therefore, are in a sense unique in that they provide a close and intimate glimpse into the mode of life and development of one of Russia's leading ministers. The document has also the advantage that it was written only for the immediate family of Giers and was not planned for publication. The questions discussed are therefore those which the author intended for the information and interest of his children, and he is consistently open and frank in his expression of opinion and in his judgment of others.

The original manuscript of these memoirs is now in the possession of Serge Giers, a grandson of N. K. Giers, who lives in France. A microfilm copy is available in the General Library of the University of California, Berkeley. The work was not only left uncompleted, but there is no indication that Giers himself reread the draft in order to make corrections or additions. The style is therefore that of a man who writes for his own pleasure and in order to chronicle his activities for his relatives. His sentences are generally short and the structure is at times awkward. He tends to repeat some words, often within the same sentence, and he is especially attached to the frequent use of "very," "completely," "extremely," "all," "positively," and the phrase "as I have already mentioned." In order to provide a smoother translation the editors have joined or recast short sentences and have omitted words or short phrases

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where such deletions did not change the meaning of the sentence. An attempt has, nevertheless, been made to reproduce in English the general style of the author, who was a direct and simple, rather than a polished, writer.

In the editing and translating of the following pages difficulties arose in connection with the spelling of proper names in Russian and Rumanian. Although exceptions have been made, the following rules have been observed in the translation: Names of people and places have been rendered in the spelling of their national origin except where a standardized form is used in most English books. It is, for example, Giers, not Girs, and Jassy, not Iaşi. All proper names in Russian have been transliterated according to the Library of Congress system, which has also been used for those persons in Russian society or service where the name is obviously of foreign origin, for instance, Engel'gardt (Engelhardt), and Vitgenstein (Wittgenstein). An exception has been made for Egor Matveevich Cantacuzino (Kantakuzin) because he appears more often in the Rumanian sections where another system of spelling was used. Here Rumanian names which in the original are given in the French form and, of course, are written in the Cyrillic alphabet, have been changed into Rumanian. Place names throughout are given according to the political status of the territory at the time of the events recorded in the memoir. Thus Bessarabian cities are in Russian because the land was then in Russian possession. Complete consistency in these matters was, however, impossible, especially in connection with places situated in and around St. Petersburg. Here the editors have attempted to employ the forms which they believe are most familiar to the reader of Russian history and literature. Thus, for instance, it is Nevskii Prospect, not Neva Boulevard; Tsarskoe Selo, not Tsar's Village; Winter Palace, not Zimnyi Dvorets. When a place is relatively less known, the Russian spelling has been used, as in Kamennyi Island or Sinyi Bridge. This decision has of necessity been arbitrary.

The translation was done by the editors and by Mrs. Nuncia Lodge and Dr. Stephen Lukashevich. Mrs. Lodge prepared a draft of the translation and Dr. Lukashevich checked the entire manuscript. The editors wish to express their great appreciation to Professor Stephen Fisher-Galati of Wayne University and Dr. Emanuel PREFACE ix

Turcyzinski of the University of Munich, who read the sections on Rumania and offered valuable suggestions and criticisms. Mr. Frederick Kellogg aided greatly in the location of Rumanian cities and the identification of individuals. Mr. Stephen Soudakoff gave welcome advice in connection with problems which arose in association with the section on Russia. The map is the product of the expert drafting of Professor Norman J. G. Pounds of Indiana University and Mr. Robert C. Kingsbury. Mr. Max E. Knight of the Editorial Department, University of California Press, gave excellent editorial criticism. We wish also to express our thanks to the Center for Slavic and East European Studies of the University of California, Berkeley, for aid in the preparation of this book. A particular word of appreciation must again be given to Mr. Serge Giers, who in connection with this manuscript, as with our previous publications that used his private papers,2 offered every possible assistance and showed real appreciation for the needs of scholarship.

C. AND B. J.