

THE NEW CRITERION

Tin Sky by Ben Pastor (Bitter Lemon Press): It is 1943 and Major Martin Bora, a German counterintelligence officer, is sent to Ukraine to investigate the brutal murders of peasants. The Germans are reeling from their failure at Stalingrad. A top Russian general has decided to defect to the Germans, but is soon killed in a Gestapo cell. Bora soon suspects that there may be some dangerous connection between the peasant deaths and that of the Russian general. What he finds may expose a crime much larger than he ever expected. Ben Pastor's fourth mystery novel featuring Bora vividly recreates the horrors and devastation of the Eastern Front of World War II. —RH