

diminishing returns. It is probably hopeless to buck the current trend toward eliminating all requirements for foreign languages, and we can probably no longer ask that advanced graduate students have minimal competence in simple, elegant French. But we can perhaps ask that the translations serve the students as well as the original.

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BULLETIN OF THE  
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 82, Number 6, November 1976

*Potential theory on locally compact abelian groups*, by Christian Berg and Gunnar Forst, *Ergebnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete, Band 87*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1975, vi + 197 pp., \$25.40.

There are not many books on the general potential theory from a nonprobabilistic point of view, and nearly none is concerned with convolution kernels different from the newtonian kernel (Landkoff's book being partly an exception). Therefore this book fills a gap and will be welcome and useful.

The authors consider only a simple and important case, where everything runs smoothly: the potential kernel is a *positive* convolution operator on a locally compact *abelian* group, and is the "vague" integral of a *transient* semigroup of positive measures. There is no mention of important and recent papers on nonabelian groups and recurrent semigroups. On the other hand probabilistic interpretations in terms of Hunt's processes are not given.

A good deal of the treated material has been well known for many years, but appears for the first time in a text-book (of course such a book should have been written before). The three following topics deserve a particular mention:

(a) *The study of negative definite functions* (the terminology is due to Beurling,