

About the author of this book:

KATHARINE SCHERMAN is a born and bred New Yorker who has worked as a writer and editor for the *Saturday Review*, *Life* and the Book-of-the-Month Club. Her first book, *The Slave Who Freed Haiti*, which was one of the World Landmark Books, was instigated by several visits to Haiti. Her second, *Spring on an Arctic Island*, was her account of a six-weeks' sojourn at the northern end of human civilization in the Canadian Arctic. The inspiration for *Catherine the Great* came from a long-ago visit to Russia, in the days when the Russians still liked Americans.

Miss Scherman's other interests include chamber music playing and mountain climbing. She lives with her husband, Axel Rosin, and their two little girls in a house perched high above the Hudson River on the northern edge of New York City.

About the illustrator of this book:

PRANAS LAPÉ was born in Lithuania. During the Second World War he was captured first by the Germans, then by the Russians. Escaping at the end of the war, he spent four years working in a ceramic factory, teaching art and illustrating Swedish books. In 1949 he came to the United States, where he now devotes his time to fine arts and teaching.