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**Slavic and East European Section**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As I look back at this past year, it occurs to me that this has been a year of continuations and changes like many other years. I realize that our decision not to pursue a proposed merger with WESS at this time proved to me a correct one. The evolving nature of the cooperation between SEES and WESS was demonstrated through the joint sponsorship of the program entitled "*Current Trends in European Film.*" This program that took place last summer was a huge success as it was attended by a multitude of librarians and visiting scholars.

This year SEES is closely working with the IRC Eurasia and Central Asia Subcommittee on a joint program that is tentatively entitled, "*The Digital Humanities in Eurasia.*" The program will take place during the ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim. I believe that this program will be of interest not only to the scholars in the field of Eastern European and Eurasian Studies but also to those who are interested in the sphere of International Librarianship.

The newsletter continues in its digital format. Currently, the members of the SEES Access and Preservation committee are in the process of deciding the structure and design of the SEES website. Will this mean further changes for the newsletter? Probably not as we plan to continue our newsletter in electronic format. The switch in the Newsletter's format has been conducive to providing simultaneous access to multiple users. It also means that the members of SEES are very much interested in sustainability issues today.

The Automated Bibliographic Control committee continues to lead the way in the cataloging and metadata world by actively discussing the update on the proposal to revise Belarusian Romanization. The proposed corrections to the LC Romanization tables for Armenian and Bulgarian as possible projects will be discussed during the section meeting this year.

Our membership continues to evolve. While it is perfectly normal for some to leave SEES in light of the budgetary issues in today's libraries, we do have several new and enthusiastic members who have happily joined our committees to continue our work. We are happy to have these new members in our section, especially for their dynamic contributions. Thank you.

## MESSAGE

Finally, I want to thank everyone for all their hard work and dedication to accomplish more than it seems possible for a small group such as ours.

See you in Anaheim, CA.

Liladhar Ramchandra Pendse  
Chair, ACRL/SEES  
Princeton University

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## *I. Conferences*

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### **ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 23–28, 2011 ACRL SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN SECTION**

**Access and Preservation Committee Minutes**                      June 25, 2011

**Present:** Patricia Thurston (Yale), Brad Schaffner (Harvard), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Jackie Byrd (Indiana), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Carl Horne (Indiana), Jason Reuscher (Penn. State), Andy Spencer (Wisconsin-Madison), Robert C. Morgan (Library of Congress), Liladhar Pendse (Princeton), Sandy Graver, Heggine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Committee Membership:** Brad Schaffner, the Chair, and Sandra Levy will be members of the Access and Preservation Committee for another year. Jon Giullian, Liladhar Pendse, Jason Reuscher, and Cathy Zeljak are the committee members until the end of this meeting. There are some people who are interested in joining the Committee. Liladhar Pendse will be recruiting new members.

**Ad Hoc Program Planning:** There is an important issue to discuss which has not been included in the agenda. It came out during the morning meeting of the Eurasia and Central Asia Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee (IRC). The IRC is interested in organizing a program tentatively titled “Digital Humanities in Eurasia.” The Eurasia and Central Asia Subcommittee has invited SEES to be a co-sponsor of the program. It was suggested that some of the SEES annual budget allocation could be used to help cover some of the costs (parking and mileage) for the speakers. Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Committee, welcomes this program.

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### **Continuation of Discussion of the Future of the SEES Webpage:**

Cathy Zeljak (George Washington University) is the current SEES webmaster. Because the page is located at her institution, if she wanted to pass this duty on to someone else, the website would have to be moved off the George Washington server. In order to avoid the disappearance of the site when a webmaster leaves the committee, it was agreed that we should try to find a more permanent home for the ACRL SEES webpage. We would also like to have a platform where each committee chair will be able to update its pages.

Jon Giullian created 2 mockup webpages, one in Google and the other in Weebly. The Newsletter Committee published the first web version of the SEES Newsletter in Weebly.

Weebly is really simple to use through its drag and drop interface, but SEES would have to pay an annual fee to get full benefit of everything the Weebly has to offer. Google is a bit harder to use, but there is no charge for using Google sites. Google offers predesigned templates, or users can create their own templates. And, Google offers additional services at no charge, such as Google Documents which allows the users to privately share and edit documents.

Brad suggested that we also consider purchasing the domain name [www.acrlsees.org](http://www.acrlsees.org). This would cost about fifteen dollars per year and can be purchased for ten years. Adam Burling noted that we could probably use our annual SEES money to pay for this domain.

After some discussion it was agreed that we would recommend that we use Google for the website because it is free and offers more services. We also agree that we should recommend that we purchase a domain name. It was decided that in his report to the Executive Committee, Brad would recommend the following:

- That SEES consider removing its webpage to Google Sites. But this would only be done after discussion of this option with Cathy Zeljak, the current webmaster
- That SEES purchase the domain name [www.acrlsees.org](http://www.acrlsees.org) (or some other version) to use the URL for the website
- That a subgroup of the Access and Preservation Committee prepare a new SEES website that would be ready for review at the ALA Midwinter meeting in January 2012.

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**Inventory of Slavic Digital Projects:** Can this project get any traction? The committee continued its discussion of the possibility of working with ASEEES CLIR subcommittee on digital projects on the idea of creating a new, user friendly database of Slavic Digital projects. No decision was made, but several people are on the CLIR digital subcommittee and they will continue to explore the possibility of a joint project.

**Open Report on Digital and Preservation Projects:** The University of Princeton is developing a project for digitization of Tolstoy's papers from their special collections. Yale University hasn't heard any news about the progress of the Stalin digital files.

**Automated Bibliographic Control Committee Minutes** June 25, 2011

**Present:** Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Jackie Byrd (Indiana), Tatyana Chubaryan (Texas A&M), Carl Horne (Indiana), Diana Brooking (U. Washington), Masha Misco (Miami (Ohio)), Andy Spencer (U. Wisconsin-Madison), Robert C. Morgan (Library of Congress), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Heghine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Larisa Walsh will be the SEES ABC Committee Chair for another week.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes have already been approved since they are published in the SEES newsletter.

**Update on Resource Description and Access (RDA) -- Discussions on RDA Implementation, Experience with RDA Cataloging:** Three national libraries, the National Agricultural Library, the National Library of Medicine and the Library of Congress accepted RDA with certain conditions to be implemented on January 1, 2013. Basically, the results of the test show that RDA, created a few years ago, is welcomed by a large number of catalogers. This is an over 100-page-report describing in detail the background, findings, and recommendations for the implementation of RDA.

In the meantime, the RDA team will be working on such issues as making the existing language of the manual more comprehensible in plain English, introducing changes to some rules, and improving the

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toolkit's functionality. The report generally makes sense although some chapters are more comprehensive than the others.

RDA doesn't work well in MARC, so Library of Congress and other major stakeholders are looking into replacing the MARC by either eX-tensible catalog, or Open Source systems such as KUALI. Authority work in RDA will be done a little differently. Generally there is not much difference between RDA and AACR2 records according to the users involved in testing of the RDA records. Some users, for example, like the new presentation of the DVD physical description in MARC 3XX fields, others dislike it. The majority wants to see the video recording statement in subfield "h" of MARC field 245.

An informal RDA testing group for Slavic cataloging has not found any particular complications or impact of RDA while creating bibliographic records and describing various area studies materials. The exception is the uniform title area, which is not very clear in the RDA. The LCRI (Library of Congress Rule Interpretations) /AACR2 25.3A on providing a uniform title in modern orthography for works published in old orthography wasn't carried over. Inna Gudanets (Stanford University), Susan Summer (Columbia University) and Larisa Walsh (University of Chicago) commented in their survey about the uniform title and the necessity of reflecting LCRI/AACR2 rule 25.3A in RDA.

The University of Chicago, Brigham Young University, and Stanford University produced a large volume of data during the RDA test period. University of Chicago continues creating RDA records. Carl and Jackie from Indiana University are the only ones producing RDA records for 9 campuses. They are gaining expertise and getting ready to train their colleagues when RDA implementation begins. There are many strict rules in RDA but there is more room for a cataloger's judgment than in AACR2. A lot of training at Indiana University will be conducted for copy catalogers on how to choose an OCLC RDA record from the existing multiple records from different places.

Diana Brooking mentioned that it depends on how a cataloger looks at the record and sees which differences have impact and are new to functionality. The cataloger should see option A versus option B and figure out if there is a problem or it is just a difference in judgment.

It is also essential to consider the selection of the right cataloging record from the existing ones available in a union catalog, OCLC, and

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other union catalogs from the acquisitions and interlibrary loan specialists' point of view.

In this regard OCLC has started its duplicate reduction program while looking at variant records to decide which ones to merge with minimum negative effect.

The real hope is that with the linked data RDA will play out the relationship between various manifestations and expressions to be displayed through MARC, Dublin Core, and Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR), etc.

The decisions for the new cataloging code have been made, and now catalogers are waiting for details. The SEES ABC should make a note in the Slavic Cataloging Manual that we are waiting for all these details in order to be able to incorporate RDA into the manual.

**Update on the Slavic Cataloging Manual Pre-Revolutionary Orthography Task Force:** The ABC Task Force produced two documents on Russian orthography which are still in the working process.

**Update on the Proposal to Revise Belarusian Romanization Table:** A working group including Tatyana Chubaryan, Kirill Tolpygo, Inna Gudanets, Larisa Walsh, Lana Soglasnova, and Professor Curt Woolhiser (Harvard University) was organized to look at the Library of Congress Romanization Table for the Belarusian language. The task was to study and determine which letters are now obsolete and which letters should be included in the table. The study was done in collaboration with scholars and native speakers. The working group is proposing to include several notes with explanations on the differences between old and new Belarusian letters and their phonetic presentation. The question of transliteration according to the Library of Congress and the international transliteration standards has been raised by ABC Committee members. Slavic catalogers would like to start doing cataloging in the vernacular to avoid all complications due to various Romanization standards.

**Discussion on the Possible Proposal to Machine Readable Bibliographic Information (MARBI) on the Expansion of the Cyrillic Character Set for Non-Slavic Languages:** The SEES ABC contacted the MARBI Committee chair in order to learn the

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requirements for such a proposal. Masha Misco, the incoming chair, will be coordinating the work for the production of either a discussion paper or a proposal.

**News from the Slavic Funnel:** The Slavic Funnel, established seven months ago, has been a great success and already submitted seven subject headings, including “Legal drama, Russian,” “Moscow Basin (Russia)” and others. The Slavic Funnel proposals are submitted with special MARC code “PaPiASE” for the American Association of Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies headquartered at the University of Pittsburg. The Slavic Funnel description and forms for subject headings’ submission are available through the Subject Authority Cataloging of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC SACO) website.

**Membership News:** Masha Misco will be the new chair. Kirill Tolpygo (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), an active ABC Committee member, will start working as a Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Librarian and Curator of the Andre Savine Collection as of August 1, 2011. Larisa Walsh will continue her service as a member of the SEES ABC Committee. Larisa is very thankful to all ABC Committee members for their valuable contributions and for striving for continuous improvement of Slavic cataloging.

### **Executive Committee Minutes**

June 25, 2011

**Present:** Patricia Thurston (Yale), Barbara Krupa (Stanford) Liladhar Pendse (Princeton), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Larisa Walsh (U. Chicago), Masha Misco (Miami (Ohio)), Andy Spencer (U. Washington-Madison), Brad Schaffner (Harvard), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Elizabeth Psyck (Grand Valley State), Adam Burling (ACRL)

### **Welcome and Introduction of Officers**

The Executive Committee officers are:

- Sandra Levy (Chair 2010-2011)
- Liladhar Pendse (Vice-Chair in 2010-2011, incoming chair for 2011-2012)
- Patricia Thurston (incoming Vice-Chair for 2011-2012)
- Jon Giullian (Past Chairperson)
- Larisa Walsh (ABC Committee Chair)
- Masha Misco (incoming ABC Committee Chair)
- Brad Schaffner (Access and Preservation Committee Chair)

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- Kay Sinnema and Elizabeth Psyck (Newsletter Committee Chairs and Editors)
- Heghine Hakobyan (Secretary 2011-2013)
- Adam Burling (ACRL Staff Liaison)

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes are approved. There are many positive comments on the web version of the SEES Newsletter.

**Reports from SEES Committees:** A&P, ABC and Newsletter committees gave summaries of committee activities.

**Program Committee:** SEES co-sponsored with WESS the program on Current Trends in European Film about the difficulties and questions on acquiring these materials in the United States. The speakers, Milos Stehlik (Facets Multimedia), prepared wonderful clips and talked about European cinema available and shown in the United States and Carleton Jackson (University of Maryland) with moderator Michelle Emanuel (University of Mississippi) gave additional insights and background. They provided the audience with a bibliography/filmography and a list of vendors. These handouts will be available and accessible on both SEES and WESS webpages. The speakers talked about how to get European films into our libraries. 60-70 people attended this session.

The Executive Committee will keep regular communication with WESS for future collaborations. We are working on a program for 2012 through ALA's IRC committee. The program will be organized by Liladhar Pendse and Brad Schaffner. Patricia will maintain communication with WESS and other ACRL sections, which will help to avoid duplications in efforts. She will be looking for joint opportunities in 2013. We can always offer and bring East European and Eurasian components to appropriate programs, such as before and after the collapse and immigration between east and west.

**Nominations Committee:** We have two candidates for 2012, so we are in good shape. We appointed the committee chair.

**The Need for a SEES Only Communication line:** When Allan Urbanic retired, the administration of the Slavlibs listserv was taken over by Sandra Levy. Slavlibs does not allow vendor participation in the listserv. Sandra has recently got a request from someone who is a member of SEES but works for Project Muse. For this reason it is

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important for SEES to have its own listserv. In the past, Jackie set up two of them: one for SEES members with e-mail addresses, and the Executive list for discussion of minutes.

Adam Burling has mentioned that technically the section can subscribe individuals to the listserv when they become members. ACRL sends a letter to new members, which says how to subscribe. The letter also includes information on how to unsubscribe. According to ALA policy the listserv is supposed to be open and ALA will never unsubscribe any of its subscribers. SEES can try to update the SEES members' listserv by sending invitation letters. This way a member can participate in the section work virtually. We will ask Jackie Byrd if she would like to do this and become an administrator.

**ACRL Committee Reports:** The ACRL Business Committee meeting was attended by Jon Giullian, Patricia Thurston and Sandra Levy. Communities of Practice Assembly took SEES comments seriously and created a long document which is available electronically. They will organize a Task Force to work on the implementation. Three years ago they created interest groups and gave them a three-year-sunset period. A lot of interest groups do not want to stop their activities after the expiration of the sunset period. Interest groups can transform into sections. Also they can become "second life" interest groups. Discussion groups operate around timely hot topics.

**Other Business:** Adam Burling spoke about the ACRL orientation meeting and peer review process, membership, listserv, and the section's basic funds to be spent before August 1.

### **Newsletter Committee Minutes**

June 25, 2011

**Present:** Elizabeth Psyck (Grand Valley State), Liladhar Pendse (Princeton), Barbara Krupa (Stanford), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Larisa Walsh (U. Chicago), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Masha Misco (Miami (Ohio)), Jason Reuscher (Penn. State), Andy Spencer (U. Wisconsin-Madison), Robert C. Morgan (Library of Congress), Brad Schaffner (Harvard), Hekhine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

Elizabeth Psyck, co-chair with Kay Sinnema, raised a question about the delivery and dissemination of the electronic newsletter: "Is sending an e-mail to SEES members and posting the link on Slavic librarians' listserv (Slavlibs) reaching everyone?" Apparently, yes. Access to the electronic SEES Newsletter is provided through SEES webpages, the

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Newsletter temporary website at: <http://seesnewsletter.weebly.com> and the University of Washington pdf archive. The newsletter is in pdf format with an option for printing. SEES members liked the Newsletter.

The Newsletter Committee needs to think about future editors since Kay and Elizabeth are stepping down. Kay is currently working on some documentation that will be helpful for the new editor. Moreover, all the members of the Newsletter Committee are ending their service in 2012. Since Jon Giullian is administering the financial affairs of the Newsletter, he will become a member. Anna Shparberg has been working as a managing editor for several years. Traditionally, the manager steps up to the position of editor. We have been sending surveys to new members where people express their desire to serve in a specific area. We can approach those who are interested in publishing. Jon Giullian will resend Liladhar Pendse and Patricia Thurston the survey forms. The Committee has no actual limits; anyone can join and participate virtually. Barbara Krupa expressed the desire to serve as a communication coordinator for the Newsletter Committee.

(All minutes submitted by Heghine Hakobyan, University of Oregon)

**ALA MIDWINTER MEETINGS  
DALLAS, JANUARY 20–24, 2012  
ACRL SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN SECTION**

**Access and Preservation Committee Minutes**      January 21, 2012

**Present:** Jason Reuscher (Penn State), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Brad Schaffner (Harvard), Liladhar R. Pendse (Princeton), Masha Stepanova (aka Misco) (Miami (Ohio)), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Andy Spencer (U. Wisconsin), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Natasha Lyandres (Notre Dame), Zina Somova (EastView), Heghine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

**Welcome and introductions**

**Approval of minutes**

**SEES webpage:** The Access and Preservation Committee members work to preserve and maintain the SEES website, currently being maintained by Cathy Zeljak at George Washington University. Jon Giullian and Brad Schaffner created a new website using Google Sites. Jon did 99% of the web design work. The website is not fully functional yet, but can be viewed at: <https://sites.google.com/site/acrlsees>.

The new site allows postings and navigation. Each SEES committee will have a webpage of the same format containing templates for announcements, meeting minutes, news, documents, and archives. Google provides 100 megabytes for storage. The SEES may need more space since some program audio files use a lot of memory. We will need to determine the best way to maintain the new website. It is possible to buy a permanent URL for ten years. The URL for the SEES site will be <http://www.acrlsees.org> priced at \$6.99 per year. Brad Schaffner will buy the domain name and SEES will reimburse him.

The Newsletter Committee is currently using Weebly for publishing the SEES electronic newsletter annually. The newsletter transfer to the Google website, with all of its components from Weebly, will be easy. In the meantime, a link from the current Google site to the latest issue of the newsletter on Weebly will be provided. The new SEES Newsletter webpage will also provide “print-on-demand” service. The University of Washington continues archiving newsletters.

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**Open reports on digital and preservation projects:** The University of Kansas has created a digital repository “Russia’s Great War & Revolution”, for preservation of scholarly works about Russia’s history from 1914 through 1922. The works of multinational researchers and historians are based on archives, visual images and other sources which can be of interest for students, historians, researchers and general public.

One of Harvard University professors has acquired 20 unique photographs which will be digitized and added to the University Digital Collections.

EastView will digitally release *Literaturnaia gazeta* this spring.

In the near future, Russian e-books will be accessible via EastView Universal Database. This will allow users to search within individual works, whole collections, and cross-search between collections. The e-publication is going to be carried out in cooperation with several well-known Russian publishers, such as *Evropa, Sova, Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniia* and others.

**Other old and/or new business:** Decision was made at ASEES CLIR meeting about the Slavic digital projects database being impossible to recover. If SEES has success with Google site, the A&P Committee will share the experience with Robert Davis, Chair of the ASEES CLIR Subcommittee on Digital Projects.

**Automated Bibliographic Control Committee Minutes** January 21, 2012

**Present:** Liladhar R. Pendse (Princeton), Brenda Carter (U. Pittsburg), Masha Stepanova (aka Misco) (Miami (Ohio)), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Andy Spencer (U. Wisconsin), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Natasha Lyandres (Notre Dame), Zina Somova (EastView), Haghine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

**Welcome and introductions**

**Approval of minutes**

**Update on the Slavic Cataloging Manual and Pre-Revolutionary Orthography Task Force:** Larisa Walsh, SEES ABC Committee past

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Chair, has sent suggestions on mixed orthographies and related Slavic cataloging issues.

**Update on Proposal to revise existing ALA/LC Belarusian Romanization Table:** The proposal to revise the existing ALA/LC Belarusian Romanization Table gives explanations to some special characters which exist in modern and old Belarusian language. Therefore the working group is in the process of preparing recommendations for some changes in the Library of Congress Belarusian Romanization Table, such as the transliteration of Belarusian letters “Kh” and “Shch” with ligatures, the inclusion of letter “i” with a macron and letter “i” with umlaut, and a few others.

**Discussion on proposed corrections of LC Romanization Tables for Armenian and Bulgarian as possible projects for this year:** Taking into consideration the fact that the Armenian Romanization Table is based on phonetic values, Heghine Hakobyan has introduced the Armenian letter “Ռ n” and its phonetic value based on its position in a word. Letter “Ռ n” is pronounced “vo” when it is positioned initially. In the middle and final positions the letter is pronounced as “o.” It is essential to consider the position of the letter while bibliographically describing various materials and establishing Armenian authority names. For example, the Armenian last name Voskanyan is transliterated and established as Oskanyan in the LC Name Authority database. Oskanyan is a completely different name than Voskanyan. It is recommended that Heghine start consulting with other LC Romanization Tables, such as Greek. She can personally contact the LC specialist of the Armenian issues in order to learn how to introduce notes on transliteration of letter “Ռ n” as “vo” (initially) and “o” (medially and finally).

Diana Brooking, University of Washington and Jackie Byrd, Indiana University will be contacted in order to learn more about necessary corrections in LC Romanization Table for Bulgarian.

**New Listserv Proposal:** At the 2011 ASEEES conference panel “Challenges, successes, and rules in Slavic cataloging,” some participants expressed interest in having a discussion list separate from Slavlibs, just for catalogers, something like SlavCat.

Those present felt there was no need to establish a new listserv for Slavic catalogers because the members of Slavlibs, including

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bibliographers, subject specialists, collections developers and teaching faculty are very much interested in Slavic cataloging issues. Slavic specialists want to participate in such discussions without having to subscribe to another listserv. Also, the AutoCat listserv covers most cataloging issues including Slavic.

**Non-Roman character set:** The Committee members suggest that different practices will be followed when RDA is implemented. New bibliographic discovery tools are using original script when searching across different collections. Access will become less dependent on transliteration.

Unicode compliance for many non-Roman languages is happening across most of the platforms. There are still some non-Slavic/non-Roman scripts not completely supported by Unicode. The SEES ABC Committee discussed the possibility of working on extended coding that could support non-Slavic languages using a Cyrillic alphabet.

### **Executive Committee Minutes**

January 21, 2012

**Present:** Jason Reuscher (Penn State), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Brad Schaffner (Harvard), Liladhar R. Pendse (Princeton), Masha Stepanova (aka Misco) (Miami (Ohio)), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Andy Spencer (U. Wisconsin), Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), Natasha Lyandres (Notre Dame), Heghine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

### **Welcome and introduction of officers**

- Liladhar Pendse, chair
- Patricia Thurston, vice-chair
- Heghine Hakobyan, secretary
- Masha Stepanova (Misco) ABC Committee chair
- Brad Schaffner, A&P Committee chair
- Kay Sinnema, Newsletter Committee co-chair
- Elizabeth Psyck, Newsletter Committee co-chair

### **Approval of minutes**

**Reports from SEES Committees:** A&P, ABC, and Newsletter committees summarized committee activities.

**Report on SEES-IRC Subcommittee on Eurasia Program at the ALA Annual 2012, Anaheim, CA:** Currently the International  
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Relations Committee (IRC) is working with SEES on a joint conference program on Digital Humanities in Eurasia. The program will be held in Anaheim, CA, on Sunday, June 24, 2012 from 10.30am to 12.00pm. The ALA IRC will sponsor several professors from Southern California. IRC and SEES will cover some of the expenses of the speakers, including per diem, parking cost, mileage, and other standard remunerations.

### **Discussion points:**

*Future of Website:* The new website has been unanimously approved. Brad Schaffner will buy the domain name from Google. The transition from the George Washington University site to the new ACRL SEES site will gradually take place this year. The SEES members will need to determine the best way to maintain the new website.

*“2013 program ideas?”*

2013 program proposal deadline is May 1, 2012. Do we want to plan a joint program with WESS? SEES will conduct energetic discussions with WESS program committee to bring some new ideas and programs to the table.

### **ACRL committee reports**

The Virtual Meetings Committee recommends holding more virtual meetings. Many untenured librarians are more likely to receive travel fund than tenured specialists. Hybrid meetings are encouraged during the Midwinter conference since the number of attendees has declined recently.

(All minutes submitted by Heghine Hakobyan, University of Oregon)

**SEES Newsletter Committee Virtual meeting via iLink**  
January 9, 2012

**Present:** Jean Dickinson (UC Berkeley), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Sandra Levy (Chicago), Masha Misco (Miami-Ohio), Elizabeth Psyck (Grand Valley State), Jason Reuscher (Penn State), Anna Shparberg (Rice), Kay Sinnema (LC), Mark Winek (American)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from Annual 2011 Newsletter meeting held in New Orleans were approved.

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**Membership:** Elizabeth is checking the official roster and will add people as needed.

Kay asked about subscription fees, which we stopped collecting when we transitioned to electronic only. Depending on the website, fees may be charged in the future. Kay will follow-up with Brad and Brian about the printing on demand option. [ed. note: No requests were made for printing on demand at this time. The option is still being offered.]

**Section reports:**

Section editors reported on their sections.

News for U.S. and Canada – Jean Dickinson

News from Abroad – Kay Sinnema

Acquisitions – Masha Misco Stepanova

Grants – Sandra Levy

Transitions – Mark Winek

Bibliography and Library in profile – Jason Reuscher

The Library in profile will be on the American Research Center in Sofia, Bulgaria. Jason will try to find an image associated with the center to use as the pdf cover image.

New Managing editor for the 2013 issue will be Mark Winek with help from Jon Giullian as needed. Kay and Elizabeth will continue as Editors for the time being.

**Website update:** We will continue to use the Weebly site for the 2012 issue and will transition to the permanent SEES site once it is ready. Jon and Brad are working on it in Google and will show content at Midwinter for SEES feedback. Brad is checking on using Go Daddy to purchase the domain ([acrsees.org](http://acrsees.org)) and an email account, which is [acrsees@gmail.com](mailto:acrsees@gmail.com).

**Deadlines:** Kay will send out the first email call for submissions, and Elizabeth will send out the reminder around Feb. 1st. The deadline for people to submit to section editors is Feb. 24th. The deadline for section editors to submit to Anna is March 15th. Anna will send to the editors who will finalize and submit to ALA and the websites by the end of April. Harry Leich of LC usually copy edits and Kay will contact him.

**Recruitment of new volunteers:** Jason asked how we are attracting new members to the committee. When people join, they get a brochure

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about SEES. Discussion followed about updating and improving the brochure. Also, Elizabeth agreed to be the representative at ACRL101 at Annual. Jon suggested using the Google account acrlsees@gmail.com to send out welcome emails or info emails to potential interested persons. The strategy we have used is to send an email/survey to new members as they join Slavlibs. Kay will add a statement to the call for submissions as suggested by Jean.

Kay will write the minutes and Sandra will report them at the Executive meeting at Midwinter.

(Submitted by Kay Sinnema, Library of Congress)

**ASEEES 43RD NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Washington, D.C., November 17-20, 2011**

**Library-Related Panels & Events**

**Digitization Projects Related to Russia**

Chair: Brad Schaffner, Harvard U

Papers: Irina Lynden, National Library of Russia, "Digitization efforts at the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg"

Erika Spencer, Library of Congress, "Russia-related Digital Projects at US Institutions"

Janet Crayne, U of Michigan, "Personalizing History: North American Websites about the Russian Far East and its Occupiers"

Disc.: George Andrew Spencer, U of Wisconsin-Madison, Ellen Scaruffi, Independent Scholar

**More Light on Russian Émigré Materials**

Chair: Amir Khisamutdinov, Far Eastern Technological U (Russia)

Papers: Lukas Babka, Slavonic Library, National Library of the Czech Republic, "The Collection of Administrative Documents of the Russian Historical Archive Abroad in Prague's Slavonic Library – Cataloging and Accessing a Unique Source of Information"

Kirill Tolpygo, UNC, Chapel Hill, "Andre Savine Collection: Latest Developments"

Barbara L. Dash, Library of Congress, "Rare Émigré books at Library of Congress"

Disc.: David Arans, Library of Congress

**Claiming Authority: Culture and the State**

Chair: Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

Papers: Alan Mercer, DSCH Journal, "The Authority of Rejoicing: Shostakovich's Business"

Oksana Chefranova, New York U, "Landscapes, Museum, Image: Contemplative Cinema of Alexander Sokurov"

Natalia Ermolaev, Columbia U, "Claiming Cultural Heritage: Archival Collections Abroad and their 'Return' to Russia"

Disc.: Olga Peters Hasty, Princeton U

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### **The Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, St Petersburg**

Chair: Brad Schaffner, Harvard U

Papers: Andrey Zaytsev, Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library (Russia), "The Boris Yeltsin Presidential Web Site as a Source of Information on the Development of Russian Statehood"

Patrick G. Loughney, Library of Congress, "The Search for Lost American Movies in Russia"

Elena Borisovna Gruznova, Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library (Russia), "Documents of Russian and Soviet Government Bodies in the Presidential Library Collections"

Disc.: Grant Garden Harris, Library of Congress

### **Vechnaia pamiat': Russian Émigré Cemeteries as Important Information Resources**

Chair: Patricia Polansky, U of Hawaii

Papers: Vladimir A. von Tsurikov, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, "Russian Orthodox Cemeteries in the Diaspora as a Resource for Émigré Studies: A Look at Holy Trinity Monastery"

Amir Khisamutdinov, Far Eastern Technological U (Russia), "Russian Émigré Graves from Japan via Hawaii to the U.S. West Coast"

Viktor Vladimirovich Leonidov, "Russkoe zarubezh'e" Moscow (Russia), "Russian Cemeteries in Australia"

Disc.: Harold M. Leich, Library of Congress

### **Information, Secrecy, and the Soviet System of Rule**

Chair: Amir Weiner, Stanford U

Papers: Asif Siddiqi, Fordham U, "The Secret Designers: Life and Work from the Gulag to the Soviet Defense Industry"

Donal O'Sullivan, California State U, Northridge, "'Remarkably Clumsy': British Accounts of Soviet Clandestine Activity in Tehran, 1941-45"

Mark Harrison, U of Warwick (UK), "Soviet Secrets: Administrative Costs and Bureaucratic Burdens in the Russian Archives"

### **The Slavic and Baltic Collection of the New York Public Library: Past, Present, and Future? (Roundtable)**

Chair: Susan Smith-Peter, College of Staten Island, CUNY

Participants: Lee A. Farrow, Auburn U, Montgomery Gary Marker, SUNY, Stony Brook U, Cynthia Hyla Whittaker, Baruch College & The Graduate Center CUNY, Richard Wortman, Columbia U

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### **Challenges, Successes, and Rules in Slavic and East European Cataloging** (Roundtable)

Chair: Jean Dickinson, UC Berkeley

Participants: Ekaterina Rogatchevskaia, British Library, Susan C. Summer, Columbia U, Larisa V. Walsh, U of Chicago

### **Book Culture Studies in the Post-Soviet Mirror: The New and the Old**

Chair: Tatjana Bujas Lorkovic, Yale U

Papers: Edward Kasinec, New York Public Library (Retired), "The Book before Peter"

Jared Camins-Esakov, New York U, "The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries"

Jared Ash, Newark Public Library, "The Silver Age, Futurism and Constructivism"

Disc.: Daniel M. Pennell, U of Pittsburgh, Ekaterina Rogatchevskaia, British Library

### **Samizdat Revisited: Old Archival Problems and New Research Approaches** (Roundtable)

Chair: Alexandra Oberlaender, U of Bremen (Germany)

Participants: Dmitrij Pritykin, RIC Memorial St. Petersburg (Russia)  
Susanne Schattenberg, Research Centre for East European Studies at U of Bremen (Germany)

Irina Sherbakova, Memorial International (Russia)

Mark Yoffe, George Washington U

Olga Zaslavskaya, Open Society Archives, Central European U (Hungary)

### **Digital Resources in Teaching, Researching and Publishing Russian History** (Roundtable)

Chair: Steven A. Barnes, George Mason U

Participants: Sean Guillory, UCLA, Andrew L. Jenks, California State U, Long Beach, Kelly O'Neill, Harvard U

### **Russian Archives Twenty Years after--Access to the Records of Authorities** (Roundtable)

Chair: Mark Nathan Kramer, Harvard U

Participants: Jonathan Brent, Yale U Press, Patricia K. Grimsted, Harvard Ukrainian Research Inst, Harvard U, Hans-Dieter Kreikamp, Memorial (Russia), Nikita Petrov, Memorial (Russia)

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### **Access to Research and Educational Materials in Our Institutions: The Role of Governments and Citizens** (Roundtable)

Chair: Michael Brewer, U of Arizona

Participants: Janet Crayne, U of Michigan, Saša Madacki, U of Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Janice T. Pilch, Rutgers U, Catie Rowland, Counsel, Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Copyright Office

### **Where is the Authority? Image vs. Text in Scholarship and the Classroom** (Roundtable)

Chair: Robert Harding Davis, Columbia U

Participants: Kevin M. Kain, U of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Kristen Regina, Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens, Miranda Remnek, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Wendy Salmond, Chapman U

### **ASEEES CLIR Membership Meeting Minutes November 20, 2011**

**Attending:** Michael Biggins (U Washington), Wookjin Cheun (Indiana U), Kit Condill (U Illinois), Stephen Corrsin (NYPL), Janet Crayne (U Michigan), Robert Davis (Columbia U), John DeSantis (Dartmouth U), Jean Dickinson (U California, Berkeley), Joanna Epstein (Harvard U), Natalia Ermolaev (Rutgers U), June Farris (U Chicago), Dima Frangulov (East View), Jon Giullian (U Kansas), Diana Greene (NYU), Elena Gruznova (B. Yeltsin Presidential Library), Heghine Hakobyan (U Oregon), Grant Harris (Library of Congress), Alex Kershteyn (MIPP/Integrum), Ksenya Kiebusinski (U Toronto), Irene Kolchinsky (U Illinois), Harold Leich (Library of Congress), Sandra Levy (U Chicago), Tatjana Lorkovic (Yale U), Molly Molloy (Stanford U), Margarita Nafpaktitis (UCLA), Liladhar Pendse (Princeton U), Dan Pennell (U Pittsburgh), Janice Pilch (Rutgers U), Pat Polansky (U Hawaii), Inna Polovnikova (Library of Academy of Sciences, St-P), Kristen Regina (Hillwood Museum), Katya Rogachevskaya (British Library), Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford U), Ellen Scaruffi (Independent scholar), Brad Schaffner (Harvard U), Lana Soglasnova (U Toronto), Andy Spencer (U Wisconsin), Susan Summer (Columbia U), Nick Thorner (Library of Congress), Patricia Thurston (Yale U), Hugh Truslow (Harvard U), Larisa Walsh (U Chicago), Mark Winek (American U), Andrey Zaytsev (B. Yeltsin Presidential Library), Nadia Zilper (Retired), Ernest Zitser (Duke U)

**Scribe:** Kristen Regina

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### **Attendance and Introduction**

Janice Pilch, CLIR Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed members, subcommittee chairs, librarians who participated in panels and colleagues from abroad. Thanks were extended to East View Information Services for their generosity in providing refreshments. Participants were asked to sign the attendance roster.

### **Memorial tribute to our esteemed colleague Murlin Croucher**

Brad Schaffner and Michael Biggins presented remembrances of Murlin Croucher, who passed away on July 31, 2011, having served as Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies at the Indiana University Libraries from 1980 to 2005. They recalled Murlin's life, his contributions to the field, his legacy, and his engaging personality. They encouraged the membership to submit any other remembrances to Jacqueline Byrd (Indiana U), for publication in the near future. Murlin will be fondly remembered.

### **CLIR Committee News**

Janice explained the new CLIR committee structure, adopted in 2010 by the CLIR Executive Committee. The CLIR Executive Committee will consist of the chair, three subcommittee chairs, the chair of SEEMP, a member-at-large, and a faculty liaison. During the 2012 transition to this structure, the committee will include two members, whose appointments are still active, plus the three subcommittee chairs, the chair of SEEMP, and the faculty liaison. At the end of 2012, when the appointments of those two members expire, and they are replaced by one member-at-large, the new system will be fully implemented.

In addition, under the new system, the three-year term of the CLIR chair will correspond to the three-year terms of the subcommittee chairs, running from January through December. This will provide stable leadership and a clear communication flow for a three-year period.

Janice reviewed the incoming and outgoing CLIR and CLIR subcommittee members:

CLIR Committee Changes:

Outgoing CLIR Members - Dan Pennell (U. Pittsburgh)

New CLIR Members- four subcommittee chairs:

Wookjin Cheun (Indiana U.), Chair of Subcommittee on Collection Development (2012-2013)

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Janice Pilch – Rutgers U., Chair of Subcommittee on Copyright Issues (2012-2013)

Robert H. Davis, Jr. – Columbia U., Chair of Subcommittee on Digital Projects (2012-2013)

Jon Giullian— U. Kansas, Chair of Slavic & East European Microform Project (2012-2013)

CLIR Subcommittee Changes:

Subcommittee on Collection Development:

Outgoing members: Liladhar Pendse (Princeton U.) and Heghine Hakobyan (U. Oregon)

Incoming members: Marek Sroka (U. Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Subcommittee on Copyright Issues

Outgoing members: Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford U.)

Incoming members: James Steffen (Emory U.)

Subcommittee on Slavic Digital Projects

Outgoing members: Erik Zitser (Duke U.), Co-chair; Patricia Thurston (Yale U.), Co-chair; Nina Bogdanovsky (Boston College)

Incoming members: Erika Hope Spencer (Library of Congress)

New chair: Robert H. Davis, Jr. (Columbia U.)

SEEMP

Outgoing members: Wookjin Cheun (Indiana U.), Secretary; Sandra Levy (U. Chicago), SEES-ACRL/ALA Chair (*Ex officio*)

Incoming members: Diana Greene, Secretary (NYU); June Farris (U. Chicago); Liladhar Pendse, ACRL SEES Chair (Princeton U.) (*Ex officio*)

Distinguished Service Award Selection Subcommittee

No changes

Updated committee lists for 2012 will be posted to <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/subcommittees.html>

**CLIR Subcommittee Reports:** These reports summarize the full text reports which are available at: <http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/bd/subcommittees.html>.

**Subcommittee on Collection Development,** Wookjin Cheun, Chair (Indiana U)

- ABSEES: Subscribers increased from 141 to 153; glitches with the import or export of data are corrected or in the process of correction; advances in retrospective indexing progression and OCR scanning and correction should be done by next year.

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- Vendor database: The subcommittee is involved in maintenance of vendor database and the creation of a publisher database.
- There is ongoing discussion of resurrecting an annual report similar to the Bushnells' former "State of Publication" report which on which members relied for many years.

### **Subcommittee on Copyright Issues**, Janice Pilch, Chair (Rutgers U)

- Main activity is to answer copyright queries in the field (use of images in publications accounts for 50% of the queries).
- 407 queries have been completed over the years, including 48 queries in 2011.
- The committee provides directional advice, not legal advice.
- A website on copyright and FAQ is in progress.
- The subcommittee organized a copyright panel for the 2012 conference.
- Erik Zitser suggested doing an article in Newsnet on the use of images; it was agreed that it should be the next article.

### **Subcommittee on Digital Projects**, Patricia Thurston, Co-chair (Yale U)

- The subcommittee has been discussing the location of the digital projects subcommittee website created by Miranda Remnek. Erika Spencer, Rob Davis, and Heggine Hakobyan will work on how to bring it back.
- Thanks were given to Jon Giullian and Kristen Regina for coordinating the projector for the conference.
- Jon reminded members to request a screen and a table for next year's conference if they need a projector.

### **Slavic and East European Microform Project (SEEMP)**, Jon Giullian, Chair (U Kansas)

- \$12,600 remains and \$3,000 is supplemented by CRL contributions
- Projects in process include Illustrated Courier from Krakow
- *Oslobodenje* is moving forward thanks to Janet Crayne
- Ukraine émigré press project—a foray into digitization through CRL
- There is a new proposal for a supplement and a few projects suggested by Illinois
- Jon requested that as librarians are working and they identify newspapers, they need either to keep a running list of them and

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send it to June Farris at the end of year, or to send suggestions as they come up.

- Erik Zitser question/suggestion – could SEEMP also contribute to Newsnet? They could adapt CRL news releases for the newsletter. Janice replied that SEEMP is not a formal subcommittee of ASEEEES, but a hybrid since it's based at CRL. Terms of appointment at SEEMP are two years long, starting in November (vs. appointments in the three subcommittees are 3- year appointments beginning in the calendar year).
- Jon Giullian is agreeable to submitting to Newsnet. It will become part of the calendar rotation and Molly Molloy will supplement SEEMP reports by also submitting to Slavlibs.

### **Future of ASEEEES CLIR website, Janice Pilch**

Michael Brewer will soon no longer be able to host the website at Arizona, and we need to think about who will take on responsibility for maintaining the site.

- Ksenia Kiebusinski may be able to, but not until 2012
- Barbara Krupa is also a possibility
- An enquiry will be made as to whether or not ASEEEES can maintain the site and/or move it to Pittsburgh so we do not lose the information
- Erik Zitser is a member of the Communications Advisory and reported that ASEEEES is talking about the current state of the website and it is not possible right now to host the CLIR site but efforts will be made to work with the ASEEEES board on this.
- Brad Schaffner commented that most institutions will not allow non-onsite staff to update a site—it would have to be at the institution. One possibility is to move the site to Google so only have to change the password going forward; the ECC uses Google because it is also where they share documents via GoogleDocs and because Google has strong financial backing for stability.
- Erik Zitser suggested adopting OJS (Open Journal Software) to use not as a journal but as a website.

### **CLIR Committee and Affiliate Updates**

- Update from the ASEEEES Board Meeting (attended by Janice Pilch, as CLIR Chair)
  - The membership is solid with 2,676 members as of October (534 are students) with a goal to increase it to 3,000 members and attract more graduate students
  - There is free student membership for FLAS fellows

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- Institutional membership has grown slightly
- The 2011 Convention had 440 panels
- When the convention is in Washington, D.C. again, it will not be in the Omni because of difficulty with sessions in the hotel. Harry Leich reported that it will most likely be at the Marriott Wardman Park in 2016.
- The 2012 conference will be November 15-18 in New Orleans.
- Diane Koenker at the University of Illinois is elected VP-President elect for 2012.
- ASEES has successfully completed a 3-year fundraising drive of \$50,000 to match the Kathryn Davis \$100,000 gift. The Kathryn Davis Fund supports graduate student travel to the conference. There were 28 applicants and 12 awards granted this year.
- The *Slavic Review* partnership with JSTOR is considered highly successful by the Board so far for visibility and profit. Current issues in 2012 will start to appear in JSTOR and subscription rates will remain basically the same. There was a discussion about the complication of dealing with the new JSTOR set up as it is targeted to individuals, not libraries or institutions. The *Slavic Review* continues to get high quality and competitive scholarly submissions.
- Title VI and Title VIII funding is still unclear and the situation precarious. Steve Corrsin reported that the details are hard to follow but the situation boils down to Section VIII funding and it is most likely to disappear based on the Congressional markup. ASEES does not want the membership to write letters, but rather it wishes to create a single focused message to Congress through professional lobbyists. They want an organized approach and lobbying has to be done in the next two weeks. They are cautiously optimistic on Title VIII. Lynda Park plans to upgrade the status of institutional members and make more use of the website for them.
- Janice Pilch added that there are discussions underway to digitize AAASS/ASEES archives held at U of Illinois.

### **ASEES CLIR Distinguished Service Award, Janice Pilch**

- We are very pleased to have presented the award this year to Allan Urbanic (U California Berkeley). The award was presented at the Presidents' Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening.
- It is wonderful that we have this award. It raises visibility of librarians within the association.

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- This is an occasional award that was created to recognize ASEES member librarians, archivists or curators who have had a significant impact on the field of Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies librarianship
- Award nomination and selection process will be conducted again in 2012
- The subcommittee for the award has not changed

### **Announcements from Consortia, Institutions and Individuals**

#### **Library of Congress, Harry Leich**

- Inna Alekseevna Polonikova, a Yudin descendant, is here and just published a new book (*tirazh* of 1,000) about her family; Inna spoke about her book.

#### **ACRL Slavic and East European Section (SEES), Liladhar Pendse, Chair (Princeton)**

- SEES website is going to Google
- Activities of SEES include a Task Force on Romanization tables of LC and transliteration, and a joint program at the ALA annual conference with the International Relations Committee Subcommittee on Eurasia
- Call for agenda items

#### **Patricia Grimsted**

- Pat noted the session on archives held on Saturday afternoon
- The Archeo-Biblio Database needs a home. They need an agreement to keep it up to date before a western institution will agree to host it and take it over from her. The Amsterdam institute has hosted it at no cost. It cannot become commercial because of its substantial government and private initial grant support. It receives 3,000 hits a month.

#### **Steven Grant**

- Steven's book *The Russian Empire and Soviet Union: A Guide to Manuscripts and Archival Materials in the United States* is digitized and was on the Library of Congress European Reading Room webpage.
- The University of Illinois now has it up as a database online. He hopes to update, revise, and correct it.
- Please be in touch with Helen Sullivan and Joe Lenkart to update entries.

**Slavic and East European Information Resources** (Karen Rondestvedt, Stanford)

- SEEIR Journal for Slavic librarians is in better shape this year than last year, but still needs more material. They need book reviews.
- Hugh Truslow keeps a list of books in need of review.

**New York Public Library**, Steve Corrsin

Steve explained the steps which the New York Public Library is taking and commitments it will make to meet its responsibilities in the area of Slavic, Baltic, and Eastern European studies:

- He has been appointed Curator of the Collections, in addition to his existing responsibilities as Curator of the Dorot Jewish Collections. This will enable him to draw on more support in such areas as services, programs, and projects.
- Research and circulating acquisitions funds have been kept separate. Significant additional funds have been added to the Slavic area for FY12.
- NYPL is clarifying and improving access and reader services.
- Perhaps the most important single project right now is complete barcoding of the older collections of the entire research collection of the library. Due to the looming physical reorganization of the insides of the 42d Street Building (Schwarzman, or SASB), most general research collections will be moved offsite in the next few years, to the ReCAP facility shared with Columbia and Princeton. (Special collections are expected to remain in SASB). This barcoding work is absolutely essential and will greatly facilitate access and retrieval. The Slavic materials have been placed at the top of the SASB priority list, and it's planned that this work will be completed by 30 June 2012. Steve does not have the timetable or plans for the offsite moves, or the reconstruction of the inside of the building.
- NYPL's strong digitization projects for older materials will be strengthened—it's a very competitive environment within the Library as well as for support from the outside.
- The Library has joined ASEES as an Institutional Member. Besides showing institutional commitment to the field, NYPL has found that ASEES is planning to make more use of, and provide greater services to, such members. For example, competitive research grants (for scholars and writers to become

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residents and privileged users of the Library and its collections), will be advertised more broadly.

- Membership in the Manhattan Research Library Initiative (MaRLI), the ReCAP facility, and renewed activity in the ECC all serve to support not only the Library's strengthened collection and access initiatives, but also to demonstrate our intention to serve as a "good institutional citizen" of the field.
- There will be no reconstituted reading room, and no reconstituted consolidated department—the staff remains distributed, among such departments as Cataloging, Acquisitions, Reference and Research, and Collections.
- Finally, Steve invited colleagues to refer questions about NYPL Slavic operations to him.

### **Proposals for Panel Topics for 2012**

- Harry Leich is a member of the ASEEEES Program Committee this year, representing the area of Library/Archives/Bibliography. When the library members organize more than 6 library panels, we tend to run into conflicts, so we should think carefully about proposals. He advised members to follow the instructions for proposal applications and to contact Harry with questions.
- The deadline this year for panel and roundtable proposals is January 15, 2012. Individual paper proposals are being accepted again.
- Suggestions for panel and roundtable proposals:
  - E-book collections in the regions, collaborative collection development (Wookjin Cheun)
  - Copyright (Janice Pilch)
  - Problems of acquiring East European videos: business models, licensing, rights, other issues (Andy Spencer)
  - Best practices for reference and instruction, including LibGuides (Jon Giullian)
  - Transcaucasian books, Old Armenian manuscripts, book culture (Heghine Hakobyan)
  - Title VI cuts- Making the most of what you have (Janet Crayne)
  - Teaching collaboration with faculty and graduate students (Erik Zitser)

### **East Coast Slavic Consortium** (Brad Schaffner, Harvard)

- The consortium is coordinating with Book Expo, where Russia is the guest of honor this year

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- The consortium's website will come back

### **Midwest Slavic Consortium** (Jon Giullian, Kansas)

- The consortium will have its biannual meeting in 2012

### **Pacific Coast Slavic Consortium** (Karen Rondestvedt, Stanford)

- Pacslav is still alive
- The consortium meets primarily via email and exchanges are still quite active
- The consortium plans to update its website

### **New or Old Business**

There was no new or old business.

Janice again thanked East View Information Services for their kindness in providing refreshments, and thanked Kristen Regina for kindly agreeing to be the scribe for this meeting.

(Submitted by Janice T. Pilch, Chair, ASEEEES CLIR)

### **SEEMP Business Meeting Report November 19, 2011**

**Present:** Katarina Avnet, Michael Biggins, Angela Cannon, Wookjin Cheun, Kit Condill, Stephen Corrsin, Janet Crayne, Rob Davis, June Farris, Jon Giullian, Diana Greene, Heghine Hakobyan, Jasmine Jones, Ksenya Kiebusinski, Barbara Krupa, Mike Markiw, Larry Miller, Margarita Nafpaktitis, Dan Pennell, Liladhar Pendse, Karen Rondestvedt, Brad Schaffner, James Simon, Patricia Thurston  
Guests: Dima Frangulov

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Project Business:** Minutes of 2010 meeting were approved.

Executive Committee elections were conducted by the Nominating Committee (Wookjin Cheun, Hugh Truslow) by email. Diana Greene and June Farris were elected secretary and member at large respectively.

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### **Budget Report, CRL News (Simon)**

- CRL & Global Resources Network update

Simon reported on CRL activities including current membership, annual directors' council meeting, 3rd Primary Source Awards (deadline: end of January). In discussing the World Newspaper Archive he mentioned the progress made with non-Roman materials – the East European module should be available this fiscal year. James described CRL's project with LLMC (Law Library Microform Consortium). LLMC previously focused on US materials, but CRL is working with them on international content. One possibility for inclusion is pre-Soviet legal materials. In CRL's Purchase Proposal program, there were three Slavic and East European titles proposed for purchase. He invited members to communicate their interest to their CRL representative.

Larry Miller made general remarks about the quality of the post-Soviet press (one set up for consideration by CRL). He will follow up with James after the meeting.

- Financial Statement and Project Update

SEEMP started FY2011 with \$56,200.99 and ended with \$43,352.32. As of September 30, 2011, it has \$12,642.50 available for new projects.

Janet Crayne provided an update on the *Oslobodenje* project, especially current problems with vendors.

Diana Greene inquired about *Gubernskie vedomosti*, especially their availability in microform.

### **New Proposals / Developing Projects**

- *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* supplementary funds  
Estimated \$5,000 deficit for the purchase of IKC was reported, and members unanimously approved \$5,000 additional funding.
- Projects from Floor  
June Farris informed that she was in the process of contacting East View regarding the filming of *Zapoliar'e*.

Larry Miller mentioned *Borba* (Zagreb, 1922- ) as a potential future project. The membership encouraged Larry Miller to explore the possibility and to submit a proposal.

**Progress Reports on Current Projects**

- *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny*, 1910-1939  
Simon pointed to progress in receiving additional reels of IKC though with some delay.
- *Kurjer Warszawski*  
Simon reported that it was ordered through Todd Bludeau but not yet received and would look into its price in response to questions about cost.
- *Oslobodenje*  
Janet Crayne provided information about filming (by vendor in Sarajevo) and also the possibility (and desirability) of digitization (since rights have been obtained from the newspaper itself); after discussion about digitization versus microfilming, the membership decided to proceed with filming all remaining issues first and to consider digitization later. The rationale for this decision was to have a complete collection of *Oslobodenje* in one format (microfilm), rather than deal with the problem of date ranges split among microfilm and digital copies.
- Ukrainian Émigré Press (Kiebusinski)  
Columbia and Harvard have sent materials to CRL for filming, but Toronto will digitize its collection in house and subsequently send the digital images to CRL, which will compile images from all three institutions. Cost for that is yet to be agreed upon between Toronto and CRL.

Simon demonstrated briefly the proposed model for access via CRL's document delivery server. Material within copyright will be secured for members only unless permission is received.

**Member Reports (Preservation, Access Projects) / Vendor Reports**

- Library Reports  
Kit Condill highlighted the long list of new acquisitions by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), including 16 *gubernskie vedomosti*, late 19th and early 20th century Central Asian newspapers, Jewish historical newspapers from Latvia, and Serbian newspapers; he also mentioned two conference trips to Tashkent, during which he and a colleague (Joseph Lenkart) acquired V. I. Mezhev's *Turkestanskii sbornik*, the national bibliography of Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan's national bibliography.

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Wookjin Cheun reported on the acquisition by Indiana University of the Polish trade union collection, locally called the “History of the Workers’ Movement Library Collection.”

Angela Cannon reported on recent developments at LC including: the Russian shelf-ready program with East View; progress on the backlog; renewal of the Lithuanian program; a new webpage for Hungarian newspapers; the development of bibliography of early Bulgarian imprints; and the collection of transitional press newspapers from the Glasnost’ era; as well as 2 new scanning machines (from film to digital).

Ksenya Kiebusinski drew attention to a possible duplication problem with regard to the Ukrainian independent press project.

Jon raised question of how to help researchers locate scattered collections.

- Vendor Reports

Dima Frangulov mentioned two possible projects: Ukrainian avant-garde literary and art journals published in the 1920s and access to the Russian encyclopedia portal “Rubricon”.

### **Other Business (Private Session, for SEEMP members only)**

(Submitted by Jon Giullian, University of Kansas)

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## *II. News from the U.S. and Canada*

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Jean Dickinson, University of California, Berkeley

### **Cleveland Conference on Ukrainian Museums and Archives**

At the initiative of Andrew Fedynsky and the staff of Cleveland's Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA)\*, 31 individuals from eight Ukrainian-American cultural organizations, particularly museums and archives convened at the Hyatt Regency in Cleveland, September 16-19, 2010. The conference was called to promote a nationwide conversation about mutual issues faced by these organizations, to identify opportunities for collaboration and to discuss shared missions of preserving, documenting and promoting Ukraine's heritage and the Ukrainian American experience.

Organizations besides the UMA represented at the conference were, from New York, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Institute and the Ukrainian Museum; from Chicago, the Ukrainian National Museum; from Detroit, the Ukrainian-American Archives and Museum; from Stamford, Connecticut, the Ukrainian Museum and Library; from South Bound Brook, New Jersey, the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center; from Rochester, New York, private collector and civic activist Volodymyr Pylyshenko and from Washington, D.C., Jurij Dobczansky of the Library of Congress. The conference was supported by a generous grant from the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association.

Conference participants shared valuable information about each organization, its specialized collections, exhibits, upcoming events and goals for the future. Common challenges and concerns about strengthening organizational structures were the subjects of lively discussions followed by sessions facilitated by Elaine Woloshyn and Tania Jarosewich on management, nonprofit governance, financial stability, fundraising and community outreach.

As a result of the conference, several steps will be pursued in partnership: creation of an informal network of Ukrainian museums and archives across the nation to share information about missions and collections; creation of policy and procedure manuals; exploring

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possibilities of joint fundraising strategies, donor management infrastructure and seeking potential collaborative grant opportunities. Especially noted was the importance of reciprocal publication exchanges as most organizations have libraries and active publishing programs. The group formed a committee to develop a coordinated approach to the forthcoming Taras Shevchenko bicentennial celebration in 2014 that may involve sharing significant Shevchenkiana items from various collections.

The conference concluded with an invitation from Lubow Wolynetz, Curator of the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford to reconvene in September 2012 in Connecticut. Individuals and institutions interested in participating in the discussions and being invited to the fall conference should contact: Ms. Lubow Wolynetz at (203) 323-8866 or by email [lubow26@yahoo.com](mailto:lubow26@yahoo.com)

\*See David Z. Chroust's detailed library profile of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in the *SEES Newsletter*, 14 (1998), pp. 75-81.  
<https://digital.lib.washington.edu/dspace/handle/1773/3734>

Links to Ukrainian American museums and archives:

Ukrainian Museum-Archives (Cleveland, OH)

<http://www.umacleveland.org/>

Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey

<http://www.ukrhec.org/>

Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, Connecticut

<http://www.ukrainianmuseumlibrary.org/>

Shevchenko Scientific Society, (New York, NY)

<http://www.shevchenko.org/>

Ukrainian Rochester Collection (Rochester, NY)

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=4455>

Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit

<http://www.ukrainianmuseumdetroit.org/>

Ukrainian National Museum (Chicago, IL)

<http://www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org/eng/index.html>

The Ukrainian Museum, (New York, NY)

<http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org/>

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (Chicago, IL)

<http://www.uima-art.org/gallery.html>

(Jurij Dobczansky, Library of Congress)

**Columbia University**

The Columbia University Libraries (CUL) invited applications from scholars and researchers to its new program designed to facilitate access to Columbia's special and unique collections. (The application deadline has passed, as of this writing.) CUL planned to award ten grants of \$2500 each on a competitive basis to researchers who can demonstrate a compelling need to consult CUL holdings for their work. Participating Columbia libraries and collections include those located on the Morningside Heights campus: the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Butler Library, the Lehman Social Sciences Library, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, and the Libraries' Area Studies Collections. Awards were made April 1, 2012 for research at Columbia during the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

The program is open to all US citizens and to resident non-citizens who are legally able to work in the US. However, preference will be given to those applicants residing outside the greater New York metropolitan area.

(Rob Davis, Columbia University)

**Columbia and Cornell Universities**

In the fall of 2010, the 2CUL partnership between the libraries at Cornell and Columbia embarked on their plan to share research materials and expert librarians in specialized fields, to capitalize on the strengths of each institution. Cooperating meant that the two libraries could enhance their purchasing power and research capabilities by pooling resources to provide content, expertise and services that would be impossible to accomplish acting alone. The first resource-sharing agreement involved Slavic and East European studies, with joint support for building collections, and Columbia's expert librarian working with the Cornell community. A survey of Cornell professors and lecturers who specialize in Slavic and East European studies found a high degree of satisfaction (an average rating of 4.3 out of 5) with the arrangement. All the respondents also knew a specialized subject librarian was dedicated to supporting their research and teaching. Rob Davis (Russian, Eurasian and East European studies librarian at Columbia, and Slavic and East European studies librarian at Cornell) is based at Columbia, but he visits the Cornell campus every semester to provide face-to-face instruction and consultation services. Cornell users can also subscribe to Davis' e-newsletter and access him via telephone,

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email and video conference. Nearly all the survey respondents said they were not negatively affected by the fact that Davis works off-site, and several praised his expertise, conscientiousness and availability. In July, the two libraries created an on-site borrowing program that allows users from both libraries to take out materials on both campuses. “There is a tremendous amount of interest in the progress of the 2CUL project among our peer institutions around the nation,” Mr. Davis said. “Substantially reducing duplication between two major libraries means greater depth of coverage in foreign language materials. This is the key to maintaining a rich research resource base.”  
(Gwen Glazer, Cornell University Library)

### **University of Kansas**

The University of Kansas (KU) has been working on the online project, [Russia’s Great War and Revolution](#). Following is an excerpt from the project’s homepage: As the one-hundredth anniversary of the First World War approaches, public attention will increasingly turn to The Great War’s significance in shaping human history. Centennial commemorations will provide scholars with a singular opportunity to engage and educate general audiences regarding the conflict and its meanings. This is an opportunity of particular importance for historians of Russia. In recent years a new generation of researchers has begun to re-examine and re-evaluate the significance and meaning of the War. Buttressed by new archival findings and freed from the ideological baggage of earlier historical debates they have begun to analyze Russia’s Great War not as a prelude to “Red October,” but as the fulcrum which set into motion a chain of events that transformed Eurasia and much of the world. *Russia’s Great War and Revolution* is a decade-long multinational scholarly effort that aims to fundamentally transform understanding of Russia’s “continuum of crisis” during the years 1914-1922. The project incorporates new research methods, archival sources, and multiple media formats to re-conceptualize critical concepts and events and to increase public awareness of Russia’s contributions to the history of the twentieth century.

(Jon Giullian, University of Kansas)

### **Library of Congress**

Scans have been completed of a 2006 gift to the Library of Congress, of a photo album showing scenes of revolutionary times. The photographs, taken between November 20, 1917 and March 1918, document the Russian Revolution in Moscow, Petrograd, Vologda,

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Vereshchagina, and Novo Nikolaevsk. They also document a return trip through Japan, China and Korea.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=%2010%3A041%20&sp=1&st=gallery>

The album description is located at:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010645610/>

(Michael Neubert, Library of Congress)

Library of Congress has recently placed the complete bibliography of the music material held in its Russian Imperial Collection online

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform/RICbib.pdf>, or via its dedicated link that appears on the webpage of LC's Performing Arts Reading Room:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform>

(Kristen Regina, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens)

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Elizabeth Wood and two colleagues have created a detailed site called "The Deepening of the Russian Revolution, 1917" to showcase both primary and secondary sites associated with the February and October Revolutions: <http://web.mit.edu/russia1917>. MIT students found and analyzed primary documents for papers on particular moments in the 1917 project. Under each data point in the website viewers can find a brief summary of some events happening that day, together with a longer paper written by a student, and usually a few primary and secondary sources. The project is still very much a work in progress. I would love to create an Advisory Board for the website and expand it so that scholars can use it as well as teachers. In the meantime, though, please do let me know if you see other links to primary and secondary sources that we can add to the site, if you catch any mistakes, etc. And if you have any experience using the site with students, I'd love to hear that too.

(Elizabeth Wood, MIT)

### **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library**

June 13th 2012 will mark the fourth anniversary of the Flood of 2008 that damaged much of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The NCSML's museum and library took on nearly eight feet of water, ruining its exhibits and contents. The library was hit especially hard. Of 10,536 cataloged items, 4,688 were removed before the flood. A total of 3,905 books were salvaged immediately after the flood; an additional 1,943 were discarded due to being damaged beyond repair. Also, more than 5,000 phonograph records were damaged. Fortunately, the University of

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Iowa Libraries' Conservation Lab has been cleaning and repairing both the books and phonorecords. Flood recovery is, and will be, an ongoing effort. Immediately after the flood the NCSML was awarded a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to conduct oral history interviews with Czechs and Slovaks who left Cold-War era Czechoslovakia and settled in the United States. This project has been so successful that the NCSML received a second round of funding to continue the project. (The project website can be viewed at <http://www.ncsml.org/Content/Oral-Histories.aspx>.) Also, the NCSML recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for post-flood collections care. The project has enabled the NCSML to hire a full-time cataloger and a part-time collections manager who will ensure that the library collections in temporary storage are physically and intellectually accessible once they are moved to the new museum and library, which is scheduled to open to the public on July 14th, 2012.

(David Muhlena, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)

### **Princeton University**

*Columbia-NYPL-Princeton University Library Slavic and Eastern European Studies Collaborative Collection Development Pilot Initiative under Discussion.*

Beginning in the fall of 2011, Rob Davis (of Columbia) and Liladhar Pendse (of Princeton) have been in communication about possibilities for collaborative collection development in selected areas of Slavic Studies. The discussion arose in light of budgetary constraints that each institution might face in future with respect to Slavic and Eastern European Studies collection development, and also partly because of shared off-site storage (ReCap), owned and operated by Princeton University Library. One of the questions to be determined was how it would benefit both Columbia and Princeton University Libraries to have a single copy in remote storage and use the liberated funds to create a niche collection of other difficult to find print items without sacrificing anticipated faculty and student campus-wide needs. Since the New York Public Library was another institution that shares the same remote storage, it was decided to include NYPL's Slavic and Judaica Curator, Stephen Corrsin, in the discussions. The first meeting took place at Columbia University in October 2011, during which many topics were covered in more detail. It was then agreed that, as next steps, the group would initiate a thorough review and preparation of subject profiles for Polish and Czech materials by each ReCAP

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member. The working group of collection development Slavic librarians will also create a common list of current serials. The next steps will ideally include an exploration of a possible Memorandum of Understanding between NYPL and Princeton regarding borrowing privileges.

(Liladhar R. Pendse, Princeton University)

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

The new International & Area Studies Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was dedicated on March 6, 2012 with an open house, lecture, and wine reception. Deborah Jakubs, the Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs at Duke University, lectured on “The Global Dimensions of Scholarship and Research Libraries.” The events were sponsored by the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, and presided over by Paula Kaufman, Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian and Steve Witt, head of the IAS Library.

The IAS Library occupies refurbished space formerly housing the English Library and the Asian Library on the third floor of the main library. The main reading room includes some twenty reading stations, six lounge chairs, a planetary scanner, a circulation and consultation desk, and public computers with scanners.

All of the reading stations are equipped with outlets for laptops. The adjacent room houses the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian reference collection and additional reading and microform consulting carrels. All of the Slavic-related microfiche and much of the microfilm is in still another microform room adjoining the reference books area.

The Slavic Reference Service includes seven workstations and occupies the former English Library periodicals reading room. A corridor leading from the SRS room to the main reading room contains all of the current Slavic and East European periodicals and newspapers. Librarians’ offices (Slavic and Eurasian, East Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Africana, and Global Studies) are mainly located across the hall in the former Asian Library. Most of the former Asian reading room space has been converted into a conference classroom with advanced technology for teleconferencing and information literacy instruction.

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The new IAS Library will host two librarians' workshops during the 2012 Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center's Summer Research Laboratory <http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl> (Non-Latin Scripts in a Romanized world - June 11-13, moderated by Helen Sullivan, Manager of the Slavic Reference Service, and the 16th Annual Slavic Librarian's Workshop - June 13-15, moderated by Larry Miller, Senior Slavic bibliographer).

Larry Miller, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

### **University of Toronto**

In fall 2011, Professor Ann Komaromi announced the launch of the Database on Soviet Samizdat Periodicals at the University of Toronto Libraries: <http://samizdat.library.utoronto.ca/>. The Database covers approximately 300 titles of uncensored periodical editions from the Soviet Union, 1956-1986. It includes notes about samizdat and dissidence and extensive bibliographies, as well as information about archival holdings.

(Ksenya Kiebusinski, University of Toronto)

On May 26, 2012, the roundtable "Archives, Books, Multimedia: Building and Using Slavic Collections for Multidisciplinary Studies" will discuss new developments and current issues in Slavic information resources at academic, cultural, and public institutions will take place in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. The roundtable, organized by Lana Soglasnova and Nadia Zavorotna (University of Toronto Libraries), is chaired by Myron Momryk (Library and Archives Canada, ret.); participants include Irene Szkludlarek (Library and Archives Canada), Larisa Smyk (University of Waterloo Library), Zsuzsanna Lancsak (University of Waterloo Library), and Andriy Nahachewsky (University of Alberta). The roundtable is a part of the Canadian Association of Slavists annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Federation's Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo. The focus is on unique collections; the role of international and local exchanges, collaboration, and networking; and tools for discovering and promoting diverse Slavic resources, including multimedia, scripts, subject terms and classification. The 2012 roundtable discusses new topics while maintaining continuity with the previous years' roundtables, and invites informal discussion from scholars of Slavic heritage, custodians of information resources, researchers, and students.

(Lana Soglasnova and Nadia Zavorotna, University of Toronto)

### **Yale University**

Ms. Mārīte Apenīte was Yale University Library's Baltic Intern for the 2011 fall semester. Mārīte Apenīte worked in the Slavic Reading Room in the Sterling Memorial Library from Aug. 31 to Dec. 15, 2011. Ms. Apenīte is the 20th fellow in the Yale Library Slavic and East European Program, and the 12th recipient of the Dr. Kristaps Keggi Baltic Library Internship. Yale University has provided internships from the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since 1999. The intern fellows have made significant contributions to the Yale Library collections and in turn have become valuable sources of information and networking after their return to their own countries.

Mārīte Apenīte is a Cataloging Librarian in the Cataloging Department at the National Library of Latvia in Riga, Latvia. She has extensive professional experience in indexing work, cataloging and authority control. She is well experienced also as a translator from English to Latvian and editor of many documents referring to indexing and cataloging policy. She has special expertise in subject cataloging for Humanities topics. As Mārīte noted in her Yale report: "My work in the National Library of Latvia is closely connected with data processing – the creation of bibliographic and authority records (subject cataloging and the classification of incoming publications in various branches of sciences in lot of languages), the control of bibliographic and authority records in the Catalog of Libraries of National Significance (this entails editing the Library of Congress Subject Headings and adaptation into Latvian in accordance with the Library of Congress Subject Cataloging methodology and Latvian language requirements)." Ms. Apenīte also found the internship a wonderful opportunity to improve her speaking skills in English. She is also fluent in Russian. Mārīte visited many departments at Sterling Memorial Library, including the Cataloging Department, as well as various Departmental and School libraries throughout the Yale campus.

In her report, <http://www.library.yale.edu/slavic/fellows/ma.html>, Mārīte commented that "my participation in the Baltic Internship Program at Yale was very important for me because it provided me the opportunity to learn about different aspects of American librarianship and it enriched my own repertoire and practical knowledge." Ms. Apenīte also noted that she "had wonderful opportunities to meet and develop good contacts with cataloging specialists at Yale University, the Library of Congress and the Harvard College library." As part of the internship, Mārīte obtained important information during the course

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of her visits to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Columbia University libraries in New York City, and the Harvard University libraries in Boston.

Mārīte summed up her experience at Yale in the following words: “My participation in the Baltic Internship Program was very important for both my professional and personal growth because I added not only to my professional knowledge and practical skills, obtained many new professional and personal experiences, but I also came away from the internship with a stronger ability to “believe in myself.” The internship really helped me to develop my self-esteem and confidence in myself. I was able to overcome my personal fear of speaking in English and the program was a great opportunity for me to improve my English language skills.”

(William Larsh for Tatjana Lorkovic, Yale University)

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### *III. News from Abroad*

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Kay Sinnema, Library of Congress

#### **41st ABDOS Conference**

The 41st ABDOS Conference will take place from May 14-16, 2012 in the Bavarian State Library in Munich, Germany. It is jointly organized by the Association of Libraries and Documentation Units for Research on Eastern, East Central and South Eastern Europe (ABDOS), the Bavarian State Library and the Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft (Association for Research on South Eastern Europe). The former Minister of State in the German Foreign Office, Dr. h.c. Gernot Erler, MP, President of the Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft, has been asked to give the opening address.

The planned topics are: Digital accessibility and electronic publishing - chances and risks for researchers and libraries; Social media and mobile applications - possibilities for libraries to actively acquire information and users; Union catalogues and meta catalogues in Eastern Europe and worldwide - cooperative indexing and datashare in different writing and transliteration systems.

As part of the 41st International ABDOS Conference a podium discussion on Literature portals as places for critical thinking is planned to take place in close cooperation with the TRADUKI project and the Fischer Foundation.

(Jürgen Warmbrunn, chair of ABDOS, <http://www.abdos.de>)

#### **Bosnia's National and University library is in deep trouble**

On January 6 the heating was turned off. Soon the power might be turned off as well, which would very likely lead to its closure. Closure of this national institution would directly affect the library's 4,000 regular users most of whom are students. In addition, if the library closes its doors, the future of its archives will be uncertain. As has been the case with other institutions such as the National Museum and the Historical Museum, the danger is that the archives will deteriorate with time. For more information see Balkan Insight

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/page/bosnia-and-herzegovina-home>

#### **ICCEES IX World Congress in Japan**

The Ninth World Congress will take place in Chiba, Japan in 2015. More information is available at: <http://www.iccees.org/>.

#### **IFLA news**

On behalf of the National Committee for IFLA WLIC 2012 Helsinki and the entire Finnish library community, we are honored and happy to welcome you to IFLA's 78th Congress. We are enthusiastic and proud that Finland is serving as the host country for the annual Congress. We hope that our theme "Libraries now—inspiring, surprising and empowering" encourages you as much as we feel that libraries inspire their users.

In Finland, libraries are an essential part of society and its public infrastructure. Libraries are heavily used and held in high value. The main challenge for us librarians is to develop innovative services that inspire, surprise and empower new generations of library users. The Congress is strongly supported by all the Finnish library associations, Helsinki City Council, The Ministry of Education and Culture and all libraries in Finland.

During your visits to various libraries, you can evaluate the level of Finnish libraries and how well we have succeeded so far. Together with the Congress bureau and the Convention centre, our goal is to host the Congress in the spirit of sustainable development, using new technologies in innovative ways. Enthusiastic volunteers will provide the local personal touch and ensure that you find your way around and that your questions receive informative answers.

Helsinki is a pocket-sized metropolis where it is easy to move around even on foot. However, we will make it even easier for you by offering a free pass to use the metropolitan area's public transportation network (buses, metro, trains and trams). You perhaps know Nokia, Marimekko, Moomins and Sibelius. Nevertheless, Finland is much more. It is also about egalitarian values, love of nature, and a pragmatic attitude. We invite and encourage you to scratch the surface and learn about the surprises and mysteries that Finland and the Finns can offer.

(On behalf of the 2012 WLIC National Committee, excerpted from the IFLA website <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78>)

**18th International Conference “Crimea 2011 -- Libraries and Information Resources in the Modern World Science, Culture, Education and Business”**

The theme “Libraries in the new decade of the Information Age: improving technologies and promoting cooperation” was held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine from June 4-12, 2011. More information can be found at: <http://www.gpntb.ru/win/inter-events/crimea2011/>.

The 19th International Conference “Crimea 2012 -- Libraries and Information Resources in the Modern World of Science, Culture, Education, and Business” has the topic: “Libraries of digital era: new paradigm and new role in social development” will be held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine from June 2-10, 2012 (see <http://www.gpntb.ru/win/inter-events/crimea2012>).

**Istituto per l’Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica exhibitions**

In the 90th anniversary of Alexander Dubček’s birth, the Istituto per l’Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica together with the Municipality of Forlì organized an exhibition to commemorate the Czechoslovak statesman. The exhibition will consist of 90 panels of iconographic material divided into three different sections devoted to Dubček’s biography, the connection between the statesman and Italy and the main events of the Prague Spring respectively, held Nov. 15 - Dec. 11, 2011.

In the 30th anniversary of the imposition of martial law in Poland, the Istituto per l’Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica together with the Municipality of Forlì organized an exhibition devoted to Solidarność and its opposition activities against the communist regime. The history of the well-known Polish trade union will be presented through iconographic as well as textual material, retracing the steps of the most meaningful decade not only for recent history of Poland but also for developments in the whole Soviet bloc, held Dec. 13, 2011 to Jan. 10, 2012.

(For more information see the IECOB website at <http://www.iecob.net>)

**National library of Serbia**

The Director of the National Library of Serbia, Sreten Ugričić, was dismissed on January 20, 2012 by the Government of Serbia, after Mr. Ugričić and 25 colleagues signed an appeal for the protection of the freedom of thought and expression, as well as for an end to the recently

### III. NEWS FROM ABROAD

started campaign against the Montenegrin writer Andrej Nikolaidis. For more information about the protest of this decision, contact Wolfgang Klotz at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, giving personal name and institution name ([wolfgang.klotz@hbs.rs](mailto:wolfgang.klotz@hbs.rs)).

#### **Nazarbayev University visit by representatives of the University of Wisconsin-Madison**

From Feb. 5-12, 2012, three representatives of the University of Wisconsin-Madison visited Nazarbayev University<sup>1</sup> in Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev University (NU) which opened in the summer of 2010 is an English-language university located in the capital city of Astana.

The delegation from Madison included two librarians, Dr. Louise S. Robbins, Professor Emeritus and retired Director of the UW-Madison “School of Library and Information Studies” and George Andrew (Andy) Spencer, a Senior Academic Librarian who is the Slavic, East European and Central Asian Studies Bibliographer for the UW-Madison General Library System. The third member of the delegation was Dr. Read G. Gilgen, retired Director of UW-Madison’s Learning Support Services.

The visit was part of a short-term services agreement that UW-Madison has with NU to assist and advise NU in developing NU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) and the NU Library. In this regard, Robbins and Spencer consulted with their NU Library colleagues on topics such as cataloging and acquisitions workflows, recommendations for English language e-resources, collection development and collection management, reference and user services, facilities and infrastructure development and staff development and training. Meanwhile Dr. Gilgen consulted with SHSS staff on a variety of issues related to facilities and technology, including the development of language instruction labs for the teaching of foreign languages.

The NU Library, which at the time of this visit had been open less than a year, is staffed by approximately twenty librarians and support staff with expectations that an additional ten or so librarians and staff could be added in the future. Both Dr. Robbins and Dr. Gilgen who had both

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<sup>1</sup> Although by standard LC Romanization the name would be typically be rendered as “Nazarbaev,” NU itself consistently uses the alternative spelling “Nazarbayev” in all its English language materials, so I am simply following the preferred spelling of the institution itself.

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previously visited NU in April 2011 were pleased to see the growth and development of NU in general and the Library in particular had undergone in less than a year.

The Library Director is Aliya Sarsembinova, who was formerly a librarian at the Kazakh National Academic Library, which is also in Astana. The Deputy Director of the Library is American librarian James Agee. In addition, two other Americans are currently on the Patron Services staff. The Kazakhstani staff of the Library comes from many cities of Kazakhstan, such as Ust-Kamengorsk, Shymkent, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk, and Almaty. In addition, two of the librarians are from Kyrgyzstan and one from Tajikistan. The staff members of the Library are keenly interested in their professional development. For example, staff from the NU Library visited their colleagues at the University College of London Science Library in November 2011, and two NU Library staff members will be attending the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois in the summer of 2012. In addition, Deputy Director James Agee will be attending the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim California in June 2012.

While plans exist for a large extended University campus, currently the core of the University is one large building which consists of a long linear enclosed atrium running the length of the building. This enclosed space allows students to walk between the eight "Blocks" that make up the actual classroom and administrative spaces without venturing outside of the building. The Library is located in "Block 5" which is approximately halfway down the north side of the atrium. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is located in "Block 8". Most "Blocks," including the Library, have an open balcony which overlooks the atrium. The atrium is planted with palm trees and other tropical plants, which in wintertime provide an interesting juxtaposition to the bitter Astana sub-zero weather only a few feet away on the other side of the atrium windows. It was quite interesting to be standing in the shade of a palm tree in the atrium looking out the window at the snowy minus-25-degree Fahrenheit Astana landscape.

The library itself occupies all four floors of "Block 5". The first floor is still partly under construction, but currently has plans for a computer lab, as well as facilities for library digitization projects, print on demand projects, and areas housing compact shelving for future expansion of the main collection. The second floor is currently the

### III. NEWS FROM ABROAD

main public area of the library, with stacks on the west end, two large reading rooms on the east end and a circulation and reference service point in the middle. The third floor is still closed to users, but has a similar layout to the second floor. The fourth floor provides administration, a conference room and technical services office space for the library as well as office space for the University IT Department. Since the language of instruction at NU is English, the majority of the library's collection is in the English language. The library does, however, also collect material in Kazakh and Russian and eventually, to a lesser extent, other languages. In addition to its print collection, the library also subscribes to a wide range of standard electronic resources such as JSTOR, the Oxford and Cambridge University Press e-journal packages, and Knovel. In addition, students at NU have access to Web of Science and the SpringerLink journal package via a Kazakh national license agreement.

In addition to the week-long series of meetings with the NU Library staff, Robbins and Spencer made a presentation at the Kazakh National Academic Library to over 50 librarians from various Kazakhstani academic and research libraries. This presentation focused on new trends and developments in American libraries and the librarian profession. The Kazakh National Academic Library is located in downtown Astana, next door to the Kazakh National Archives building and near one of the main landmarks of Astana, the Baiterek Tower. The following day Robbins and Spencer met with a second group of about 15 Kazakhstani librarians from regional academic and technical libraries for an open discussion of comparisons of American and Kazakh library policies and practices.

It was a fascinating experience to visit such a newly founded university. At this point since NU has only been open a year, the student body consists solely of first year students. So for the next several years the student population will rapidly grow as each new student class arrives. There are also plans for several graduate programs as well. In this same period, the Library must grow as well to serve the needs of this growing user base. The very energetic and enthusiastic staff of the NU Library seems well positioned to meet the challenges of building a new and vibrant Library to serve the growing needs of this newly born university. In all, the visit was most productive and instructive to both the UW-Madison visitors and their NU hosts.

(Andy Spencer, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

(Ed. Note: Pictures available on the SEES website)

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#### *IV. Grants*

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Sandra Levy, University of Chicago

#### **Report from 2CUL (Columbia & Cornell)**

Video lectures from the **2011 NEH Summer Institute “America Engages Eurasia: Studies, Teaching, and Resources,”** are now available: [http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu/?page\\_id=163](http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu/?page_id=163)

Among the videos are talks by Cornell’s Valerie Bunce, Columbia’s Tim Frye, and Cathy Nepomnyashchy, as well as Columbia’s dynamic Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Jim Neal, speaking on the topic “*Developing Vernacular Eurasian Resources, Then & Now & Later.*”

This Institute examined the evolution of “academic” engagement with Eurasia: the historic personalities, institutions, organizations, and research resources that collectively constituted the foundation of Eurasian studies in America. These components were considered within the broad framework of the geopolitical relations of America and Eurasia over more than 150 years, with the goal of establishing a more broadly applicable paradigm of area studies development in the United States (for Middle Eastern, East Asian, African, Latin American studies, etc.), suggesting avenues of comparative research.

Twenty-five undergraduate faculty, library curators, museum educators, and independent scholars were selected from a large pool of worthy applicants to participate in sessions led by a distinguished faculty and other professionals. Participants had a hands-on opportunity to work with the unparalleled material and academic resources of Columbia University and the City of New York.

Robert Davis, 2CUL Librarian, along with Harriman Research Fellow Edward Kasinec, will submit another National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute proposal for funding in June 2013. Entitled “Teaching & Researching 20th century Transnational

#### IV. GRANTS

Migration, Diasporas, Accommodation and Memory: America's Russian-Speaking Immigrants & Refugees," this Institute would bring twenty-five college and university educators to Morningside Heights for three intensive weeks of presentations and individual research. This would be our fifth Summer Institute as Co-Directors.  
(Robert Davis, 2CUL Librarian)

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## *V. Acquisitions*

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Sandra Levy, University of Chicago  
Masha Stepanova, Miami (Ohio) University

### **Cornell & Columbia (2CUL)**

2CUL benefits from one of the largest collection development budgets for Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in the nation, vastly increasing our collective ability to build broad and deep collections. It also provides considerable flexibility, allowing us to acquire rare antiquarian titles, as well as supporting first-time digitization projects.

Although final allocation figures have yet to be determined, the new (2012-2013) Fiscal Year library budget picture is looking good for both 2CUL partners. Preliminary figures show Cornell holding steady, and Columbia seeing an increase in endowment draws and allocated book budget funding.

Although e-formats are becoming a larger proportion of university library holdings, as we know, print remains the sole format for the vast majority of current publications from East Central, Eastern Europe and Eurasia—particularly in the humanities and social sciences. 2CUL employs a regular network of around twenty approval vendors worldwide to obtain vernacular materials from Central Asia and East Europe. This network of vendors has proven adept at locating often difficult to obtain materials. In addition to the existing joint 2CUL approval plans (now well into their second full Fiscal Year), this winter Cornell has established two new specialized approval plans for Armenian and Georgian, and the existing plan for Russian material has been revised to direct materials on Caucasian, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea archaeology to Ithaca.

#### *Retrospective Imprints*

Two recent gifts that have bolstered Cornell and Columbia collections include some 200 volumes of Ukrainica from the library of the late Professor Alexander Woroniak of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., donated by his sister-in-law Joan Patchowsky;

## V. ACQUISITIONS

and a large collection of post-war Ukrainian imprints offered by Ms. Hanna Zyruk. Polish imprints lacking at either Cornell or Columbia have been donated by the estate of Dr. Karol Pilarczyk. In addition, Mr. Edward Kline, the former President of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and a tireless supporter of dissident publishing, has allowed 2CUL to search the catalogue of his vast personal library to select materials lacking from our collections for possible donation.

Columbia acquired a collection of serials from Sarajevo CD-ROM and DVD, including the Bosnia serial *Bosanski prijatelj*, 1850-1870, *Bosanska vila*, 1885-1914, *Zidovska svijest*, 1918-1923, and *Pozoriste*, 1953-1991. In addition, both 2CUL partners benefited from gifts as well. Among the largest gifts received were the Latvian-language library of the late Sigurd Grava, Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning at Columbia; materials on Eastern Orthodoxy and iconography from the library of the Rev. J. Robert Wright of the General Theological Seminary; a collection on Soviet foreign policy and Third World relations from the library of Dr. Jonathan Charnis; and a collection of Polish-language imprints and Polonica from the library of the Polish Dominicans in New York.

### *Rare Books*

One of the terms you often encounter in library strategic plans is the notion of creating “destination” collections---that is, collections of materials that are unique or available at only a handful of institutions world-wide. Since the fall, we have supplemented rare book “destination” collections at Columbia (and, beginning this year, Cornell as well) via purchase and gift.

Cornell has purchased (for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library) a collection of publications from the short-lived 1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic, which lasted from March 21 to August 6 of that year. The Soviet Republic had ousted the Hungarian Democratic Republic of 1918, and was subsequently crushed by the Romanian army and succeeded by the Kingdom of Hungary. Publications issued by the Communist government were destroyed at the time of the Romanian occupation, so this archive includes a number of rare works. Contemporary issues are recorded in the weekly *Érdekes Újság*, which offers numerous photo-documents of the time, including public gatherings and images of the chief players of the Hungarian Communist Party.

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Columbia has added to its holdings of rare Hungarian interwar serials, including *A Hang*, an avant-garde, anti-fascist journal published in Arad from ca. 1932-34; *Munka*, 1932-38, published in Budapest by Lajos Kassák; and *A Másik út*, Cluj-Kolozsvár, 1931-32, a rare literary periodical, among other titles. Columbia purchased a number of Hungarian monographs from the pre-1918, and interwar period, including Árpád Szélpál, *Tüntetés*, Budapest, 1918. Produced in an edition of 100 (the only other WorldCat copy is at the Getty), it was an urgent call to revolution through poetry and art. Columbia also purchased a private collection of twenty-nine rare Latvian modernist works, circa 1918-1934. These works of poetry, experimental literature, and serials were designed by some of the country's leading avant-garde artists, including Niklaus Strunke and Sigismunds Vidbergs. The majority are not found in any other scholarly collection in North America. Columbia also purchased a complete set of the Romanian Surrealist compilation *Infra-Noir*, consisting of eight unnumbered *cahiers*. All of these collections are part of Columbia's Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Classics collection, reflecting Columbia's ongoing interest in building its holdings of the underrepresented modernist traditions of Eastern Europe.

The Bakhmeteff Archives received Mstislav Dobuzhinskii Personal Papers from a family friend in Prague (two boxes); approximately twenty linear feet (forty boxes) of the papers of Henryk Grynberg, a Polish writer in exile; a small collection of Czeslaw Milosz photos, from Zygmunt Malinowskii; ten boxes of papers of Ekaterina Lodyzhenskii, the niece of Iurii Lodyzhenskii, head of the International Committee "Pro Deo", which was affiliated with the Vatican and aided refugees from Communist countries; eight boxes of material pertaining to Gilbert Doctorow (winner of a Russian Booker Prize); and the remainder of the Boris Chaliapin Papers (8 boxes).

### *New E-Resources*

This past fall, Cornell approved the purchase, through special funds, of several online IDC/Brill research resources of relevance to our field: *Russian Avant-Garde Online*; *Imperial Russia's Illustrated Press Online*; *Muslims in Russia Online*; and, from EastView, Columbia added digital *Izvestiia*, covering 1917-2010, to which the Cornell campus has had access since August.

(Rob Davis, Librarian for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, Columbia University; Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies, Cornell University)

**Hoover Institution**

Russia/CIS: New Acquisitions

*Nikolai Khokhlov papers*

This collection contains papers and memorabilia of Nikolai Khokhlov, a KGB defector sent to Germany in 1954 to assassinate the head of the anti-Soviet émigré organization NTS. Khokhlov declined and defected to the West, where he wrote his memoirs and became a specialist in Soviet military espionage and psychology. Most of the papers relate to those aspects of his career, including material on psychological warfare and research in parapsychology.

*Alexei Milrud papers*

Much of Alexei Milrud's collection relates to the activities of his father, Mikhail Milrud, editor of the newspaper *Segodnia* in Riga, Latvia, between the two world wars. The collection includes materials on Mikhail's career and copies of his NKVD file (he was arrested by the Soviets when they incorporated Latvia), as well as materials relating to the newspaper and the history of Russian publishing in Latvia. Also included is an interview with Alexei Milrud describing life in Latvia before and during the Second World War.

*Pen-pal letters*

In 1989, H. Lucas Ginn, then a California high school student, wrote to a Soviet magazine saying he was seeking a pen pal in the Soviet Union. Ginn's letter and address were published in *Studencheskii meridian*, a youth magazine; he subsequently received some two thousand missives from young Soviet citizens. Most letters, which came from all over the USSR, are brief (and in Russian) but do allow some glimpses of the interests of Soviet youth at the time, including music, current events, and AIDS.

*Rare Publications of the Russian Orthodox Mission in China*

Prince Andre Lobanov-Rostovsky was a specialist on Russo-Asian relations and a professor of Russian history at the University of Michigan and the University of California at Los Angeles. Several years ago his papers were donated to the Hoover Archives; that gift has now been followed by his library. Among the interesting and rare books received is a set of publications of the Russian Orthodox Mission in Peking (Beijing).

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### *Photos of Nikita Khrushchev and other Soviet leaders*

In May 1961 Nikita Khrushchev visited the autonomous Soviet Republic of Adjara (Adzharia) in the present Republic of Georgia. The chief communist official in the region, Aleksandr Dursunovich Tkhliaishvili, was his guide and host. The photographs in this collection depict some scenes and meetings that took place during this visit. Of particular interest is someone in the crowd greeting Khrushchev holding up a large photo of Joseph Stalin, who at the time was out of favor with Khrushchev and his supporters.

### *Papers of the Late Yugoslav Dissident Mihajlo Mihajlov*

The Hoover Institution Library and Archives acquired more than seventy boxes of archival materials from the estate of the late Mihajlo Mihajlov (1934–2010), a Serbian writer, political activist, and dissident who was imprisoned for his critiques of Tito's Yugoslavia in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This collection, which augments an earlier donation made during Mihajlov's lifetime, contains correspondence, publications, and audiovisual media that document the breadth of Mihajlov's public career.

### *Judit Brody and Thomas Kovari Correspondence donation*

Following the defeat of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 some 200,000 people escaped to the West. Among them was a group of young mathematicians and scientists, most of whom had never set foot outside the Iron Curtain. The Hoover Institution Archives has received a primary source documenting the life and concerns of some of these Hungarian exiles in their first years of life in the West: a collection of one hundred letters, dated between 1956 and 1959, written to Thomas Kovari and Judit Brody by their friends, young intellectuals and academics, who, like them, had left Hungary in late 1956.

### *Oswald's Bulgarian Connection: the Spas Raikin Papers*

The Hoover Archives has received the papers of Spas Raikin, a Bulgarian-American historian, and émigré anti-communist activist. His papers, contained in ninety-nine binders, document Raikin's historical research and writing as well as Bulgarian émigré activities in the United States. Binder nr. 71, however, is different from the others. It documents an episode in Raikin's life that has a place in world history: his meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald in the port at Hoboken, New Jersey on June 13, 1962, when Oswald was returning from the Soviet Union.

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(Excerpted from Hoover Library and Archives website  
<http://www.hoover.org/library-and-archives/collections/russia-cis/new-acquisitions> and  
<http://www.hoover.org/library-and-archives/acquisitions>)

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## VI. Transitions

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**Francis T. Kirkwood** retired from the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, Canada, in April 2011, but remains an active member of both the Slavlibs discussion list and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). He is now devoting himself to further studies in the Slavic field and to international library consultancy in Africa and in the former Soviet Union. In the international sphere Frank is currently convener of IFLA's Access to Information Network – Africa, in which capacity he will chair an IFLA Helsinki pre-conference of interest both to Africanists and Slavists on “*Information for Civic Literacy*”, to be held in Riga, Latvia, August 8-10, 2012. Kirkwood is also a member of the standing committee of the IFLA Genealogy and Local History section (GENLOC), as well as Deputy Chair of the International Organizing Committee of the Crimea Conference. From June 4-8 at Crimea 2012, he will organize both the IFLA Presidential Forum and a new regional program stream on “*Libraries as memory: exploring the hidden archives, genealogy, local history and folk culture of the Silk Road and of the Russian and Ukrainian lands*”. Frank can be contacted for further information on any of these programs by e-mail at:

[Kirkwood.Professional@sympatico.ca](mailto:Kirkwood.Professional@sympatico.ca). (Francis Kirkwood)

**Liladhar Pendse** was appointed the new Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Librarian at Princeton University. Pendse formerly served as Librarian for Central and Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, and Librarian for South Asian and Central Asian Studies, at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he served since 2006. He is very active on the national scene in Slavic librarianship. He is the Chair of the Slavic and Eastern European Studies Section of ALA, was elected to the executive board of the Slavic and East European Microfilm Project (SEEMP), and is active in ASEES committees. He is also the Coprincipal Investigator in a British Library Endangered Archives Program (EAP) grant-funded digitization project. (From ASEES NewsNet, volume 51, number 3 [May/June 2011])

During the November 2011 19th APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, **Patricia Polansky** was presented a Pushkin Medal by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Also in attendance was His Excellency,

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Ambassador of Russia Sergey I. Kislyak. The Pushkin Medal is awarded for achievements in culture, education, human sciences, literature, and art, as well as for the study and preservation of cultural heritage or cultural exchange. Polansky is one of two American awardees among the previous 650 medal recipients. Polansky has served as Russian bibliographer for the Northeast Asia Collection housed at Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1970. From 1988 to 1992, she also served as director of the Center for Russia in Asia in the School of Pacific and Asian Studies. (From ASEES NewsNet, volume 52, number 1 [January 2012]; Patricia Polansky)

**Allan Urbanic** retired July 1, 2011 as Slavic Librarian and Head of International and Area Studies at University of California at Berkeley. He served as Librarian for Slavic & East European Collections since April 1986 and as Head of International and Area Studies since December 2006. In mid-August 2011, he returned to the Library on temporary recall (40% time) while recruitment for the position is underway. (Allan Urbanic)

**Ernest Zitser, Ph.D.**, Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies at Duke University was awarded a 2011-2012 National Humanities Center Fellowship. (From ASEES NewsNet, volume 51, number 3 [May/June 2011])

### **In Memoriam**

#### **Dr. Ronald D. Bachman**

Dr. Ronald D. Bachman, 64, of Falls Church, VA, died at Canaan Valley, WV, on Feb. 10, 2012, in a traffic accident on a mountain road. He was on his way to his mountain retreat, "Arbor Lodge", when the accident took place. Ron was born Nov. 4, 1947, in rural Rulo, Nebraska, to the late Elias and Marguerite (Homewood) Bachman. He demonstrated academic excellence throughout his school years, graduating from Falls City High School in 1966 as class valedictorian. He majored in Russian at the University of Nebraska and earned his BA in 1970. He was both a student and a Russian Language Instructor at Ohio State University and was awarded his Ph.D. in Slavic Linguistics from that school in 1980.

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In 1975, Ron began his career with the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. For fourteen years, he served as a translator, research analyst, and editor of Slavic materials in the Federal Research Division. The FRD generated reports on economic and military topics of interest to Executive Branch agencies. During 1990 and 1991, he worked at the Pentagon as an East European Analyst, Air Force Intelligence Agency. He regularly briefed the Air Force senior leadership, including the Secretary and the Chief of Staff, on current economic, political, and military events within that region. He was required to be on call at all times and was happy when he was selected to work in the European Division of the LC as the Area Specialist for Poland and Eastern Europe in late 1991. Among the notable challenges he faced during his fifteen years in that position was the supervision of fifty translators who prepared the materials for the exhibit "Revelations from the Russian Archives." He co-edited a book bearing the same title. He spoke several languages and traveled throughout Europe. Colleagues recall his generosity, kindness, sense of humor, intelligence, and humility.

Ron retired from LC in 2007 and pursued other interests. He authored "A Fine Commanding Presence," the biography of a great-great- great-grandfather who descended from Dutch settlers of the Hudson Valley. He enjoyed genealogy, travel, reading, music, fine dining, mountain hiking, cross-country skiing; autumn visits to New England; winter holidays at Lake Louise, Canada. He never forgot his Nebraska roots. He was a supporter of NU; an avid fan of Cornhusker sports; had RUNZA vehicle license plates; called his West Virginia retreat "Arbor Lodge." He attended family events whenever possible.

Ron is survived by his lifelong friend David Osborne, whom he met at NU; by dozens of nieces and nephews; and by eight sisters and three brothers. They are: Bernice Adams, Marlene McKim, Gary (Cindy) Bachman of Falls City; Marjorie Surman, Benjamin (Sandra) Bachman, Robert (Joyce) Bachman, Rita (Steve) Johansen of rural Rulo; Ruth Lieneman of Robinson, KS; Louise (Ernest) Pfankuche, Wauneta (James) Catlett of Kansas City; and Alice (James) Crouch of Aurora, CO. Ron was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Thomas Homewood.

*Editor's Note: This was written by one of Ronald's sisters and published in the Falls City (Nebraska) Journal on February 21, 2012.*

**Murlin Croucher**

The Slavic and Eurasian studies community lost a talented colleague with the passing of **Murlin Croucher** on July 31, 2011. Working as a Slavic Librarian, first at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and then at Indiana University, Bloomington, Murlin's career focused on assisting students and scholars of Slavic and Eurasian studies by providing reference service and developing exceptional research collections. Murlin thrived on answering obscure reference queries and obtaining uncommon, but important, publications that might be needed by the scholarly community. He always made time to help anyone who contacted him, regardless of their affiliation, and he did this work with a sharp, but always gentle, wit and good humor. While a full obituary for Murlin appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of *Slavic Review*, below are some personal reminiscences and tributes to our good friend and colleague, Murlin Croucher. - *Bradley Schaffner*

**Memories of Murlin**

It's a pity I never met him and only had a very warm correspondence with him (he helped me with my research during my writing about my father's singing career in Russia), but to this day I remember his eagerness to help me, and I was a person whom he never met. I am so deeply sorry that I deleted all my old emails during our recent computer transfer and right now all I remember of our correspondence, which went long into his retirement, is in my heart.

*Dina Azrikan*

*Northwestern University Music Library*

One of my greatest strokes of good luck when I was still a newcomer to Slavic bibliography at the University of Kansas in the late 1980s was getting to know Murlin Croucher through the good offices of my officemate and coworker at the time, and Murlin's former employee, Brad Schaffner. I was trying to figure out how to respond to the freakish, Weimarian price inflation that was just then affecting Yugoslav materials (and, far worse, life in Yugoslavia), and Murlin provided superb advice. After that, I found myself in fairly regular e-mail or phone contact with Murlin, sounding him out on all kinds of issues related mainly to South Slavic collection development.

Murlin had an acute sense of the absurd and an uncanny talent for quietly pointing out its lunatic presence even – or, perhaps, especially in the most formal and solemn settings. I suspect that his fascination

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with Eastern Europe, at least in part, had something to do with the boundless entertainment value that an outsider could glean from observing the non-sequiturs, blind alleys and blank incomprehension that official transactions served up to all comers as a matter of course during the communist period. Clearly he could afford the levity, since he didn't live there, but his trips to Eastern Europe on library business were frequent and long and grueling enough that many lesser persons might have snapped or grown embittered, instead of using them to replenish their stand-up material, as Murlin did. That there was more *smekh* than *slyozy* in Murlin's vision of the region under communism reflected a rare perspicacity about its systemic dysfunction that the collapses of 1989-1991 bore out.

Murlin had dear friends among the library colleagues he came to know in the course of his travels through Eastern Europe, and about whom we his American colleagues heard in regular, detailed installments between trips. Above all, Murlin was in love with the Czech lands and Prague, which he visited as often as possible, either as part of larger library trips or on vacation. He had learned Czech as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst in West Germany in the 1960s (it was his strongest Slavic language), and I believe he found among his Czech friends a modesty and wry humor that chimed with his own.

Murlin Croucher approached Slavic collection development with a competence and intensity that directly made Indiana University Library one of the nation's truly great Slavic collections. Indirectly, as a result of his generous, informal mentoring of a good part of the generations of Slavic librarians who entered the profession in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, Murlin has left his positive mark on many other Slavic research libraries throughout the U.S. And, on a more personal level, for those of us sitting close enough to hear his peerless antic wit, he has changed the way we see the world.

*Michael Biggins*

*Slavic, Baltic, and East European Studies Librarian*

*University of Washington, Seattle*

I was Murlin's colleague for many years as we worked on different aspects of the Slavic and East European collection in the Indiana University Libraries. I knew him as a tireless librarian, devoting many, many, extra hours to developing the Slavic and East European collection here at Indiana. My time as a cataloger for the collection began before Murlin's arrival, and I was able to see the tremendous

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impact that he had on the collection, both in terms of quantity and quality.

When I left my support staff position for a librarian-level position, I discovered a couple of things about Murlin: First, he treated me no differently, and this was not true of all librarians. Murlin valued me no less when I was a support staff member of the libraries than he did when I became a librarian. Second, he was one of the most wonderful colleagues that a librarian could ask for. He was a gracious mentor, always encouraging, always praising the accomplishments of others, and always guiding colleagues with humility and kindness.

However, it is my personal, not professional, memories of Murlin that are dearest to me. His devotion and loyalty to friends and loved ones was always unwavering. If you were a friend of Murlin, he felt that he could never do enough for you. He was generous with his time, his considerable knowledge, and with his wonderful sense of humor. An evening spent in his company was an immeasurable treat, full of gourmet food, never-ending wine, but most of all his company.

Over the past few months, I've been helping with the emptying of Murlin's house, one of the saddest tasks I've ever had to undertake. I helped to sort the books in his wonderful personal collection. I helped to pack up all of his dishes, art work, and other valuables that reflected his considerable travels. I found Carlin, his final pug, a wonderful new home. It seemed like everything that I touched in this endeavor reminded me of what an intelligent, cultured, and kind man Murlin was. All of this dealing with Murlin's possessions reminded me of how much I miss Murlin, my dear friend.

When I think back on Murlin, I most often think of him with his beloved pugs. If I am ever reincarnated, I would like to live the life of one of Murlin's pets. They were always thoroughly spoiled, but they were as devoted to Murlin as he was to them. This, of course, is how Murlin also treated his friends, and it is the reason that his friends were so devoted to him.

*Jackie Byrd, Librarian  
Indiana University, Bloomington*

While not a Slavic librarian myself, it has been my pleasure to know many Slavic librarians. Murlin will always hold a central place in that already special group of dedicated, devoted professionals. He came to

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Indiana in 1980, the year that I left (for Moscow, no less), but that did not prevent us from finding each other and in time growing into friends and colleagues. Murlin had many talents (not to mention a good share of charm and wit), and he was a superb librarian. So many other people I know (students, faculty, and other librarians) found him a caring colleague and a mentor. But what I will remember most about Murlin is his unseen contribution: Murlin personally trained or mentored several generations of our field's best librarians and they are his best and most lasting legacy.

*Maria Carlson*

*Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures*

*University of Kansas*

*Indiana University Ph.D. 1981*

Most of you will remember Murlin as a great professional librarian. But I remember him as a great person, a humanist, who was very modest, sympathetic, and unpretentious, despite his enormous knowledge and expertise. He loved pugs and nice wine. I think he enjoyed good weather and good company as well. We will miss him a lot ...

*Wookjin Cheun*

*Librarian for Slavic and East European studies*

*Indiana University*

Anybody who knows librarians knows that they are a very devoted bunch, and perhaps Slavic librarians are the most devoted of all to their profession. They have to learn obscure languages, deal with less than transparent vendors, satisfy often very demanding faculty, and work with library administrations that aren't always fully sympathetic. For me, Murlin Croucher, long the Slavic librarian at Indiana University in Bloomington, was the exemplar of his field. It seemed that Murlin often worked 24/7 especially when he was involved with one of his massive Slavic bibliography projects. He continued to build the IU collection with an eye to balancing the needs and wants of the "big" Slavic language (Russian, of course) with those of the "other" Slavic languages, which at IU comprise Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, Serbian/Croatian, and Slovene, among others. I can say with authority that Fulbright scholars who came to IU from Slovenia in the 1980s and 1990s were amazed at the depth of our collection in this area: one told me we had things she could not find even in the national library in Ljubljana. Chalk that up to Murlin! And Murlin's idea of a vacation? A book-buying tour of Eastern Europe, starting in his beloved Prague but ranging from there far afield, and into non-Slavic countries (Hungary,

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Romania) as well. His only relaxation, and the great joy of his life, were his pugs. His love for them was unconditional, and I know it was fully reciprocated. Murlin's twenty-some-odd years at Indiana were not always easy ones (see "unsympathetic administration" above), but those of us who knew and worked with him profoundly appreciated his contributions to the field, his devotion to his duties, his collegiality, and his soft-spoken but incisive wit. What an honor it is to have been numbered among his friends!

*Henry R. Cooper, Jr.*

*Professor Emeritus*

*Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures*

*Indiana University*

I first came to know Murlin as a graduate student in history at Indiana University. I enrolled in the IU dual History MA/MLS degree program and used Library Science as my outside Ph.D. minor field. The first class I took in Library Science was taught by Murlin in spring 1981, with two other students: the daughter of Russian émigrés and an immigrant from Bulgaria. Murlin skillfully charted the turbulent waters of Slavic librarianship to emphasize those areas of interest to us three, mine being Czech and Slovak History. We each wrote an exhaustive bibliography for the course which later became my first publication. His course enabled me to become a better researcher and writer with my subsequent classes in both History and Library Science. About two years later, I became Murlin's assistant. This is where I really learned about the field of Slavic librarianship which was particularly complex due to the former Communist systems and the Cold War. He skillfully navigated the way through the bureaucracies and red tape. I would write to all sorts of exotic places like Kishinev and Frunze as we had quite an active exchange program which also included libraries in the US. Murlin was gracious enough to grant me a leave of absence to conduct research work in Czechoslovakia. As a condition of this leave, Murlin instructed me to try to establish an exchange program with the university library in Bratislava. Even in his spare time or on vacations, Murlin would be constantly thinking about and acquiring materials to expand IU's holdings.

Among other tasks, Murlin also permitted me to do the book selection in English, Czech, and Slovak. We would often retreat to the library cafeteria to do all sorts of work in a less constraining atmosphere. Murlin would often giggle as I mutilated Russian, Ukrainian, and other Slavic titles with my Czechoslovak pronunciations. One day we went to

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another college to get some Russian books that were going to be destroyed. Since it would take all day, Murlin put a sign on the office door: "Gone Fishin'!" I can truly say to this very day that I have never had a better boss/supervisor than Murlin.

I left this position to work full-time on my dissertation. Murlin fully supported me in this endeavor by permitting me to use the office computer to write after hours during a time when computers were scarce and quite expensive. We developed a strong friendship that endured to his death. He would often invite me to his home for a fabulous meal and invigorating conversation, even after I left IU and would come back to visit.

With a library degree and Ph.D. in history, I was fortunate to have two options open for employment. I interviewed with several academic libraries before "turning to the dark side" of teaching. Yet, Murlin was always encouraging whenever we would talk or I would visit. He had a quick smile, a keen wit, and I never saw him angry. He was truly a unique person and my life has been better because of him.

*Gregory Ference  
Professor of History  
Salisbury University*

### Murlin Croucher: the Magician of Slavic Book Collecting

*To Murlin Croucher, from Jon Giullian,  
on the occasion of his retirement.*

MURLIN'S TALE by  
JON CHRISTOPHER GIULLIAN

MERLIN'S SONG by  
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Of Murlin wise I learned to search,--  
Search by title, search by name,

Of Merlin wise I learned a song,--  
Sing it low, or sing it loud,

Checking titles, holdings too,  
Day in, day out, yet never the same.

It is mightier than the strong,  
And punishes the proud.

I searched in Russian, Polish, Czech,--  
New books adding to the shelf,  
Old dups trading on exchange.

I sing it to the surging crowd,--  
Good men it will calm and cheer,  
Bad men it will chain and cage.

In the heart of the search peals a tale,

In the heart of the music peals



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reference questions, the really difficult ones that required one to dig deep into historical materials. And he just seemed to be able to pull it out of his head. And it is for those tough questions that his Guide is so useful. His course, as I remember, was designed around the content his Guide, emphasizing the “landmarks” of Slavic bibliography that we needed know. I do remember wondering whether I would ever know all of the information that he knows. Murlin became a great bibliographer because he worked on bibliographies all the time he was building the IU collections.

I worked under Murlin while he was putting the finishing touches on the second edition, when ProCite’s inability to handle diacritics nearly proved its downfall. I remember coming into work and hearing Murlin talk about how he had spent half the night (since he couldn’t sleep anyway) typing in diacritics into the second edition. From time to time, I would get an update on how many thousands of diacritics he had put in the night before. The second edition of the Guide incorporates a different classification system than the first; a system which I think works better. This is the other thing that I learned from Murlin - general principles of classification. He taught me to envision how the materials would be used. What would be the most useful way of finding materials? Murlin would frequently comment on how usable a dictionary or index is. Not only did he take into consideration how the content was organized, but also the physical properties of the books that facilitate ease of use.

When I was working on my bibliography for the course (bibliography of bilingual Russian dictionaries held at IU), I learned how to code them in ProCite so that they would appear in the right order in the generated bibliography. And then I found myself having to go through and make certain edits because ProCite had some technical problems. I also learned how to write annotations in Murlin’s class; what a concise, informative annotation consists of. His Guide provided an example that I could follow. Many of them also included an analytical element.

I looked forward to his class every week. We never seemed to have enough time to talk about all the books. The 2.5 hours always went by fast. Some people might think that studying bibliography for 2.5 hours in an enclosed room in the Wells library (with poor ventilation and no natural light, and of course sometimes it was a little warm) would put anyone to sleep, but strangely enough it was fascinating. His brief

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personal experiences with the materials and stories of book collecting showed us how much fun bibliography could be.

### Slavic Librarians Guild

Murlin's long-time colleagues will recall their week-long summer vacations spent at Slavic librarian boot camp in Urbana-Champaign. Murlin frequently talked about these summer workshops sponsored by the Slavic and East European Library at UIUC, which he affectionately referred to as the "Illinois Summer *gulag* – which I love." It was for Murlin, "the greatest little place we have to meet colleagues informally, shop talk, and relax," in the Urbana *banya*. Just three weeks after I started my Slavic librarian job at Kansas, I finally had the chance to attend the workshop, this one dedicated to digital text encoding. As a brand new librarian, it was at the Slavic librarian's workshop that I made some of my first professional contacts with colleagues and vendors (i.e. Andy Spencer, Larry Miller, Miranda Remnek, Jeff Strandberg, and others); a sort of induction into the guild of Slavic librarianship. I toured the renowned Slavic Reading Room at UIUC, browsed the fabulous reference shelves, talked shop with colleagues, and slept in my cramped quarters just as Murlin did summer after summer. It was fabulous!

### Storyteller

Murlin had a knack for storytelling. Not for the fictional type, but for human stories, glimpses from the episodes of his life. It is one of my saddest regrets, that I did not take the time to record the wealth of anecdotes from Murlin's life. A few years ago I had dreamed of recording Murlin's stories, so that the world could share what a few of us, who worked with Murlin every day, enjoyed so much about our friend. I wanted to call it the *Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Murlin Croucher: University Book Collector and Friend*. Maybe someday it will materialize; or maybe this collection of reminiscences, from the *kollektiv* is just that – a brief collective history of Murlin's life. It is, in my opinion, a tragedy that most of the stories that Murlin shared with his apprentices, while we sat in his broom closet on the 5th floor office of the Main Library (renamed the Herman B. Wells Library), went with Murlin to the grave. Fortunately I have been able to compile a few of these stories from letters and comments he made on email. I share here on little one gem about his eventful book-buying trips from a letter to me dated August 24, 2010:

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*The champagne incident actually happened in Moscow. When I went on a book buying trip to Russia, I managed to hook up with a mafia who helped me and made the trip a success. The Moscow mafia person was exceptionally nice to me. When he took me to the airport, just before I handed in my luggage, he zipped open the suitcase and dropped in a jar of caviar and a bottle of champagne. It was enormously kind of him, but the luggage compartment is not pressurized and the champagne was. So it exploded in the suitcase – into a thousand shreds of glass. When I got my luggage I noticed the tremendous stench of alcohol. People kept looking at me thinking it was me. I flew to Munich, and when my Austrian friend met me, he took two steps backward and said in his pure German accent “You shtink of Russia!”*

*Just one of the joys of traveling to Eastern Europe.  
With heartfelt wishes, Murlin*

For me coming to work was more than coming to work. When Murlin was there it was work interspersed with delightful conversation, and always a good laugh. I think the clearest memory that I have of Murlin is his jovial laugh. He was such a delightful man. I miss his company.

One day I remember asking Murlin about meetings at AAASS. Afraid of my own ignorance I felt intimidated by the aura of meetings at academic conferences. Yet Murlin, as he always did, put me at ease, telling me how much he loved going to AAASS meetings, describing the fun and laughter that Slavic librarians would share at their meetings as they conducted their business. Who says meetings are boring? Not when Slavic librarians gather. “They were delightful,” he would say. I soon found out why Murlin felt this way.

I was thrilled when I learned that Murlin had played the violin, studying for a short time at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. I too played the violin. As he described how much he enjoyed studying the violin I asked Murlin whether he still played. Following a slight change of expression, Murlin said that he had sold his violin to pay for college. Oh how he wished that he still had his violin. I remember my own fond memories of studying the violin. In one letter to Murlin I described how I had to “fake a few notes” from time to time while

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playing in the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra. I share this brief anecdote from Murlin's musical past in a letter dated July 10, 2010.

*I am familiar with that "faking some notes." I had to do that at the University of Chicago when I was given first chair for a wonderful, brilliant, beautiful German student who played the Bruch violin concerto. He was so perfect, that I am not sure he was human."*

And another letter, this one Murlin's contribution to the dialogue on gifts, sent to Slavlibs on May 27, 2010, this letter shows Murlin jumping into the fray of a lively discussion on the list, as he was known to do from time to time. I call this letter Murlin's "Ode to Gifts:"

*One side of this dilemma not covered is the emotional one between librarian and giver. I remember one donor who gave us about 60 books of Soviet statistics. He was very proud of his collection of mainly "ezhegodniki." When asked if he would like a letter of detail for the gift (over 90% of which were duplicates to the Indiana collection), he said no. Almost a year later, at tax time, he phoned and wanted a list of each book he had donated. He was furious.*

*A retired professor gave me most of his collection a year after he retired and decided that he would eventually move back to Croatia. There were many unique books because they were self-published by his émigré compatriots. It was nice to add these unique publications. But every month he would come to the office spitting teeth from anger that these works were not listed as part of the collection. He never learned that the card catalog had been replaced by the computer catalog. Worst, is that he often chewed gum, and the poor man could not chew gum and walk at the same time, so every time I saw him, I knew I would lose two hours of the afternoon.*

*A wonderful, if eccentric old lady offered me all of her old Russian books. I went to her house to get them. They turned out to be about 100 volumes of paperback editions of Russian classics. But I needed to be kind and thank her for the wonderful gift. Sadly, she kept her old books in her chicken coops so the boxes were covered in chicken doo-doo, feathers*

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*and spider webs. (Remember, this is Indiana.) But when I left, she seemed happy.*

*Dr. Henry Cooper used to receive free books from Slovene publishers. They were academic, but beyond my budget to purchase, often between \$60.00 and \$110.00 apiece. At least I was able to offer him a tax write off for up to \$500.00, for these valuable gifts. He was happy. I was happy.*

*But I am wasting everyone's time. A danger of being lonely and retired. But there is this aspect of the emotional toll on giver and receiver.*

*I miss so many of you, Murlin*

And we miss you. May you rest in peace. Your legacy will forever live on in the collection of the Indiana University Slavic collections.

### Exchanger Extraordinaire

Who could reminisce about Murlin without mentioning exchanges? As all of Murlin's colleagues will remember, he worked very hard to set up and maintain exchanges, masterminding Indiana University's broad exchange programs with dozens of libraries across Eastern Europe. I'm confident that we all know how passionate Murlin was about exchanges. Although he is often remembered as the guru of exchanges, Murlin loved good vendors. Whether by exchange or vendor, Murlin's goal was to collect the tomes that would build a collection. He loathed giving up thriving exchanges but had no qualms about replacing a fledgling exchange with a vendor who could supply the goods at a reasonable price, or vice versa:

*I do not think that we can categorize dealers, exchanges, sources. It depends on our personal relations with them, and how each one serves our needs, and we serve theirs - how our libraries are set up to deal with these people. If an exchange is a pain to library processing, or expensive to the library, get rid of it. Same thing for dealers.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Excerpts from a letter Murlin wrote about exchanges and their place in collection development.

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The next anecdote comes from Murlin's rich experience with exchanges, which shows the flair that made Murlin so successful in building one of our premier Slavic research collections:

*I would like to add another note, perhaps frivolous, but in tone with a paper once give at a AAASS, if an exchange works well, use it – if not get rid of it. Same with a direct purchasing agent.*

*Once I had some fun with the Estonian Academy of Sciences. They were just becoming computerized but could not use their work stations because they lacked certain computer parts. To make a long and intriguing story short, I found an electronics company in New York City, owned by an Estonian. I told him the problem. Through subtle contacts he learned exactly what they needed and could send it to them. I said that it could not be sent to Estonia, because at that time all Estonian materials were routed through Moscow. The Academy would never see these computer parts.*

*So he made arrangements. The parts were sent to Helsinki. Two Estonian librarians took a vacation to Helsinki and came back with boxes of computer equipment. 8 months later Indiana received package after package after package of Estonian imprints from the 19th century. The books were mainly in German, Estonian and some early ones in Latin. Almost all were unique holdings in this country. Of course circumstances are different today. But still, some publications are only available through exchange, like many of the fine works from Olomouc University.<sup>3</sup>*

*My best, Murlin*

And my best to you dear departed friend!

### Finale

Murlin understood that the age of the traditional role of subject specialist as book collector was changing. Technological innovation

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<sup>3</sup> From a letter to Slavlibs dated July 16, 2010.

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often transforms society, and Murlin understood that we have to ride the waves of change:

*If we want to maintain our Slavic collections we need to ride the surging appearance and disappearance of sources like riding a surf board. With our emerging electronic library world, disastrous drop in grad-students and faculty in our field, I am now a fossil. My personal question is, does it matter to try and maintain a super research collection in our field? Pay raises are based on doing everything but building a collection. The unbelievably complicated situation of online American and British serials occupies administrators' attention; and we are not part of that group.*

*So do we continue to work 10 and 12 hour days finding the best dealers and exchanges, and cost benefit ways, and slowly die in our wonderful 19th century book world, which is still necessary for Slavic acquisitions? Or just join the group, say the hell with it, use any dealer or exchange that saves us time so that we can join the team?*

It's a tough question, and one that we are all working through. Murlin lived and adapted to the conditions of his time, and he was a master at building collections with exceptional skill, flare, and sometimes magic. I will be forever grateful for the training I received at the Magician's hand. He taught me to love the research collection even as the definition of a research collection changes.

In loving memory of Murlin Croucher, mentor and friend.

*Jon C. Giullian*

*University of Kansas*

My particular memory revolves around Murlin's visit to Lexington in 2002 to accomplish the appraisal of a huge gift collection that had arrived at the University of Kentucky from Washington, D.C. in 2001. Though I assured him that it was a fairly easy three-hour drive from Bloomington to Lexington, he elected to fly here. After nearly missing his plane in Indianapolis, he just made it to the Cincinnati hub, only to endure a two-hour delay before the fourteen-minute jet hop to Lexington. As I met him at the Blue Grass Airport baggage claim, his face was ashen: "You were right—I could have walked here faster."

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The fun was just beginning. Due to some cosmic glitch his booked-up hotel had no trace of his having a reservation until the following night, so my wife Becky Ryder and I put him up in our guest room, and we settled in for a great evening of food and wine. Becky later told Murlin to make himself at home: watch TV, raid the fridge, play with the pets, etc. He cheerfully did all three until a sudden power outage interrupted his snack-making, and stranded him in the dark kitchen of an unfamiliar house in the middle of the night. He made the best of it, though: when I got up to see why it was so quiet, then found a flashlight and discovered that Murlin was not in his room, my alarm turned to relief when I found him sitting at the kitchen bar with a plate of cheeses. “You know,” he mused, “we probably should eat in the dark more often—it really makes you appreciate the different flavors.”

Oh, yes, the appraisal: Of course, Murlin handily and exhaustively considered the 15,000 volumes of the William and Harriet Scott Soviet Military Library over the ensuing days, and delivered a very professional yet whimsical final report on his efforts, all of which is not news to any of us who knew him and were lucky enough to spend time with him—doing just about anything!

*Gordon Hogg  
Special Collections  
University of Kentucky Libraries*

In 1980, I was trying to decide whether to leave the University of Texas for Indiana University. As part of the negotiation, Murlin introduced me to the Slavic holdings in the IU library. He himself had arrived in Bloomington only the year before, but he was already in process of improving the breadth and scope of the library's holdings. I was impressed not only by his imagination and energy, but by his range of languages and the wide compass of his knowledge. He was also nice, and quietly funny. He played a major role in the decision to come to IU, and brightened the years I was there, a model of what a scholarly librarian should be.

*Michael Holquist  
Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature  
Yale University; formerly Indiana University*

Good things happened to Indiana University Library thanks to Murlin Croucher. His was probably the most bright and productive, dramatic and intense period for the Slavic collection development. It was an

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enjoyable time to work because we all felt that something good was happening. His good sense of humor made everything look easy.

Murlin was an innovator. With great skill and velocity, he established about two hundred exchanges with universities, libraries, institutes and academies in the Soviet Union and both Eastern and Western Europe. This was a large scale undertaking, mutually advantageous: we sent them materials, they sent us materials. Printed items were relatively cheap in Eastern Europe in the seventies and eighties, and we obtained plenty of them, both serials and monographs.

The Slavic collection grew by leaps and bounds thanks to Murlin's long hours and weekends spent checking, revising, ordering.

By now, thanks to Murlin's vision, the collections of all East European countries are on a sound footing and can be built on, expanded and broadened. In addition, Indiana University Library boasts what is likely the best and most complete Czech émigré literature collection among academic libraries in the U.S.

When Eastern Europe fell apart, things became more difficult. But Slavic exchanges still kept functioning well. Thanks to Murlin's frequent trips to Europe, his congenial personality and sound dose of humor, we ploughed through and prospered.

So thanks, Murlin - for allowing us to share your vision, for making us laugh. We love you.

*Marta Johnson*  
*Indiana University, Bloomington*

There is not a single person, a professor or a student, involved in the Slavic or East European studies who has not been impressed by Murlin's professionalism, knowledge, willingness to assist any way he could. I want to write about Murlin at home: his hospitality, generosity, his love for animals. Since his retirement he would often invite me and a few of his close friends for lunch or dinner. He would send e-mails describing the recipe he was going to experiment with for the upcoming feast: "First I'll take a few cloves of garlic and sauté it in a bit of olive oil together with ginger, pine nuts and golden raisins..." But scrumptious food was not the only thing that was awaiting us. More often than not, there was always a thoughtful little gift for each of us – a book, CD, picture, a funny little figurine with a witty card attached to

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them. He was an engaging story teller and often entertained us recalling his fascinating adventures in Russia and almost every East European country where he had devoted and grateful friends.

He always had animals in his house, either his own or those for which he was “babysitting.” His beloved breed was a pug and he had several of them during the years I knew him. Each of them spoiled rotten! His last one, a little black devil he called Carlin, brought a lot of joy to his life. “Dodona, Carlin hasn’t eaten anything since yesterday,” he would complain pointing at a bowl filled to the brim with choicest bits of beef or chicken breast. “He is not hungry, Murlin. Look at him, he looks like an overgrown eggplant,” I would answer. “You think so?” Murlin would beam happily bringing out a new toy for Carlin.

He was suffering from several chronic illnesses. During the last couple of years he had to undergo weekly painful procedures at the hospital but never complained about it and seldom asked for help. His dinner parties were invariably filled with jokes, laughter and delightful reminiscences about the past and present events.

Murlin’s death was one among those painful and, alas, inevitable losses one experiences in old age. I will always remember him with gratitude and sadness.

*Dodona Kiziria*  
*Professor of Slavic Literature, Retired*  
*Indiana University, Bloomington*

I was a woeful undergraduate Slavic major, struggling to find literature I might attempt to read and understand when I finally found my way into Murlin Croucher’s office. I recall piles of books from foreign places all around him and thinking, wow – this is really interesting. Besides helping me to find some reasonable materials, he answered my rapid questions about how these books were acquired. My path into librarianship was seeded by this gracious and serendipitous encounter. Thank you, Murlin. You touched many lives and we are grateful.

*Jen Laherty*  
*Indiana University, Bloomington*

I treasure the years I spent with Murlin, as a student in his class on Slavic Bibliography, an assistant in his subject librarian’s office, as a colleague of his working with Slavic materials for the IUB libraries, and as a close friend during his retirement years. Just as he built the IU

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Slavic collection into one of the nation's finest, he inspired me to strive for quality in my cataloging work.

I remember his high standards in dealing with people. He was supremely generous, understanding, intellectually curious, and hard working. These traits allowed him to be very effective in his roles as reference librarian, collection builder, mentor, and valued colleague. It was always a pleasure to work with him.

Above all, I will miss his unfailing kindness and generosity.

*Tim Larson*

*Indiana University, Bloomington*

I met Murlin once and he reached out to me despite his high status as an accomplished professional. He made me feel welcome in the Slavic world. He e-mailed me several times when I was at UCLA, advising me about different vendors. He indeed was a selfless specialist. I am really saddened at his passing.

*Liladhar R. Pendse*

*Librarian for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies*

*Princeton University*

### Murlinsky

I suppose I first knew Murlin during the 1970s when he was at the University of North Carolina, but it seems almost lost in the mists. After he moved to Indiana University when Andrew Turchyn retired, our acquaintance grew into a long and special friendship.

He was awfully good at languages, having worked as a cryptologist for the Army in the 1960s. In addition to Russian, Czech was a particular favorite. He often traveled to Prague and on many occasions I would find a package in the mail with a beautiful piece of jewelry. The many art deco pins that I wear often remind me of Murlin.

In addition to attending the annual Slavic conferences (AAASS now ASEES) where Murlin often participated on panels, our small group of Slavic librarians used to also meet in the summer at the University of Illinois (Urbana). In 1994 Murlin invited me to go home with him and visit Indiana University. It is always a treat to work in a large research collection and I used nearly a week to great benefit. In addition, Murlin's excellent cooking skills were put to work when he organized a

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dinner party for me. As it happened, a very common straw hat of mine was left behind. Murlin often wrote that he was keeping it on the bed in the guest bedroom until I returned.

Murlin devoted so much energy and time to his long-time attempt to organize the world of Slavic bibliography. He was one of the few in our group who taught a Russian/Slavic course in library school (U Illinois at Urbana and Stanford are the only other ones that come to mind). He enjoyed this tremendously and began to conceptualize his bibliography during this period.

The idea was a unique attempt to cover reference works for all the counties in the former Soviet bloc; previously, the major sources had concentrated on Russia/Soviet Union (Horecky, Horak, etc.). His two-volume work was published in 1993:

*Slavic studies: a guide to bibliographies, encyclopedias, and handbooks* (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 1993. 2 v. 986 p.)

5,264 entries Worldcat 235 holdings

Reviewed by David Zdenek in *Slavic review*, 1994, 53 (1): 296-98 and by Ruth Wallach in *Slavic and East European journal*, 1995, 39 (3): 485

Most of the entries are annotated and are arranged by Library of Congress subject headings in English, German, French, and Slavic languages going from the general to the specific. Locations are noted for almost all items, but it clearly showcases Indiana's rich holdings. The introduction explains the way the subject headings and countries are sub-divided. Theodore Besterman's *A world bibliography of bibliographies* was used as a model.

At the time Murlin felt this was a bridge between the printed world of card catalogs, often organized by subject, and the computer world moving to keyword search of full texts (p. xiii): "this work started several years ago on a typewriter...later it was entered in a bibliography database." All the growing pains of the early years of computerized database problems were experienced. The lack of diacritics and lack of rendering titles in Cyrillic were huge disappointments to the author. However, I would like to confess that it was more distracting to deal with the way the bibliography was printed with the **BOLD LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT**

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**HEADINGS** on top of each of the 5,264 entries. It showcased the flaws in the LC subject headings.

In a conversation with Murlin in September of 2005, he reported that the manuscript for the second edition of his work was at Scarecrow Press. It contained an additional 2,800 items in 1,400 pages. The contents were now organized in a new hierarchical structure. Unfortunately, this has never seen the light of day.

His students were devoted to him...and he has several working in the field, including Brad Schaffner, Mike Biggins, Wookjin Cheun...and history professor Gregory Ference (Salisbury University). I'm sure there are many others I do not know. He was also encouraging and supportive to librarians in Russia/Slavic area collections.

Pugs formed a crucial part of Murlin's life; he was devoted to all of them. I knew that Murlin had major medical problems, but he would only mention these in passing, and he always sounded so cheerful when he wrote. Our correspondence was so large that he is one of the few people I had to move into an overflow file.

I greatly miss this kind human spirit I called Murlinsky.

*Patricia Polansky, Russian Bibliographer*

*Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii*

I first met Murlin by pure happenstance. During my second semester of graduate school and long before I became interested in librarianship, I took his course "Soviet and East European Library Materials," because I thought it would be an easy class that would allow me to focus my real academic efforts on my other, more difficult courses. Much to my surprise, Murlin's course turned out to be the most useful class I took during graduate school. He designed his course for both library students as well as graduate students from the various disciplines that make up Slavic studies, including history, Slavic languages and literatures, and political science. Unlike many general library science reference courses, which consist of discussing a particular topic or resource during each class, Murlin provided the background of the publishing industry in each of the Slavic countries. He would begin with an overview of the history of bibliographies in countries such as Russia and discuss how the bibliographic work contributed to scholarship in that country. Included in his overviews were discussions of how government restrictions, such as censorship,

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influenced the creation of reference tools. While his area of expertise focused on Czech and Russian studies, Murlin did not overlook the other Slavic countries in his teaching, and he provided similarly meticulous historiographies of the bibliographic history of these countries as well. In essence, he placed each of the bibliographies discussed in their historical and cultural context.

Interspersed in his lectures were wonderful stories about the characters he met and the adventures he had as a Slavic librarian. One of my favorite stories was about two Slavic librarians, one from Ukraine and the other from Croatia, who worked together but were not very collegial towards each other. Murlin was always vague on the reasons for their dislike of one another. Perhaps it had to do with their different nationalities, religions, or, maybe they simply did not agree on the relative merits of using the LC classification system over the Dewey Decimal system. Regardless of the reasons, they did not care for one another. One day, after a particularly nasty argument, one librarian dragged his desk out into the hall and then stormed off to the dean to demand that a second library Slavic department be established so he would not have to work with “that other person!” Of course, everyone in class laughed at this absurdity, but no one really believed Murlin’s tale.

Imagine my surprise when I moved to my first professional job a few years later to replace two retired Slavic librarians only to discover that they were the fellows of Murlin’s story. Within my first few days of work, each retired librarian made a point of meeting with me to warn me about the shortcomings of the other. I called Murlin one evening shortly after this discovery and asked him why he did not give me a heads up about this situation before I accepted the job. His response was that it was a great position, and he did not want to scare me away from accepting the offer. In fact, it was a great job and I am very grateful that he did not tell me that it was located at the home institution of the cantankerous Slavic librarians in advance. Murlin was always very generous with his time and professional advice, but in this case, he knew that the best approach was to say nothing at all.

*Brad Schaffner*

*Head, Slavic Division, Widener Library, Harvard University*

In mid-February of 1994, prior to my job talk at Indiana University, I was introduced to the Slavic librarian and bibliographer Murlin Croucher. Nervous at first, as most job applicants are, I was quickly

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put me at ease by Mr. Croucher. Strolling the grounds of the beautiful campus that cold brisk day, we retired to his tiny, windowless office, where what began as a standard job interview evolved into an animated, friendly conversation that only lightly touched on what I was there for.

This, I learned, was the quintessential Murlin; for he had the ability to be professional without being stiff - a serious scholar, with an unguardedly relaxed manner, who was also very helpful and open to suggestions, but possessed a fiercely independent mind. Several years later, our cooperation culminated in Murlin's bibliographic article which he happily prepared for the special Polish issue of the *Indiana Slavic Studies* that I had edited.

Murlin was passionate about Prague and Czech culture. He loved his books and his pugs (oh my, his pugs!). We became neighbors in the Sherwood Oaks section of Bloomington, living a block apart. He often invited my husband and me to his home for dinner, where we later descended to his tastefully appointed basement to watch the comedic videos of Mr. Bean and Wallace and Gromit - characters that were new to me but whose antics Murlin never seemed to tire of. He could fill the room with his ready laughter. It is indeed that one enduring quality of his that I'll sorely miss, as I'm sure we all will.

*Božena Shallcross*

*Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
University of Chicago; formerly Indiana University*

Murlin was a lovely person and the best mentor one could wish for.

His knowledge of Slavic bibliography was second to no one's, and he delighted in sharing it with his students and friends. Murlin had the gift of inspiring love and admiration. It is hard to overstate the contribution he has made to Slavic librarianship in North America and, specifically, to the Slavic collection at IU.

Requiescat in pace.

*Anna L. Shparberg*

*Librarian for History, German/Slavic and Linguistics  
Rice University*

I always think of Murlin whenever I see a pug. Years and years ago Torin and I visited Murlin in Bloomington, and we greatly enjoyed

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meeting the two pugs who were with him at the time. Murlin made a wonderful lunch for us, and we had the nicest day. Murlin was always wonderful company.

If we ever get a pug we will definitely name him Murlin.

We will raise a glass of fine red wine to his memory.

I will miss him terribly.

*Patricia Thurston*

*Yale University*

I first met Murlin under unusual circumstances. Many years ago while he was the Slavic Librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill, they posted a job for a Slavic cataloger. I had just returned from a year-long stint in Russia accompanying my wife on her IREX grant. Upon return I started applying for work in the Slavic library field and applied to the UNC position hoping to get a foot in the door somewhere. I didn't hear a word back about my application, so I took it upon myself to write to Joe Jerz, who was their head of Human Resources, trying to stir the pot, saying my wife and I were driving from RI to Florida to visit with my parents, that I would be stopping in Chapel Hill to visit April Wreath, the widow of my undergraduate mentor Patrick Wreath, who had recently passed away and who had been head of Collection Development at the Library. I received a reluctant reply from Mr. Jerz that he could meet with me for a few minutes.

A few weeks later at about 8:30 AM, I found myself in Chapel Hill, in Mr. Jerz's office discussing the position, and having my application being summarily rejected. He did recommend that if I wanted a career in the Slavic field, it might be a good idea if I spoke with Murlin about what one needed to know when applying for such positions in the future. I poked around the Library and eventually came to Murlin's office which had piles of books on almost every square inch of the floor. Though I had rudely barged in unannounced, Murlin dropped what he was doing and proceeded to spend the next four hours discussing every aspect of Slavic librarianship that there was, with anecdotes and his usual bemused tolerance for the ups and downs of dealing with exchange partners and vendors. Later, as Murlin was escorting me to the front steps of the Library, we ran into Mr. Jerz, who was returning from lunch. The scowl on his face spoke volumes. He was not pleased that Murlin had spent so much time with this, young, pushy upstart while he should have been working on what he was paid

## VI. TRANSITIONS

to do. Murlin brushed it off and sent me off with enough encouragement to endure many more months of futile job applications. I am sure that I was not the only “wet behind the ears” library student that he helped in this way.

*Allan Urbanic*

**Andrei Pliguzov** passed away March 26, 2011. Andrei spent his childhood in Siberia and some of his teen years in an Old Believer’s monastery there. In the 1970s he studied Russian medieval religious history at Novosibirsk University and in the 1980s at the Institute of History (USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow). He was a fellow at both the Ukrainian Research Institute and Russian Research Center at Harvard University in the early 1990s.

Andrei came to the Library of Congress in 1995 in search of early Russian texts, particularly in the Law Library of Congress. With his superb knowledge of Russian manuscripts and printing history, he taught us all something about *istokovedenie*. Andrei identified and helped us describe 128 rare monographs in what became known as the Law Library’s “18th-Century Russian Law Collection,” as well as forty-eight “Russian manuscript scrolls” from the 17th and 18th centuries, and other treasures.

The wonderful tribute to Andrei that appears in the Spring 2012 issue of *Slavic Review* was posted on a blog by other colleagues and friends: <http://andrei-pliguzov.blogspot.com/2012/03/slavic-review.html>.

I was surprised to learn after Andrei’s death that, in addition to his scholarly writings, he had published not only a book of satire (*V maske Kharmsa*, New York: Alexandria, 2004), but a book of his own collected poems: Andrei Pliguzov, *Stekliannaia gora*. New York: Alexandria, 2003).

Barbara Dash (Rare Materials Section, Library of Congress)

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## *VII. Libraries in Profile*

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### **The American Research Center in Sofia Library**

Jason Reuscher, Pennsylvania State University

Located in the Hadzhi Dimitar district of the capital city of Bulgaria since 2004, the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) Library spans two floors within the American Research Center in Sofia, which is the youngest member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and includes notable research institutes such as the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the American Academy in Rome, and the American Research Institute in Turkey. As part of this larger network, it is the mission of ARCS to facilitate academic research in Bulgaria for North American scholars and collaboration between these scholars and the countries of Southeast Europe. As such, one of the aims of both the center and the library is to provide access to the research and scholarship of both Southeast Europe and the West.

The library at present holds over 13,000 volumes and has a capacity for around 16,000. The first floor consists of the Stefanovich Collection, serials, maps, CD's, pamphlets, and oversized volumes, which are classified according to the Library of Congress Classification Outline. The second floor holds the bulk of the book collection, focusing on the archaeology and ancient history of the Balkan Peninsula with additional coverage in the medieval, Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern history and culture of the region. Due to the collections focus and strengths, space is allocated to the AC-CT range in one area and D-F in another. The center collects materials in all major, western European scholarly languages, the Balkan languages, and some Turkish and Russian language materials as well.

Although it is a non-circulating collection, the library offers unrestricted, onsite access to its fellows and members and is open to the public Monday through Friday during the week. As it acquires rare collections of scholarly works throughout the Balkans, the library is quickly becoming a repository of unique titles both in Bulgaria and the region. Recent acquisitions are posted monthly at the library's website: <http://arcsosofia.org/en/page/30-Recent-Acquisitions>.

## VII. LIBRARIES IN PROFILE

Additionally, the ARCS library has access to JSTOR onsite through a CAORC consortial agreement, and is looking to expand its access to online resources in the future, including the Central and East European Online Library (CEEOL) and other research-specific resources. High-speed internet is available both through Ethernet ports and free wireless internet onsite. There are three computers, a printer, a professional screen scanner, and a photocopy machine onsite as well. Nearly all of the collection is searchable via online catalog from the center's website with the exception of the local, serial collection. Recently, ARCS has been approved as a member of the National Academic Library and Information System (NALIS) Union Catalogue, which currently links 14 academic libraries in Bulgaria.

As a new scholarly research center, funding fluctuates yearly and includes individual donations as well as competitive, grant-based funding from private and U.S. government entities, including the America for Bulgaria Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Donations specific to the collection strengths are always welcome.

Questions regarding the library or suggestions for purchase can be sent to the library's cataloging librarians, Boyana Boyanova and Elitsa Popova at [library@arcsofia.org](mailto:library@arcsofia.org). For more information about the library or the opportunities to study with ARCS, contact Dr. Todor Petev at [usdirector@arcsofia.org](mailto:usdirector@arcsofia.org) or Dr. Denver Graninger at the Sofia Office directly, [sofiadirector@arcsofia.org](mailto:sofiadirector@arcsofia.org).

Links:

American Research Center in Sofia, <http://arcsofia.org/en>

ARCS library, <http://arcsofia.org/en/page/26-Library>

Council of Overseas Research Centers, <http://caorc.org/>

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**VIII. Selected Bibliography of Recent Publications on Slavic Librarianship and Collections in the West**

Jason Reuscher, Pennsylvania State University

\* Indicates items not seen by the compiler

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