

REEU NEWSLETTER

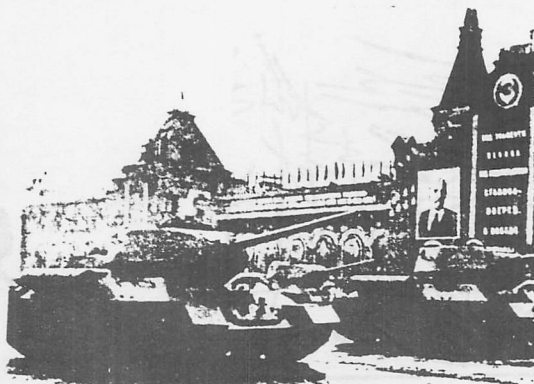
RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN AREA STUDIES CENTER.
WINTER QUARTER 1989. THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Professor Daniel Chirot replaced Professor Herbert J. Ellison as Chairman of the Russian and East European Studies Department. Dr. Ellison went on a leave of absence to complete some writing and research projects.

Dr. Chirot, a Romanian specialist, looks forward to his new responsibilities as Chairman of the Russian and East European Studies Program, he was quick to point out that while his responsibilities still are not as great as Gorbachev's, neither are the dangers of his failure.

Professor Chirot welcomes anyone who would like to discuss any aspects of the program to stop by his office. He will be holding office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

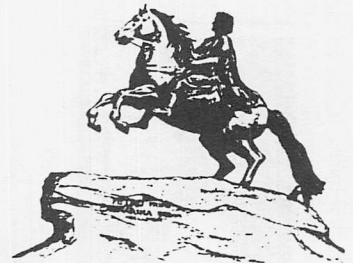
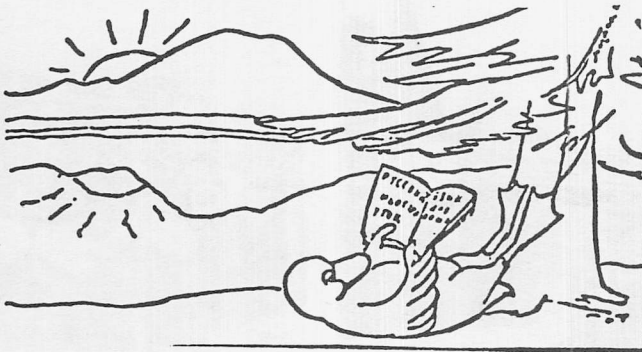




SEMINAR PLANNED IN HONOR OF RETIRING PROFESSOR

Internationally acclaimed Professor of History, Dr. Peter Sugar, will be retiring at the end of the 1988-89 academic school year. Dr. Sugar will be leaving his teaching duties at UW, but does not expect his work load to decrease substantially, if at all. Professor Sugar plans to continue doing exactly what he is currently doing with the exception of teaching classes at UW. Dr. Sugar, a specialist in East European history, will continue to advise current graduate students under his guidance, complete a number of research projects he is currently working on, and carry on with his duties serving on various national advisory boards. Dr. Sugar is the current Chairman of the Academic Advisory Board for the East European Program of the Woodrow Wilson School at the Smithsonian Institute.

As a tribute to, and in appreciation of Dr. Sugar's years of distinguished service at the University of Washington, on May 13 a seminar on Cultural Unity and Disunity in the Nations of Modern Eastern Europe will be held at the University of Washington. A number of distinguished experts from around the world will speak.



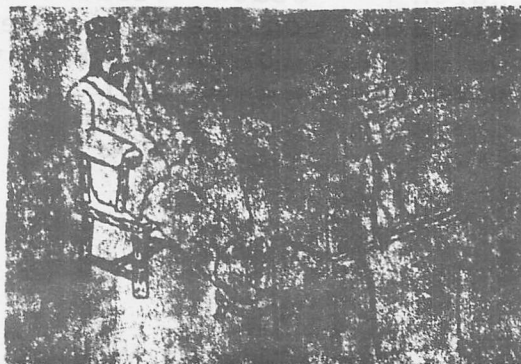
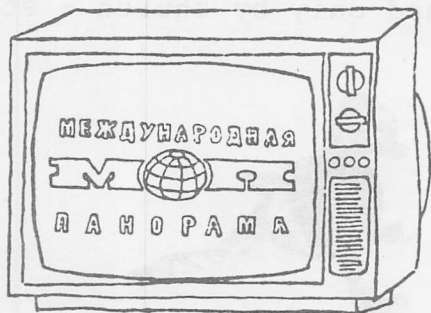
HISTORY OF COMMUNISM FILM SERIES PLANNED

Professor Herbert J. Ellison of the Russian and East European Studies department is currently collaborating with the British Broadcasting Corporation and WNET, channel 13, a Public Broadcasting Station in New York, to produce a 9 part film series on the history of communism.

Over the past six years Dr. Ellison has sought to develop the film series as a way of presenting a comprehensive overview of the international communist movement. In the beginning outside interest in his proposal was limited however, interest has heightened, and in the past year tremendous strides have been made in program development. Dr. Ellison believes that with the Gorbachev ascension to power and the subsequent developing crises in the communist world, which encompasses roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the globe's population, public interest in various aspects of communism has also risen.

Examining aspects of 20th century communism each program will cover a major facet of communism including; communist revolution, government, economy, the communist view of society, religion, culture, nationalism and nationalities, relations among communist states and parties, and communists in the non-communist world.

During the next eight months research and site visits will be conducted with project filming scheduled to begin in late 1989 or early 1990. Screening for the film series is targeted for early 1991.



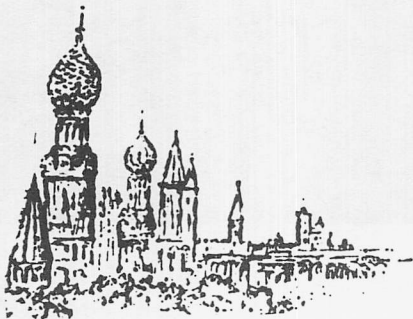
JACKSON SCHOOL PROFESSOR CONDUCTS RESEARCH IN EAST GERMANY

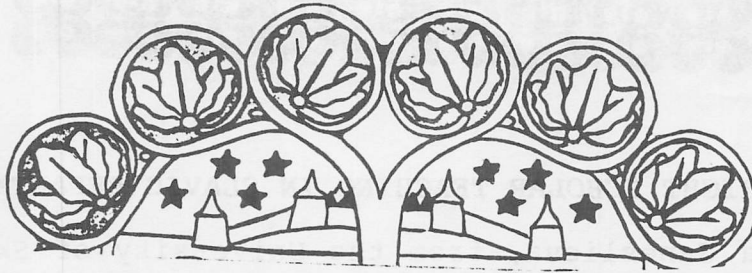
Professor Pedro Ramet of the International Studies department spent the summer of 1988 conducting research in the German Democratic Republic. Professor Ramet traveled to the GDR on a research grant sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

Traveling throughout a number of major cities in the GDR, including Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, and Erfurt, as well as a number of smaller cities, Professor Ramet's research focused upon Protestantism in East Germany. Professor Ramet, who specializes in Soviet and East European affairs at the Jackson School, will use the research he collected to contribute a chapter to a book he is currently editing, Protestantism and Politics in East Europe and the Soviet Union, expected date of completion January 1989.

Ramet's research focused primarily upon the Evangelical Luthern Church, which is the largest church in the GDR with a membership of 7.7 million, the Catholic church claims the second largest membership with 1.2 million members. Organized as a federation of eight district churches (Landeskirchen) the Evangelical Luthern Church is responsible for the warming relations experienced by all the churches in the GDR due to its approach to the East German state in 1978. Recently however, somewhat ironically, the Evangelical Luthern Church and East German government have experienced a cooling trend as tensions have mounted over the churches right to publish the notes of synodal meetings. Due to the rather explicit nature of the speeches presented during these meetings the government has forbidden their publication.

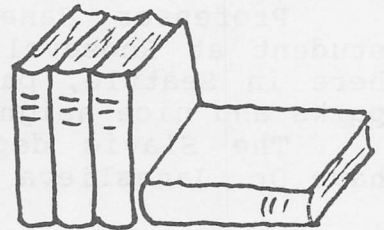
Ramet concludes that despite the current tension in church - state relations the church in East Germany maintains considerable freedom and latitude comparatively for an East European society, matched only by church - state relations in Yugoslavia.

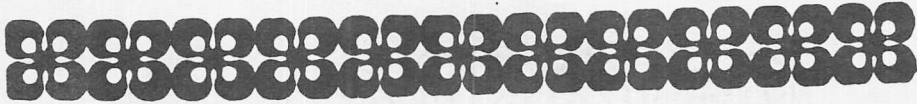




PROFESSOR TREADGOLD HONORED

Professor Donald W. Treadgold was recently honored by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Citing Professor Treadgold's outstanding work in teaching, research, and University administration, in addition to his contributions to professional journals and in national and international organizations the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies presented Dr. Treadgold with an award for distinguished contributions to the field of Slavic Studies.





YUGOSLAV FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR TEACHING IN SLAVIC DEPARTMENT

Dr. Ljubica Janeslieva, from the University of Skopje, has joined the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature this academic year on a one-year Fulbright teaching appointment. As a native of Macedonia, Dr. Janeslieva is able to provide students with a rare opportunity to study Macedonian, in addition to teaching first year Serbo-Croatian.

This is neither Dr. Janeslieva's first trip to the U.S. nor her first teaching appointment abroad. In the early 1970's Janeslieva did postgraduate studies at Purdue University in Indiana and in 1975-76 she taught Macedonian language and culture in England on an exchange program between the University of Bradford and her home university. Dr. Janeslieva's other studies include a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Bristol, England, a Master's from the University of Belgrade, and a Ph.D. from the University of Skopje.

Dr. Janeslieva, a specialist in British and American literature received the first Ph.D. in American literature from the University of Skopje.

Dr. Janeslieva's principle interest is in the field of women writers and her research here in Seattle concentrates on American women writers and American-Macedonian cultural and literary connections

Professor Janeslieva and her daughter, Slavica, a student at Roosevelt High School, are enjoying their stay here in Seattle, particularly appreciating Seattle's green parks and nice neighborhoods.

The Slavic department considers itself fortunate to have Dr. Janeslieva as a faculty member this year.





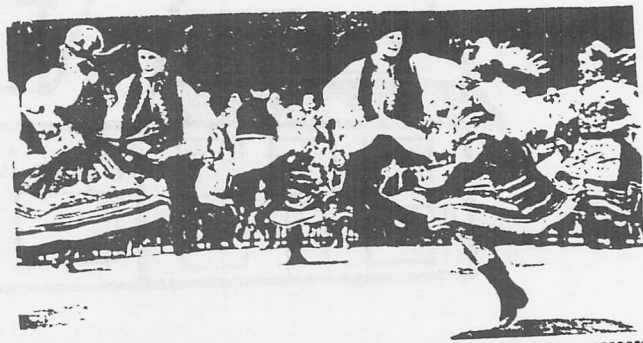
FRIENDS SCHOOL / 5114 N. Charles Street / Baltimore, MD 21210 Phone (301) 435-2800
ZITA D. DABARS, Ph.D. Director of the Center of Russian Language and Culture

THIRD NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Third NEH Summer Institute in Russian Language and Culture will be held June 25-July 22, 1989, in conjunction with the Bryn Mawr College Russian Language Institute at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. The 1989 Institute, along with the 1987 and 1988 Institutes, is part of a three-year tri-component project aimed at improving the quality of teaching among pre-college and small college teachers of Russian. The project is made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to the Center of Russian Language and Culture (CORLAC) of Friends School of Baltimore. In addition, NEH is offering \$50,000 that will match \$50,000 raised from other sources.

This summer's Institute will allow 25 teachers of Russian from high schools and small colleges as well as student teachers to immerse themselves in all aspects of the Russian language, culture, and civilization and to enable the participants to transmit this information effectively to their students. The NEH grant provides the participants with instruction, travel expenses, room and board, teaching materials, and an \$800 stipend. The working language of the Institute is Russian.

Additional information, applications, and brochures are available from Zita D. Dabars, Co-Director, CORLAC/NEH Institute, Friends School, 5114 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210; (301) 435-2800, ext. 3257. The deadline for completed applications is March 25, 1989.




RUSSIAN HOUSE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENDOWED FUND DRIVE

The Russian House Alumni Association can credit several noteworthy accomplishments to its short year in existence. It established a roster of 628 former House residents and early this fall the Russian House Alumni Association, headed by founder John Jacobsen, mailed out a lengthy newsletter to everyone for whom they could find an address. If you are a former resident of the "Russkii Dom", and did not receive the newsletter, please contact the Slavic Languages Department, 543-6848, and let us add you to the roster. Non-alumni who would like to join as "Friends of the Russian House" are also welcome.

The most exciting development in the RHAA is the establishment of an endowed fund to provide scholarships to students who are eligible to be members of the Russian House and it also has an emergency provision allowing it to be tapped should the future of the Russian House be jeopardized. The fund was given a tremendous boost when one of the original House residents from 1961 made a substantial donation and offered to match contributions of people pledging \$100 a year for five years. Those who so pledge become members of the exclusive "Sotniki" club: the "Hundred-ers". Membership is open to anyone with a philanthropic bent: faculty, alumni and friends. Those interested in joining or in giving any amount at all to this fund may contact the Arts and Sciences Development Office, 543-5340.






FUTURE OF THE RUSSIAN HOUSE


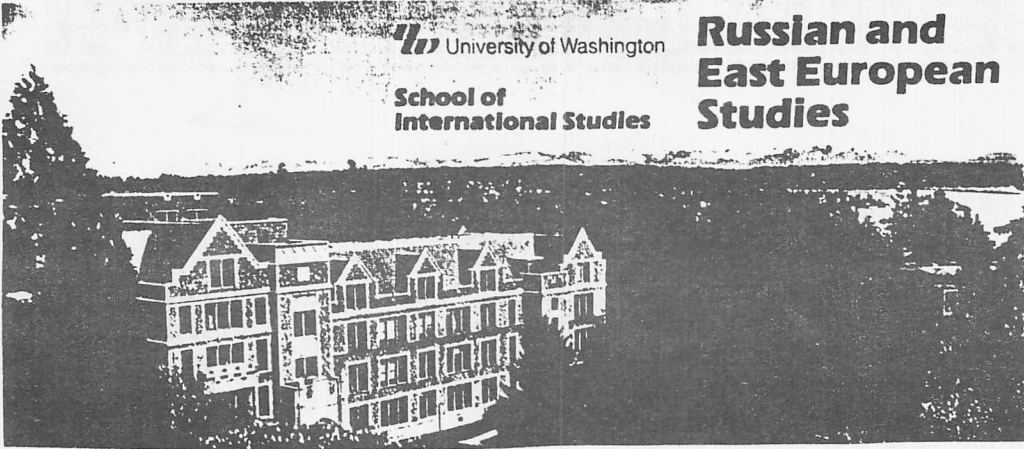
The Russian House is facing some major repairs and remodeling in the next few years and is even considering the possibility of relocating within the next 10 years as the current building is simply too old to carry the Russian House into the 21st century.

A unique academic institution at the University of Washington and a valuable part of the Russian Language and Russian Area Studies program, the Russian House got off to a roaring start in 1961, but the "Russkii Dom's" fate in more recent times has been precarious. The University is expected to carry out the most substantial of the needed repairs, but the Slavic Department and the Russian House Alumni Association are now trying to rally support to do an interior facelift with volunteer labor, similar to the great faculty-student "subbotniki" that replastered, re-ceilinged, and repainted the Russian House interior some 15 years ago.

Financial donations to the remodeling effort may be made to the University of Washington c/o Russian House Gift Fund at the Slavic Languages Department, 111 Thomson Hall DR-30 98195.

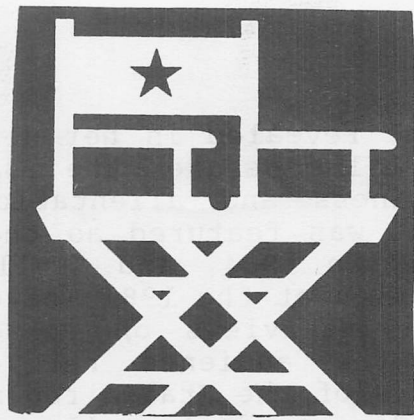
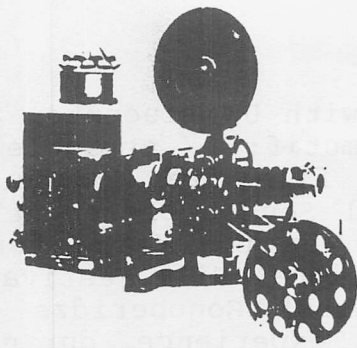
This fund is also used for minor programming expenses incurred on behalf of such cultural events as the annual Slavic film festival, organized by current Russian House residents. We urge you to get involved in some way, be it through donating to one to the funds, or through helping locate and contact past residents. More information on any of the Russian House related projects mentioned in this newsletter is available for the Slavic Languages Department, 543-6848. Your interest will be greatly appreciated.



 University of WashingtonSchool of
International Studies**Russian and
East European
Studies**

NEW STUDENT ASSOCIATION FORMED

For those students and faculty members having a special interest in Soviet Central Asia or Turkic peoples in general, there now exists a student group whose interests encompass this region. The Student Association of Inner Asian Studies was formed in the spring of 1988 for the purposes of exchanging scholarly information, sponsoring seminars and presentations on Inner Asia, developing cultural and informational exchanges with other universities and institutions, and serving as a support group for students studying here on exchange from Central Asian universities. Some activities of the Association have been: presentations by students and faculty on culture and environment in Uzbekistan and Xinjiang (a province of China where there is found a large population of Turkic peoples), showing of a film based on a Kirghiz epic, providing assistance in various capacities to the Seattle-Tashkent Sister City Committee, and hosting receptions for visiting students and scholars from Central Asia. The Association is interested in developing a wide membership here at the University and in the community in order to enrich cultural and academic understanding of Inner Asia. The Association is interested in developing a wide membership here at the University and in the community in order to enrich cultural and academic understanding of Inner Asia. Those who would like to get involved or simply be informed of the Association's activities can call or leave a message for Heather McAuliffe. 543-6920; DH-20.



GEORGIAN FILMS AND FILMMAKERS VISIT SEATTLE

Unique in Soviet and world filmmaking, Georgian Cinema, like the other arts of that region, is a product of the rich and vital cultural traditions, exotic folklore and passionate Georgian character.

Intriguing and delighting their viewers with themes of civic commitment expressed through a lyrical world view, Georgian films invariably win prizes at film festivals. During the last few years, as the climate for artistic expression in the USSR has improved, Georgian films, which are renowned for their refined artistic taste and scintillating humor, have become quite popular among foreign distributors.

Tengiz Abuladze is probably the most familiar name to admirers of Georgian cinema. His film trilogy, "Tree of Desire" (1968), "Entreaty", (1971) and "Repentance" (1987), created a furor among Soviet intellectuals. Abuladze was one of the first to produce under the guise of art, an open public condemnation of Stalin's personality cult. "Repentance" was shown in the Russian House last summer and is now available on video-cassette.

Two representatives of the younger generation of Georgian cinema visited Seattle and the University of Washington in November. Lana Gogoberidze, a prominent film director, and her screenwriter Zaira Arsenishvili opened The Seattle International Women's Film Festival this fall. Gogoberidze, who has directed eight feature films, is the artistic director of a major Soviet film studio and President of the International Association of Women Filmmakers. She presented 3 films: "Full Circle", "Some Interviews on Personal Matters", and "Day Longer than Night"

As she revealed in her discussion with UW students, all of her films share the same leitmotif: struggle with loneliness and alientation. Her film "Day Longer Than Night" was featured as the official Soviet presentation at Cannes in 1984, and "Full Circle" won the prize for best direction at the 1987 Tokyo International Film Festival. In "Some Interviews on Personal Matters" Gogoberidze shares with the audience her childhood experience during the terrors of the Stalin regime.

Gogoberidze's colleague, head of the Georgian branch of the USSR Union of Filmmakers, Eldar Shengelaya, presented in Seattle his own works and those of his brother Georgy and his father Nikolai. Belonging to the older generation of Georgian filmmakers, Nikolai Shengelaya, produced his triumphant first film "Eliso", in 1928. The film, based on a story by Georgian writer Kazbegi is about a Tsarist scheme to evict a village from a desirable piece of land in 1864. Rich in exotic folk material, the film focuses on the entire village rather than upon any individual. Another film by a member of this talented family was Georgy Shengelaya's "pirosmani". Produced as a college thesis project, the film depicts the life of self-taught artistic genius Niko Pirozmanishvili, whose life was a chain of intermittent ascents and descents, illusions and disenchantments, and contradictory, even preposterous actions. This colorful, poetic, and evocative film simulates the artist's naive style and is presented in a purely pictorial, largely non-narrative manner.

Two of Eldar Shengalaya's films are somewhat atypical of the Georgian genre in that they do not make use of exotic settings of folkloric themes. Rather, both are concerned with contemporary problems of Soviet society's stagnation. In "Blue Mountains", Shengelaya chooses as a metaphor the image of a publishing house in its physical and intellectual state of collapse. The hero struggles to no avail against the bureaucracy in the publishing house and the apathy of those surrounding him, both obstacles proving to be insurmountable. The film is the disclosure of human indifference, which in Shengelaya's opinion, represents the most dangerous threat to the modern world, as it affects all aspects of life: economic, intellectual, and social.

The University of Washington community and the Seattle public had the rare opportunity of learning about Georgian film and current policies affecting the Soviet film industry directly from the filmmakers themselves, as the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature was fortunate in being able to host lectures by distinguished guests Eldar Shengalaya and Lana Gogoberidze autumn quarter. Shengalaya's film screenings and lecture at the University of Washington were sponsored by the following organizations: Seattle Goodwill Games organizing Committee, KING 5 Television, Sabey Corporation, Peace Table, the University of Washington's Russian and East European Studies Program and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature.



RUMBLINGS ON THE SOVIET ART SCENE

Last July the attention of Western media was drawn to a distinctly out of the ordinary art sale: the auctioning in Moscow, by Sotheby's of London for payment in sterling, of 119 works that would not normally be publicly available for sale even within the Soviet Union. The works sold were 18 Soviet avant-garde pieces from the 1920's and 101 paintings by contemporary Soviet modernist artists, many of them unrecognized by the official Soviet art establishment. Both the sale of so large a number of works of art for export, and the choice of artists, were unprecedented. This sale will go down as a landmark in the history of Soviet art, for a number of reasons.

In the first place, the auction enjoyed not just the blessing of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, but its active cooperation.

Secondly, the success of the auction exceeded all expectations and changed overnight the fortunes of several artists who have struggled for years against official neglect and disapproval. On this occasion, the work of twenty-nine of the Soviet Union's most adventurous artists was evaluated by the price that buyers in a free market were prepared to pay. There were some gratifying surprises in this

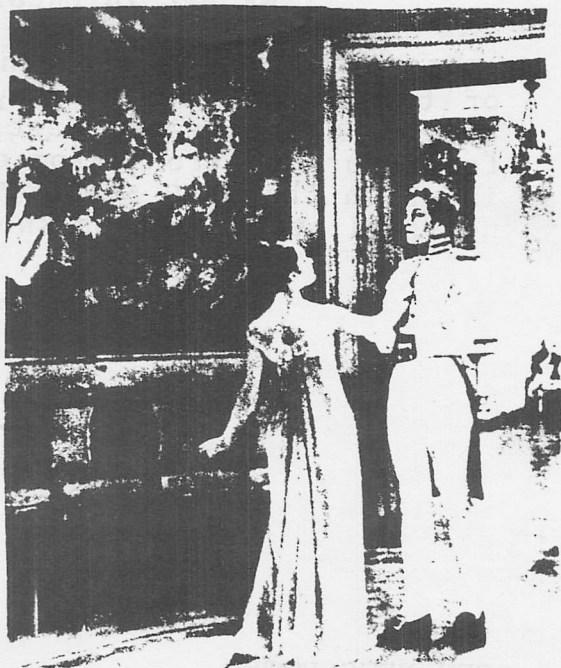
evaluation. Ilya Glazunov, who is well known in the West and has won over the Soviet establishment with his mildly provocative historical kitsch, failed to make even the low estimate on any of his paintings, while Grisha Bruskin, a much more interesting artist, known in the West only to a few specialists, emerged as the hero of the hour - seven of his paintings sold for the sterling equivalent of almost \$700,000. The auction brought him wealth and publicity beyond the wildest dreams of even the most successful establishment artists. Several other 'unofficial' artists fared almost as well, and the resulting polarization of the Soviet art world will leave it permanently changed. As one Ministry of Culture official put it after the auction, Socialist Realist painting is not dead, but its boundaries will have to be radically redefined.

Thirdly, the decision to sanction the export of so many works of art was an important breakthrough, and was the principal focus of the often heated discussion surrounding the auction in Moscow. The early policy of freely exporting Russian artworks to obtain badly needed Western currency gave way to the excessively restrictive attitude towards art exports in the last few decades. However, as art critic Elena Bepalova pointed out in a thoughtful article in *Sovetskaya Kul'tura*, a nation needs some proportion of its art to be exported if its culture is to become appreciated outside its own boundaries.

Last, but not least, many of the buyers at this auction were eager to do more than simply fly into Moscow, bid, and leave. Professor James West, of the Slavic Department, was involved as a consultant in an educational program that provided several days of lectures on Russian art and culture, visits to Museums and art galleries, and meetings in their studios with many of the artists represented in the sale. Professor West was impressed with the growing level of knowledge and sophistication among European and American collectors and gallery owners who are now exploring the world of contemporary Soviet art.

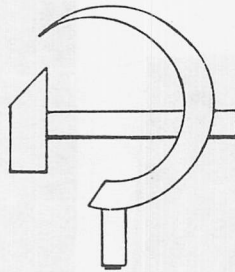


NEXT TIME
YOU GO TO
RUSSIA



WE ARE INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM YOU

For all those who contributed in some way to production of this newsletter we say thank you. We look forward to receiving interesting articles and news of cultural events for future editions from our readers. If there is some way in which the **REEU NEWSLETTER** can serve your needs please do not hesitate to let us know.



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