

**Association of College and Research
Libraries**

Slavic and East European Section

Newsletter

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Cover illustration: One of the main historic buildings designed by Aleksandr Tamanyan (1878-1936), a famous Armenian architect. The building was erected after Tamanyan's death in 1939. Picture courtesy of Heghine Hakobyan.

Relevant contributions should be sent to the SEES *Newsletter* Editor or to the SEES Chair. For most current contact information, see <https://sites.google.com/site/seesliborg/committees/newsletr-com>.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chair

I. CONFERENCES

ALA Annual Meeting

ALA Midwinter Meeting

ASEEES National Meeting

II. NEWS FROM THE U.S. AND CANADA

III. NEWS FROM ABROAD

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

V. TRANSITIONS

VI. LIBRARIES IN PROFILE

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2015 issue of the Slavic and Eastern European Section *Newsletter*!

Over the past year, the world's attention turned to our region at the cost of thousands of lives. The Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine, Russia's annexation of Crimea, and the war in Donbass dominated headlines and challenged peace and stability in Europe. The White House 2015 National Security Strategy document even designated Russia as a global security threat alongside ISIL and ebola.

On the other hand, the training of area studies specialists is still not viewed as enough of a priority in United States. The Department of Education continued cutting Title VI funding in the 2014 competition. The awards for Russia and East Europe National Resource Centers were reduced by 46%, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships for those centers by 44%, while several successful programs were defunded altogether.

In the library world, budgets continued to shrink, particularly for foreign language materials. Many retiring or transitioning specialists were not replaced. SEES membership likewise dwindled. Some members became frustrated with ALA/ACRL bureaucracy or got tired of the "paying to volunteer" model. For others, SEES grew less relevant to their daily work and the costs of membership and conference attendance outweighed the dubious benefits of belonging. Still others simply assumed that the section was dead after repeatedly failing to meet new ALA/ACRL membership quotas.

I can certainly relate to these concerns as I have harbored every one of them myself. However, SEES is not dead. What we lost in numbers we may have gained in quality by attracting some enthusiastic new recruits. Our dedicated members continue to produce excellent work that benefits our profession. Here are some examples of the most recent SEES initiatives:

The Automatic Bibliographic Control Committee formed a task force that has begun updating the [Slavic Cataloging Manual](#) with RDA information (the manual still refers to AACR2). The Slavic Cataloging Manual is an essential reference work and training tool for any cataloger dealing with publications from or about our region. I studied

MESSAGE

it religiously when I was first learning the ropes of cataloging for the André Savine Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill. In fact, my first contribution to SEES involved creating a page on pre-reform Russian orthography for the Manual. I would still consider the Manual's Subject Analysis section required reading for all librarians dealing with our region, not just catalogers, as it helps structure searches and understand the shortcomings of catalog retrieval. Updating the Slavic Cataloging Manual for RDA is a great public service and it is painstaking work. I would like to thank all of the task force volunteers and the chair Larisa Walsh (U of Chicago) for spearheading this effort.

SEES is collaborating with the Western European Studies Section (WESS) on a program on European comics and graphic novels for the 2015 Annual Conference entitled *Beyond Tintin: Collecting European Comics in the U.S.* I am particularly excited to have on the panel Dr. José Alaniz, associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Comparative Literature (adjunct) at the University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Alaniz is the author of the books *Komiks: Comic Art in Russia* (University Press of Mississippi, 2010) and *Death, Disability and the Superhero: The Silver Age and Beyond* (University Press of Mississippi, 2014). Since 2011 he has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF), the leading comics studies conference in the United States. His current projects include a study on the representation of history in Czech graphic narrative. I would like to thank Claude Potts (UC Berkeley), chair of the WESS Conference Planning Committee, and Thomas Keenan (Princeton U) and Liladhar Pendse (UC Berkeley) of the SEES Program Planning Committee for devoting so much of their personal time and energy to organizing this program and creating the accompanying resource page.

As you know, ACRL has made it clear that SEES cannot continue as a section with its current membership numbers (152 members as of August 2014). As it turned out, the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) is faced with the same transition ultimatum. At the 2014 Annual Conference, the SEES Executive Committee formed a task force to examine transition options and determine SEES desiderata for the transition. Following task force recommendations, the Executive Committee proposed to the leadership of WESS and AAMES that all three groups merge into a new International and Area Studies Section. I believe this new configuration would protect the low membership sections and secure representation for area studies librarians in ACRL,

MESSAGE

while allowing the unique work for each region to continue. Each section could retain their regional newsletters and websites as well as region-specific committees, while joining efforts on administrative tasks. We can achieve greater cooperation on international issues, and perhaps even attract new members from the increasingly popular Global Studies field. I would like to thank Jon Giullian (U of Kansas) and Brad Schaffner (Carleton College) for their work on this task force and the proposal. We eagerly await feedback from WESS and AAMES.

I believe that this is a time of great opportunity for SEES members to shape what kind of life Slavic and Eastern European librarianship will have within ACRL and ALA. I know we can find a way to continue the great work we have been doing, but I also think we need to figure out how to make SEES more relevant to the professionals in our field, to re-imagine our activities by making them more meaningful and useful, and to make SEES more vibrant and attractive to new recruits. You will play a role in how and whether we achieve these goals. I hope you will join us in this challenge.

Organizations are nothing without the time and dedication of people. I would like to thank Larisa Walsh (U of Chicago) for getting me involved in SEES in the first place; all of the committee chairs: Lana Soglasnova (U of Toronto), Meg Browndorf (Towson U), Kay Sinnema (Library of Congress), Mark Winek (Georgetown U), and Liladhar Pendse (UC Berkeley) for their leadership and for braving the bureaucracy; everyone who has volunteered for SEES committees, task forces, or administrative duties; Jon Giullian (U of Kansas) for tending the SEES website and treasury, and for continuous advice and insight; Sandra Levy (U of Chicago) for always caring; Thomas Keenan (Princeton U) for stepping up to the plate; Natasha Lyandres (Notre Dame) for paving the way; and Brenda Carter (Pittsburgh) for not being afraid to take over.

Thank you all.

Kirill Tolpygo
Chair ACRL/SEES
Slavic and East European Studies Librarian, UNC-Chapel Hill

I. Conferences

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAS VEGAS, JUNE 26–JULY 1, 2014 ACRL SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN SECTION

All Committees Meeting Minutes June 28, 2014

Present: Lisa Baker (U of Miami), Diana Brooking (U of Washington), Megan Browndorf (Towson U), Jackie Byrd (Indiana U, Bloomington), Brenda Carter (U of Pittsburgh), John DeSantis (Dartmouth College), Jon Giullian (U of Kansas), Inna Gudanets (Stanford U), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon), Carl Horne (Indiana U, Bloomington), Thomas Keenan (Princeton), Sandra Levy (U of Chicago), Natasha Lyandres (U of Notre Dame), Muzhgan Nazarova (Duke U), Erin Pappas (Georgetown U), Brad Schaffner (Carleton College), Zina Somova (East View Information Services), Kirill Tolpygo (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Automated Bibliographic Control (ABC) Committee

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes from the ABC virtual meeting
3. Assessment and report on activities for this year

Rusyn Romanization Table:

Rusyn/Carpatho-Rusyn Romanization Table was revised and approved by the Library of Congress and the American Library Association in 2013. Currently, the *Rusyn/Carpatho-Rusyn* table is accessible to the worldwide bibliographic community via the ALA-LC Romanization Tables webpages. The ABC Rusyn Romanization Table Task Force conducted a thorough and extensive research before proposing the revisions to the Rusyn transliteration table. Rusyn macros are also included and updated for the OCLC Connexion client users on Joel Han's *Better Living through Macros* webpages. This allows better description and discovery of Rusyn (also known as Carpatho-Russian or Ruthenian) materials.

I. CONFERENCES

ABC webpages:

The Automatic Bibliographic Control Committee webpages are updated by Brenda Lea Carter on the new website, where all SEES committees are brought together.

Slavic Cataloging Manual Task Force:

The Slavic Cataloging Manual Task Force has made some progress. Google e-mail accounts have been created for further communications during the task force work. The decision about the implementation and distribution of work responsibilities will be finalized by the members in the nearest future.

4. Discussion of ideas for possible projects for next year

The Library of Congress Classification revision, related to Slavic issues, can be a possible project for next year. The Slavic-related classification revision can start by proposing a special provision for classifying works about the biography and criticism of Joseph Brodsky, using P-PZ38 table instead of P-PZ40. The classification gets crowded for Joseph Brodsky in P-PZ40, since there are more works being published about Brodsky in commemoration of his forthcoming anniversary in 2016. This proposal can be based on the classification of works about and the criticism of the renowned Belorussian author IAnka Kupala; special instructions for classification are given in table P-PZ38. The ABC Committee members and meeting attendees agreed that the revision of Joseph Brodsky classification tables should be studied and discussed further in order to submit a proposal. It is advisable to contact the Library of Congress specialists and learn how changes get introduced and historically take place in the LC classification system.

The Committee's present name of Automated Bibliographic Control is outdated since the automation of resource organization and discovery on web have dramatically changed. The name of the Committee was relevant in 1963 when ALA/ACRL SEES was founded; however, it is no longer aligned with our current technology and library systems.

Access and Preservation (A&P) Committee

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes from the 2014 Midwinter virtual meeting
3. Updates on the SEES website

I. CONFERENCES

New Google account for the SEES website:

During the previous annual conference meeting, the majority of the attendees chose seeslib.org as a domain name. A Google e-mail account was created with a similar name to assure a systematic approach. Thus, on Google there are two websites with two different domain names (acrsees.org and seeslib.org), which have been updated simultaneously by content managers. Content managers mentioned that the process of updating and loading new information is simple and straightforward.

Progress on domain seeslib.org:

SEES funds have been transferred to Commerce Bank because the bank provides a prepaid credit card. The Commerce Bank card does not have anyone's name tied to the card. SEES has enough money to cover domain for approximately 100 years (it costs \$176.70 for 10 years). The seeslib.org domain will be purchased and registered via Go Daddy, followed by transferring the information and mapping the seeslib.org website to the new domain.

Logo/image for header:  Slavic and Eastern European Section

The ACRL Slavic and East European Section image/logo is not on the new seeslib.org webpages. SEES members may start thinking about a new design, although the existing one will be transferred to the new seeslib.org webpages.

4. Report from liaison to ASEES CLIR Subcommittee on Digital Projects (Sandra Levy)

Current information about the American Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Committee on Libraries and Information Resources (ASEES CLIR) Subcommittee on Digital Projects is not available on the ASEES Google sites. The University of Arizona (UA) provides access to the content of the Subcommittee on Digital Projects on its website but requires registering for the UA Net ID and logging in. Margarita Nafpaktitis (UCLA) is chairing the Subcommittee on Digital Projects. She will be accepting reports about digital projects from all East European and Eurasian countries.

5. Open reports on digital and preservation projects

The Human Rights Web Archive is developed by Columbia University Libraries (CUL) and its Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, with the mission to preserve human rights resources and provide free and open access to them. The content of the human rights

I. CONFERENCES

websites, which are at risk, is being archived in the framework of this project.

Princeton University has digitized 46 *Soviet Era Books for Children and Youth (1918-1938)* and provides free access to full text via Princeton University Digital Library webpages. These books were written by famous Soviet authors and illustrated by well-known illustrators.

Princeton University Libraries has acquired the East View Election Ephemera Collection. The University Digital Libraries is now providing access to *Print Ephemera from the 2013 Moscow Mayoral Election*, which includes 182 pieces of print ephemera. This digital collection reflects mayoral election campaign and produces a graphic documentary of the battle between the Kremlin supported and independent democratic candidates.

The University of Pittsburgh Digital Research Library has launched its *Stalinka: Digital Library of Staliniana*. The collection comprises posters, banners, photographs, and other artifacts connected with Joseph Stalin and his era of Soviet history and literature.

Digital Archive Project (DAP) requires a subscription to access the various kinds of images, archival exhibits, etc.

6. Other old and/or new business

The Access and Preservation Committee would like to start preserving and collecting digital exhibits that are related to Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies and are curated by various educational institutions and organizations. The digital exhibits inventory would complement the ASEES CLIR Subcommittee on Digital Projects inventory and support the visualization of area studies. Thomas Keenan (Princeton University) and Megan Browndorf (Towson University) will start implementing the digital exhibits inventory initiative.

A suggestion was made that during the crisis in East Europe, the Committee can create special library guides; for example, a guide to resources about Ukraine and then disseminate the information via Slavlibs.

Jackie Byrd is planning her retirement: she recommends that someone should continue maintaining the International Directory of Librarians and Library Specialists in the Slavic and East European Field. The

I. CONFERENCES

University of Indiana provides access to this Slavic directory. The Access and Preservation Committee will decide how to transfer the directory to new seeslib.org webpages.

Executive Committee

1. Approval of minutes
2. Reports for SEES Committee, including Nomination Committee and Program Planning Committee

Automated Bibliographic Control Committee:

The Committee will be working on the revision of the Slavic Cataloging Manual (SCM), developed in compliance to the Anglo-American Cataloguing rules (AACR2). The Task Force will update and incorporate the new RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules into SCM.

Access and Preservation Committee:

The ACRL will not cover expenses related to the purchase of the domain because the ALA Connect provides webpages on their website. After purchasing the domain, Brad Schaffner and Jon Giullian will map and transfer all the content to seeslib.org website.

Newsletter Committee:

The latest issue, No. 30, 2014 of the *Newsletter*, is available on the SEES website and University of Washington's archive. Archives are also available in pdf files for printing on demand. Feedback can be provided to the Committee by emailing Kay at ksin@loc.gov

The Newsletter Committee said goodbye to Elizabeth Psyck and Jason Reuscher, and thanked them for their contributions. Mark Winek will become co-chair.

The committee will begin work on the next issue (No. 31, 2015) at the end of 2014. If anyone would like to volunteer to work on the SEES *Newsletter*, please contact Kay Sinnema (Library of Congress) at ksin@loc.gov. Heghine will work on the Library in Profile section.

Nominating Committee:

John DeSantis (Dartmouth College) reported that the Nominating Committee started its work and they have some good candidates. Other

I. CONFERENCES

members of the Committee are Marta Deyrup (Seton Hall U) and Liladhar Pendse (UC-Berkeley).

Program Planning Committee:

The ACRL/LES/SEES/WES program, *“Embedded” Cultural Communities in Europe and the Americas: Challenges for Librarians*, was held at the Las Vegas Convention Center on June 28, 2014. The SEES will start planning next year’s program after the 2014 ALA Annual Conference.

3. The Future of the SEES

The Western European Studies Section (WESS) is willing to meet and discuss in more detail how they can accommodate the needs of SEES. In the event of a new merger, WESS envisions a change in the section’s name and proposes the following structure:

- ABC to convert to a Standing Cataloging Committee
- SEES Newsletter to combine with the WESS newsletter
- Access and Preservation Committee to become a discussion group

The SEES members would like the merger to take place on equal terms. Since the Slavic and East European Section committee work is not ad hoc, or a special short-term assignment, SEES would like WESS to enhance its organization and establish a new Slavic and East European Committee. Under the new structure, the Slavic and East European Committee will continue working on cataloging issues at the national and global level, publishing its newsletter and providing expertise on the latest developments of academic resources and digital projects. If necessary, the SEES *Newsletter* will consider changing its title to the *Slavic Almanac* or the *Slavic Chronicle*, separate from the WESS *Newsletter*. In addition to their work on Slavic and East European issues, SEES members will actively participate and contribute to WESS committees and discussion groups. SEES members will prepare their proposal on the new merger and discuss whether to dissolve, merge, or form new discussion/interest groups. The Executive Committee formed a task force (Kirill Tolpygo (chair), Jon Giullian, and Brad Schaffner) to formulate SEES desiderata for a merger with WESS. SEES will conduct its work and discussions virtually during the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

I. CONFERENCES

4. Midwinter virtual meetings
5. Other Business

(Heghine Hakobyan, U of Oregon)

**ALA MIDWINTER MEETING
PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 24–28, 2015
ACRL SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN SECTION**

Access and Preservation Committee Minutes January 9, 2015
via ALA Connect Chat

Present: Megan Browndorf (Towson U), Jon Giullian (Kansas U), Lindsay Johnston (U of Alberta), Kevin Hawkins (U of North Texas), Erin Pappas (Georgetown U), Kelly Evans (Eastern Washington U), Brad Schaffner (Carleton College)

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes from 2014 Annual Conference (Las Vegas)
3. Update on SEES Website:
 - No changes on the purchase of the seeslib.org domain name. Waiting to make a purchase decision until the future of SEES and WESS is resolved. However, Jon stated that it is essential to continue the content on the website and other members agreed.
 - ACRL SEES logo was added to current site. Jon updated all the meetings times of the virtual meetings and is doing some other updates.
4. Open Reports on digital and preservation projects:
 - As new members, Kelly Evans and Erin Pappas offered to help with projects.
 - Russian dissertations are accessible through the Russian State Library's Inter-Library Loan/Document Delivery service. The RSL is now offering e-delivery of articles and dissertations via their online service. U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign has been using it regularly and Joe Lenkart talked about it on Slavlibs. Kansas U was able to get a copy of a Russian dissertation, which Jon has been trying to do unsuccessfully for many years. Payment is made in IFLA vouchers.
5. Online exhibits progress report:
 - After the previous meeting, Megan Browndorf and Thomas Keenan started working on an [inventory of digital exhibits](#), in order to determine whether it would be worth doing, how much work it would be, and how it would be organized. After creating the spreadsheet, it seems doable, but Megan was unsure about what the end product would be. It was agreed that

I. CONFERENCES

the inventory of exhibits, while smaller than an inventory of digital projects, would be enormous with little payoff. It was decided to abandon the list.

- An inventory of foreign portals to resources was suggested as something that may be useful. It was decided that a proof of concept in a Google doc would be created by Kevin and Kelly. The permissions would be made public, so that other members could edit.

6. ASEEES CLIR subcommittee on digital projects inventory:

- Inventory is in limbo. The Digital Projects committee may also be in transition over the next few years depending on the needs of CLIR and its members.

7. Other business:

- Any ideas about the future of the Access and Preservation committee (in the context of the future of SEES and WESS) should be sent to Brad, Jon, or Kirill Tolpygo.

8. Meeting adjournment

(Megan Browndorf, Towson U)

Automated Bibliographic Control Committee Minutes January 15, 2015 via ALA Connect Chat

Present: Masha Stepanova (Miami U), Larisa Walsh (U of Chicago), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon), Lana Soglasnova (U of Toronto), Kirill Tolpygo (UNC-Chapel Hill), Muzhgan Nazarova (Duke), Brenda Carter (U of Pittsburgh), Geoff Husic (U of Kansas), Irina Kandarasheva (Columbia)

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Approval of minutes from 2014 Annual Conference (Las Vegas)

3. Update on Slavic Cataloging Manual Task Force:

- Larisa reported on response to call for volunteers for SCMTE: 14 people as members or consultants. Geoff gave an update on migrating the content to the Google platform and archiving the old version. The group discussed possible arrangement of contents (RDA along with AACR), integration with Cataloger's Desktop, and division of tasks.
- The TF will continue the discussion electronically. A preliminary report from the TF in April will state the action plan, including tasks for individual members and consultants. The group commended Geoff and Larisa for their leadership.

I. CONFERENCES

4. Update on special provision in PG3479.4.R64 for Brodsky (from 2014 Annual)
 - A draft proposal for the application of Table P-PZ38 will be circulated (Lana) for discussion by ABC, and a PCC member library (Larisa) will submit it to the LC Class Proposal System.
5. Other business
 - Slavic SACO funnel: Larisa Walsh will be the new SACO Slavic Funnel Coordinator. SACO funnel also needs more visibility.
 - SEES Google website update: Brenda reminded the group about the [new address](#). ABC section of the website also needs a new coordinator; a preliminary expression of interest will be explored by email, and a call for volunteers may need to be issued to ABC.
 - ABC name change (from 2014 Annual): discussion to be continued by email.
6. Meeting adjournment
(Lana Soglasnova, U of Toronto)

Newsletter Committee Minutes via ALA Connect Chat

January 13, 2015

Present: Kay Sinnema (Co-chair, LC), Mark Winek (Co-chair, Georgetown U), Jon Giullian (Treasurer, U of Kansas), Lisa K. Baker (U of Miami [Florida]), Sandra Levy (U of Chicago), Margarita Nafpaktitis (UCLA), Lana Soglasnova (U of Toronto), Masha Stepanova (Miami [Ohio] U), Kirill Tolpygo (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Absent: Natalie Bazan (Hopkins Public Library), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon)

1. The combined minutes were approved without change.
2. Treasury report: Jon reported that there were no deposits or disbursements. The current balance is unchanged, around \$2200.
3. Sections of the newsletter: Section editors are posted online. Assignments include:
 - Kay Sinnema, Editor
 - Mark Winek - Managing Editor & Transitions
 - Margarita Nafpaktitis - News from the US and Canada
 - Natalie Bazan - News from Abroad
 - Lisa Baker - Grants
 - Masha Stepanova - Acquisitions

I. CONFERENCES

- Sandra Levy - Bibliography
 - Heghine Hakobyan, guest editor, Library in Profile
4. Library in Profile: Kay offered to discuss the Library in Profile section with Heghine. Mark will also contact her, if necessary.
 5. Cover for the PDF version: Kay offered to discuss a cover image with Heghine, who may be able to provide an image of the library in profile. Mark will also contact her, if necessary.
 6. Website update: Jon reported that he changed the naming convention of minutes files on the website so that documents relating to Midwinter would come after those relating to the Annual Conference. He is waiting to purchase a specific domain name for the website (seeslib.org) until after the future of SEES is decided. He asked who else on the Newsletter Committee has permissions to edit web content and requested general feedback about the website. Of the other committee members, only Kay has edit permissions for the website. She will continue in this role. Members noted that they were very pleased with the design and usability of the website.
 7. Changes for the newsletter: Mark noted that Kay would like to step down as editor and co-chair of the Newsletter Committee after completion of the 2015 newsletter. All the assembled members joined in showing their appreciation for her commitment and service to the newsletter and SEES. Margarita volunteered to serve as a co-chair with Mark after Kay's term ends. Mark will solicit new members for the committee on Slavlibs later in the year.
 8. Deadlines: The assembled membership agreed with the deadlines for the 2015 newsletter. Mark will call for submissions of material to section editors via email on the Slavlibs listserv in the next week.
 - Content due to section editors from public: Friday, February 20, 2015
 - Completed sections due to Managing Editor: Friday, March 13, 2015
 - Compiled newsletter due to Editor: Friday, April 3, 2015
 - Completed newsletter due to ALA: Monday, April 27, 2015
 9. Report at Executive Committee: Kay and Mark will provide a report of the Newsletter Committee's work at the Executive Committee's virtual meeting on January 16.
 10. Other discussion: Kirill brought up the issue of a possible merger of SEES with WESS. In such a scenario, there could be two options for the SEES *Newsletter*: merge with the WESS *Newsletter* or 2) remain a separate publication, with a probable title change. He asked for the opinions of the assembled membership on these options, as well as what sections of the newsletter need to be preserved. Masha feared

I. CONFERENCES

that the bibliography could be lost in a combined newsletter, noting that it is very specific to the content area. While the *WESS Newsletter* does not currently have a similar bibliography, Jon submitted that a combined newsletter could offer a bibliography divided into Eastern and Western European sections. Sandra remarked that, in discussions with WESS, we should be open to new configurations of the newsletter while advocating keeping the sections that seem most important to our field. She also stated that the Transitions section is a very good section to maintain for its history of the field. The group consensus was that, in the case of a combined publication, it would like to see clearly defined Eastern European content for certain sections so it doesn't get lost.

11. Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm ET.
(Minutes compiled by Mark Winek, Georgetown U)

Executive Committee Minutes
via ALA Connect Chat

January 16, 2015

Present: Lana Soglasnova (U of Toronto), Kirill Tolpygo (UNC-Chapel Hill), Megan Browndorf (Towson U), Brenda Carter (U of Pittsburgh), Elois Sharpe (ACRL Program Coordinator), Mark Winek (Georgetown U), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon), Jon Giullian (U of Kansas), Kay Sinnema (Library of Congress), Natasha Lyandres (Notre Dame)

Minutes: Minutes from the 2014 Annual Conference meeting are approved since there are no other additions or corrections.

Committee Reports:

1. **Access and Preservation Committee** (reported by Margaret Browndorf) The Access and Preservation Committee (A&P) had their virtual meeting on January 9, 2015. There were no updates regarding the Slavic and East European Section (SEES) website. However, the A&P Committee is waiting to learn more about the SEES-WESS merger and will make decisions for the website based upon that decision.

Before the 2014 Annual Conference, the Committee was speaking about initiating an exhibition inventory. Thomas Keenan and Megan Browndorf decided that it was going to be too big of a project and not worth the time and effort. Instead, the Committee has a couple of

I. CONFERENCES

members working on the inventory or portal for listing and viewing different digital collections. They are going to report on the progress of the inventory during the 2015 Annual Conference. The Committee members discussed the A&P Committee and the SEES website in the case of a SEES-WESS merger.

2. **Automated Bibliographic Control (ABC) Committee** (reported by Lana Soglasnova) The Automated Bibliographic Control (ABC) Committee held its virtual meeting on January 15, 2015. Larisa and Jeff reported on the Slavic Cataloging Manual Task Force (SCM TF). In a request for volunteers, the ABC Task Force received over a dozen of responses from specialists willing to participate either as members or as consultants. There are, potentially, a number of interested members from the Library of Congress, University of Oregon, University of Chicago, Duke University, Miami University, University of Illinois, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Frick Arts Library, and University of Kansas. Catalogers from University of Washington, Stanford University, Columbia University, and University College London agreed to be consultants without becoming members of SCM TF. This is a great congregation of experts willing to tackle this massive task with enthusiasm and commitment.

The SCM TF chair is Larisa Walsh and Geoff Husic continues to serve as webmaster. The Committee members discussed the organization and assessment of the task force to revise the SCM from AACR2 to RDA. The SCM TF will produce a preliminary report around April 2015. A Google page was created by Geoff, which may be used for group comments and discussions. The discussions also may be conducted over e-mail, if necessary.

ABC continued a discussion about a proposal in the PG3479.4.R64 classification table for Joseph Brodsky started at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference. The Committee is planning to propose this classification addition for the works of and about Brodsky to the Library of Congress. The proposal will be made by a PCC member of the Committee.

Larisa Walsh will be the new SACO Slavic Funnel Coordinator.

Brenda Carter is in charge of maintaining the ABC Committee webpages on Google sites.

I. CONFERENCES

3. **Newsletter Committee** (reported by Mark Winek)

The Newsletter Committee met virtually on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. The discussions were dedicated to planning this year's *Newsletter*. Kay Sinnema is still acting as editor. Mark Winek is the managing editor. The Newsletter Committee members were given assignments in preparation for the release of the 2015 issue.

Changes for the Newsletter: Kay Sinnema will be stepping down after the 2015 newsletter is released. The Newsletter Committee members are thankful for her service and all the work she has done over the past years as an editor for the newsletter. Mark Winek and Margarita Nafpaktitis will continue as co-chairs after Kay's term ends.

In preparation for the 2015 newsletter, the Committee sent a call for submitting materials by February 20, 2015 via Slavlibs. The Committee will be sending another reminder.

Kay Sinnema will announce the 2015 electronic issue, which will also be archived, when it is completed.

Kirill asked the members of the Newsletter Committee for their feedback regarding the SEES-WESS merge. The Newsletter Committee would like to understand how the combining of the SEES and WESS newsletters would work.

The SEES *Newsletter* contains a very detailed, unique bibliography that covers Eastern Europe, in contrast to the WESS *Newsletter*. This can also be said about the Transitions section of the SEES *Newsletter*, which provides information on new librarian appointments and retirements.

In the future, the Committee could either combine news for Eastern and Western Europe, or have separate sections for each region.

4. **Nominating Committee** (reported by Kirill Tolpygo)

Thomas Keenan (Princeton University) has agreed to be the chair for 2015. Masha Stepanova (Miami University) will be the secretary.

5. **Program Committee** (reported by Kirill Tolpygo)

Thomas Kennan, Lildhar Pendse, Kirill Tolpygo, Claude Potts (WESS Program Committee Chair)

I. CONFERENCES

The SEES-WESS ALA Annual Program is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2015, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. The program is entitled, *Beyond Tintin: Collecting European Comics in the U.S.* Professor Joze Alaniz (University of Washington) will represent the Slavic and East European comics.

In preparation for the SEES-WESS ALA Annual Program, the planners for the program found that the ACRL Program Committee funds cannot be used for honorarium or stipend for all invited speakers and panelists. If the invited speaker is a professor the ACRL Program Committee will fund the attendant. However, if the speaker is a librarian, the funds will not be available. WESS has outside sponsors, who will fund the participating librarian speaker.

The annual program time will not conflict with the SEES all-committee meetings, which are scheduled from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

6. **SEES Task Force** (reported by Kirill Tolpygo)

At the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, a Task Force (TF) that included Jon Giullian, Brad Schaffner, and Kirill Tolpygo examined the SEES potential merger. The TF was looking at 3 main points:

- The SEES *Newsletter* differs from the WESS *Newsletter*. The SEES *Newsletter* has some sections that are not in the WESS *Newsletter* and vice versa. The bibliography and the libraries in profile sections are featured occasionally in the WESS *Newsletter*, although they are slightly different. WESS *Newsletters* have nice, long scholarly articles, some of which SEES members recently contributed. This might be a section for further consideration in the SEES *Newsletter*. The Task Force will outline the sections of the SEES *Newsletter*, which should be continued in case of a merger. Combining the SEES and WESS newsletters may strengthen their bibliographic and scholarly contents.
- WESS has a cataloging discussion group, although it does not operate at the SEES ABC Committee level. However, it is very important for Slavic cataloging because of the ABC Committee's involvement in cataloging policies, transliteration, and the maintenance of the SCM. Yet, the cataloging discussion group might not be appropriate for the Committee. Of course,

I. CONFERENCES

SEES welcomes WESS members to participate with the cataloging committee, if there is a merger.

- The third issue is whether there should be one combined website. Do SEES and WESS need to share all information on one website? Currently, WESS uses the Wiki platform. Next, the WESS newsletter issues need to be archived. They are now in separate institutions that won't be able to archive them in a digital repository. The webpages should not be on an institutionally hosted website.

SEES cannot consider the possibility of merging with the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). ASEEES is very rigid and may not be right for the work that SEES produces. The number of committees in ASEEES is finite. The Committee on Libraries and Information Resources (CLIR) is undergoing a review of its committees and subcommittees. There is a task force on the education committee, and they are trying to decide whether it will become permanent. It is much more difficult to establish a new ASEEES committee as it needs the approval of the Board and CLIR chair. CLIR is missing a cataloging committee, although there is a resurgence of panels discussing cataloging issues. It is too bad that there is no cataloging subcommittee in CLIR. The Slavic cataloging presence in ALA is an obvious choice. The Slavic cataloging committee should continue in WESS. The SEES *Newsletter* could be preserved by renaming it (e.g. SEES *Almanac*, SEES *News*?).

Most important is deciding on a website. The driving force for moving to the Google platform is to distribute the maintenance and content evenly. In the past, SEES was limited by the hosting institution George Washington University. With the new website, each committee can independently update its content. WESS is satisfied with its current wiki website, hosted by Brigham Young University. However, there is not a lot of flexibility with the design. SEES will share its experience using Google's web platform with WESS, but it needs to research more data about the WESS website. The SEES A&P Committee, chaired by Megan Browndorf, will conduct the research. An alternative would be to keep both websites and to just list both URLs under the new Sections on the ACRL website.

I. CONFERENCES

The TF will prepare the document for the merger and send it to the Executive Committee members. Once it has been approved, the document “SEES Desiderata for the SEES-WESS merger” will be sent to WESS. The document will also be sent to the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) with an invitation to consider joining SEES-WESS. AAMES is facing the same challenges as SEES. AAMES will also have to plan for a transition because the section’s membership is decreasing.

Other Business:

Thomas Keenan will chair the SEES All-Committee meeting at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago.

(Heghine Hakobyan, U of Oregon)

**ASEEES 46TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
San Antonio, TX, November 20-23, 2014**

Library-Related Panels & Events

Web Archiving in Eastern Europe and the FSU

Chair: Grant Harris (Library of Congress)

Presenters: Maira Bundza (Western Michigan U), Thomas Keenan (Princeton U)

Discussant: Kristen Regina (Hillwood Estate)

World War I: Illuminating Sources and Documents from the Slavic and Eastern Fronts

Chair: Liisi Esse (Stanford U)

Presenters: Ekaterina Rogatchevskaia (British Library), Margarita Meniailenko (Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco)

Discussant: Andy Spencer (U of Wisconsin-Madison)

To Accept or Not to Accept – That is the Question! Issues Involved in Large Gift Collections

Chair: Harry Leich (Library of Congress)

Presenters: Janet Crayne (U of Michigan), John DeSantis (Dartmouth U), Andy Spencer (U of Wisconsin-Madison), Michael Biggins (U of Washington)

Instruction and Training Services for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Scholars

Chair: Liladhar Pendse (UC-Berkeley)

Presenters: Harry Leich (Library of Congress), Joe Lenkart (U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Geoffrey Ross (U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Discussant: Hugh Truslow (Harvard U)

New Models and Partnerships for Teaching Interdisciplinary Research Methods: Librarians' Tales from the Field

Chair: Brad Schaffner (Carleton College)

Presenters: Angelina Gibson (Oxford U), Jon Giullian (U of Kansas), Erik Zitser (Duke U), Hugh Truslow (Harvard U)

Subject Analysis of Slavic Materials after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Chair: Randall Barry (Library of Congress)

I. CONFERENCES

Presenters: Larissa Walsh (U of Chicago), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon), Joanna Epstein (Harvard U), Lana Soglasnova (U of Toronto)

The State of the Publishing Industry in the Russian Federation

Chair: Jon Giullian (U of Kansas)

Presenters: Thomas Francis Keenan (Princeton U), Christina Peter (Frick Art Reference Library), Kathryn Graber (Indiana U), Zina Somova (East View Information Services)

Samizdat in the Digital Era: Archival and Legal Perspectives

Chair: James Steffen (Emory U)

Presenters: Larisa Seago (Baylor U), Janet Crayne (U of Michigan), Janice Pilch (Rutgers)

Discussant: Kathy Robinson Hillman (Baylor U)

ASEEES CLIR Membership Meeting Minutes DRAFT

November 23, 2014

Draft minutes prepared by Sandra Levy, Chicago

Attendees: Wookjin Cheun (Indiana), Janet Crayne (Michigan), Jean Dickenson (UC Berkeley), Angelina Gibson (Oxford), Jon Giullian (Kansas), Heghine Hakobyan (Oregon), Grant Harris (Library of Congress), Kristen Johnson Kulash (Harvard), Ksenya Kiebusinski (Toronto), Barbara Krupa (Stanford), Kent Lee (East View), Sandra Levy (Chicago), Margarita Meniailenko (Museum of Russian Culture, San Francisco), Mike Peters (East View), Janice Pilch (Rutgers), Kristen Regina (Hillwood), Katya Rogatchevskaia (British Library), Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford), Lana Soglasnova (Toronto), Andy Spencer (Wisconsin), Susan Summer (Columbia), Patricia Thurston (Yale), Larisa Walsh (Chicago), Erik Zitser (Duke), Janet Zmroczek (British Library)

Patricia Thurston greeted the membership and sent around attendance sheets.

CLIR committee and subcommittee updates

Patricia reported on CLIR's executive meeting held earlier.

There is a new website, please look at it and report to our webmaster Jon Giullian any corrections or updates. For the website, each CLIR subcommittee will have a content manager, who would not have to add

I. CONFERENCES

the content to the website, but would be responsible for getting it to the webmaster. An assistant webmaster will be appointed. The webmaster Jon Giullian will now be an ex officio member of the CLIR executive committee.

The CLIR Executive Committee will start a process to review the subcommittee structure and charges. They noted that the work of the Subcommittee on Digital Projects is also being done in a number of the other subcommittees.

Note that we have not done all of our scheduled articles for NewsNet. Reminders will be sent out to be back on track.

The Task Force on Reference and Instruction is in the end of its first year. It has started its proposed webinar program. It has been renewed for a second year.

The Distinguished Service Award is intended to be an occasional, service award, not necessarily to be given at the end of a career, but to note an important achievement or service. Please send nominations to the executive committee by April 2015.

CLIR subcommittee updates

Subcommittee on Collection Development

ASEEES Report. Are current with content. Are reviewing the prospect of retrospective content, but do not want to stall current work.

They have a number of pending projects; see the new CLIR website for details. They include: Analysis of Collections report, Vendor database, and Book Inflation project.

Subcommittee on Copyright issues

Committee is in its 11th year and there are 6 members. Inquiries are shared among the members. They feel that training is the primary goal, which includes reference and education. They will do a copyright webinar. An idea for a panel next year will be on the politics of copyright. James Steffan is to be content manager for the CLIR website.

Subcommittee on Digital Projects

Since only a few people are here, they will arrange a virtual meeting later.

Task Force on Reference and Instruction

The webinar held last year will soon be online. As they have other webinars planned, they want the two year commitment as a task force.

I. CONFERENCES

Can we develop and use standard libguides, etc. to share among ourselves?

Subcommittee on Slavic & East European Materials Project (SEEMP)
New members are Kit Condell (UIUC) & Janet Crayne (UMichigan). Are now doing all digital projects instead of microfilm. CRL wants project proposals. Gave budget report and a list of current projects.

CLIR committee & affiliate updates

2014 Regional conference: The ASEEEES-CESS Joint Regional Conference, Nazerbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan, May 22-24, allowed people of the region to meet with members of ASEEEES. All the Eurasian states sent representatives. ASEEEES will try to do this periodically.

The 2015 9th ICCEES World Conference will be held in Makuhari, Japan, from August 3-8, with the theme: "Where many Wests meet many Easts". They are looking for proposals.

Update on ASEEEES Board Meeting: There is a very long report that Patricia will distribute later, but highlights are: Budget is solid, allowing projection in all rooms and wifi in conference rooms. Decision, within a panel, the chair can now be either a presenter or a discussant. Strategic planning – look into written statement regarding fair treatment for holders of non-faculty academic positions. There is concern over falling funding via Title VI & VIII.

Announcements from consortia, institutions and individuals

ACRL/SEES: Jon Giullian reported on ACRL plans to disband small sections; and that SEES is looking at options.

East Coast consortium held a 4 hour meeting: Are working on strategic digital developments; Also working on cooperative collection development; Considering Web archiving, checking on journal usage.

Pacific Coast consortium will meet virtually.

Midwest Consortium met over lunch: Northwestern will join; Need a new model as outside funding has ended; Are exploring cooperative funding.

I. CONFERENCES

SEEIR: Karen will remain as editor after she retires from Stanford. She is looking for a new editor. Barb Krupa is managing editor. She wants submissions for the journal.

Proposals for Panel topics next year

In Philadelphia, the theme is "Facts"

Copyright panel, focusing on the Politics of Copyright

Revisionist history with heads of International Studies groups

Questions of Evidence and Fact, what is the relationship

Bibliographic control of names

Collaboration

Web Archiving

SEEMP Business Meeting Report

November 22, 2014

Attending: Judy Alspach (CRL), Michael Biggins (U of Washington), Wookjin Cheun (Indiana U), Janet Crayne (U of Michigan), Jon Giullian (U of Kansas), Heghine Hakobyan (U of Oregon), Grant Harris (Library of Congress), Thomas Keenan (Princeton U), Ksenya Kiebusinski (U of Toronto), Margarita Meniailenko (Museum of Russian Culture), Robert Lee (East View Information Services), Mike Peters (East View Information Services), Anna Rakityanskaya (Harvard), Karen Rondestvedt (Stanford), Patricia Thurston (Yale U), Kirill Tolpygo (UNC-Chapel Hill), Ernest Zitser (Duke U)

1. Welcome and introductions

June Farris, Chair, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Project Business

Minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved. June announced the SEEMP election results, welcoming Kirill Tolpygo (UNC, Chapel Hill) as Secretary and Liladhar Pendse (UC Berkeley) as the new member-at-large. She thanked Ksenya Kiebusinski and Angela Cannon for their work as the Nominating Committee.

3. CRL Reports

a. CRL & Global Resource Network Updates (James Simon)

I. CONFERENCES

James conveyed regards from Judy Alspach, who could not attend due to meeting conflicts.

He mentioned that with the greater emphasis on digitization, several of the area microfilming projects have changed the “M” in their names to stand for “materials” instead of “microfilm.” June said a motion to change “microfilming” to “materials” will be on the ballot that will go out to SEEMP members early in 2015. June mentioned the new voting procedures agreed on last year: each SEEMP member votes for just one proposal; and proposals will be funded in order of votes received.

For FY14, CRL has allocated additional financial support for digitization projects proposed by the Area Microform Projects (AMPs). The purpose of this allocation is to provide incentives for the AMPs to continue to move toward digital capture and dissemination of resources important to area and international studies. Through the promotion of supported projects, CRL seeks to broaden awareness and communicate the accomplishments of the AMPs to the CRL membership and the wider academic audience. CRL will use its discretion in allocating funds (up to \$5,000 per AMP per year) for projects identified by AMP leadership, with special priority given to materials in the areas of news, law and government, and the history and economics of agriculture. Funds shall be used at the discretion of the executive committee, and should be considered towards projects that are likely to produce meaningful results within the year of funding allocation. More details will be sent out on the listserv.

b. SEEMP Budget Report (James Simon)

As of June 2013 the fund balance was \$48,868.18, with \$21,000 expected in membership fees.

4. Reports on Current Projects

a. *Borba* (Zagreb, 1971-1988) (Larry Miller, UIUC)

The microfilming of *Borba* is completed. However, when the first half had been shipped to be microfilmed, a gap was discovered of nine or ten months, from March to Dec. 1981.

I. CONFERENCES

Can it be filled in? CRL which already had 1 ½ years of the Zagreb edition will do the new cataloging.

The CRL record presently says “Belgrade” rather than “Zagreb.” It appears that Backstage used the wrong target.

b. IKAC (*Ilustrowany Kuryer Codzienny*, 1910-1939) (James Simon)

The microfilms have been received and the cataloging is complete. It was budgeted at \$13,000, and came in slightly over budget at \$14,580. It has also been digitized by the Polish Digital Library Federation.

Wookjin asked for clarification of the CRL policy. Why was IKAC microfilmed, since it is available digitally online? James said that the microfilming project started before the digitization. In general, proposals should include existing digitizations of the title. CRL will accept outside digitization if it is reputable.

James also said that CRL accepts print deposits of newspapers on a case-by-case basis when institutions commit to collecting it and sending the title to CRL.

c. *Kurjer Warszawski* (James Simon)

Is still in progress and is budgeted for \$45,000. Todd Bludeau is acquiring the issues.

d. *Oslobodenje*, 1992-2007 (James Simon, Janet Crayne, Michigan)

Oslobodenje is finally completed. James thanked Janet for successfully dealing with several difficulties that arose in the course of the project, which came in at 10% over budget. CRL now holds Jan. 1992-Jan. 2008 of the Sarajevo edition, May 5, 1997-May 24, 1998 of the European edition, Aug. 1995-Mar. 1998 of the “Cyrillic edition,” and May-July 1998 of *Srpsko Oslobodenje*.

I. CONFERENCES

Janet said that questions to consider are whether SEEMP wants to preserve the entire run of *Oslobodenje*. She suggested that in the future SEEMP should have more control over price, and the completeness of microfilming, as the obituaries and ads were not included in some of the microfilming.

- e. Ukrainian Émigré Press (James Simon, Ksenya Kiebusinski, Toronto)

Ksenya reported that they are almost there. The microfilm has been converted to digital files, which are accessible. Diana reported that NYU has imported and loaded the files into its online catalog.

5. Project Proposals

- a. Central Asian newspapers, 1981-present, 12 titles (James Simon, Akram Khabibullaev, Indiana)

There are no cataloging records for many of these rare titles. CRL is accepting the print. Estimated number of pages is over 57,000. Estimated cost of microfilming, around \$14,000.

- b. *Krokodil* 1923-1944 (Thomas Keenan, Princeton)

781 of the 893 issues published in those years. Estimated cost for microfilming, around \$58,000.

- c. *Russkaia Mysl*, 1947-2006 (Jon Giullian)

79 reels of film available from Norman Ross. There are already 13 holding institutions. The estimated cost is \$8,000 (\$110/reel) if the order is placed before the end of 2013. \$9,000 (\$120/reel) after January 1, 2014. 2007 onward, \$225/reel. Additional 5% charge for postage and handling.

- d. Karen Rondestvedt asked whether it was possible for CRL to provide access to the RGB's virtual reading room for Russian dissertations. It was decided that it wasn't feasible, as Kirill, who had previously investigated the terms, reported that only 10 machines would be allowed, with no downloading.

I. CONFERENCES

6. Member Reports

- a. Library of Congress: A written report, prepared by Angela Canon, was distributed on developments at LC in the microfilming and preservation areas.
- b. June Farris: The University of Chicago is half way through digitizing *Amerikan Narodni Kalendar* from 1878-1922. Each issue of this “thick” journal contains dozens, if not hundreds of biographies of Czech-Americans.
- c. Wookjin Cheun: Indiana University has digitized the Anarchist newspaper *Golos Truda* (1911-1917). It is accessible through WorldCat. Choose the electronic option for the title.
- d. There were no vendor reports.

7. Other Business

- a. World Newspaper Archive (James Simon): Readex has not yet moved forward on platform enhancements for Russian newspapers that would allow searching. James is not optimistic about the future of this project.
- b. *Gubernskie vedomosti* inventory (June Farris, Chicago): June will consult with Judy Alspach to see where the inventory can best be placed on the public part of the SEEMP webpage.

(Submitted by Diana Greene)

II. News from the U.S. and Canada

Margarita Nafpaktitis, UCLA

The **Czech Embassy** sponsored a **Kafka Festival** in Washington, DC from Sept. to Nov. 2014. It featured arts, theater, film, music, and lectures at different venues including the Embassy, the Library of Congress and the National Gallery of Art.
(Nick Thorner, Library of Congress)

Hoover Institution Library & Archives Workshop

The 13th annual Summer Workshop on Totalitarian Regimes will be held at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives at Stanford from July 20 to July 31, 2015. The workshop brings together an interdisciplinary slate of scholars who are using Hoover's collections to study totalitarian regimes, broadly defined. A wide range of research is suitable for this program, limited only by the [collections](#) of the Hoover Library & Archives itself. Scholars from any field who would benefit from immersion in the archives are welcome. Participants must be holders of a Ph.D., scholars with a commensurate publication record, or advanced graduate students.

<http://www.hoover.org/news/apply-now-hoovers-workshop-totalitarian-regimes>

(Jill Golden, Hoover Institution Library & Archives)

Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre Newsletter

The Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre at the University of Toronto Libraries has just published the 7th annual issue of its newsletter. Should you wish to learn about what we're up to here in Ontario, please feel free to download the file at: <http://uoft.me/2sS>. Articles in this issue of the PJRC Update include:

- The University College Fire of 1890: The Story of a Polish Exile, a Jewish Benefactor, and a Slavist
- Discovering Slavic Journals in the Periodical Reading Room
- Ex Libris Friedrich Hitzler: Russian Modernist Books
- Eastern European Musicology: A Paradox of Paradigms
- ANNO: Austrian Newspapers Online

(Dr. Ksenya Kiebuszinski, Head, Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre)

Stanford University Library news

Following Karen Rondestvedt's retirement as Curator for Slavic and East European Collections, Barbara Krupa has assumed most of the collection development and reference work on an interim basis. Barbara was Karen's assistant from 2001 to 2011. Also on an interim basis, Karen is continuing with the non-Slavic countries of the region. With Barbara working 20 hours a week and Karen 10, the two are hoping that SUL will hire a permanent curator before the collection gets much further behind. (As of March 18, the position had not been posted yet.)

Under SUL's Baltic program, Liisi Esse, its curator, has not only been collecting materials and assisting researchers, but also organizing conferences and other events. On March 11, the 25th anniversary of Lithuania's independence, the program held a Lithuanian Cultural Evening for the university community and the public. The evening featured a talk by Violeta Davoliute-Opgenorth (author of *The Making and Breaking of Soviet Lithuania: Memory and Modernity in the Wake of War*) and the film *The Other Dream Team*, a documentary about the remarkable Lithuanian basketball team that won the 1992 Olympic bronze medal. Both Davoliute-Opgenorth and the filmmaker Marius Markevicius answered questions afterwards. More about the Baltic program: <http://library.stanford.edu/guides/baltic-studies>.

(Karen Rondestvedt, Stanford University Library)

Ukrainian Museum in New York Exhibition

The exhibition *Taras Shevchenko: Poet, Artist, Icon*, a rare opportunity to see many of the treasures created by artist and poet Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), ran from June 29 to November 2, 2014. Marking the 200th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth, the exhibition includes original art works by the artist and archival objects from Ukraine seen in this country for the first time ever!

The collection from the National Museum of Taras Shevchenko in Kyiv, comprised of selections that span nearly the entire lifetime of the artist, includes fifty original watercolors, sepia works, drawings, and etchings, in addition to objects such as publications and Shevchenko's own artist's tools. Reproductions of more than sixty other works by Shevchenko, along with documents, facsimiles of the artist's albums of sketches and poems, also enhance the exhibition. A rare 1840 edition of *Kobzar* ("The Minstrel"), one of Shevchenko's first collections of poetry that became his most widely read work, is on loan from the

II. NEWS FROM US AND CANADA

Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York. Selected items from the Ukrainian Museum's archival collection along with audiovisuals and a recorded guided tour serve to complete the narrative presented in the exhibition.

(Jurij Dobczansky, Library of Congress)

University of Wisconsin-Madison library news

The UW-Madison General Library System continues to be a part of the Nazarbayev University development partnership. UW-Madison librarians continue to consult with their Nazarbayev University Library colleagues both in person (UW-Madison librarians going to Astana and NU librarians coming to Madison) as well as via a series of topical teleconferences.

(Andy Spencer, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

III. News from Abroad

Natalie Bazan, Hopkins District Library

COSEELIS Conference 2015

A draft program of the COSEELIS Conference 2015 is available: <https://coseelis.wordpress.com/2015/01/30/coseelis-conference-2015/>. Please also find there the registration form and invoice. We are looking forward to seeing you in Cambridge, July 2-3, 2015.
(Katya Rogatchevskaia, COSEELIS chair)

Ninth ICCEES World Congress

This conference is to be held in Makuhari, Japan from August 3-8, 2015. The International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) is the global alliance of national associations of Slavic and Eurasian studies, composed of ASEES (United States), CAS (Canada), BASEES (Britain), DGO (Germany), FAREES (Finland), ANZSA (Australia), CAREECAS (China), JCREES (Japan), KASS (Korea), MACEES (Mongolia), and other respectable organizations. ICCEES was created in 1974 and holds a world congress once every five years. The official languages of the congress are English, Russian, French, and German.

The IX ICCEES World Congress is a six-day event that includes an opening event, parallel sessions, various evening events, and receptions. Session categories are as follows: Anthropology/Ethnology; Arts/Film/Electronic Media; Border Studies/Trans-regional Comparison, Economics; Education; Geography; Gender Studies; History; International Relations/Conflict Studies; Jewish Studies; Jurisprudence; Language Pedagogy/Professional Development; Library/Information Sciences; Linguistics; Literature; Philosophy/Thought; Politics; Public Administration/Social Welfare; Religion Studies; Sociology; and Interdisciplinary Panels.

The program includes panel sessions, roundtable discussions, and individual papers that have been proposed already to the ICCEES 2015 Organizing Committee. All proposals were reviewed and accepted by the ICCEES International Academic Committee in May 2014.

Send all queries to iccees2015@slav.hokudai.ac.jp
And network via <https://facebook.com/iccees2015>

Kyiv International Conference

The 3rd International Conference “Scientific Communication in the Digital Age,” was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 10-12, 2015 at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Library.

(Tetiana Yaroshenko, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy)

Fifth Lviv Library Forum

As part of the 21st International Book Publishers Forum in Lviv (<http://bookforum.ua/>), the Ukrainian Library Association held the Fifth Lviv Library Forum on September 10-13, 2014. The theme for the Forum was “Libraries in an Open World.”

(Tetiana Yaroshenko, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy)

Platform Ukraine Conference

The conference will be hosted by University College London’s School of Slavonic and East European Studies (London, England) on June 5-6, 2015. Of particular interest are contributions that expand on the themes developed during the Platform Ukraine workshop series, but panels that propose to explore new themes from a multidisciplinary perspective are also welcome. Researchers with novel or particularly relevant methodological approaches are encouraged to apply and to present. Platform Ukraine features an ongoing blog about its work, as well as numerous collaborations. The outcomes of this conference will be published as a journal special issue. It is hoped that the event will help frame the Ukrainian crisis in a larger context, both spatially and temporally, and help build a multidisciplinary academic resource on the topic.

Refer to the following website for additional information:
<http://www.ceelbas.ac.uk/ceelbas-news/news/platform-ukraine>

Slavic Corpus Linguistics: The Historical Dimension

The conference took place in Tromsø, Norway, on April 21-22, 2015, and also included the official launch of the Tromsø OCS and Old Russian Treebank (TOROT), a dependency treebank of approximately 300,000 words including Old Church Slavonic, Old Russian and Middle Russian texts.

III. NEWS FROM ABROAD

The members of the research project “Birds and Beasts: Shaping Events in Old Russian” (UiT The Arctic University of Norway) would like to invite papers for a conference on the use and development of resources such as the Czech National Corpus and the Russian National Corpus. We are interested both in linguistic studies using Slavic historical and/or diachronic data from electronic resources, and in more methodological papers on such resources. Invited speakers include: David Birnbaum (University of Pittsburgh), Leonid Iomdin (The Institute for Information Transmission Problems, Russian Academy of Sciences), Roland Meyer (Humboldt University of Berlin), and Pavel Petrukhin (V.V. Vinogradov Russian Language Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences).

Refer to the following website for additional information:
<http://site.uit.no/slavhistcorp/>

IV. Grants & Acquisitions

Lisa Baker, University of Miami
Masha Stepanova, Miami (Ohio) University

Cornell & Columbia Libraries (2CUL)

Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities supported yet another prestigious Summer Institute for College & University Teachers, entitled “America’s East Central Europeans: Migration & Memory,” which ran from June 8-29, 2014. Principal Investigator Alan Timberlake, Director of Columbia’s East Central European Center, was assisted by Co-Directors Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis. Videos of the daily lectures are available via the Institute website: <http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu/>

Acquisitions

This was a banner year for the acquisition of new (2013-2014) imprints, with some 15,054 Slavic and East European vernacular titles obtained from our regular network of some seventeen in-country vendors between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Joseph Brodsky library

At the end of August, Columbia purchased a large portion of the personal library of Nobel prize-winning poet Joseph Brodsky. Comprising more than 1,300 volumes from the shelves of his former residence in Brooklyn Heights, the collection includes works presented to Brodsky by contemporaries, as well as volumes reflecting his interest in American literature—for example, Russian translations of the poet Robert Frost—as well as examples of *tamizdat* and publications from the early years of *glasnost*. This acquisition complements the Loseff-Brodsky book and archival collection purchased in 2013 for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

Rare film pamphlet

Cornell's Kroch Library acquired a rare pamphlet concerning the 1924 Russian science fiction film "Aelita: Queen of Mars," a silent movie directed by filmmaker Iakov Protazanov: *Aelita: kino-lenta na temu romana A.N. Tolstogo*. (Moskva, [1924]). This 47-page work is heavily illustrated, and depicts aspects of the production, including the costume and set designs by avant-garde artist Aleksandra Ekster (Exter). Only four copies are listed in WorldCat: at the Getty, Harvard, USC, and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Cornell also acquired an example of contemporary sheet music with an illustrated cover likely influenced by Aelita's futuristic aesthetic.

Early Soviet sheet music and postcards

In 2013, Columbia acquired a large collection of illustrated imperial and early Soviet sheet music. The collection was augmented in 2014 by the purchase of twelve additional items at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. This collection resides in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. At the same book fair, the Avery Classics Library and the 2CUL librarian pooled resources to acquire a set of seventy(!) postcards from the 1930s titled *Dognat' i peregnat* [Overtake and Surpass] depicting increases in Soviet productivity in various industries—from chemicals to canned goods.

Euromaidan and Ukrainian election materials

Columbia purchased a collection of eighty-two miscellaneous items connected with the 2013-2014 *Euromaidan* protests, including newspapers, leaflets, postcards, booklets, a flag, banners, calendars, a CD, buttons and magnets. Columbia also purchased seventy-six items of ephemera pertaining to the 2014 Ukrainian Presidential elections.

Studijní cesta do Paříže

Former Avery Classics librarian Carolyn Yerkes (now teaching at Princeton) and the 2CUL librarian acquired *Studijní cesta do Paříže* [Scrapbook of a Study Trip to Paris]. This remarkable item dates from 1937, and was prepared by noted Czech architects and designers Karel Lodr and Bohumil Kříž. Lodr was known for his modernist photomontages, and this is an outstanding example.

Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919 archive

At the close of 2014, Cornell acquired a significant supplement of twenty-one titles pertaining to the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919. You may recall that in 2012, Cornell purchased a first convoy of

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

materials pertaining to this short-lived regime, which lasted from March 21 to August 6 before it was crushed by the Romanian army and succeeded by the Kingdom of Hungary. As publications issued by the Communist government were subsequently destroyed, this archive of printed materials includes a number of rare titles. The collection is cataloged as “*Magyarországi Tanácsköztársaság* archive, 1919” in the Kroch Library.

Russian film programs

Columbia supplemented holdings of rare Russian film programs of the 1920s (cataloged as [Soviet film programs from 1926-1930] in the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library). Five additional programs were added, bringing total holdings to twenty.

Rare Hungarian titles

Thanks to support from Avery Library Director Carole Ann Fabian, Columbia purchased two rare Hungarian titles: 1) *A Ház* [The House] (Budapest: Atheneum, 1908-1911), a journal dedicated to the building and visual arts, which appeared for four years under the directorship of Béla Málnai (1878-1941). It is a major document of the Hungarian architecture of the era, as well as examining the building and design of traditional Hungarian arts and crafts. There are only two incomplete sets of this title in North America. 2) Dezső Keér's (b. 1905) *Harminc vers* [Thirty Verses] (Budapest: Vajda Janos Tarsasag, 1925) featuring illustrations by Róbert Byssz (1899-1961), an early contributor to avant-garde and leftist publications. This title was produced in only 100 numbered copies, with a handwritten dedication by Keér.

Miesięcznik Literacki

Columbia has acquired eight issues of the rare Polish sociocultural journal *Miesięcznik Literacki* [Literary Monthly] for the year 1930. Published in Warsaw between 1929 and 1931 (at which time it was shut down by Polish authorities and members of its editorial staff arrested), this leftist journal was edited by Aleksander Wat (1900-1967). A poet, writer, translator, and theorist, Wat's communist sympathies evaporated after his arrest by the Soviets in 1939 and subsequent wartime exile to Kazakhstan. Returned to Poland in 1946, he immigrated to France in 1959.

Hunger in der Ukraine

Another recent purchase is *Hunger in der Ukraine* (Berlin: Ukrains'ke Slovo, 1923), a German translation of Ivan Herasymovych's 1922

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

Holod na Ukraïni, [Famine in Ukraine], which is also held by Columbia. A report on the devastating Ukrainian Famine of 1921-1923—precursor of the deadly, genocidal *Holodomor* of 1932-1933—this edition contains a new forward and supplemental diagrams and statistics describing crop failures, and evidence of how the Soviet grain redistribution policy aggravated its effects.

Front-Illustrierte: Für den Deutschen Soldaten

Thanks to support from Columbia's Primary Resources Fund, scholars now have access to thirty issues (of 97) of the very rare Soviet wartime "journal" *Front-Illustrierte: Für den Deutschen Soldaten*. This title was air-dropped over German-held territories from 1941-1945, depicting graphically the ultimate consequences of resisting the Allied onslaught. This is the most extensive collection of issues of this title in North America. The most striking feature of this propaganda journal are the photomontages, the majority of which were the work of Aleksandr Zhitomirskii (1907-1994), an art director for *Illustrirovannaia gazeta*. Zhitomirsky combines photomontage with layouts reminiscent of the work of Aleksandr Rodchenko (1891-1956), and his contemporary in Germany John Heartfield (1891-1968).

Gifts

Professor Robert Lamont Belknap library

The death of Columbia University Professor Emeritus Robert Lamont Belknap in 2014 was a great personal tragedy for many of us, and a great loss to the Slavic studies field. Bob's erudition, good humor, and many kindnesses to friends and colleagues are sorely missed. Yet while Bob is no longer among us, much of his vast working library—the raw material that shaped the man we knew and loved—lives on, to the benefit of current and future generations of Slavic studies colleagues. Thanks to the generosity of his widow Professor Cynthia Whittaker and the herculean efforts of Slavic Department Chair Liza Knapp, the bulk of his personal working library now resides at the department he once headed—Slavic Languages & Literatures—with the rarest materials destined for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library in Butler.

Professor George Lukić library

Peter Lukic donated to 2CUL some 200 volumes in Serbian and Croatian from the collection of his father Professor George Lukić (1920-2008), as well as a nearly complete run of the émigré serial *Serb World*. The collection is especially rich in works on Serbian provincial

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

churches and monasteries, Byzantine art, and books published in the diaspora. Born in Miloševac, Serbia, Professor Lukić emigrated to Britain and ultimately the U.S., earning his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh. He went on to a successful professional career at his alma mater, teaching Slavic languages and literatures, and researching Serbian ecclesiastical art.

Retrospective Slavic titles

Professor Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier made an additional donation of eighty-four retrospective Slavic art, music, and literature titles.

Sophia Sluzar library

Elena Salij, niece of historian, State Department officer, and editor of *Problems of Communism* Sophia Sluzar (1938-2013), has donated six additional boxes (on top of the 17 given in 2013) of Ukrainian titles from her aunt's library. Throughout her life, Sophia Sluzar promoted democracy and human rights in Ukraine, the country of her birth, including founding an office of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in independent Ukraine.

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

Harvard University

Grants

Russian political ephemera (late 1980s-1990s)

The Slavic Division of the Harvard Library, with a special grant from the Harvard Library, has organized the complete digitization of its collection of ephemera related to the events of the Soviet Union and Russia in the late 1980s-1990s. The Russian political ephemera collection documents the process of the decline and ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union, the subsequent search for a new political identity and the shaping of the political rhetoric, as reflected in unprecedented free, independent and non-traditional publishing output in the region. The collection, consisting of seven subcollections, contains thousands of documents until recently "hidden." It has now been cataloged and is available both in its physical form and online, including over 10,500 images, most using OCR.

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

Slavic Poor Paper Digitization Project

In an effort to preserve older and fragile books, the Harvard Library has recently awarded its Slavic Division a grant to digitize titles published before 1922 in various Slavic countries, as part of the Slavic Poor Paper Digitization Project. 432 such titles have now been digitized using OCR. They are accessible directly from HOLLIS, Harvard Library's public catalog.

Gift

Thomas C. Owen Collection on Russian Social, Economic, and Business History since 1800 (1972-2005)

The collection was given to the Widener Library by Thomas C. Owen (Harvard '73). It consists primarily of microfilms and photocopies of primary sources as well as rare books, pamphlets, and articles on Russian social and economic history from 1800 to 1917, from libraries and archives in Moscow, Russia. What makes this collection truly unique is the fact that almost none of these sources are available in North American libraries. The highlight of the collection is a copy of the complete 3,952 page diary of Fedor V. Chizhov. The collection resides at the Harvard Library's depository and consists of six boxes of materials and several related items.

Owen Collection Guide:

<http://guides.library.harvard.edu/owencollection>

(Anna Rakityanskaya, Slavic Librarian, Interim Coordinator, Slavic Division/Widener Library, Harvard University)

Indiana University Bloomington

Grant

Information literacy grant for Russian poetics course

Indiana University Libraries has awarded three information literacy grants for 2014-2015, with support from the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the College of Arts & Sciences. Among those receiving grants are Ariann Stern-Gottschalk (Department of Russian and Slavic Studies) and Wookjin Cheun (Indiana University Libraries) for their course SLAV-R322: Linguistic Approaches to Literature. In this program, instructional development grants of \$1500 are awarded to faculty to create or revise an undergraduate level course, working closely with a librarian to incorporate information literacy concepts. In the case of SLAV-R322,

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

a new seminar in Russian poetics, Professor Stern-Gottschalk will collaborate closely with Mr. Cheun throughout the semester on design and delivery of assignments and in the introduction of helpful print and electronic information resources.

(Excerpted from Indiana University Bloomington Libraries website: <http://libraries.iub.edu/iub-libraries-awards-information-literacy-grants-2014-15#>)

Library of Congress

Harvesting East European government websites

Use of web archiving to build useful collections for other countries often focuses on particular events or crises for short periods of time – the Library of Congress is seeking to understand when this acquisitions approach can be useful on an ongoing basis in support of area studies. Recently Michael Neubert, Angela Cannon, and Ken Nyirady worked together to establish a new web archiving collection, “East European Government Ministries.” The collection eventually should extend to most countries of Eastern Europe but for now has started with Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. For each of these countries, area specialists identify the top half dozen ministry sites in terms of significance and size for harvesting on a twice-yearly basis. In accordance with the Library’s practices in web archiving, an analysis is made of the laws in the country and notice or permission may be required before harvesting or display of the harvested site outside of the LC campus.

This kind of collection serves to supplement receipts of paper publications, or in some cases, compensate for those publications that have shifted entirely to web publishing (typically in PDF format). The twice-yearly harvesting over time will also provide a sense of how the ministries present information under different political leadership and how different parties control these ministries. Public access to these archived materials is not expected for several years. In the meanwhile, the specialists of the European Division will add more countries.

(Michael Neubert, Supervisory Digital Projects Specialist, Library of Congress)

Stanford University

Acquisition

In January Stanford's Art & Architecture Library acquired the entire 24-issue run of the Russian journal *Novyi LEF* (1927-1928). It has been reprinted more than once, and it also appears to have been digitized by the SovLit project <http://www.ruthenia.ru/sovlit/>. (None of the issues were accessible to this author on the SovLit site as of this writing, March 18, 2015). Peter Blank, the Art Librarian, says there is no substitute for the original, unbound and with its vibrant color illustrations. It has already been used for class instruction. (Karen Rondestvedt, Stanford University Library)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Grant

Fisher Fellowship

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has awarded its second Fisher Fellowship, this time to Dr. Pey-Yi Chu, Assistant Professor of History at Pomona College in Claremont, California. The Fisher Fellowship provides full support to attend the REEEC Summer Research Lab, an eight-week program open to scholars with research interests in the Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasian region. It provides scholars access to the University of Illinois' extensive Slavic collections and the Slavic Reference Service.

During her summer at the University of Illinois, Professor Chu will work on her upcoming book *Permafrost Country: Science and Environment in Eastern Siberia, 1830s-1950s*. She plans to use the Library and its research service to gather information on the economic practices and environmental change in the region, as well as to review books, articles and conference proceedings on frozen earth research and permafrost science.

Fisher Fellowship:

<http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/programs/FisherFellowship.html>

Summer Research Lab: <http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/>

(Excerpted from REEEC site:

<https://reeecillinois.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/2014-fisher-fellow-pey-yi-chu/>)

IV. GRANTS & ACQUISITIONS

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Gifts

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Library has received several substantial Slavic and East European gift donations recently, which include the Dr. Rolf Theen collection of more than 3,500 items of primarily Russian history materials, the Dr. Brian Silver collection of over a thousand items of primarily Soviet statistical and demographic materials, the collection of the late Dr. Lawrence Thomas (former Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature here at UW-Madison) consisting of over 3,300 volumes of Polish and Russian materials, and the Adam Bincer collection of over 450 items of Polish literature and Jewish Studies materials. (Andy Spencer, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

V. Transitions

Mark Winek, Georgetown University

January 2015 saw the retirement of **John Berezin** who had been the Assistant to the Slavic Bibliographer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1965. John's major duty was management of the library's Slavic book and journal exchange program which at its height included approximately 100 exchange partners. John was also crucial in processing major Slavic book donations. His dedication to Wisconsin's Slavic collections will be sorely missed, but we wish him a long and happy retirement. (Andy Spencer, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Susan Reynolds Halstead reports that, as part of the British Library restructuring, she will be taking up a new post as Content Specialist (Humanities and Social Sciences) in the recently-created department of Research Engagement. With the launch of the Forum for Czech and Slovak Studies which met at BASEES in Cambridge, she looks forward to being able to assist researchers in an even wider capacity. (Susan Reynolds Halstead, Curator of Czech, Slovak & Lusatian, British Library)

Larry Miller, Slavic Studies Bibliographer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, retired on August 31, 2014 after 55 years of service. Miller was one of the founders of the Slavic collection at the University of Illinois, and trained generations of Slavic librarians and researchers through the annual Summer Research Laboratory. (ASEES NewsNet, volume 55, number 1 [January 2015])

Terri Miller, librarian for Slavic, East European, and Central Asian studies at the Michigan State University Libraries, was promoted to Assistant Director for Public Services in May 2014. (Terri Miller, Michigan State University)

Molly Molloy of Stanford University Library retired at the end of 2014 after a very distinguished and productive career as a Slavic/East European cataloger, bibliographer, and reference librarian. Molly earned master's degrees from the University of California Berkeley in

V. TRANSITIONS

Slavic studies and Library/information science, and has worked at UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Public Library, Arizona State University Library (1987-1990), the Hoover Institution, (1990-2005), and since 2005 at the Green Library of Stanford University.

Molly has been professionally active in ALA/ACRL SEES, ASEES (AAASS), and the California Library Association; and has published bibliographies of noted Slavic studies scholars, including Marc Raeff, Nicholas Riasanovsky, Hugh McLean, and Simon Karlinsky. (Harry Leich, Library of Congress)

The Hungarian Consulate General in New York awarded the Pro Cultura Hungarica to **Christina Peter**, Head of Acquisitions at the Frick Art Reference Library, on October 21, 2013. She was recognized for developing collections of Hungarian library material in the United States and for contributions to cooperation between Hungarian and North American libraries. The award is given annually to people engaged in fostering and disseminating Hungarian culture abroad and enhancing cultural relations between Hungary and other nations. (ASEES NewsNet, volume 54, number 1 [January 2014])

Kristen Regina is leaving Hillwood Museum as of April 2015 to move to Philadelphia where she will become the Director of the Library and Archives at the Philadelphia Museum of Art starting June 2015. (Slavlibs)

Karen Rondestvedt, Slavic and East European Curator at Stanford University Libraries, retired at the end of 2014. Before arriving at Stanford in 2001, she held positions in Slavic librarianship at the University of Chicago, where she earned her MA in Library Science and her MA and PhD in Slavic Linguistics, and the University of Pittsburgh, where she served as Slavic bibliographer for 15 years. In the field, Rondestvedt has held leadership positions in the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Pacific Coast Slavic and East European Library Consortium. In 2000, she founded the journal *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, which she still edits.

At the end of this calendar year, two great friends of Slavic and East European studies will be retiring from their respective posts in the Cornell and Columbia University Libraries: Cornell's Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Resources and Special Collections

V. TRANSITIONS

John Saylor, and Columbia's University Librarian and Vice President for Information Services **Jim Neal**. Both have been strong advocates for the importance of foreign language collections locally, nationally, and internationally. They have been enormously helpful in all efforts to build collections in our world area. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with these great library professionals. (Robert H. Davis, Columbia University/Cornell University)

Nick Thorner has retired from the Library of Congress as of April 2015 after 35 years of service. He last worked in the Russia section of the Germanic and Slavic Division. (Slavlibs)

In Memoriam

Ralph Fisher was the director of the Russian and East European Center at the University of Illinois from 1959-1987. He was a strong advocate for collections and library services. Under his leadership, Russian, East European, and Eurasian collections at Illinois became one of the strongest in the world. His generosity continued with the establishment of the Fisher Forum. Ralph will be missed by faculty, students, and generations of researchers who visited Illinois for the Summer Research Laboratory.
(Joe Lenkart)

Last December, the Slavic and East European field lost a superb bibliographer and librarian, **Nina Lenček** (née Lovrencic, 1924-2014). Mrs. Lenček served as Slavic & East European Bibliographer at Columbia University from 1972-1989. Born in Ljubljana, she was the daughter of Antonietta Manzoni and the poet/writer Joža Lovrenčič (1890-1952). She studied Slavic philology at the University of Ljubljana, where she met her future husband, Dr. Rado L. Lenček (1921-2005), Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. Following World War II, she worked as an interpreter/secretary for the British Red Cross and the Allied Military Government, as a radio broadcaster in Trieste, and, in the United States, in the libraries of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, the University of Illinois, and Columbia. A celebration of her life took place at Butler Library on the evening of January 22, 2015, with a program including remembrances of Nina by Edward Kasinec, Harriman Institute Associate; Henry Cooper, Emeritus Professor, Indiana University; and Nina's daughter, Professor Lena Lenček, of Reed College. (Robert H. Davis, Columbia University/Cornell University)

VI. Libraries in Profile

National Library of Armenia – Yerevan, Armenia

Heghine Hakobyan, University of Oregon

National Library of Armenia

<http://www.nla.am/arm/index.php>

The National Library of Armenia (NLA) (Hayastani Azgayin Gradaran [HAG]) is the world's richest repository of Armenian printed books and the largest library in the Republic of Armenia. The NLA was founded in 1832 as a private library serving the teachers of the Yerevan Gymnasium for Men. During this period, the library collection comprised 18,000 books.

In 1834, Khachatur Abovyan, a famous Armenian writer, was one of the teachers at the Gymnasium. He started the compilation and maintenance of the library catalogs. Under the direction of Stepan Kanayan, the library became the first public library in Armenia in 1919. Kanayan acquired collections of various companies and educational institutions located in Tbilisi and Akhaltsikhe (Republic of Georgia), Baku (Azerbaijan), and Kars (Turkey). The new acquisitions were brought to Yerevan to augment the collection with unique and rare publications. In 1990, the State Library of Armenia (named after Aleksandr Myasnikyan) became the National Library of Armenia.

Currently, the library houses more than 6.8 million books, magazines, newspapers, maps, posters, dissertations, sheet music, audio and visual materials, postcards, manuscripts (phylacteries), calendars and bookplates in Armenian, Russian and other languages. The National Library of Armenia is the depository for United Nations publications in Armenia. The library's rare publication collection contains 2,172 Armenian titles from the 16th to 18th centuries, beginning with the first Armenian printed book, *Urbatagirk* [Book of Fridays]. *Urbatagirk* was published by Hakob Meghapart in Venice, Italy in 1512. The collection also includes the first Armenian printed map *Hamatarats Ashkharhatsoyts* [A Large World Map] published in Amsterdam in 1695. In addition, the Library's collection includes *Azdarar* [The Monitor], the first Armenian newspaper, published in Madras in 1794.

VI. LIBRARIES IN PROFILE

There are 1,341 rare publications in Russian and 4,149 in English, French and other languages. In the 21st century of new information technologies, the NLA serves information seekers worldwide by providing access to the full text of *Urbatagirk*, *Armenian Liturgical Calendar (Parzatumar)* and *Song Book (Tagharan)* through the World Digital Library. The NLA has also digitized and opened the bibliography of Armenian books (published in 1512-1930) to the public. The NLA collects and publishes various bibliographical and bio-bibliographical books, yearbooks, annual reports and statistical reports on public libraries in Armenia, including the monthly newspaper *Hogevor Hayrenik* [Sacred Homeland].

The NLA maintains the Armenian Libraries Union Catalog, an electronic, consolidated and open-access catalog, for the collections of twelve major libraries of Armenia. These libraries include the National Library of Armenia, Library of Academy of Sciences, Book Chamber of Armenia, National Children's Library, State University of Yerevan, and other libraries. The Open Society Institute and EBSCO Information Services provide access to 1,700 electronic journals to the patrons of the National Library of Armenia. The Information Resource Center of the United States Embassy in Armenia also provides access to 500 American electronic journals. Free access to the Internet is organized in all reading rooms.

The NLA and the Armenian Library Association organize professional development workshops for the librarians from all regions of the country. Armenian State Pedagogical University library students study and work in the National Library of Armenia as part of their practicum. The NLA collaborates with various international organizations and participates in conferences in Moscow, Berlin, Boston, Tbilisi, Helsinki, Oslo, Glasgow and many other places. In 2001, the National Library of Armenia organized the Annual Meeting of Library Directors of the Commonwealth of the Independent States in Yerevan. As a cultural center, the NLA organizes approximately 100 events annually, such as exhibitions, book presentations, literary evenings and meetings with famous figures of science and culture.

The National Library of Armenia strives to meet international standards in its services, information resources and technologies. The NLA continues to develop its cultural, educational and informational center to preserve its reputation as a depository and treasury of Armenian book history and legacy.

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