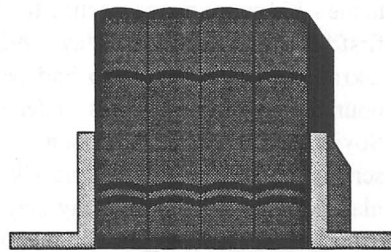

REECAS NEWSLETTER

Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Center
Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

Fall, 1997

UW Receives Major Gift in Support of Baltic Studies

The University of Washington Libraries has received as a gift one of the most extensive collections of Latvian studies materials in North America, numbering some 12,000 books, over 100 periodicals and newspapers, and 370 microfilm reels. The original owner, the Latvian Studies Center Library (Kalamazoo, Michigan), developed this collection over several decades to serve as a central cultural resource for Latvians in America; recent financial exigencies made it necessary for the Center to donate the collection. The University of Washington, with its active and growing Baltic Studies program and excellent library facilities, proved to be the most attractive of several candidates that expressed an interest in acquiring the collection.



The Latvian Studies Center gift makes UW's one of the outstanding Latvian research collections in North America. Subject areas of strength include belles lettres and literary criticism, language and linguistics, folklore, art, music, history, social and economic conditions, philosophy and religion. To complement these retrospective holdings, the UW Library is working to ac-

Continued on page 3

Two Grants Received

Apple Computer, Inc. has awarded Asa Mercer Middle School and the University of Washington one of ten Apple Education Grant Awards. The 1997 program, called "New Connections," awards computer systems to 10 K-12 schools and 10 teaching institutions around the country. Each grant is valued at approximately \$100,000 in equipment and training.

"Ports" is the theme of the Seattle grantees interdisciplinary middle school project. Mercer Middle School sixth

Continued on page 3

Fourth Annual Regional REECAS Conference

The Russian, East European, Central Asian Studies (REECAS) Center is pleased to announce its Fourth Annual Regional Conference on Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. The Conference will be held **Saturday, April 11, 1998** at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. There is no charge for admission to the conference. See **Call for Papers on page 14** for more details.

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Ukrainian Independence Celebration in Washington State

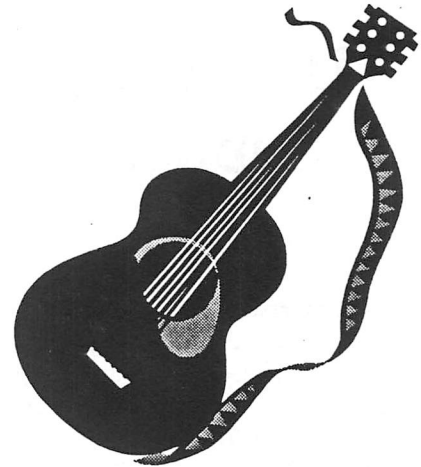
By Daniel Waugh

On Saturday, August 23, James West and I had the privilege of attending a celebration of six years of Ukrainian independence (*samostijnosti*), held at the Renton Community Center and sponsored by the Ukrainian American Club of Washington and the Ukrainian American Community of Greater Seattle. After a potluck picnic (with excellent national dishes), there was a formal program, begun with the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem "Sche ne vmerla Ukraina" (Ukraine has not died yet). There were greetings from various dignitaries-clergy, elected officials, and individuals involved in programs providing medical and other assistance to Ukraine.

The cultural program included poetry recitations, a very interesting performance by "Za Dunayem," a duo of Paula Yurko and Alex Krynytzky (who also acted as master of ceremonies), accompanying their singing on banduras, the large, flat lute-like instrument that is central to Ukrainian folk-music. Equally

delightful were the strikingly beautiful a-capella songs of the trio "Barvinok". At the conclusion, the audience of 250-300 rose in singing the hymn "Bozhe velykyi, edynyi" (O One Great God).

Attending the celebration brought back to me vivid memories of meeting for the first time in Moscow in May 1990 a Ukrainian colleague, who had been hounded by the authorities under the Soviet regime for his independence, scholarly honesty, and, I assume, Ukrainian nationalism. During my stay in Moscow, the meeting of the Russian Federation parliament was being televised; I was struck by the fact that the number one item being debated was "sovereignty". It came as something of a surprise to return home and discover that this portentous discussion had received no attention in, e.g., *The New York Times*. Most people did not yet imagine the Soviet Union really would disintegrate. My Ukrainian colleague in Moscow was more prescient. I asked him there when Ukraine would be independent, and his response was "within



a year." He was very close to the mark—Ukraine declared its independence on August 24, 1991.

The Ukrainian language is offered in the Slavic Department, but the University of Washington has unfortunately lacked the resources to support a significant level of Ukrainian studies, despite the importance of Ukraine in the region covered by our program, and in the family of Slavic cultures. In tune with the redistribution of emphasis in our field in the post-Soviet period, we are working on rectifying this situation in the coming years.

For more information on Ukraine and the very active Ukrainian American community in Washington, the Ukrainian American Club of Washington can be contacted by sending an email to Dr. George Pinchuk (george@vmmc.org or lesya@u.washington.edu); or by phone, at (206)223-7516. Dr. Stella Warnick is currently the Acting President; she may be contacted at swarnick@paul.spu.edu.

Daniel Waugh, Associate Professor in History and JSIS at the University of Washington. In his courses this quarter he is devoting considerable attention to the history of Kievan Rus'.

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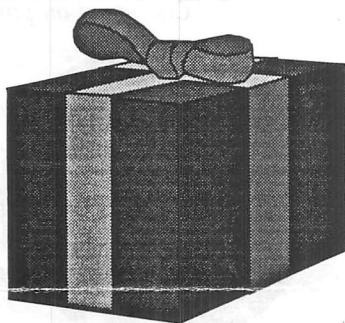
REECAS on The World Wide Web:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~reecascf/reecashm.html>

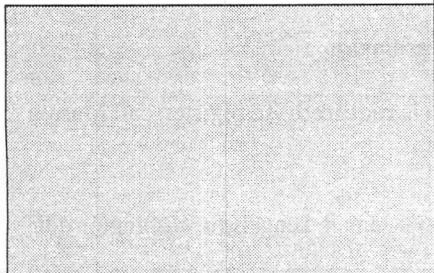
Continued from page 1

quire the most important current journals and books from and about Latvia.

At the same time, the Library is also stepping up the acquisition of books and periodicals pertaining to the other two Baltic States. Materials from this gift, along with newly published Baltic books and journals, will become available as part of the Suzzallo/Allen Library main collections over the coming months.



UW is the only university in North America currently offering a curriculum in all three languages and literatures of the Baltic Region—Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian. Baltic Studies at UW are jointly sponsored by the REECAS Program and the Department of Scandinavian Studies. Questions about the Latvian Studies Center gift may be directed to Michael Biggins (mbiggins@u.washington.edu) in the Library's Slavic & East European Section, or to Guntis Smidchens (guntiss@u.washington.edu) in the Scandinavian Department.



Continued from page 1

grade students will explore the daily lives of other young people living in eight Pacific Rim and African port cities that share sister city status with Seattle or Tacoma, Washington. In addition to Seattle/Tacoma port cities will include Vladivostok, Russia; Kobe, Japan; Mombasa, Kenya; and Vancouver, Canada.

The goals are to give students a personal global perspective, to increase their awareness of their own city's place in the world, and to foster a greater appreciation of other cultures. Students will explore their community resources, use the World Wide Web to research other port cities, establish email relationships with other students, and create "Day in the Life" profiles of people of all ages in other cities.

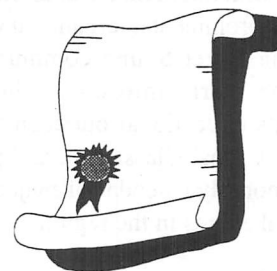
Molly Tennis of the Port of Seattle points out "the Day in the Life profiles concept reflects the kind of partnership and team work necessary to the education of our youth as they enter the evolving workplace environment. In order to prepare young people for trade related jobs, it is critical that they have an understanding of the role of their port and its impact on everyday life."

Resources include the Port of Seattle with its professional expertise, the Odyssey Maritime Discovery Museum as an interactive example of maritime trade, and Seattle and Tacoma's sister cities contacts. The UW College of Education and the UW Jackson School of International Studies will offer assistance in curriculum development, teacher preparation, tele-mentoring, and technology training.

The Apple Education Grants Program is designed to award computer and professional-development grants to schools seeking innovative ways to use technology in the classroom, and to provide solutions to groups that otherwise

would have limited or no access to technology.

For additional information, contact Michael S. Bittner at the University of Washington, (206) 522-1796; or Anne Fitzpatrick at Asa Mercer Middle School, (206) 768-3660 or (206) 784-7665.



In higher education, **Tacoma Community College has been awarded a \$49,000 grant through the Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad** to study Russian culture and history. This summer, 13 faculty members chosen from TCC, the University of Washington Tacoma, Foss High School and Hunt Middle School will travel to Pskov, Russia for five weeks to study the country's language, culture, history and current events. They will work primarily from Pskov Volny University, an institution with which TCC has formed a sister relationship. The purpose of the grant is to increase participants' understanding of Russian culture, society, and societal change. Information gathered will be used to help internationalize each school's curriculum in Russian language and area studies. Upon returning, participants will focus on reforming school curriculums through professional presentations and articles about their experiences in Russia. TCC faculty also will work with their colleagues at Hunt, Foss and UWT to develop a cohesive program of Russian language and area studies from the middle school through university level in Tacoma. The grant award constitutes 36 percent of a total budget of \$136,280; 64 percent of the total costs (\$87,280) will be from sources other than the federal government. For information, call Sandy Plann at (253) 566-5290.

K-12 News & Resources

Taking the Classroom Worldwide

The World Affairs Council, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to deepening the understanding of international issues affecting Washington State and the U.S., provides a forum for exchange with international authorities, introduces prominent international visitors to the Puget Sound community, brings the world into area schools through its educational outreach program, the Global Classroom, and produces a monthly calendar of major international events in the region.

The World Affairs Council is committed to helping teachers to educate their students about the world. Through its educational outreach program, the Global Classroom, the Council aims to foster a respect for diversity and understanding of global issues as well as develop in students a basic knowledge of the world. The Council brings international or internationally-engaged speakers into classes to make cultures and

global issues come alive. It coordinates a "Language Lunch" program in Seattle Public Schools to give students authentic opportunities to practice world languages with native and fluent speakers. Teachers are invited to turn to the World Affairs Council to find out more about curricular materials and local resources that would help them as they teach about contemporary world cultures, languages, and issues.

The World Affairs Council publishes a monthly newsletter which outlines new resources, provides lesson plan ideas, and informs about upcoming international events. K-12 teachers and students are invited to become Council members at no cost. To receive the newsletter and sign up for membership, contact Nancy Bacon, Director of Educational Programs, at (206) 682-6986, or send a request to: World Affairs Council, 1411 Fourth Avenue, Suite 320, Seattle, Washington 98101.

Designing the Russian-American School

A new course in the College of Education this quarter is giving participants a unique opportunity to join an unusual international effort — the design of a new, international Russian-American School. The school, to be based in Russia, will attempt to combine the best of the classical, rigorous Russian curriculum with American curricular and instructional exploration and inventiveness. The work of the course involves discussions of and planning for curricu-

Continued on page 13



ANNUAL WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS

RELIGION AND IDENTITY: RUSSIA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

sponsored by the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Center

Thomson Hall 317

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Saturday, January 24, 1997

9:00am - 3:30 pm

Presenters:

Bruce Kochis, Senior Lecturer, Liberal Studies Department, University of Washington Bothell.

Glennys Young, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

Kurt Engelmann, Associate Director, REECAS Center, University of Washington

The workshop is open to all educators. There is no charge, **but pre-registration is required**. To register, call Marion Cook at the REECAS Center (206) 543-4852 or email: marionc@u.washington.edu.

For more information, contact Kurt Engelmann at (206) 543-6938, fax (206) 685-0668, email: kengel@u.washington.edu.

MOSAICS

1997-98

BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR CLASSROOM ACROSS THE CURRICULUM GRADES K THROUGH NINE

Four Saturday workshops featuring sessions by international studies experts and experienced teachers, resource displays, hands-on activities, demonstrations of multi-purpose and interdisciplinary lessons, and lots of hand-outs.

Sponsored by the UW Jackson School of International Studies and the Washington State Council for the Social Studies. The Festival MOSAIC is also cosponsored by the Seattle International Children's Festival.

NOMADISM MOSAIC

FEBRUARY 7

contact: Kurt Engelmann,
Russian, Eastern Europe & Central Asia Center, 543-4852

SOUTHEAST ASIA MOSAIC

MARCH 7

contact: Maureen Jackson, SE Asian Studies, 543-9606

FESTIVAL MOSAIC

APRIL 4

contact: Mary Hammond Bernson, E. Asian Center, 543-1921

SOUTH ASIA MOSAIC

MAY 2

contact: Keith Snodgrass, South Asia Center, 543-4800

*****return this portion*****

All workshops will take place in 101 Thomson Hall on the University of Washington campus. Each workshop costs \$35 and includes lunch and all materials, with clock hours available at no additional charge. **Special Discount:** \$30/each for two or more MOSAICS. Pre-registration is required. To register, send the form below with a check made out to WSCSS to: Outreach Programs, Jackson School of International Studies, P.O. Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Please call the appropriate contact above for additional information.

Name:

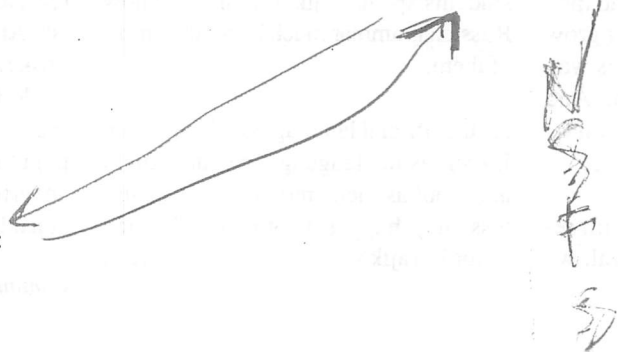
Phone (hm & school):

Address:

School / District:

Grades / subjects taught:

Workshop(s) registering for:



Notes from Bukhara: Two Years in Peace Corps Uzbekistan

By Oliver L. Wei

In September 1995, I was just about to embark on a 2-year Peace Corps 'tour of duty' in Uzbekistan. We trainees first gathered in Washington, D.C. for three uncertain days, not knowing what to expect. Finally, after a surreal and tense trip (with stopovers in Frankfurt -- a smoky 'slick' airport -- and in Istanbul -- another 4 hours in a 'worse' airport) we finally arrived in Tashkent at 5 a.m., in the dark, to the ubiquitous and awful smell of diesel exhaust. Above us, in Cyrillic, loomed the giant red letters: "Aeroport". Off the hot and humid Turkish Airlines plane, they immediately loaded us into dark 'cattle cars' and then jolted us to the main building. We were completely groggy and lost, but it was a first meeting with Uzbekistan, of sorts. Passport control was tense, unsmiling and imposing, as there was no one there to meet us (all the Peace Corps personnel were outside). It took at least an hour for all of us to get our bags off the semi-functional conveyor belt, and then to figure out that we had to fill out TWO duplicate copies of the customs form—one for us, one for them. I deliberated for a bit, then decided to put 'no, no, no' on everything, and that I was bringing 'zero, zero, zero' hard currency into the country. What were they going to do—search me?! (I kept my fingers crossed). Loaded into the bus outside, we rode through Tashkent as the sun was rising. Even when the sun was well above the horizon, due to the haze and dust it still looked like only a very weak orange lightbulb, as if there wasn't enough juice to turn it all the way on. And then I noticed how the tall trees didn't grow straight up, but seemed to fall this way and that, haphazard and random. And they were all painted about one meter up their trunks with white paint. . . .

That was a long time ago, but I still remember it well. After our arrival, we

trained for three months in a town called Chirchik, 45 minutes by bus out of Tashkent. The Peace Corps indoctrinated us (or tried) with their latest new wave teaching techniques and philosophy, for both our TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign language), and our SBD (Small Business Development) groups. Besides our technical training, we also learned Uzbek, which is 'official policy', since this country is called Uzbekistan; but Russian would have made more sense in Chirchik. In class we learned shopping terms in Uzbek, then at the bazaar, the locals would reply to us in Russian. It tended to be more of a Russian town (despite the number who had already left), and also had a lot of Kazakhs.

The smell in Chirchik that fall was of constantly burning leaves (they can't seem to think of a better way of disposing of the leaves, so they burn them in the gutters); but we could see the surrounding white-capped mountains on clear days, and the pink sunsets were always beautiful.

Towards the end of training, our TEFL trainer asked us for three 'site' preferences; I put down three different permutations of 'Bukhara' as my three choices, and that's where they sent me at the end of December '95—and from where I'm now writing. I continued to learn Uzbek for a couple of months, but then switched to Russian, which is what I've been learning since. Unfortunately, the traditional language of Bukhara (and also of Samarkand) happens to be neither of the above, but Tajik. I hear Tajik everywhere I go, and over half of my students speak Tajik at home. I know Russian grammar much better than most of them.

As the official language of Uzbekistan, Uzbek is the language they are taught at school as their 'mother tongue', unless they happen to go to a Russian school. Tajik is not taught anywhere in

this city, and exists only as an oral language, on the streets, at the bazaar, or in the homes. Of course there is some Russian, from television (Channel 1—OPT from Moscow, or the St. Petersburg channel), or among those who were well-educated during the Soviet period. But it's frustrating to study Russian so hard, but still not understand most of the conversations around me after nearly two years here. When I'm in Tashkent, though, it pays off; and will also pay off when I'm in other parts of the former Soviet Union.

I taught for most of the first year in a very large and unorganized school, and cut my teeth teaching classes in the 5th thru 10th forms, where the students received only 2 or 3 hours of English a week. It was a joke -- with the older students especially, because they were the ones getting only 2 hours a week. (Incidentally, the final grade or 'form' in the schools here is usually 11th, and not 12th like in the U.S.)

I soon grew accustomed to hearing "Good morning!" yelled at me, from 500 yards, at 6 o'clock in the evening. English classes are in the morning, so that's what they learn to say, thinking that it is the same as *Zdrasvuitie*, or *Assalom alaykum*. Also, I would occasionally get a robot-like "Aiwa!" with a wave of the hand. Apparently there'd been an Aiwa electronics commercial on TV where everyone in the commercial greeted each other with "Aiwa!" as if it were Hi, Hello. People here can be rather impressionable. And just think: Mars/M&M, Proctor and Gamble (eg. Comet cleaner), Coca-Cola (& Fanta), Nestle (eg. Nescafe), Phillip Morris, BAT (British American Tobacco—read, Lucky Strike), Colgate/Palmolive, etc. have all made their inroads here. It's scary to see the multi-nationals advertise to a populace, which previously hasn't seen advertising before. Import products are considered premier, whether or not they

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

really are. And because they often aren't all that wonderful, a kind of cynicism develops. In America, bus fare, a loaf of bread, a big bottle of pop, and a large candy bar all roughly cost the same. Here, bus fare is 6 *sum* (their national currency), bread is 15 *sum*, a liter-and-a-half of Coca-Cola is 130 *sum* (or more, even though there IS a Coca-Cola plant in Tashkent, and it's no longer imported from Turkey), and a Snickers bar is 100 *sum*. It's ridiculous, because the import products don't reflect the local scale, but extend way out of it. This is what it means for them to 'convert' to a free market economy. There is, by the way, an excellent article in the New York Times (March 8, 1997), which explains why last September and October the *sum* took off from 48 on the black market to the current 160. At the same time, the official rate has gone from a dignified 34 to 62 *sum* to the dollar. In real (i.e. black market) terms, teachers here make about (or even less than) 10 dollars a month. Of course, they can't live on this, so they have other means of income, such as private tutoring.

I now teach in the University Lycee, where there are only 10th and 11th forms, and where the students come from all different schools in Bukhara, because they want to prepare better for the universities than at regular schools. They are much easier to teach (in general) and receive 10 hours of English a week, if they study in the English groups. The level of my 10th form students has increased significantly in this past school year from the hours alone.

Some points of interest regarding the city itself: Bukhara, one of the ancient cities on the Silk Road, will celebrate its 2,500th year anniversary this year in September or October—even now, no one knows for sure when. The locals are very proud of how far back the history of this city extends. You have to enjoy the irony, though, in that on their "Independence Day"—September 1st of this year, they will be celebrating only their 6th year as a country, as a political

entity called Uzbekistan.

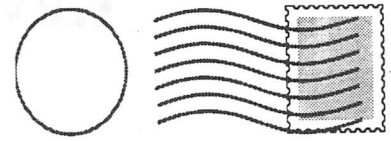
Most ethnic Uzbeks are slower to admit that their lives are worse now than during the Soviet Union, while other minority groups are quicker to admit it (Russians, Jews who have left for New York & Israel, Tatars, Koreans; Tajiks; etc.). They used to travel to the Black Sea, to make frequent long distance phone calls to Moscow, etc., to have money up to here (they motion up to their necks, or over their heads); but now very few people can go anywhere for vacation, and it's ridiculously expensive to call anywhere outside of Uzbekistan. In fact, I've frequently met people who've formerly visited Moscow and/or St. Petersburg, but who have never even been to Tashkent.

It is very hot here now [June], high 30's Celsius (around 100 F.); the heat is bearable only because it is a dry heat. In July and August, it is not uncommon for the temperature to go up around 45 degrees Celsius or even higher. Fruit and produce at the bazaar is excellent during the summer. Of course there's no refrigeration, and everything is seasonal, which has its advantages.

Bukhara attracts some tourists, but not very many by Western standards, as it is very difficult to get a visa for this country. Looking out of the fifth story window here, there are many green trees, but in the fall thru early spring, the color is usually the tan monochrome of the fine dust that is everywhere. The Old City is also visible from here, with its many mosques, madrassas, and its signature minaret, Kalyan.

Essentially, Bukhara is a pleasant, quiet backwater. . . minus the water, of course. Not a bad place to serve a 2-year Peace Corps assignment.

Oliver Wei majored in Slavic Languages and Literature (Romanian and Polish) and English at the University of Washington.



Alumni Corner

Erin E. Kinder, Private Enterprise Officer, Office of Economic Reform, Moscow

Following graduation from JSIS in 1992, Erin Kinder worked in the CIS for three different companies in a management capacity, was eventually promoted and then brought back to the States. In the fall of 1995 she was recruited as a mid-level career Foreign Service Officer for the Agency for International Development. USAID "coned" her as a technical officer in "Private Enterprise Development" due to her business experience and educational background. After a year of training in Washington, D.C., Erin was assigned to her first overseas post in Moscow, Russia.

Erin has found implementing the foreign assistance arm of US Foreign Policy both challenging and exciting. She manages a portfolio of contractors and grantees that are providing technical assistance to the emerging private sector in the Russian Federation. After a recent promotion to Division Chief (Business Development Division in the Office of Economic Reform) she has launched three new programs focusing on enterprise restructuring and associated issues in the European North West region and the Russian Far East.

Erin's assignment in Moscow (a mandatory 2-year post) extends until September 1999, at which time she will move on to her next post.

Reviews and Resources

Contested Arctic: Indigenous Peoples, Industrial States, and the Circumpolar Environment.

Edited by Eric Alden Smith and Joan McCarter. Preface by Kurt Engelmann. Publisher: University of Washington Press with the Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.

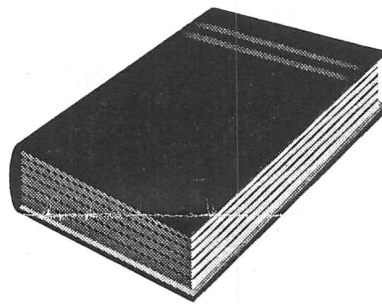
The Arctic may be the last frontier of colonialism, where industrial societies are aggressively exploiting the resources and undermining the social cohesion of indigenous peoples. In fact, this colonization of the circumpolar north is only now reaching its full momentum. Among the new conquistadors are oil company geologists, loggers, even resource biologists, bringing not only industrial pollution but also cultural pollution in their wake. For centuries, the aboriginal Arctic population has efficiently used resources to meet modest human needs, developing a special relationship to the land, water, and wildlife. But at the intersection of national ambitions and Arctic ecosystems, Native communities are being relentlessly squeezed between the ravages of resource extraction and the often naive agendas of environmentalists in urban centers far away.

This volume explores some of the major threats to the Arctic environment and



indigenous peoples responses to these threats. Case studies discuss the push for oil and gas development in Canada, Alaska, and Russia; the toxic legacy of the former Soviet Union; land tenure conflicts in Russia; and wildlife management in Canada and Scandinavia.

Eric Alden Smith is professor of anthropology and director of the graduate program in environmental anthropology at the University of Washington. Joan McCarter is an editor of the Post-Soviet Handbook and an alumna of the REECAS M.A. program.



Without Warning: Threat Assessment, Intelligence, and Global Struggle.

By Mikhail Alexseev. Publisher: St. Martin's Press. Publication date: November 1997 (tentative).

In the last millennium, competition among the global powers has relied heavily upon the concept of war threat assessment. In *Without Warning*, Mikhail Alexseev compares the intelligence priorities of principal decision makers in such various parts of the world as the Mongol Empire and Sung China (1206-1220), Great Britain and France (1783-1800), and the US and the Soviet Union (1975-1991). In his analysis, Alexseev reveals that while the leading powers see security primarily in military and economic terms, their challengers focus primarily on political vulnerabilities. As a result, the world powers have consistently failed to detect or deter

aggressive challengers. A deciphering look at the intercatations among global powers, *Without Warning* highlights the importance of global intelligence cooperation in fighting major post-Cold War security threats.

Mikhail Alexseev recently received his Ph.D. from the Political Science Department at the University of Washington.

Passage To Freedom: The Sugihara Story.

By Ken Mochizuki Illustrated by Dom Lee Pub. Lee & Low Books Inc., 1997

Reviewed by Nanci Andvik

Passage To Freedom: The Sugihara Story chronicles an act of compassion by a Japanese diplomat serving in Kaunas, Lithuania during the Second World War. The true story is told through the eyes of Hiroki, Sugihara's son. Polish Jews fleeing from the Nazis crowded outside the consulate's home to request visas to cross Russia to Japan. Sugihara appeals several times to his country for permission to write the visas. The request is denied. Sugihara feels he must follow God and his heart and disobey the Japanese government. His family agrees. He issues handwritten visas to hundreds of refugees until he and his family are ordered by the Soviets to leave Lithuania. The afterword accounts results of the story. Realistic sepia illustrations created from an unusual technique of images scratched out of beeswax add to the drama of this touching story. Though this is a children's picture book, its message is for people of all ages.

Nanci Andvik teaches grades 1-3 in the Central Kitsap School District

Is There a Future for CD-ROMs?

The Hermitage (St. Petersburg Art Treasures Tour. The World's Greatest Museum). Intersoft, in cooperation with the Hermitage Museum, 1995. Manufactured and distributed by Cascade Marketing International, 115 E. School Road, Wentachee, WA 98801, tel. 1-509-663-9523; e-mail <76400.2274@compuserve.com>. Windows version (Mac also available); choice of Russian or English text on the one disk.

Treasures of Russia (Introduction to Russian Art). Intersoft, In cooperation with Iskustvo Publishers, Avangard Inc. & "Boyan" Orchestra, 1995. Same distributor and same technical specifications.

The Silk Road: Digital Journey. produced by Marek Gronowski. DNA Multimedia Corporation, 1760 West 2nd Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1H6, Canada, tel. 1-604-736-8783; e-mail: info@dna.bc.ca. Works on both Windows and Mac.

Reviewed by Daniel Waugh

Note: The two Intersoft disks require a 386SX processor or higher, single speed CD-ROM drive, 4 MB of RAM, Windows 3.1 or higher. The DNA disk requires a 486 and double-speed drive, but otherwise the same. To read the Russian on the Intersoft disks, one has to install Cyrillic fonts.

We have come a long way technically, since the first of the Intersoft CD-ROMs (on the Orthodox Church) was reviewed on these pages just a few years ago. The two more recent Intersoft disks are considerably richer and more sophisticated, but they still have not achieved the level of interactivity and substance displayed in DNA's disk on the Silk Road. Although my experience with CD-ROMs is still somewhat limited, given the rapid development of Web technology, I have to wonder whether

they have much of a future. Those which can provide a reference work of some real substance and staying power (e.g., the Oxford English Dictionary) may make the grade, as can productions such as the Corbis-Corporation's guide to the National Gallery in London. Alas, not everyone has such deep pockets as Bill Gates and Corbis. For teaching purposes, a disk such as that on the Silk Road, with many opportunities for exploring multiple paths to additional information and some interactive features, may do a very good job for some school classrooms. I am not quite sure whether the Intersoft products fit anywhere on this spectrum.

Both The Hermitage and Treasures feature a good, detailed help file to get the user started; installation and use are quite straightforward. They have similarly designed displays and operate in similar fashion. Probably the least valuable part of each disk is its set of impressionistic video tours, accompanied by somewhat schmaltzy music and with no voiceover so that the viewer can identify the objects. Pretty pictures, and little more, alas, and no attempt to explain and integrate the music with images to broaden an understanding of the culture. For the Hermitage, there are also several narrated tours, focussing more on the building and its history than on the art works. These do give an excellent sense of the magnificence of the Winter Palace. The art in Hermitage is organized by world areas and periods; even though there are more than 300 images, the selection barely scratches the surface. Convenient chronological tables enable one to place the art works on a time line and thus see the relative position of one vis-a-vis several others. For each work, there is a short paragraph of explanatory text, and the user can access the material through various indexes. A map of archaeological sites is useful for the matching of the examples of "Scythian Gold" with the location of the finds—click on a location,

and the image of the object appears. For someone planning to visit the Hermitage, the disk might serve as a nice introduction, but I hardly find enough here to be of use either in the classroom or for reference purposes.

Treasures has similar features, with the art arranged by periods and accessible through chronological tables and indexing of artists and titles. There are schematic maps of the various periods, where one can click on icons of the locations for which there are objects. Hence, one can bring up a Moscow Kremlin church from the late 15th century or the Church of the Intercession on the Moat (commonly known as St. Basil's) in Red Square from the 16th century. In general, perhaps because of the more focussed nature of the subject, Treasures has a much more satisfying selection than does Hermitage. For the pictures alone, Treasures might be a useful reserve supplement to an introductory survey of Russian culture. Both disks allow enlarging the pictures to look at details; and the colors can be adjusted, if necessary. Picture quality is good. It is possible that both disks would be of some use too in Russian language courses to expand the range of readings and listening exercises.

The major disappointment of these disks is in the accompanying text. There is simply too little substance. True, if a particular ruler or artist is mentioned, there is a hypertext link to some short biographical information. If an artist moved in a certain circle, often some of his teachers or collaborators are mentioned and can be examined. Several major works are listed for each artist, and those which are also represented on the disc can then be readily accessed. There are hypertext links to definitions of key terms. But the commentary is largely platitudes, and there

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

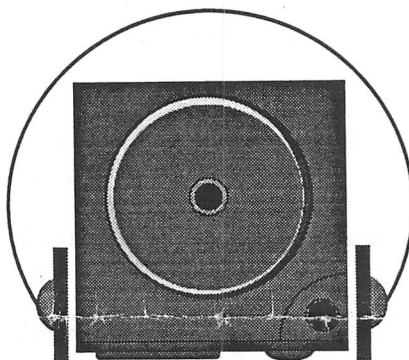
is practically no effort to relate each item to a broader cultural context. Thus, we never learn of the possible comparison of the paintings of Fedotov with those of Hogarth, and we cannot get an inkling of the thematic analogies with the stories by Gogol'. How any of this relates to the important intellectual movements in the nineteenth century is beyond the scope of the authors of these disks. Furthermore, the works representing artists do not always highlight what the text tells us about them. Goncharova becomes an exponent of "rayonnism," but there are none of her works that would illustrate this and there is never any clear explanation of her "primitivism" (for example, in its relationship to icon painting). It would be difficult for an uninformed reader to get much sense of why someone like Tsar Ivan IV or Tsar Peter I was important, and not unexpectedly, obsolete textbookish clichés, such as the idea that the "Stand on the Ugra" in 1480 ended the power of "The Golden Horde," are common here.

In contrast, since it has been designed with pedagogical goals in mind, *The Silk Road* is an excellent resource for a range of class levels. It is sophisticated enough so that it could be used even for a college class, although it is probably intended for middle or high school students. There are numerous good photographs; music clips, samples of phrases in various languages, maps with animated drawings of routes and directions of influence and more. The explanations of major religions and ethnic groups are sound and pack a lot in a short space; one can learn quite a bit about history and exploration. The publisher even offers an internet site where one can access related materials of rather limited scope (the idea is promising).

Main selections are done at "The Market," where for the basic journey, one can begin with a slide show and accompanying commentary following the route from Xian in China to Rawalpindi

in Pakistan. There are occasional glitches, where comment does not match image. Marco Polo is erroneously placed in the 12th century; a mention of K-2 is accompanied by a photo of Rakaposhi; the importance of the recent ethnic changes in Xinjiang is obscured by a misleading comment about Chinese being a small minority in Kashgar. The slide show would have been better had more historical information been incorporated into it.

For history, one searches under a separate rubric, and the information is rather fragmented. The timelines are pretty sketchy too, but enough material is pro-



vided so that a user could pull together a reasonably clear historical sequence of important events. At many points one can click on hypertext connections to learn about important individuals; the interactive maps allow the user to select two countries or regions and bring up immediately a listing of products that went between them.

There are various quiz questions for review along the way, and at "the university" one can attempt to pass tests in five main categories of knowledge in order to obtain the key to the Cave of Knowledge. There no pot of gold awaits; the message presumably is that the reward is what one learned to gain admittance.

There is one unfortunate bias in the coverage of the disk—only the eastern half of the Silk Road is represented; very little intimates about its extension the

rest of the way west to the Mediterranean world. Even within the region covered, there is too little sense of the complexity and multiplicity of routes. To follow it south along the modern Karakoram Highway into Pakistan, for example, obscures the fact that this particular route was never the most important one to the sub-continent until modern times. Perhaps the limitation was imposed by the amount of information that could be compressed on the one disk; a complementary one for the western half of the Silk Road would be in order.

Overall I come away from these disks dismayed by what I would call the "news magazine" or "sound-byte" approach to information. The same thing is true of such CD-ROM reference works as Microsoft's Encarta, which does not always compare favorably with the old-fashioned printed *World Book Encyclopedia* (aimed at 5th-grade reading level, mind you). Granted, the *World Atlas* that accompanies Encarta is substantially better than the basic encyclopedia, and gradually, with the addition of more sound clips that allow a user to hear languages or musical instruments, the CD-ROM does begin to achieve its potential to do what a print volume could not. I would hate to think that distilling substance into short cliché-ridden paragraphs is the wave of the future though, and any amount of hypertext connection is no substitute for significant content, if all the links lead to equally shallow summaries. What I really would like from these disks is the opportunity for users of different levels of interest to delve into a topic in some depth. What we find instead though, at least in the Intersoft products, is water of uniform depth, coming up to about the ankles. Even if the disks had as their result to encourage one to go to the library and take out a good book, they would be doing their job, but I am not persuaded they will provide such an incentive.

Daniel Waugh, Associate Professor in History and JSIS at the University of Washington, is a specialist in Russian and Central Asian History.

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All papers are \$5.25 each unless otherwise noted (add \$1.00 for international orders, 8.6% for WA state residents.) A ten-issue subscription is available for \$45, a twenty-issue subscription for \$90. Orders and subscriptions should be directed to Charles Sabatos, Managing Editor, at the following address:

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Submissions are currently being accepted. For submission information, contact Professor Sabrina P. Ramet, Editor, at the above address.

Faculty & Visitors

Vladimir Raskin has joined the REECAS faculty as a Research Associate. In 1994 Dr. Raskin created the Human Rights Foundation for Civil Society, a non-profit dedicated to furthering human rights in Russia. He was also a co-founder (1992) and developer of the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights, an umbrella organization for human rights organizations in Moscow. His research focuses on human rights and political developments in post-Communist Russia and Eastern Europe. This winter quarter he will be teaching a course on Human Rights in Russia and Post-Communist Europe (SIS 490A) at the University of Washington.

Diana Pearce is founder and director of the Women and Poverty Project, until recently affiliated with Wider Opportunities for Women in Washington, DC. Recognized for coining the phrase the "feminization of poverty", Dr. Pearce has written and spoken widely on women's poverty and economic inequality issues, and has testified before congress, and been an expert witness in federal court on these issues. This past year she taught at several universities as well as for the United Nations Development Program in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, as a Fulbright scholar.

Dr. Pearce received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Sociology and Social Work. She has taught at the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois, American University, & Catholic University School of Law.

She will begin teaching and conducting research at the University of Washington this winter, (department(s) and school(s) still to be decided.)

George Wright has joined the UW faculty as an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Practice of the School of Medicine. The Department houses a unique multi-disciplinary Rural Health Research Center devoted to improving the delivery of health care to rural communities. Last year Professor Wright was a Fulbright Fellow in Tashkent where he taught development economics at the Management Institute as well as health policy and health economics at the Second Tashkent State Medical Institute. He has also worked with AID and World Bank projects to reorganize the management and financing of health care in Uzbekistan. He is currently a consulting economist to the World Bank on a project to reform primary care delivery in Uzbekistan.

Adam Rubin specializes in the history of modern Jewish politics and culture in Eastern Europe, and is completing his doctorate in Jewish history at UCLA. He is the recipient of the 1997-1998 Hazel D. Cole Fellowship in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington. The Cole Fellowship is intended for either doctoral or post-doctoral research in Jewish history, religious studies, or Hebrew literature. Rubin will offer an undergraduate seminar this spring on mod-

ern Hebrew, Yiddish and German-Jewish cultural expression in Central and Eastern Europe.

His dissertation is entitled "A Chaos of Memories: Hebrew Culture and the Creation of Jewish National Identity, 1900-1948." It traces the development of the "Tarbut Ivrit" (Hebrew Culture) movement, from its origins in fin de siecle Odessa among small circles of writers and intellectuals to its institutional consolidation in interwar Poland and pre-State Palestine.

Laada Bilanivk is a linguistic anthropologist interested in the processes of nation-building and the politics of language and identity in the former Soviet Union. Her recent research focuses on the role of language in the social and political transformations of post-Soviet Ukraine, based on large-scale surveying and language attitude testing, as well as interviews, close observation of interactions, and media research.

Ms. Bilanivk will defend her dissertation on this topic at the University of Michigan on December 10 of this year. This winter term, at the University of Washington, she will be teaching Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (Anth 203A/503A, Ling 203A).



National Resource Centers Funded 1997-2000

National Resource Centers at various institutions in the United States are funded by the Office of Higher Education Programs. The purpose of National Resource Centers is to strengthen comprehensive and undergraduate instruction in language and area studies.

The following is the list of National Resource Centers involved with Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies which are funded by the Department of Education under Title VI for the next three years (1997-2000). Recipients of FLAS funding are also noted.

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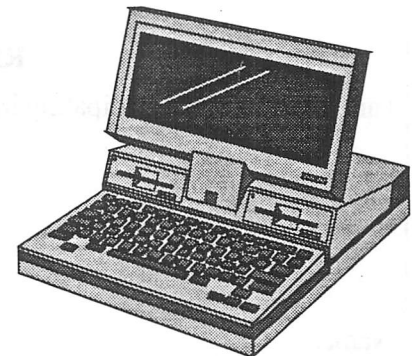
Note: FLAS ~ Foreign Language and Area Studies
NRC ~ National Resource Center
UG ~ undergraduate

Continued from page 4

lum and materials, classroom instruction, school management, and relationships with parents, communities, and sponsors. Given current difficult economic and social conditions in Russia, it may be desirable to use distance education to make the school maximally accessible. The intent of the Russian participants (The Eureka Open University in Moscow, Alexander Adamsky, Rector) was to open the school on a trial basis in September, 1997, and to engage at the same time in planning and development activity. Thus, this is a functioning school that class members are simultaneously helping to design and form.

The course is conducted in English, and will be carried out through e-mail, courier exchange of documents, and occasional telephone conferences. For those interested, the course will continue during Winter and Spring Quarters, 1998.

For further information, please contact Steve Kerr, 115 Miller Hall, University of Washington. Phone: (206) 543-1847, E-mail: stkerr@u.washington.edu.



"To Destroy a Nation: Literature and the Collapse of the Yugoslav Idea."

Professor Andrew Wachtel
Wednesday, November 19, 3:30 p.m., Smith Hall 205

Andrew Wachtel is chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Northwestern University. He has published on a broad variety of topics in Russian literature and culture as well as on the literature and culture of the former Yugoslavia. His books include *The Battle for Childhood: Creation of a Russian Myth* (1991), *An Obsession with History: Russian Writers Confront the Past* (1994), and *Petrushka: Sources and Contexts* (forthcoming). His book *Grand Illusions: Literature, Cultural Politics and the Rise and Fall of Yugoslavia* will be published by Stanford University Press in 1998. Professor Wachtel is general editor of the series "Literature from an Unbound Europe" at Northwestern Press, and a frequently published translator of contemporary poetry from Russia and Slovenia.

FOURTH ANNUAL REECAS CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS and SESSION PROPOSALS

The Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) Center is sponsoring the **Fourth Annual Regional REECAS Conference**, to be held at the Portland State University campus, Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, April 11, 1998. The goal of the conference is to establish a regional community of scholars, educators, and others who are interested in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The conference will consist of formal and informal paper presentations, round table discussions, research updates, and other REECAS-related sessions. For this conference, we are soliciting individual papers and session ideas on REECAS-related topics, such as economic transformation, international relations, environmental degradation, and teaching methodology, from individuals in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia).

We encourage specialists, including advanced graduate students, in all disciplines in institutes of higher education in the Northwest to participate. Representatives of businesses, K-12 educational institutions, government agencies, and other organizations interested in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are also welcome.

If you are interested in participating in the conference as a session organizer, presenter, or discussant, please return the form below to us by January 1, 1998.

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I am interested in participating in the Third Annual Regional REECAS Conference. Please include me as a:

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Calendar of REECAS-Related Events

All Events at the University of Washington Seattle campus unless otherwise noted.

November 1997

Thursday, November 6: *The Kazakh Writer and Scholar Muxtar Auezov: (1897-1961)*. 12:30 - 1:20 p.m., Denny Hall 215. Speaker: Ilse Cirtautas, Professor, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization.

Friday, November 7: *The Issyk Kul Forum, Bishkek, July 14-18, 1997*. 12:20-1:20 p.m., Denny Hall 215. Speaker: Ilse Cirtautas, Professor, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization.

Friday, November 7: Slavic Homecoming celebration, 7:00 p.m., Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street. For reservations, call the UW Alumni Association at (206) 543-0540 or 1-800-AUW-ALUM. Reservation deadline: November 3

Wednesday, November 12: *Russia and China: A New Strategic Convergence?* 3:30-5:00 pm., Smith Room, Suzzallo Library. Speaker: Christoph Bluth, Director, Graduate School of European and International Studies, University of Reading (UK).

Wednesday, November 12: *Recent Developments in Sino-Russian Relations and Their Implications for the U.S.* 6:00 pm., Smith Hall 205. Speaker: Ni Xiaoquan, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Visiting Professor at the Jackson School. Cost: Free for students and WAC members, \$10 for others. Advance registration requested. Information and registration: 682-9107.

Thursday, November 13: *Research on the Epic Manas in Kirghizstan*. 12:30-1:20 p.m., Denny Hall 215. Speaker: Rsbba Beybutova, Fulbright Scholar, Head, Dept. of International Relations, Institute for Integration of International Educational Programs, Kirghiz National State Univ., Bishkek, Kirghizstan.

Friday, November 14: *Research on Kazakh Oral Traditions*. 12:30-1:20 p.m., Denny Hall 215. Speaker: Kagan Arik, Ph.D. Candidate, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies.

Tuesday & Wednesday, November 18-19: Russian-American Fisheries Seminar, Seattle, on the eve of the annual FISHEXPO. Organized by the Russian Law School in America and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Federation. For location, program and registration information, contact: Irina Grubic, tel.: (206) 443-9221, fax: (206) 443-9219, E-mail: ruslaw@msn.com.

Wednesday, November 19: *The Remaking of Man: Myth &*

Stigma in Soviet Russia During the 1930's. 3:00-4:30pm, Thomson Hall Room 134. Speaker: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Professor of History, University of Chicago.

To Destroy a Nation: Literature and the Collapse of the Yugoslav Idea. 3:30pm, Smith Hall 205. Speaker: Andrew Wachtel, Chair, Dept. of Slavic Languages & Literature, Northwestern University (see page 13).

Presidentialism and 'Stability' in Central Asia: Political Priorities and Pressures. 7:00-9:00pm, Boeing Auditorium. Speaker: Roger Kangas, John Hopkins University.

Thursday-Sunday, November 20-23: National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), Sheraton Hotel, Seattle. (See back page.)

Monday, November 24 or Tuesday, November 25: *The Iconography of Icon Veneration*. Afternoon (location & specific time to be announced; contact REECAS office for details). Speaker: Engelina Sergeevna Smirnova, Professor, Moscow University.

December 1997

Thursday, December 4: *Planning a Curriculum for an American Studies Program at Arabayev Kirghiz State Pedagogical University*. 12:30 - 1:20 p.m., Denny Hall 215. Speaker: Cholpon Naimanova, Fulbright Scholar, Arabayev Kirghiz State Pedagogical University, Bishkek, Kirghizstan.

Friday, December 5: *Child Health in Rural Pakistan*. 12:30 pm., Savery 209. Speaker: Elaina Rose, Dept. of Economics.

Tuesday, December 9: *To Live Like a God in Odessa: Hebrew Culture on the Margins of Russia, 1890 - 1920*. 3:30 pm, Thomson Hall 317. Speaker: Adam Rubin, 1997-98 Cole Fellow.

Winter-Spring 1998

Saturday, January 24: Annual Workshop for Teachers: *Religion & Identity: Russia into the 21st Century*. 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m., Thomson Hall 317 (see page 4).

Saturday, February 7: Mosaic on Nomadism, 101 Thomson Hall (see page 5 for registration and contact information).

Saturday, April 4: Festival Mosaic (see page 5).

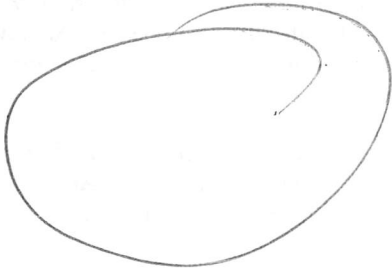
Saturday, April 26: Fourth Annual Regional REECAS Conference (see page 14).

REECAS NEWSLETTER

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American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

29th National Convention
Seattle, Washington
November 20-23, 1997

Hosted by the Western Slavic Association

Fees: AAASS Member, \$60 (Regular), \$25 (Student/Low-income)
Non-Member, \$70 (Regular), \$30 (Student/Low-income)

Address questions or requests for further information to:

Wendy Walker, Convention Coordinator
8 Story Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-0678, Fax: (617) 495-0680
E-mail: walker@fas.harvard.edu