



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources.***  
**No. 13, Fall 2016.**

Dear Colleagues:

As we embark on a new semester, I wanted to update you on acquisitions and other news since our Winter/Spring issue. The summer season, alas, passed all too quickly and the living wasn't always terribly easy in the heat and humidity...

One very positive outcome of the summer recess concerns the renovation and streamlining of the Slavic Department Reading Room in Hamilton Hall. Thanks to the efforts of Slavic Department alumnus Dr. Cal Wright and the support of Chairperson Valentina Izmirlieva, the room was transformed from a well-worn warren into a comfortable, user-friendly space in which to work, read, and access on-line resources.



*Room 713 Hamilton Hall*

This fall, for your further convenience I am now offering weekly office hours on-site in both the Harriman Institute (on **Mondays from 5-6 in Room 1219—Dr. Ronald Meyer's office**) and the Slavic Department (on **Wednesdays from 12-1:30, in the aforementioned Slavic Reading Room**).

Of course, as before I am usually at my desk in 308 Lehman Library, so just email or call to chat or to set up an appointment. I am planning to visit Ithaca later in September or early October, and as always look forward to hearing from my Cornell colleagues!

The year 2016 is, of course, an important anniversary in the history of the Harriman Institute, marking seven decades since it was established as the Russian Institute in 1946. I am looking forward to the many forthcoming events and programs marking this significant milestone.

Wishing us all a most productive and exciting semester!

### Acquisitions: Current & Retrospective (Antiquarian)

The last Fiscal Year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) saw the arrival of a bumper crop of new materials, in languages ranging from Adygei to Udmurt—and every language in between! Columbia and Cornell received a combined total of more than 14,800 items on approval—that is, sent by our in-country network of sixteen vendors, according to an established subject profile. This number *excludes* gift materials, antiquarian purchases, and items firm ordered at the request of faculty or staff.

This was a banner year for antiquarian purchases! Thanks in part to support from the Columbia University Libraries' Primary Resources Fund, collaborations with my colleague Teri Harris at Avery Classics, and some significant end-of-year *largesse* via Acquisitions, we were able to bring some very interesting materials to both Ithaca and Morningside Heights!

One of the most visually exciting additions to **Columbia's** holdings was the purchase of ninety-five additional examples of late Imperial and early Soviet sheet music. Columbia's holdings, catalogued collectively at <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10290450> are quite likely the largest in any North American collection from this era, now including some 268 titles.



*Sampling of sheet music covers from the latest purchase.*

One of the particular collecting interests of **Cornell** University Library's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, located in the Carl A. Kroch Library, are materials pertaining to sexuality and gender studies. The Human Sexuality Collection seeks to preserve and make accessible primary sources that document historical shifts in the social construction of sexuality, with a focus on U.S. lesbian and gay history and the politics of pornography. This year, I was able to acquire a unique assemblage of materials in this area, from a Slavic perspective, namely a collection of Czech-language texts published circa 1927-1938 on sexual health, hygiene and pleasure, as well as mail order product catalogs, published by the sex-reformist and proprietor of the Hydiko House of Modern Cosmetics, František Trefný. Hydiko was founded in 1927 in

Prague and Trefný concurrently published publications treating topics such as adultery, masturbation, and homosexuality. He distributed various short-lived erotic journals, ephemeral catalogs for sex toys and articles of personal hygiene, as well as nude photography. Not surprisingly, Trefný's publications were repeatedly banned and confiscated, so the various publications and brochures that comprise this collection are quite rare.



Among the nineteen items in the collection are *Pohlavní zdravotvěda (co má věděti kaŹdý mladý člověk o sobě a druhěm pohlavě)* [Sexual Hygiene: What Every Young Man Should Know About Himself and About the Other Sex]. (Prague: František Trefný, 1930), and *Diskrétně odpovědi na dŮvěrně otázky* [Discrete Answers to Confidential Questions]. (Prague: František Trefný, 1929), both depicted above; as well as multiple issues of the periodical *Erotikon: ilustrovaný magazin jemně erotiky* [Eroticon: An Illustrated Journal of Soft Erotica] (Prague: Trefný, 1934-35) containing anecdotes, erotic prose, as well as encouraging and instructive texts by Trefný himself, accompanied by numerous erotic photographs and drawn illustrations. Among the ephemeral items acquired are a promotional leaflet listing titles published as part of Trefný's "Sexuální knihovna" as well as a series of erotic novels published as the "Erotic Library" ("Erotická knihovna") and erotic photograph cards, in the original pictorial envelope featuring a list of other soft-core pornographic photographs published by Trefný.

Since 2009, I have made a special effort—working closely with **Columbia's** Avery Classics, and the Rare Book & Manuscript Library—to bolster our holdings of rare (and in some cases unique) titles in Baltic & East European architectural, art and literary materials from the dynamic interwar decades, as well as avant-garde (Surrealist, Dadist, etc.) literature. These titles, reflecting the creative modernist influence of the period, add a geographical/cultural dimension that is lacking in the holdings of many peer institutions. Together, we have secured a number of notable acquisitions that cement our position as a premier collection of such materials. Thanks to the efforts of Columbia's Collection Development Office, at the end of the fiscal year we were

able to acquire a large convoy—some thirty monographs and serial titles—of Croatian, Latvian, Estonian, and Hungarian Modernist works of the interwar period. Among the highlights are: An original copy of Marko Ristić’s inflammatory work *Turpituda* [Turpitude] (Zagreb: Dragutin Becher, 1938) with seven drawings by Krsto Hegedušić. Described as an illustrated “paranoiac-didactic rhapsody,” an edict was issued empowering the police to confiscate the edition before release and destroy it, so very few original copies survive; August Gailit’s *Klounid ja faunid* [Clowns and Fauns] (Tartu: Odamehe Kirjastus, 1919) illustrated with original graphics by avant-garde artists working in Tartu; Märt Laarman’s *Puulõige* [Woodcut] (Tallinn: Eesti Õpetajate Liidu Kirjastus, 1927), on the history and technique of woodcuts and linocuts illustrated by Laarman and many other representatives of the modernist movement in Estonia;



From left: Laarman’s *Puulõige*; Raudsepp’s *Kohtumõistja Simson*; *Jahrbuch der bildenden Kunst*.

two works by the playwright Hugo Raudsepp: *Kohtumõistja Simson* [The Judge Simson]. (Tartu: Noor-Eesti Kirjastus, 1927) with a cover design by Laarman, and his fifteen-act comedy *Sinimandria*. (Tartu: Noor-Eesti Kirjastus, 1927) illustrated by painter and theater designer Peet Aren; Mait Metsanurk’s own annotated copy of *Viimne päev* [The Final Day] (Tallinn: Eesti Kirjanikkude Liide Kirjastus, 1927) with an abstract cover design by Laarman; the poet Marie Under’s *Room ühest illusast päevest* [The Joys of a Beautiful Day] (Tallinn: Eesti Kirjanikkude Liidu Kirjastus, 1928) with seven drawings and cover design by Eduard Viiralt (Viiralt) perhaps the most celebrated of Estonian early modern artists; a collection of Expressionist poetry by Tivadar Raith *Alkonyi szimfónia* [Twilight Symphony] (Paris: Maxime Ferenczi, 1914) illustrated by four original woodcuts by the Austrian Louis (Aloys) Wachlmeyer and the Swiss artist Ernst Kempter; *Ceļš uz Paradīzi* [The Way to Paradise] (Riga: Vainags, 1920) with a cover design by Jekabs Kazaks; Lucija Zamaič’s *Čigāns un 3 damas* [Gypsies and Three Ladies] (Riga: Promets, nd (1924) with an unattributed cover that is possibly the work of Niklaus Strunke (this work was confiscated and many copies destroyed); and Ede Toroczka-Wigand’s *Hogyan építsünk a Balaton partján?* [How Should We Build on Balaton’s Shore?] (Budapest: Táltos, 1921), produced in fifty numbered copies, with numerous drawings and photos of projects of the architect, and some traditional housing from the region as well.

Periodical titles acquired include two issues of *Perspectiva*, a scarce architectural journal (Budapest: József Erdős, 1935), covering the most progressive modernist developments in Hungary; and twenty-three (of thirty-two) numbers of the art and satirical journal *Lapsene* [Wasps] (Riga: Lapsene, 1922-1924).

Among the items purchased directly by the Avery Classics Library are *Jahrbuch der bildenden Kunst* [Yearbook of the Fine Arts](Riga: Architekturverein zu Riga, 1926); *Výstava mezinárodní nové architektury* [Exhibition of New International Architecture](Prague: Klub architektů Stavba, 1929); issues for the period 1927-1932 of the journal *Stroitel'naia promyshlennost'* [Construction Industry] (Moskva : Gos. tekhn. izd-vo, 1923-1958); and twenty-three issues from 1936-1939 of *Arkhitekturnaia gazeta: Prilozhenie* [Architectural Newspaper: Supplements] (Moskva: Soiuz arkhitektorov, 1935-1939).

### Gifts

Earlier this summer, many of you no doubt saw the article by Noah Remnick “With Shop's Closing, Little Ukraine Grows Smaller,” in *The New York Times* (June 6, 2016, p. A18). The article concerned the closing of Surma Book & Music Co., an institution at 11 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in New York’s East Village. Founded ninety-eight years ago by Ukrainian immigrant Myron Surmach, the shop had been located on East 7<sup>th</sup> street since 1943.

When Myron’s grandson Markian Surmach decided to sell the building and close up shop, he wished to ensure that the printed legacy of his grandfather’s publishing and book and sheet music retail business was not lost to posterity, and so he donated to the Columbia University Libraries some 140 titles published mainly between 1910 and the 1950s. Many of these titles are



*Surma's East 7<sup>th</sup> Street location; Two examples of early sheet music from the Surmach Collection.*

quite rare, with few (or no) holding institutions, and document the Ukrainian community as it adapted to life in the Greater Metropolitan area. Now in the process of cataloging, The Surmach Family Collection of Ukrainian Imprints is a wonderful, unique addition to Columbia’s holdings.

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When Cathy Nepomnyashchy passed last year, she left behind an enormous legacy collection of articles and other documents that she had assembled over her productive career. Although one could, theoretically, reconstruct her efforts, it was obvious when we examined these materials that the “value-added” of Cathy’s knowledge and sensitivity to her topics was irreplaceable. Therefore, to better preserve her teaching and research legacy, one of my Graduate Assistants, Erica Drennan of the Slavic Languages Department, brought these often scattered files into a series of volumes that may be requested from Columbia’s offsite holdings. Thanks to Susan

Cook Summer, my colleague in Special Materials Cataloging, these are now becoming available to interested faculty and students. The series are catalogued as follows:

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's research and course on Andreï Siniavskii (Abram Terts)]. Published 1996-1999. Approximately 70 items.  
<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11818402>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's "Pushkin and Blackness" project]. Published 1950-2000. 8 volumes that include about 300 hundred photocopied articles, book chapters, newspapers and other materials used in compiling the monograph *Under the Sky of My Africa: Alexander Pushkin and Blackness*, published in 2006. The materials are compiled into volumes, each with an inventory sheet. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11855206>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's research on Tatiana Tolstaya]. Published 1981-2000. Approximately 53 items, including photocopied articles, book chapters, magazine articles and bibliographies. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11875183>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's Russian Journalism Project--Post-Soviet studies course]. Published 1970-2012. Approximately 54 items, including photocopied articles, documents, book chapters and other research materials used for a course on Russian and Soviet journalism. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/12074627>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's "Russian Women" course]. Published 1967-2000. Approximately 216 items including photocopied articles, book chapters, documents, clippings and other research material. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11819284>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's courses on Russian and Soviet literature]. Published 1984-2010. Approximately 75 items including photocopied articles, poems, documents, book chapters and other research materials used for courses on Russian and Soviet literature and poetry]. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11875134>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's Harriman Core Course]. Published 1970-2000. Approximately 140 items including photocopied articles, documents, book chapters and other research materials. <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11756408>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's Harriman Institute course "Legacies of Empire and the Soviet Union"]. Published 1945-2010. Includes a few hundred photocopied articles, book chapters, documents, newspapers and other research materials used for the Harriman Institute course taught from the mid 1990's to 2014.  
<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11864347>

[Photocopied materials for Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's proposed book "The Politics of Tradition: Re-rooting Russian Literature after Stalin"]. Published 1979-1993. Approximately 54 photocopied articles, typescripts, book chapters and other research materials.  
<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11875159>

Cathy was a remarkable scholar, pedagogue, colleague and friend. I am delighted that the Columbia University Libraries have been able to help perpetuate her work.

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Another “quasi-archival” collection now undergoing collective cataloging in CLIO is the assemblage “Azamat Altay (1920-2006) Collection of Press Clippings, Articles, & Radio Scripts.” Because of its heterogeneity, this collection is being catalogued collectively (i.e., under a common title) and may be requested as individual volumes from the ReCAP offsite facility. The record is found at: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11875940>

Azamat Altay was born Kudaibergen Kodjombardiev (Кудайберген Кожомбердиев) and served in the Soviet Army during World War II. He was twice captured by the Germans, and twice escaped, joining the French Resistance. At the close of the war, he fled from the Soviet zone to the west, beginning work at Radio Liberty in Munich, where he became the first broadcaster in Kyrgyz on March 18, 1953. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1956, became a citizen, worked from at least the mid-1960s-early 1970s for the Columbia University Libraries, and then returned to Germany and Radio Liberty serving as Director of the Kyrgyz Service from 1984 to 1988. He returned to Flushing, New York after leaving RL, where he assembled these files. It appears he donated these files to Columbia sometime in the early 1990s. Other parts of his collection were evidently donated to Jalal-Abad State University in Kyrgystan (founded in 1993).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, he became a popular public figure in his native Kyrgystan, where he was greatly admired as a journalist and writer. His death on May 23, 2006 at age 86 after a brief illness was marked by public condolences by leading Kyrgyz intellectuals, politicians, human rights activists, and foreign diplomats. On May 29, just days after his passing, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Kyrgyz Service broadcast reports from a commemoration service held in Bishkek.

This heterogenous, multi-language collection includes articles copied by Altay from the Kyrgyz and Russian press on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from nationalities policy, to history, literature and film. The work of Chingiz Aitmatov, and the Kyrgyz epic “Manas” receive particular attention. There are scripts from RFE/RL radio broadcasts. Some volumes contain multiple issues of newspapers (e.g., *Sovetskaia Kirgiziia*) in the original format, while other, single issues are simply inserted. Others contain Xerox copies of rare titles (mainly in Kyrgyz, Kazakh, and Turkmen works in Arabic script) published in the 1920s, likely from copies held on microfilm by the NYPL.

The bulk of the materials are in Kyrgyz, Russian, English and German. Materials date from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with most dated after 1950. The bulk of materials are from the late 1980s, around the time when Altay retired as director of RFE’s Kyrgyz Service, into the early 1990s. The forty-seven individual binders are not in any chronological order, with items from the 1980s and 1990s tucked in beside articles from the 1970s.

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Needless to say, after more than a century of collecting in the languages of Eastern Europe, Columbia has its share of nooks and crannies. Last spring, in one of these nooks, we discovered a cache of issues of some seventy-five Russian newspaper titles from the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in rather good physical condition. The majority are exceptionally rare provincial titles, dating principally from 1917-1924.

After a *de visu* inventorization by my Graduate Assistant, and Slavic Department PhD candidate Brendan Nieubuurt, followed by CLIO record creation by Principal Serials Cataloger Robert Rendall, these titles are now in CLIO, classed at AP50.A2 and divided by box number. By way of example, titles include 1923 issues of *Avtonomnaia ĪAkutiia. Ezhednevnaia gazeta ĪAkutskogo oblastnogo Komiteta VKP* (b); 1917 and 1918 issues of *Izviestiiia Gel'singforssskago sovieta deputatov armii, flota i rabochikh*; and 1920 issues of *Sovetskaia Sibir': organ Sibirskogo revoliuts. komiteta, Sib. biuro TS.K.R.K.P. (bol'shevikov)*, published in Novonikolaevsk.

### Useful Websites

Among the useful sites I have come across in recent months are:

<http://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/resources/newspapers#Albania>



Created and maintained by Columbia's own Council for European Studies, this is a very handy way to link to current issues of European newspapers and wire services, with every country in our area represented: from Albania (five titles), to Ukraine (eleven titles). The two largest collection of links are for Russia (twenty sites), and Romania (nineteen). Obviously, some links

go “stale” and no longer work, but the majority do, making this an excellent resource for keeping up with the latest in news.

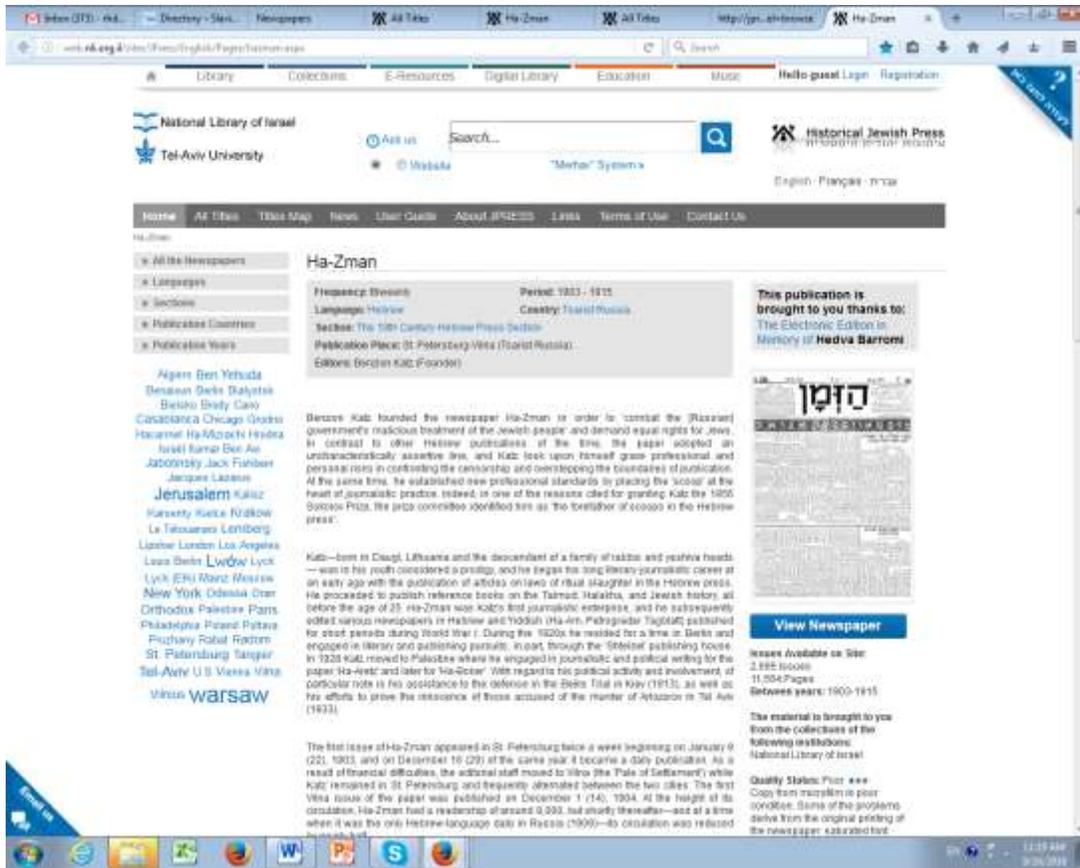
<http://www.slavic-dh.org/>



An exciting new site of enormous potential, Digital Humanities in the Slavic Field has as its mission “... to support the teaching, scholarship, curation, and preservation of digitally-rendered work in Slavic (as well as East European and Eurasian) Studies. We focus on those disciplines in the humanities that have recently begun to include digitally-based practices, but also aim to connect humanists with their social scientist colleagues who have a longer history with these methodologies and approaches.” Led by Seth Bernstein, Higher School of Economics, Moscow; Natalia Ermolaev and Philip Gleissner, both of Princeton University; Andrew Janco, University of Connecticut; and Jesse Labov of Ohio State University, this is a project to watch!

[http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/AllJPressPage.aspx?Field=NLIPress\\_Countries&Value=%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%94+%D7%94%D7%A6%D7%90%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/AllJPressPage.aspx?Field=NLIPress_Countries&Value=%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%94+%D7%94%D7%A6%D7%90%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA)

The National Library of Israel has digitized a number of titles from the Tsarist era and made them viewable from their website. Particularly useful are the “context” texts provided with many of the titles, such as for *Ha-Zman*, below.

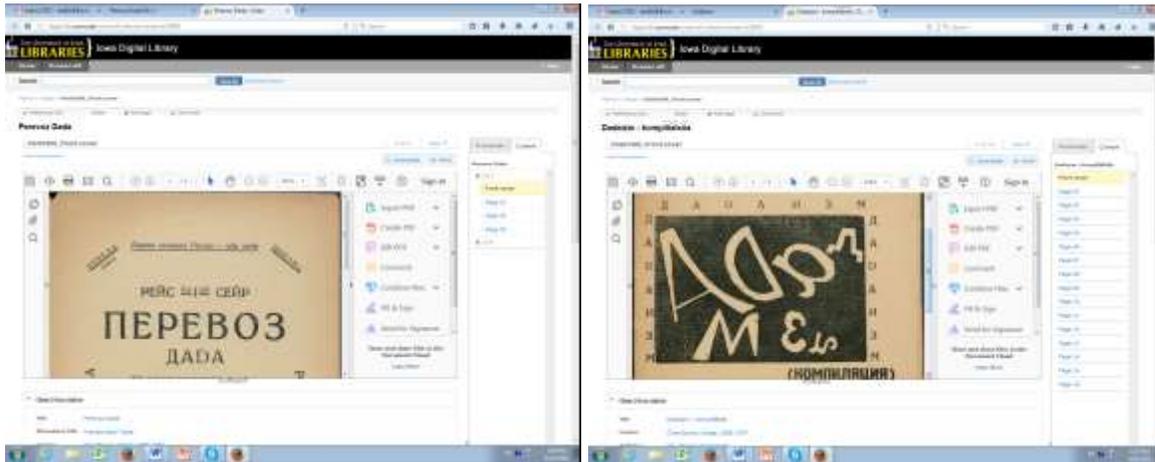


The quality of the work is extremely high, the site is easy to use, and it is hoped that they will continue to expand this work in the years ahead.



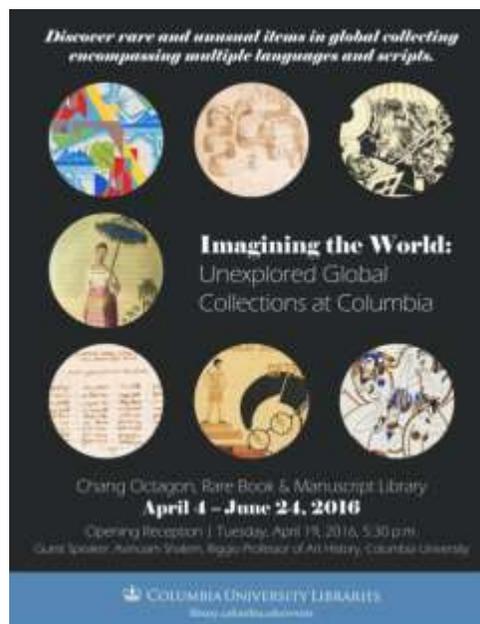
<http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/dada/collection.html>

The International Dada Archive at the University of Iowa includes works by and about the Dadaists including books, articles, microfilmed manuscript collections, videorecordings, sound recordings, and online resources. From our part of the world, among the latter are digital versions of works by Iliazd (Iliia Zdanevich), Lajos Kássak, and Serge Charchoune (Sergei Sharshun).



## Events

From April 4-June 24, 2016, the Chang Room of Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library hosted an exhibit organized by the librarians of the Global Studies Division showcasing a diverse array of rare and unusual materials from Columbia's holdings pertaining to the cultures and languages of our respective world areas: Latin America & Iberia; Sub-Saharan Africa; the



*Exhibition poster, featuring as design elements vignettes from four of the Eastern European items on display (top right, top left, bottom center and bottom right)*

Middle East & the Islamic World; South Asia; Eastern Europe; and Jewish Studies. Entitled “Imagining the World: Unexplored Global Collections at Columbia,” the exhibition included a small selection of items in seventeen languages, ranging in date from 1454 to 2014.

Herewith the introductory text and caption information for “Imagining the World: Eastern Europe.”

Until relatively recently, researchers in the humanities largely viewed visual and ephemeral materials as a source for illustrations for studies based principally on archival and print sources. It is only during the past two decades that scholars have come to actively study and “read” visual and cultural objects as valid research resources in their own right.

Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Slavic and East European collections of the Columbia University Libraries have actively collected such materials—dating back to at least 1906, when a large cache of illustrated Russian satirical journals were acquired. The tradition continues today, as witness the small and diverse sampling of recent purchases that were on display. It is hoped that such materials will continue to serve as intellectual grist for the research of present and future generations of students, faculty, and scholars.



*The Russian, East European and Eurasian Section of the Exhibit*

**Clockwise, from the upper left of the photo:** Vlastislav Hofman (d. 1964) *The Double* (*Dvojník*). Original sketch of Dostoyevsky's character Goliadkin. Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Trained as an architect, Hofman displays his talents as a graphic artist and set designer strongly influenced by Cubism in his illustrations to *F.M. Dostojevskij: Cyklus třiceti kreseb*. [Dostoyevsky: Cycle of Thirty Drawings] (Praha: F. Borovy, 1917). Displayed was one of two *original sketches* by Hofman that were tipped in to Columbia's copy of the rare printed volume. This volume was purchased in honor of Professor Bob Belknap.

**Center top, and below:** Maksim Osipov (dates unknown). *Oktyabr' i profpechat' (proftextil')* [The October Revolution and Professional Printing (Professional Textile) Design] (S.l., s.d.) Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Original *maquette* for an unpublished collection of textile designs, acquired in 2009, of which two (of thirty-five) examples of bold patterns for both costumes and wallpaper were shown. While we know little about Osipov, Nikolai Ushin (d. 1942), a Petrograd theater designer and graphic artist, designed the title page featuring a stylized battleship Potemkin emerging from a color wheel.

**Top right and immediately below:** Unknown Artist. William Christopher ("W.C.") Handy (d. 1958), Composer. *Dzhogo bliuzy* [Jogo Blues] (Leningrad: Triton, n.d.) and Unknown artist. Rudol'f Ivanovich Mer'volf (d. 1942), Composer. *I Would See You Often*. (Leningrad: Modpik, 1927), both examples drawn from the original convoy of 173 examples of Russian sheet music with illustrated covers, all published between 1903 and 1938 acquired by Columbia in 2013. Shown in the exhibit were a work by the Alabama-born "Father of the Blues" Handy, and a piece by a Russian composer who straddled the pre-Revolutionary and Soviet periods. Both covers clearly reflect NEP-era Soviet Russia's embrace of American music and aesthetics of the "Roaring '20s."

**Bottom center clockwise to the left:** *Mat'* [Mother] (Moscow-Leningrad: Kinopechat, 1926); *Prot'sess o 3.000.000* [The Case of the 3 Million] (Moscow-Leningrad: Kinopechat, 1926); and *Savur-mogila* [The Savur Tumulus] (Moscow-Leningrad: Kinopechat, 1926);. Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Acquired as part of a collection of twenty heavily-illustrated early Soviet film programs, with notes on the production.

**On the horizontal deck, left to right:** Ephemera from the 2013-2014 Maidan Protests in Kyiv: "Out of Ukraine". Postcard. N.d.; Protest Buttons; and a doormat. "Vytyraite nohi" [Wipe Your Feet!]. Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Columbia's commitment to capturing the often transitory legacy of political movements dates back to the acquisition of a large collection of Russian, Czech, Polish and Yiddish anarchist ephemera back in 1903. The Libraries continue to seek out the kind of non-commercial flyers, posters, statements, manifestos and the *objets* that reflect such portentous events. The three items displayed were selected from a collection of eight-two ephemeral items connected to the protests.

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An important new project, **Black Sea Networks**, supported by Columbia's [Presidential Global Innovation Fund](#) for 2016–2018, was launched this fall. Housed at the Columbia Slavic Department, the project was developed by an international team of scholars lead by Professor Valentina Izmirlieva, in close collaboration with Columbia Global Centers—Turkey and Europe,

and in partnership with Columbia’s Harriman Institute, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the Center for Teaching & Learning, the Libraries’ [Digital Humanities Center](#) and [Bakhmeteff Archive](#). Endorsed by the American Councils for International Education, the Fordham Center for Orthodox Christian Studies, and a variety of cultural institutions in the larger Black Sea area, this international teaching and learning initiative connects regions, disciplines, and institutions, creating educational and research programs that target the diversity of cultural practices in this highly strategic zone. Building upon existing initiatives, including the Columbia-Boğaziçi Summer Program in Balkan Transcultural Studies, Black Sea Networks fosters new bonds among Slavic Studies, Hellenic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and East Asian Studies, creating opportunities to establish innovative interdisciplinary programs of study, such as Black Sea Studies and Environmental Science, or Black Sea Studies and Economics.

The website detailing the goals and activities of this initiative is found at: [blackseanetworks.org](http://blackseanetworks.org)  
Interested faculty and students may subscribe to updates at:  
<http://blackseanetworks.org/contact.html#subscribe>

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On March 28, 2016, *Emeritus* Professor of Turco-Soviet Studies Edward Allworth was honored at a conference held at the United Nations. Entitled “Synergies Along the Silk Road,” the all-day conference included the presentation of a gold medal honoring Professor Allworth’s lifelong commitment to Central Asian studies. Professor Allworth is a longtime friend of the Columbia University and New York Public Libraries. Columbia’s famed—and still growing—Nationalities Collection is testimony to his engagement with generations of librarians and his boundless enthusiasm for research resources.



*Conference honorees. Professor Allworth is at right.*

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On May 12-13, Columbia’s Global Studies Division hosted the Spring 2016 meeting of the East Coast Consortium of Slavic Library Collections. Slavic and East European studies librarians from Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale, NYU, Columbia, Princeton, Seton Hall, the Library of Congress, Duke and UNC Chapel Hill were in attendance.

On separate occasions, the Global Studies Division was visited by Dr. Jürgen Warmbrunn of the Herder Institute Library in Marburg, and the new Slavic studies librarian at Yale, Ms. Anna Arays.

### **Electronic Resources**

Cornell and Columbia both purchased the digital version of *Krasnyi arkhiv* [Red Archives], published in Moscow from 1922 till June 1941 first by the Central Archives of the USSR and later by the Central Archival Administration. This database comprises the entire collection of the 106 published volumes, 1,010 articles, and more than 23,000 pages with full-image browsing and full-text article-level search/browse functions.

This digital resource is accessible to affiliates at: Cornell  
<http://resolver.library.cornell.edu/misc/9628565> and Columbia  
<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11996569>

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In the Fall 2015 issue of 2CUL *Newsnotes* (No. 11), I described the remarkable collection of film footage, accompanying travel diary, and ephemera received in separate gifts from Marcella Matthaei and Professor Frank Randall (Sarah Lawrence, *Emeritus*) that document a 1954 journey by four Columbia Russian Institute grads to the USSR, armed with a movie and still camera. Their 6,000-mile journey included Moscow, Samarkand, Tashkent, Tbilisi, and Leningrad.

I am delighted to report that these films have now been digitized, and an inventory prepared by Brendan Nieuburt keying scenes depicted in the films to Frank Randall's excellent diary.

These fascinating films will eventually be catalogued and made available to researchers, accompanied by the digitized travel diary via Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscripts Division.

### **In Recognition: Bob Wolven**

Robert Wolven, our Associate University Librarian for Bibliographic Services and Collection Development, will retire on November 4, 2016. Bob's career at Columbia stretches back to 1972, and through a series of appointments of greater and greater responsibility, has guided the Columbia University Libraries through the technological transformations that have impacted how libraries work, and how students and scholars conduct their research.

Speaking for the Slavic and East European library field, I can state unequivocally that Bob has always exhibited great sensitivity to our particular needs and unique conditions. He has always striven to adapt new technologies to our reality, and not the other way round. His service on numerous national boards has ensured that these needs are taken into account at the highest levels of library administration and our profession is deeply grateful for his advocacy. In recognition of his service to librarianship, Bob is a past recipient of both the Association for Library Collections & Technical Service's Margaret Mann Citation (2007), and the prestigious Melville Dewey Medal from the American Library Association (2014).

Please join me in wishing Bob well in his retirement, and thanking him for his service to our field.

Robert H. Davis