



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources.***  
**No. 12, Winter/Spring 2016.**

Dear Colleagues:

As I mentioned in the last issue of *Newsnotes*, 2016 marks the **132<sup>nd</sup> anniversary** of Slavic language collecting at Cornell, and the **110<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Slavic-language collecting at Columbia University Libraries, and I am always trolling for bits and pieces that add to our knowledge of how these programs and collections develop. Two great, recently-digitized resources are the archives of the Cornell Daily Sun and the Columbia Daily Spectator. If you haven't had an opportunity to take a look, they are available at:

<http://cdsun.library.cornell.edu/>

<http://spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu/>

Some random examples of articles:

- An article dating from 26 January 1885 in the Cornell *Daily Sun* mentions the diplomat and historian Eugene Schuyler's (1840-1890) multiple benefactions of predominantly Slavic and East European materials to the Cornell Library. The occasion of this article was his gift of more than 600 volumes. This further underscores the fact that Cornell was in all likelihood the first American academic library to possess large and cohesive collections in Slavic studies. At this point in history, Harvard's great builder of Slavic collections, Archibald Cary Coolidge (1866-1928) was still a youth, Joel Sumner Smith (1830-1903) was still a decade away from his benefaction to Yale, Ambassador Charlemagne Tower (1848-1923) would make his small gift to the University of Pennsylvania of materials accumulated during his four year diplomatic tenure at the Russian court in 1902, the Library of Congress was still two decades away from the purchase of the massive Yudin Collection, and the NYPL as such did not yet exist! (It should also be recalled that Russian-born Alexis Babine (Cornell Class of 1892) worked for the Cornell Library, and later as head of LC's Slavic Section was largely responsible for the logistics of getting the 80,000-volume Yudin Library from Siberia to Washington!)
- In the Cornell *Daily Sun* of 28 May, 1897, it is noted that the "courses in Sanscrit [sic], Gothic, and Balto Slavic [are] offered along with courses on... Greek and Latin" by the comparative linguist (and future President of U.C. Berkeley) Benjamin Ide Wheeler (1854-1927).
- In 1907, Room 307 of Columbia's Low Library (when it actually *was* a library!) exhibited part of the Russian satirical cartoons collected by professor of economics

Vladimir Gregorievitch Simkhovitch (1874-1959). Born in Russia, Simkhovitch used his contacts back in St. Petersburg and Moscow to scoop up examples of such material during the Revolution of 1905. The article in the *Columbia Daily Spectator* of 27 February, 1907, notes that “A great many of these [cartoons] were on sale only a few hours before they were confiscated.”

- In 1920, no less a figure than Professor of Physics (and Pulitzer Prize-winner) Michael Idvovsky Pupin (1858-1935) established Columbia’s Slavic Club to “first, bring all members of the Slavic race [at Columbia] together that they may become acquainted with one another personally and learn the customs and the literature of each other’s people; secondly, to give them a chance to study American culture.” (*Columbia Daily Spectator*, 15 Oct. 1920).
- In December of 1932, the widow of Dr. Samuel Abel, a graduate of Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons, donated 3,500 volumes of Russian literature in what was then regarded as “one of the finest private collections of its kind in the country.” (*Columbia Daily Spectator*, 16 Dec. 1932) In a follow-up article from January of 1933, it was noted that the Abel collection, together with the A.E. Presniakov collection acquired in 1931 and previous benefactions represented one of the finest collections of Russian literature and history in the country.



### Archival Collections

- Cornell added once again to its holdings of publications and ephemera from the shortlived 1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic or Republic of Councils, (*Tanácsköztársaság*) which lasted from March 21 to August 6 of that year. Among the additions were: *A Magyarországi Szocialdemokrata Part Programja és Szervezeti szabályzata*. [Program and Organizational Regulations of the Hungarian Social-Democratic Party] (Budapest, 1919); the September 17, 1919 issue of *Szabadság*. [Freedom], a rare and heavily censored newspaper issued during the Romanian Army’s occupation of Hungary shortly after the fall of the Béla Kun regime; an eight-page brochure entitled *Miért nincs értelme a bankjegyrejtésnek?* [Why is there no sense in

hiding banknotes?]) (Budapest, 1919) dated March 21 1919; and an original photo by photojournalist Gyula Harsányi, undated but during the period of the Tanácsköztársaság, depicting a crowd before a public bath house on Budapest's Margaret Island; a permit issued by the People's Committee of the Capital, to a lady to access fashion clothing without paying special taxes, with eight signatures and stamps; and a recruitment summons to serve in the army of the Republic, dated June 12 1919, signed and sealed.

As a reminder, the collection is catalogued as: Magyarországi Tanácsköztársaság Archive, #8053. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

- The Harriman Institute transferred several letters to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's Bakhmeteff Archives from the Honorable George F. Kennan to then-Russian Institute Director Marshall Shulman, and to then-University President Michael Sovern, at the time the gift from Ambassador Harriman was announced in the fall of 1982.

### *Antiquarian Monograph & Serial Purchases*

- Several examples of the work of Slavic researchers and translators were added to **Cornell's** outstanding Dante collections: Josef Bukáček's study of Dante and his influence on the great Czech symbolist poet Otakar Brezina, *Brezina a Dante* (Praha, [1934]); the third volume—a scarce wartime imprint—in Melantrich's Library of Political Classics, *O Jediné Vlade* (Praha, 1942), of which the only copies are at the Klementinum, and the Berlin Staatsbibliothek; J.R. Marek's translation of cantos 32 and 33 of the *Inferno*, with typography by the Czech master printer Method Kalab and two original etching by the great Czech illustrator Jan Konupek (Praha, 1940), the only U.S. copies.

**Columbia** added a number of important and eclectic works to its holdings, including:

- Sketches from the Warsaw literary cabarets of the interwar years: *Pierwsza szopka warszawska*. [The First Warsaw Revue] (Krakow, 1922) with illustrated wrappers and illustrations by Zbigniew Pronaszko; *Polityczna szopka cyrulika Warszawskiego* *Marjana Hemara, Jana Lechonia, Antoniego Słonimskiego, Juliana Tuwima*. [Political Revue by the Warsaw Barber, by Mariana Hemar, Antoni Słonimski, and Julian Tuwim](Warszawa, 1927); *Szopka Polityczna*. [Political Revue] (Warszawa, 1930); and *Szopka Polityczna*. [Political Revue] (Warszawa, 1931), with decorated wrappers.



Such compilations of cabaret sketches are extremely scarce, and there are no examples in any public collections in the United States with the exception of Widener Library (and not these particular examples!).

- Bohumil Stibor. *Soubor dřevorytů z koncentračního tábora*. [Portfolio of Woodcuts from a Concentration Camp] (V Pelhřimově, 1946), consisting of ten original woodcuts by a former prisoner, printed shortly after his liberation. The images depict the steps from arrest, imprisonment, torture and finally mass murder. This portfolio may contain one of the very first graphic images of the crematoria. The only other copies in WorldCat are at Stanford and the Národní knihovna České republiky (Czech National Library).



*Examples of woodcuts by Stibor.*

Columbia's holdings of 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian-language materials are among the largest and finest in North America. The collection of early 20<sup>th</sup> century imprints produced in both the homeland and emigration are particularly distinguished, and are regularly supplemented via gift and purchase on the antiquarian market. Among the acquisitions made over the past semester:

- Il'ia Erenburg, *Trinadtsat trubok*. [Thirteen Pipes] (Moskva, 1923), with wrappers in black and red designed by Liubov Kozintsova (1898-1970); and Nikolai Gorlov, *Futurizm i revoliutsiia; poezii futuristov*. [Futurism and Revolution: poems of the Futurists] (Moskva, 1924).



- Zakhida Iffat (pseud. of Burnasheva, Zaida Khusainovna, b. 1896-?). *Zora Iulduz* (*Zvezda Venera*). [Dream Star (Star of Venus)](Kazan, 1922), a scarce provincial imprint of a work by a female Tatar poet, translated from the Tatar original, with lovely wrappers and illustration by Aleksandra Platunova (1896-1966), painter, graphic artist and a member of the short-lived Kazan group “Vsadnik” which was active from 1920 to 1924.



*Zora Iulduz*

- *Sorochinskaia Iarmarka*. [The Market/Fair at Sorochyntsi] ([Moscow, [1932]). This unique example of a theatre program consists of one small oblong sheet ingeniously folded into five pages, with a Constructivist wrapper printed in black and red. The wrappers may be the work of Nisson Shifrin (1892-1961) who is credited as the designer of the overall production. V.I. Nemirovich- Danchenko (1858-1943) had returned to Soviet Russia from Hollywood in 1926 and opened the Musical Theater.
- *Byt' bditel'nym: Al'bom nagliadnykh posobii* [Be Vigilant! An Album of Visual Aides] (Moskva, 1963). This rare title consists of sixty unbound pages of illustrations on individual 35 x 51 cm. sheets. Designed by Varvara Rodchenko (b. 1925), the daughter of Alexander Rodchenko (1891-1956) and Varvara Stepanova (1894-1958), the photos and photomontages depict ways in which foreign agents might surreptitiously gather intelligence. The individual

sheets were intended to be mounted on a wall, making this complete copy—still in its original illustrated cardboard slipcase—all the more rare.



*Cover, and some sample pages from Byt' bditel'nymi! Note the cleverly disguised spy gear at lower left...*

• Henri de R gnier (1864-1936). *Tri Rasskaza*. [Three Tales] (Peterburg, 1922). One of 75 numbered examples in an edition of 500, consists of illustrations by Dmitri Buch ne (1893-1993) to the mildly erotic tales of de R gnier, and is reminiscent of the roughly contemporaneous works of Konstantin Somov (1869-1939). Somov's exceptionally rare and



*Examples of illustrations from Tri Rasskaza.*

particularly “revealing” (and incredibly rare) uncensored version of the 1918 *Le Livre de la Marquise* (held by New York Public) was printed in 1918 in St. Petersburg under a false imprint, indicating Venice. (See: Edward Kasinec & Robert Davis, “A Note on Konstantin Somov’s Erotic Book Illustration,” *Eros and Pornography in Russian Culture = Eros i pornografiia v russkoi kul’ture* Moscow: Lodomir, 1999, pp. 338-[395].)

- Mikhail Vladimirovich Matorin (1901-1976). *Shest Nature-Morte*. [Six Still Lives] Moskva, printed by the artist, 1921), is a portfolio of six wood engravings and linoleum cuts (some in color), each signed and dated by the artist, produced in an edition of only 30 copies, none of which are found in WorldCat. Matorin was a painter, illustrator and graphic artist who in 1920, despite his youth, began his long and distinguished career as a teacher, first at Moscow’s State Printing Workshop and later as Professor at Moscow’s V.I. Surikov Institute.



*Title-page, and example from Shest Nature-Morte.*

- Avery Classics purchased additional issues of the Hungarian architectural journal *Tér és forma* [Space & Form] (Budapest, 1926-1948), helping to further complete the set.

### *Gifts*

- Columbia received a thirty-four volume facsimile of the 16<sup>th</sup> century *Litsevoi letopisnyi svod Tsaria Ivana Groznogo* [Illuminated Chronicle of Tsar Ivan the Terrible] from Moscow-based Transneft’, the sponsor. Columbia is one of the few libraries outside of Russia to receive a copy of this particular facsimile edition, which includes parallel text of the original Church Slavic and Russian.

- The widow and children of Kazimierz Rasiej (1926-2015), a Polish soldier and airman during World War II, and Gulag survivor donated fifty Polish titles in his memory to Columbia. Special thanks are owed to Elżbieta Kieszczyńska of the EK Polish Bookstore, who helped find homes for Mr. Rasiej’s wide-ranging personal library.

- Professor E. Wayles Brown donated to Cornell a copy of the magisterial *Veliki rječnik Hrvatskoga standardnog jezika* [Great Dictionary of the Standard Croatian Language](Zagreb, 2015).

- Professor Anna Frajlich-Zajac donated a number of Polish films, many with English subtitles, to the Butler Media Center collection.

### ***New (and improved) Electronic Resources***

- Those of you in attendance at the November ASEES Conference may have visited the exhibition hall and had a demo of the new and improved Central & East European Online Library (CEEOL). CEEOL remains the leading provider of access to the content of academic e-journals and e-books in the Humanities and Social Sciences from and about Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to access to subscribed titles, CEEOL also provides searchable access to many more “free” titles in the field, with more than 1,100 journals and 350,000 articles. Slowly, CEEOL is also offering access to e-books through their site as well. Here are the respective links to CEEOL for Cornell and Columbia faculty and students.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5887498>

<https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/5784737>

- Through East View Information Services, affiliates from both Cornell and Columbia have access to the digitized content of *Niva* [Grainfield](St. Petersburg, 1870-1918), an illustrated weekly journal of literature, politics and modern life and one of the most popular magazines of late-nineteenth-century Russia. The respective URLs are:

<https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/9265154>

<http://dlib.eastview.com/browse/publication/67019?searchLink=%2Fsearch%2Fsimple>

In the last issue of *Newsnotes*, I mentioned that both Columbia and Cornell would soon have access to the complete 33-issue digital file of the iconic journal *LEF* (1923-25) and *Novyi LEF* (1927-29). The respective URLs are:

<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/11673182>

<https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/9267232>

### ***Useful Websites***

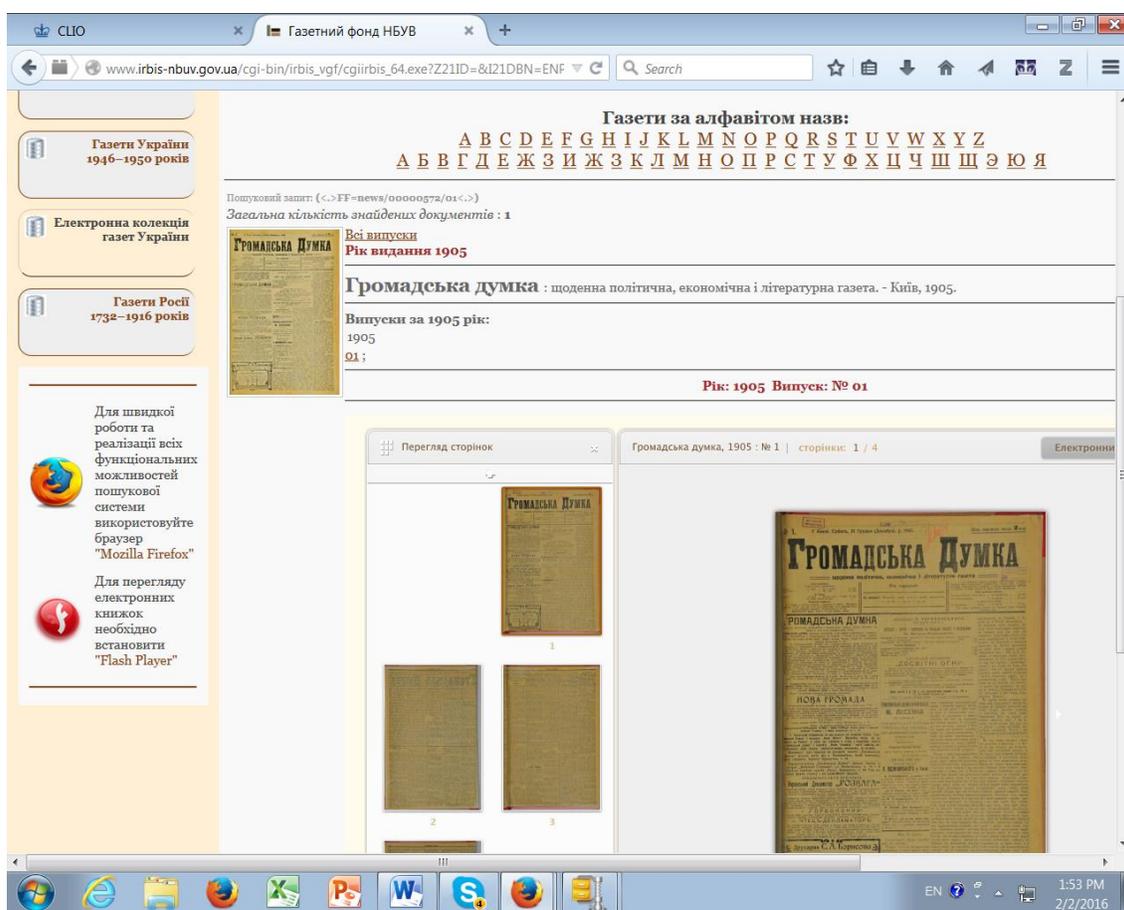
- The 197-page *Checklist of Russian, Ukrainian & Belarusian Avant-Garde & Modernist Books, Serials & Works on Paper at The New York Public Library & Columbia University Libraries* compiled by Robert H. Davis Jr. and Megan Duncan-Smith, Harvard University (with an Introduction by Steven Mansbach, University of Maryland) is now available for viewing or download via Columbia’s Academic Commons: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7916/D8542NDZ>

- Tracking down digital versions of serials (particularly those of the Soviet period) can be a challenge. I was recently asked by a colleague to track down a run of *Ogonek* during the 1920s

and 30s. Not so straightforward. There are some downloadable PDFs here: <http://journal-club.ru/?q=image/tid/371> and others here: [http://publ.lib.ru/ARCHIVES/O/%27%27Ogonek%27%27/\\_%27%27Ogonek%27%27.html](http://publ.lib.ru/ARCHIVES/O/%27%27Ogonek%27%27/_%27%27Ogonek%27%27.html) but only a smattering of issues for the early years. There are a couple of war years at <http://www.oldgazette.ru/ogonek/index1.html>

- There is a useful, but limited, digitized collection of Ukrainian newspapers dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, into the war years, on the site of Natsional'na biblioteka imeni V.I. Vernads'koho in Kyiv: <http://nbuv.gov.ua/>

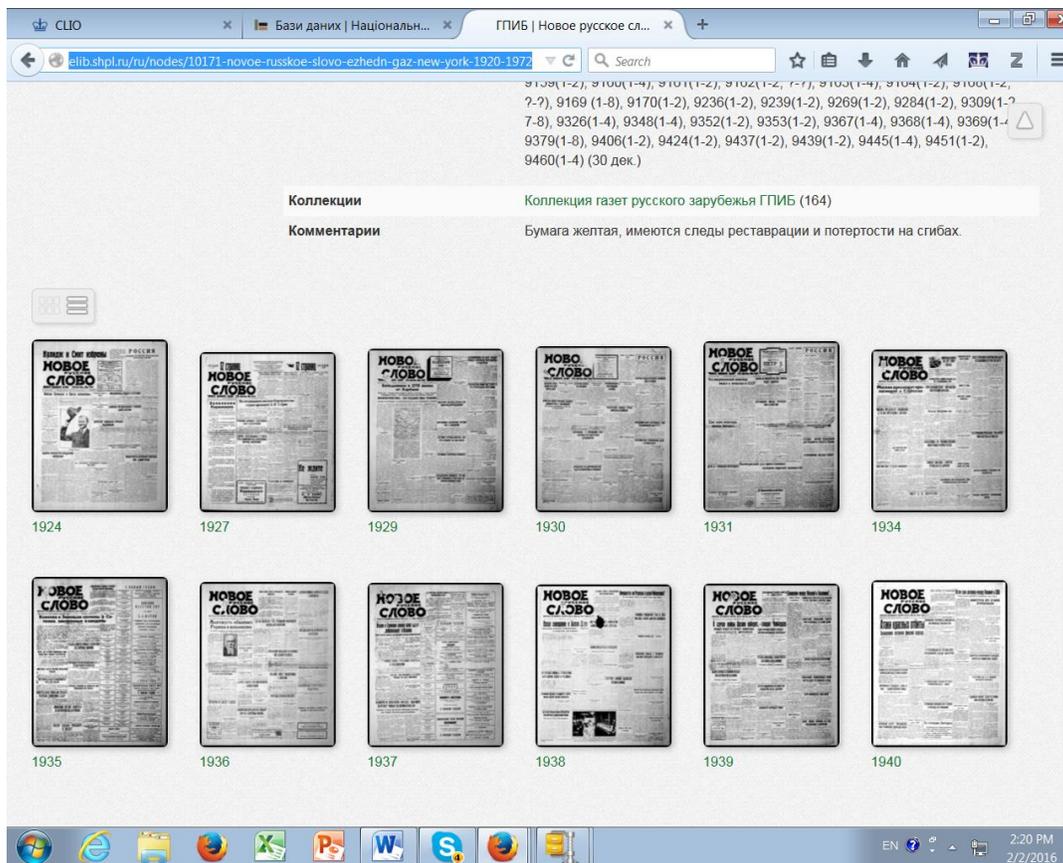
If you navigate to their page, you will see mention of their “*Elektronna kolektsiia hazet Ukrainy.*” When you click on it, you will go to a list of their digitized titles. Again, to emphasize, the extent of these digital files is limited, but still potentially useful!



- In a past issue of *Newsnotes*, I noted the excellent digital repository of Russian émigré newspapers maintained by the State Public Historical Library (GPIB) in Moscow: <http://elib.shpl.ru/nodes/10171> However, I don't believe I mentioned specifically the presence of selected issues of *Novoe russkoe slovo* [New Russian Word] there. This is an oft-requested title, the earliest years for which are possessed by only a very few institutions (my beloved

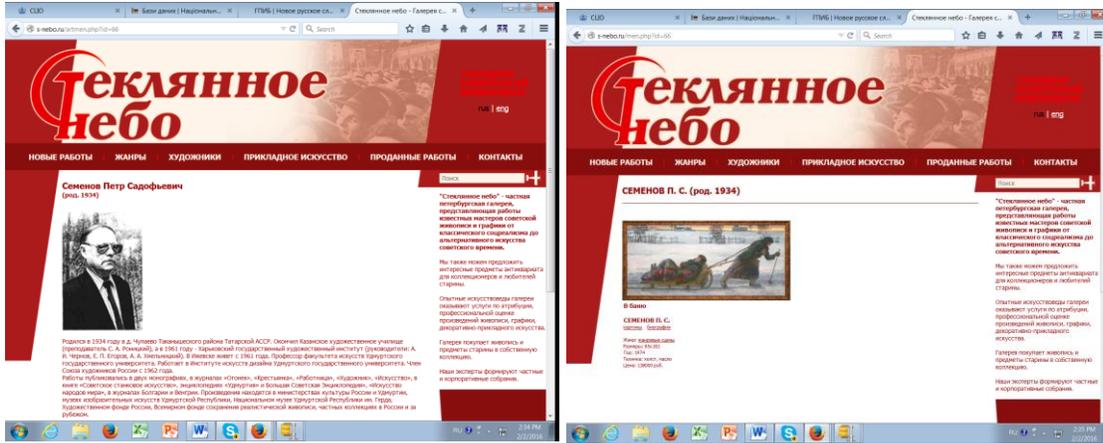
NYPL was the source for many), so it bears noting here that this resource, incomplete though it is, exists:

<http://elib.shpl.ru/ru/nodes/10171-novoe-russkoe-slovo-ezhedn-gaz-new-york-1920-1972>



•An interesting resource for artists' biographical information that I came across when working on the index to the *Checklist of Russian, Ukrainian & Belarusian Avant-Garde & Modernist Books, Serials & Works on Paper at The New York Public Library & Columbia University Libraries* (see above) is *Stekliannoe nebo* [Glass Sky], which is a database maintained by a private St. Petersburg gallery specializing in Soviet-era art works:

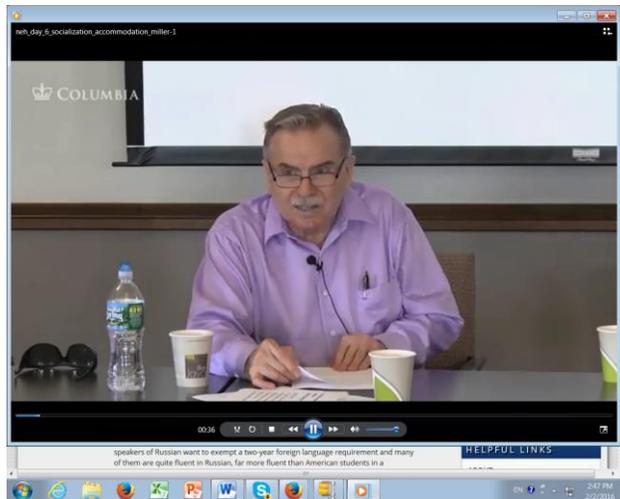
<http://s-nebo.ru/artmen.php> The names in the database have (sometimes) limited biographical information, but also link out to examples of works by that artist. For example:



### *Eternal Memory*

On January 24, our longtime, much-loved Columbia colleague Frank J. Miller, Professor of Russian Language, passed away. He was 75. An obituary is found at <http://harriman.columbia.edu/news/memori-am-frank-j-miller-1940-2016>

Frank was a wonderful friend and patron of the Libraries, and will be greatly missed by his many students and colleagues.



*Screen image from Frank Miller's NEH Summer Institute Video.*

I am gratified to report that Frank's presentation “Language Teaching and Curricular Development for Russian Immigrants: Re-Adapting to Russian Culture in America?”— is preserved for posterity and freely available via Academic Commons: <http://academiccommons.columbia.edu/catalog/ac%3A165611>

This presentation is part of the larger video and textual archive of “America’s Russian-Speaking Immigrants & Refugees: 20th Century Migration and Memory,” a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College & University Teachers, June 9-23, 2013, directed by Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis.

A Memorial Service and reception will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, from 5:00-7:00 pm, at the Kellogg Center of Columbia University (15<sup>th</sup> floor, International Affairs Building, 420 West 118th Street). Contributions towards a Miller Memorial Fund for undergraduate summer stipends to study Russian will be gratefully accepted by the Department of Slavic Languages, Columbia University, 1130 Amsterdam Ave, Mail Code 2839, New York, NY 10027, attn: John Lacqua. Checks should be made out to Columbia University with "Miller Memorial Fund" in the memo line.

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Weather permitting, I plan to visit Ithaca in mid-February. As always, please be in touch with any questions or special requests.

*Robert H. Davis*