



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources.
No. 14, Winter/Spring 2017.***

Dear Colleagues:

We live in interesting times, full of challenges and opportunities. In the geo-political arena, the regions we study are once again coming to the fore—for better or for worse—in national and international forums. What is becoming crystal clear is that policies and actions must be based on a broad and deep knowledge of the diverse countries and peoples of the world. Not merely the cold “metrics” pertaining to these lands, but rather a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary knowledge of their cultures, histories, inter-relationships, and institutions. For some, at least, the pendulum seems to be slowly swinging back to the notion that understanding “the other” cannot be reduced to statistics conveyed by Mekkos and Gantts. That is good news, as far as I am concerned. Many in my profession—myself included—strive to build broad and deep collections that fuel the most popular faculty and student research interests of the moment, while at the same time support research interests as yet undefined and build on historical collection strengths. (This approach has been challenged by many library administrations, in favor of purely “patron-driven” or “curriculum-driven” acquisitions.) Today, in these interesting times, those of us who have stubbornly resisted such tunnel vision feel a degree of redemption for our past, present, and future efforts.

Just a reminder that I will be holding regular office hours in both the Harriman Institute (Rm. 1219, Mondays 5-6), and the Slavic Department (Rm. 713 Hamilton, Wednesdays 12-1:30). Otherwise, I am usually in 308 Lehman Library. Feel free to email (rhd2106@Columbia.edu) or call (212-854-4701).

I look forward to visiting with my Cornell colleagues sometime in February. As always, I will give you a “heads-up” in advance, if you would like to meet on campus.

Wishing you a productive and safe semester.

Rob Davis

Current Acquisitions

Increasingly, university library financial administrators are requesting selectors to spend down allocated funds—both general funds and endowments—more evenly throughout the course of the fiscal year. This has always been the goal of librarians anyway, but when managing multiple vendors on both sides of the Atlantic this has often proven hard to do. Shipments arrive unevenly, resulting in some cases in payments being made out of the next FY funds to pay for materials that physically arrived on campus after the cut-off date for invoice processing.

This year, the incessant drum-beat of “send it early or don’t bother” appears to have been heeded, and materials are coming to Ithaca and the Heights in a steady stream. By my estimates,

Columbia alone has received 6,282 titles so far this year, running about 1,500 ahead of where we were at this time last year (last year our total receipts were in the neighborhood of 10,888 titles).

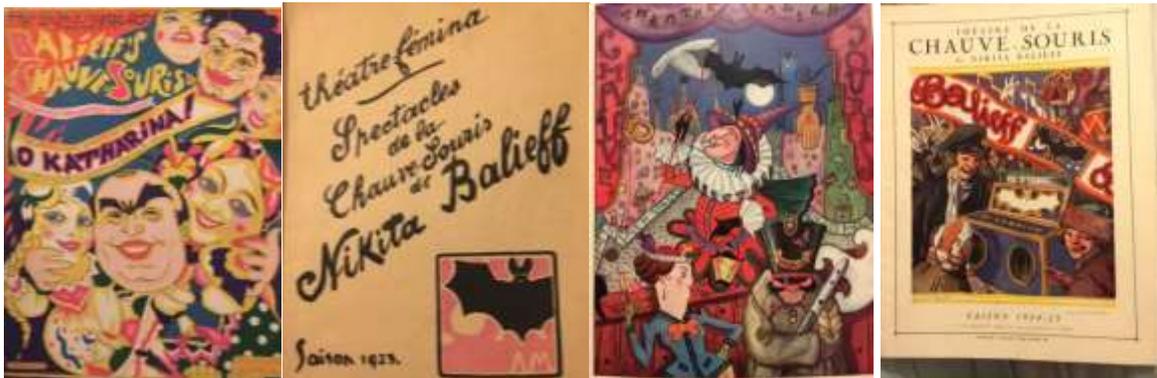
Gifts

A number of interesting gifts arrived this fall, including Polish titles from Adam Drozdek of North Versailles, Pennsylvania to both Columbia and Cornell; Russian titles from Professor Elizabeth Valkenier; several volumes of Ukrainian fiction and serial issues from the Ukrainian Studies Fund and Dr. Roman Procyk; and a gift from the artist Victoria Romanoff of Trumansburg, New York, to the Bakhmeteff Archives.

This latter gift includes a 1926 photo of Dimitri Ivanov with his father Platon Ivanov (an official in the Russian Imperial administration of Finland), Dimitri's nationality papers, gymnasium grades, and a folder of his typed and manuscript writings; a 1948 photo of former Brown University Russian instructor Tatiana Roman (née Ivanov) with her daughter, Victoria, as well as correspondence to Tatiana from Andrei Sedych of *Novoe Russkoe slovo* [New Russian Word], and a file of Tatiana's many articles published in *NRS*. The gift also includes Victoria's 2011 biographical sketch of a 1965 visit to the French villa of her uncle Vladimir Pimenovich Krymov, the author and editor of the pre-Revolutionary journal *Stolitsa i usad'ba* [Capital & Country Estate] and a unique collage of articles and photos assembled by Victoria concerning Vladimir Krymov, Tatiana (Ivanov) Roman, and Victoria Roman.

Antiquarian Acquisitions

This has been a banner year so far for the purchase of older, distinctive materials for both campuses. Such acquisitions help to keep rare and unusual research resources in academic collections for the use of present and future generations of scholars.



Cornell Rare Book & Manuscript Library acquired a collection of theater programs and sheet music from the renowned *Chauve Souris* [*Letuchaia mysh*] Cabaret of Nikita Balieff. Included are programs from Paris in the early 1920s (including from the very first season in Paris, and from Balieff's 1923 American tour. The *Chauve Souris* was such a smash in America that, in time, it even earned him a cover of *Time* magazine.

Many of the programs (some examples are shown above, and one below) are illustrated by Nikolai Remisoff [pseudonym “Re-Mi”], Aleksandr Benois, and Sergei Soudeikine, while other include photographs of Chauve Souris stage designs and costumes. The American programs



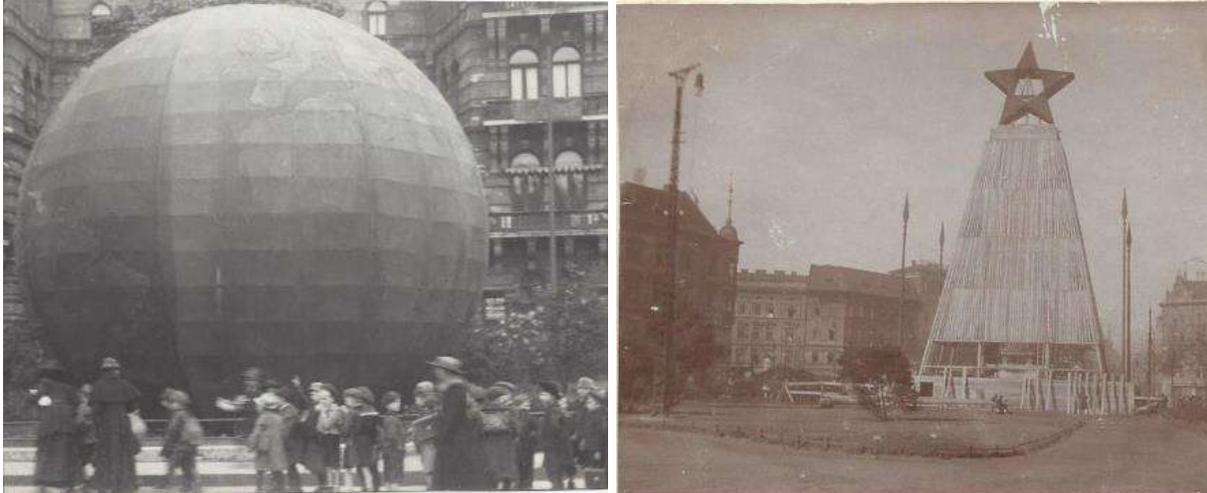
Include fold-out depictions by artist Ralph Barton of celebrities in the audience. Among the scores of spectators depicted are Charles Chaplin, John Barrymore and Al Jolson, Eugene O’Neil, George Kaufman and Anita Loos, Herbert Hoover and Maréchal Joffre. Also present were Balieff’s compatriots Fedor Chaliapin, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Anna Pavlova. The six examples of sheet music were published in New York between 1922 and 1926.



Internationale. (Budapest, 1919), music score, cover by Mihály Biró, a painter and graphic artist responsible for much of the visual culture of the Tanácsköztársaság.

This past semester, Cornell added a fifth installment to its archive of the Hungarian Soviet Republic which lasted from March 21 to April 6 of 1919, when it was crushed by a coalition of the Romanian army and Hungarian Rightists. Many of the publications of this period were subsequently destroyed by the victors, lending considerable rarity to the original photographs, drawings and publications found in this growing collection. In addition to some thirteen monographs , pamphlets and musical scores, the collection acquired original photos of

Dezső Bokányi, and Commissar József Pogány delivering speeches in Parliament; and original photos of two unusual monuments: “The Red Globus,” a large construction celebrating the globalization of Marxist revolution subsequently destroyed by the Romanian army in August 1919; a monument erected at Baross Tér in Budapest, 1919; and a signed original graphic from



Red Globus (at left), and monument at Baross Tér in Budapest.

1919 by Oszkar Lázár depicting labor leader János Anka (shown below). Anka figured prominently in the labor movement from the early 1920s. During World War II he was arrested by the Gestapo and never seen again.





The collection on Human Sexuality at Cornell's Rare Book & Manuscript Library has been the beneficiary of a number of unusual acquisitions this past semester. These include:

- Olen Gešter's *Umění Sváděti* [Art of Seduction] (N.p., 1931), depicted above;
- a 1950s samizdat copy of the late 19th century pornographic poem *Luka Mudishchev*;
- Self-help and erotic publications produced by the proprietor of Prague's Hydiko House of Modern Cosmetics, František Trefný. *Pohlavní život homosexuálních mužů* [The sex life of homosexual men] (Praha, 1932); *Moderní hygiena a pěstění krásy* [Modern hygiene and the cultivation of beauty]. (Prague, ca. 1930) a mail order catalog for various personal hygiene and sex products, including a variety of contraceptives and aphrodisiacs; his *Ročenka pro dospělé: Knihovna intimních rad*. [Yearbook for adults: Library of intimate advice] (Prague, 1934); *Tajemství ženského těla (žena, její krása a život pohlavní)* [The secret of the female body (woman, her beauty and sexual life)] (Prague, 1932); and *Milostné prostředky (Afrodisiaka). Kniha, kterou by měl čísti každý muž* [Erotic substances (aphrodisiacs). The book every man should read] (Prague, 1932) which discusses not only aphrodisiacs, love potions, pornography, and sex toys, but the use of cocaine, hashish, and opium as well. These publications supplement a collection of other rare Trefný works purchased in Fall 2016. Many of his works were confiscated by the authorities shortly after they appeared;
- Henry Deberly's erotic novel *Muzhchina i esche odin* [A Man and Other] (Riga, [1928]), an example of Latvian efforts to subvert Russian censorship;
- *Ruské lidové erotické povídky* [Russian erotic folktales](Praha, [1932]) with title illustration and plates by František Bidlo. Bound in contemporary boards covered in batik paper, this one of 170 copies on fine Japanese paper in an edition of 200. Published anonymously by the Czech surrealist Jindřich Styrský to avoid conflict with the censor.
- *Neúproсна kurtisaná pohadká Hindostanská* [The Relentless courtesan, a Hindu fairytale] (Praha, 1930) with illustrations by Emil Rabenstein, one of fifty hand-colored copies from an edition of 360;
- *Čínské povídky o milování s duchy a jiné tichomorské legendy* [Chinese stories of lovemaking with Ghosts and Pacific Legends] (Praha, 1924) with illustrations by Emanuel Frinta;

- *Posice* [Position] (Praha, 1932) with illustrations by Leo (Broz), one of only 32 copies on offset paper, a collection of twelve erotic sonnets by Oha to the glory of various sexual positions.
- A handwritten letter—the last note of the young gymnast, Valentina Golovanova to her cousin Olga, who ended her life in St. Petersburg in 1915—accompanied by two newspaper clippings from the local press. Golovanova jumped off a bridge with her friend and lover, 20 year old Zoia IAsitsina. The article attributes the tragedy to the ‘insane adoration which is so frequent in our institutes’.



Supplementing Cornell’s outstanding holdings on Dante Alighieri, we acquired a rare folio edition of excerpts from *Bozška Komédie* [The Divine Comedy] (Praha, 1972) illustrated with signed, color engravings by Pavel Major (b. 1943). No copies are registered in any public collection, including the Czech National Library.



From left to right: Krusten, Öngo, Reimann.

As you know, since 2009 my colleagues and I have taken special pains to bolster Columbia’s holdings of rare (and in some cases unique) titles in Baltic & East European modernist materials from the dynamic interwar decades, as well as avant-garde (Surrealist, Expressionist, Dadaist, etc.) literature. We have secured a number of notable acquisitions—more than 150, by my reckoning, held by either Avery Classics or RBML—that have cemented our position as the premier “destination” collection of such materials in North America. Scholars are now examining the original and inflected contributions of indigenous intellectuals and artists in the context of broader European literary, artistic, architectural and political movements. The addition of Polish, Latvian, Estonian, Croatian, Serbian, Hungarian, and Romanian interwar imprints over the past half-decade has established Columbia as an important repository for such materials.

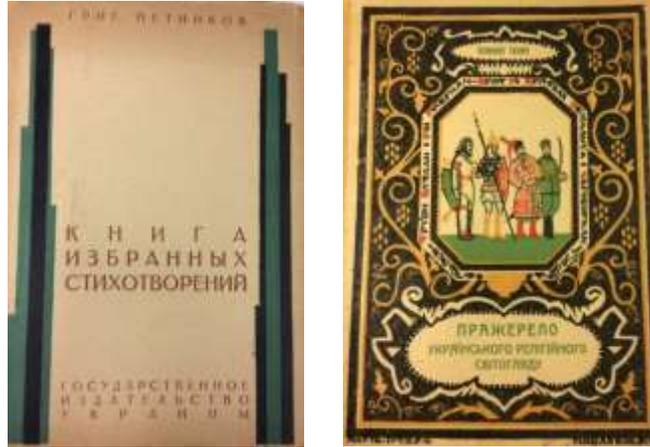
This past fall, thanks to support from Columbia’s Primary Resources Fund, we were able to acquire a group of four exceptionally rare Estonian Modernist publications and two serials from the interwar period:

- Pedro Krusten, author of *Südamer rahu. Romaan* [Peace of Mind. A Novel] (Tartu, 1928) would achieve fame in his postwar fiction in exile, winning the Visnapuu Award for Literature in 1958. The cover design is by Jaan Vahtra;
- Julius Öngo's *Ööpäev* [Day and night] (Haapsalu (Tallinn), 1921) was issued in an edition of less than 150 copies, with a woodcut cover and five full-page woodcuts by artist Aleksander Bergmann (pseud. of Aleksander Vardi 1901-1983).
- Hugo Raudsepp was a prolific playwright, journalist and critic who perished in a Siberian labor camp. His *Põrunud aru õnnistus* [Understand the blessing] (Tartu, 1931), has a cover design by Peet Aren.
- Rudolf Reimann's *Päikseratas. Poeem* [Wheel of the sun. Poems] (Võrun, 1922) contains woodcuts by Vahtra.
- *Dünamis. Mõtteid võitlevast vabariigist*. [Cultural notes. Thoughts about the struggle for the Republic] (Tartu, 1928) was the first and last issue of a journal launched to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Estonian Republic. It provoked such a strong reaction that it was shut down by the authorities and confiscated with only a few hundred copies actually released. Cover design by Vahtra.
- *Ilo. Kirjanduslik kuukiri*. [Beauty. A literary monthly] (Tartu, 1919-1921) 11 of 12 numbers each containing full-page illustrations and many original graphics showcasing a single artist, and literary contributions by Estonia's leading modernists.



Columbia acquired an extremely rare set of seven edifying tales printed by Iversen in Saint Petersburg in the 1830's. From the holdings listed in OCLC it would seem that very few have survived. The titles depicted above are: *Nazidatel'nye razgovory* [Edifying conversations] (1836); *Nepozvolitel'nyi smiekh* [Impermissible laughter](1836); *Pouchitel'naia zhizn' i smert' mladentsa Ivana Nyla* [The Instructive life and death of Ivan Nyl] (1835); and *Mashenka, ili Blagost' Bozhiia* [Masha, or God's grace](1837).





Kniga izbrannykh stikhotvorenii (l.) with cover by Kazimir Malevich, and *Prazherelo Ukraini'skoho relihinoho svitohliadu* (r.) with cover by Pavlo Kovzhun.

Columbia also acquired:

- the literary almanac *Al'manakh Muz* [Almanac of the Muse] (Petrograd, 1916), showcasing poets of Russia's Silver Age, illustrated by the artist Sergei Chekhonin;
- the exhibition catalogue *Pushkin i ego Sovremenniki* [Pushkin and his contemporaries] (Peterburg, 1922);
- An important anthology by the Ukrainian futurist and founder (along with Nikolai Aseev and Bozhidar and Velimir Khlebnikov) of the Liren publishing house Grigorii Petnikov's *Kniga izbrannykh stikhotvorenii* [Book of selected poems] (Kharkiv, 1930) with a silhouette of Petnikov on the frontispiece by Dmitrii Mitrokhin, and publisher's wrapper illustrated by Kazimir Malevich;
- An uncut copy of Viktor Shkovskii & Lazar Zervandov's *Epilog* (Peterburg, 1922)
- An extremely rare work by the priest and ethnographer Ksenofont Sosenko, *Prazherelo Ukraini'skoho relihinoho svitohliadu* [The Original source of the Ukrainian religious world view] (Lviv, 1923) with wrappers by Pavlo Kovzhun.
- A collection of five first editions of poetry collections by Marja Kossak-Pawlikowska one of Poland's most prolific poets of the interwar period; and
- *Katalog Roju* [Catalogue of Roj Publishing] 1938. (Warszawa, 1938), illustrated with photographs of authors and illustrations from Roj publications, one of Poland's most important interwar publishing houses.
- Two important South Slavic modernist titles were added: Marko Ristić's *Bez mere* [Without measure] (Belgrade, 1928), copy No. 63 in issued in an edition of only 100 copies, and from Zagreb, Ulderiko Donadini's *Bauk* [Boogeyman] (Zagreb, 1922) with illustrations by Milovoj Uželać.
- A Polish rarity (shown below), *Niam niam: antologja poezji murzyńskiej* [Niam-Niam: An anthology of Negro poetry] (Wadowice, 1923), issued in an edition of only 300 copies, was acquired. This unusual title—ostensibly of poems from the African Zande people “translated” by Edward Kozikowski and Emil Zegadłowicz—was revealed only decades later to be the work of the translators themselves!



- Supplementing Columbia’s holdings of film-related ephemeral publications of the 1920s is *Zakroishchik iz Torzhka* [The Tailor from Torzhok]. (Moscow, 1925) an edition of photomontages and text in verse based on the Soviet film of 1925. The cover is by Israel Bograd, a graphic artist known for his works in advertising and film posters.



- Vladimir Korolevich’s *Zhenshina v Kino* [A Woman in film] (Leningrad, 1928) (depicted above), features the work of Russian and international stars. No copies are indicated in WorldCat.

Columbia University Libraries also acquired more than 130 recent, but scarce titles in the areas of art history, architecture, bibliography and book culture from the bookman and Columbia alumnus (M.A. '68, M.Phil. '79) Edward Kasinec. Particularly important and largely not represented in WorldCat are the titles he obtained in situ from the land of his parents, Sub-Carpathian Rus'/Ukraine. As a result, we now have many rare titles from Uzhhorod and other provincial cities that are often overlooked by commercial vendors.

The existence of such *lacunae* underscore the ongoing need for regular book-buying trips to such underserved regions of Ukraine.

Electronic Resources

Many of you who attended the November 2016 ASEEEES Conference many have visited the booth of Arcanum Database Ltd., a digitization company partnering with the Austrian Staatsarchiv, the Croatian National Archives, and the Budapest City Archives to produce a number of very useful digital projects—some freely available on the web (Mapire.eu and Huncaricana.hu) that include hundreds of thousands of archival documents, 3,000 old printed books, 300,000 postcards, and five million archival records.

In addition, they offer by subscription *Arcanum Digitheca*, a searchable database that includes “more than 11 million pages of cultural content: newspapers, Hungarian academic journals...”

I am happy to report that both Columbia and Cornell have initiated subscriptions to the latter. Cornell has already created a catalogue record and access point:

<https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/9729241> (available to Cornell affiliates). Once Columbia’s access point is up and running, look for it on Columbia’s Databases page:

<https://clio.columbia.edu/databases#>

The free sites are available at:

<https://hungaricana.hu/en/>

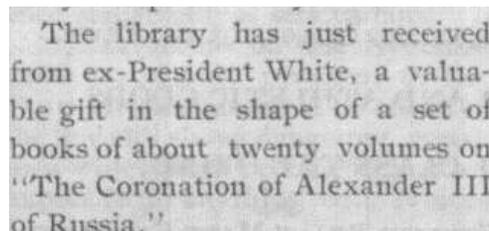
<http://mapire.eu/en/>

Kudos

The Harriman Institute was one of only three institutions to receive a one million dollar grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to strengthen the study of Russia at U.S. universities. “The awarded grants aim to encourage the universities to build up Russia-relevant training, research, and outreach programs, and facilitate engagement with Russian academic communities and institutions.”

In Closing... A Look Back

Collecting the fragments that collectively comprise the history of our collections isn’t easy. Many libraries were notoriously poor stewards of the documentation of their pasts. Nevertheless, one does come across items that do provide a few answers as to the “how and when” certain items or collections appeared in the library. For example, Cornell’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library is fortunate to hold the coronation album of Alexander III, *Opisanie sviashchennogo koronovaniia... Imperatora Aleksandra Tret’ego...* [A Description of the sacred coronation of... Emperor Alexander the Third...] (St. Petersburg, 1883). From the note

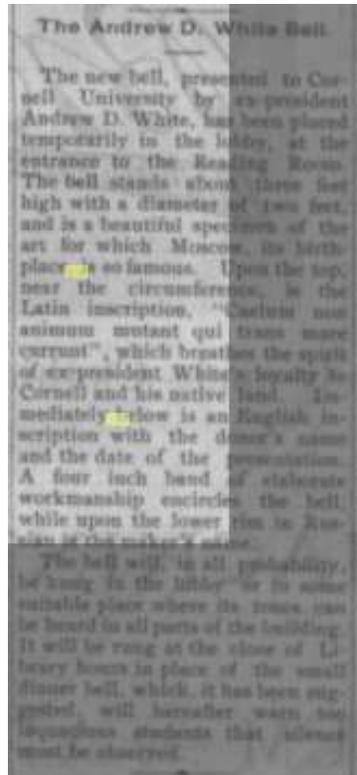


The library has just received from ex-President White, a valuable gift in the shape of a set of books of about twenty volumes on "The Coronation of Alexander III of Russia."

Article from the Cornell *Daily Sun*, XIV(4) 30 Sept. 1893.

above, we learn that it was quite likely part of a convoy of materials donated by former Cornell President Andrew Dickson White (patron of the great Library of Congress Slavic curator, Alexis Babine, Cornell Class of 1892).

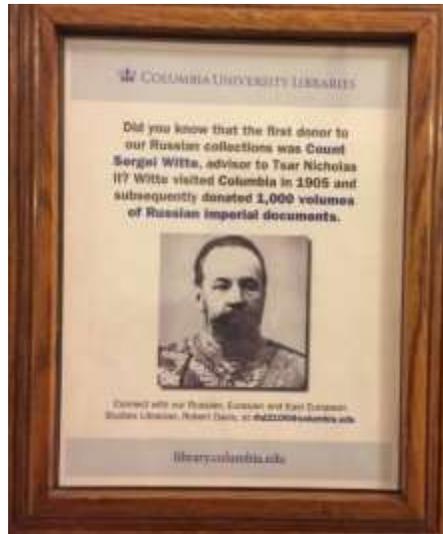
From another article, a bit blurry, alas, but still legible, we learn about yet another benefaction from President White—a Russian bell, still preserved in the magnificent White Room in Uris Library:



Cornell *Daily Sun*, XV(1), 27 Sept. 1894

Today, to my knowledge, it is no longer used to signal the library's closing... unfortunately. I particularly like the fact that it replaced for this purpose a small "dinner bell," which would now be used to "warn loquacious students that silence must be observed."

Columbia University Libraries, as you may recall, began receiving Slavic-language materials considerably later. The first large benefaction was from none other than Sergei Iul'evich Witte, fresh from his successful negotiation of the Treaty of Portsmouth. The award of an honorary degree in absentia "sealed the deal" on his donation, and I would encourage you to look at the essay by my friend and esteemed colleague Lyubov Ginzburg "Sergei Witte and the Foundation of the Slavic Collection at Columbia University Library," in the compendium *Rossia i SShA: poznavaia drug druga* [Russia and the United States: getting to know one another] (St. Petersburg, 2015) for the full story.



This past semester, a brief blurb on Witte—part of the new “Did you know...?” series of library factoids—was displayed on walls, elevators, and the entryway monitor in Butler. (Witte also makes an appearance in the recently-restored murals in the Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda of the American Museum of Natural History!).

