



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources.
No. 19, Fall 2019.***

Dear Colleagues:

The start of this, the 2019-2020 academic year, is as hectic as always. As I write this, new students are already descending on campus, and we in the Cornell and Columbia libraries eagerly await their return, their questions, and their resource needs.

The year 2019 imarks the 113th year of active Slavic and East European collecting at Columbia, and the 135th (!) at Cornell. In the swirl of the times in which we live, with challenges galore on seemingly all fronts, the librarians who staff these two venerable institutions continue to strive to bring broad and deep research resources from our regions to these shores and make them accessible to the broadest spectrum of users, across institutions, via resource-sharing networks.

As always, I am here to try to help connect you with these resources. Don't be a stranger!

I am expanding my "off-site" office hours this semester. I will be available in the Slavic Reading Room on the 7th floor of Hamilton on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12-1 (beginning September 9), and in 1230 International Affairs on Thursdays from 1-2 (beginning September 12). I am otherwise available in 308-309 Lehman Library; just drop me an email: rhd2106@columbia.edu to confirm that I'm in place! I am always glad to conduct individual one-on-one consultations on a particular research project, or to speak about resources in general with particular classes. After thirty-one years in this business, keep in mind that I have a pretty decent Rolodex, so if I don't have the answer, perhaps I can put you in touch with someone who does. My Cornell colleagues may expect a visit in early October.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for particular additions to the collection—print or electronic, let me know, and I can work with our network of vendors to try to expedite the process.

Wishing all a successful Fall Term,

Rob Davis

Current Materials

The Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2019 saw another robust intake of materials in a wide range of languages and subjects—in keeping with our role as outward facing research universities in an increasingly globalized environment.

Columbia's intake from our extensive network of vendors alone (**excluding** gifts, and "firm" orders) breaks down by language as follows: Albanian: 256 imprints; Belarusian: 56; Bosnian:

324; Bulgarian: 555; Croatian: 337; Czech: 471; Georgian: 80; Hungarian: 522; Kazakh: 132; Kyrgyz: 114; Macedonian: 95; Mongolian: 134; Polish: 631; Romanian: 543; Russian: 3,124; Serbian: 335; Slovak: 106; Slovene: 146; Tajik: 83; Turkmen: 3; Ukrainian: 1,383; Uzbek: 130.

In addition, Columbia received non-Russian works from the Russian Federation in: Adygei: 15; Altai: 5; Bashkir: 6; Buriat: 9; Chuvash: 5; Erzya: 4; Khanty: 1; Komi: 1; Mari: 5; Mordvinian: 3; Tatar: 13; Udmurt: 2; and Yakut: 8, as well as languages of the North Caucasus: Abazin: 1; Archi: 1; Avaric: 3; Balkar: 1; Chechen: 2; Dargin: 1; Ingush: 2; Kabardian: 2; Kumyk: 3; Lak: 3; Lezgin: 3; Nogai: 2; and Ossetin: 2, for a total regional vernacular-language intake (i.e., **excluding** English, French, German, etc.) of **9,668 titles**.

Cornell's intake from vendors alone (**excluding** gifts, and firm orders) breaks down by language as follows: Azeri (archaeology only): 14; Belarusian: 154; Bosnian: 258; Georgian (archaeology only): 10; Romanian: 432; Russian: 2,819; Serbian: 384, for a total of **4,071 titles**.

As I have discussed in previous issues of *Newsnotes*, access to materials in these and other languages has expanded significantly by more precise collection development activity with Columbia's original offsite facility (i.e., ReCAP) partners Princeton and New York Public, and—since 2017—Harvard. Our efforts have significantly broadened and deepened our collective intake of materials. Beginning with the current Fiscal Year (which began July 1), we have put in place further refinements to ensure that students and faculty have access to unparalleled resources in the languages of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union.

Gifts

Unquestionably the single-most spectacular gift collection received by Columbia this year was a portion of the personal library and art collection of Hamilton College Professor *Emeritus* **Franklin A. Sciacca** (Columbia BA and PhD). The collection consists of approximately 162 items, of which the majority are now located in the Bakhmeteff Archive, Rare Books & Manuscripts Library. This includes thirty authentic 18th century imprints from the Lavra's famous printing house (1734-1794); rare Old Believer imprints; 19th century reprints of 18th century Pochaev titles; eleven late 19th/early 20th century Pochaev imprints; and two 17th century Muscovite printed books, a *Mineia sluzhebnaia* (1629), and a *Psaltyr'* (1646). Also included are 19th and early 20th century minor graphics, serial



A sampling of early Slavonic books and manuscripts in the Sciacca Collection.

Issues (including an issue of *USSR in Construction*, designed by El Lissitzky), color lithographs, original drawings, and stereopticon slides.



Examples of late 19th and early 20th Century materials from the Sciacca Collection.

Also included in the Sciacca Gift was examples of pre-Revolutionary and Soviet-era realia, including mid-19th century badges for village and *volost'* elders, medals worn by elected officials in provincial cities, and various commemorative medals, coins, and porcelain. This is unquestionably one of the more significant collections of early imprints and imperial realia to come to the Columbia Libraries. I am grateful to Professor Sciacca for donating this diverse collection to Alma Mater!

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Other gifts received since February 2019 include:

- The noted antiquarian bookdealer Alexander Rabinovich donated five rare early- to mid-19th century titles, including a Russian translation (St. Petersburg, 1803) of Charles Batteux's *Beaux arts réduits à un même principe*, and Adam Simons *Alexander, Keizer aller Russen* ('s Gravenhage, 1815).
- CUNY/Hunter College Professor Emeritus Michael Luther donated 65 reels of microfilm of Russian and Ukrainian serial publications obtained during his graduate student days.
- Dr. Sam Beck of Cornell donated more than 150 volumes dealing with the history and ethnology of Romania to both Cornell and Columbia.
- Four rare Displaced Persons imprints from Stephan Lang in Ontario—a supplement to an earlier gift.
- Dr. Elizabeth Wishnick of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute donated five Russian-language works.
- Jeffrey Mason, who previously studied and worked in Almaty, donated a run of the journal *Steppe: A Central Asian Panorama*.
- Professor Rebecca Ruth Gould (a Columbia PhD) of the University of Birmingham, donated some 385 titles in Slavic, Caucasian, and Central Asian languages to Columbia.
- The Wilson Center donated a copy of Natalia Kudriavtseva's *Linhvistychna vidnosnist' i problem perekladu filosof'skoi terminolohii* [Linguistic relativity and the problems of translating philosophical terms]. Kyiv: Dmytro Burago Publishing, 2017. Kudriavtseva was a former Woodrow Wilson International Center Scholar.

- Through the efforts of Michael Biggins at the University of Washington, a copy of Len Adlershtein's memoirs *Moi pervyi dvadtsat let* (2015), covering the period of his father's exile in Kolyma.
- In addition, eight boxes of archival materials--notes, Xeroxes of articles, and card file drawers arranged by subject (e.g., Central Asian Drama) assembled by Professor Edward Allworth (1920-2016) were sent to NYPL's Manuscripts & Archives Division, to be integrated in his papers (MssCol 3621).
- In late January, four Mongolian titles on shamanism were donated by Surena Dorj of the Chamber of Lights organization.

Antiquarian Purchases

A number of important examples of Eastern European modernist imprints were acquired for both Columbia and Cornell from a network of antiquarian dealers, including Michael Fagan (Boston), Philipp Penka (Berlin & Boston), James Steerman (Red Hook, New York), and Michael Weintraub (New York). These dealers do an outstanding job of locating and describing these diverse materials, and I thank them for their work as booksellers and bibliophiles! Since February, **Columbia** has acquired:

- Some sixty examples of the influence of Cubism on Czech book design, circa 1913-1924;
- A remarkable three-hundred (300!!!)-plus examples of Czech interwar, wartime, and immediate post-war photomontage and book design. The work of artists such as Jindřich Štyrský, Karel Teige, František Muzika, as well as foreign artists such as John Heartfield



Czech photomontage. From top left: Jaroslav Maria *Sodoma*. (1935) with wrappers by Alexandr Vladimír Hrska; *Století techniky* (1932), with cover by Vojtěch Tittelbach; Jan Weiss, *Mlčení zlato* (1933), and Karel Fiala's *Jazz* (1933) both designed by Jindřich Štyrský; and Karel Nový's *Na rozcestí* (1934), with photomontage by Toyen. Czech translations of John Whitaker's *Fear Came on Europe* (1937) with a cover by Jindřich Štyrský; Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (1933) with wrappers by Jaroslav Raimund Vávra; and Margaret Sanger's *Woman and the New Race* (1933) with a cover by František Ketzek.

are well-represented in this collection. Included are works by Czech and Slovak authors, as well as translations of foreign authors such as John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser, Isaac Babel, and Howard Fast, to name but a few. A very high percentage of these titles are not widely held, especially in North American libraries.

- An additional 26 Czech items from the Robert and June Leibowitz Collection, including the six depicted below.



- As individual purchases, Columbia added items such as Charles Baudelaire's *Stary Kejklir*. [The Old juggler] (Prague, 1923), illustrated by Jana Ramouska; Karel Konrád's *Rinaldino* (Prague, 1927) at left, below, with typography by Karel Teige, and a wrapper design by Teige and Otakar Mrkvička (the only other WorldCat copies are at Getty and NYPL); and Guillaume Apollinaire's *Ubrousek básníků* [The Poets' Napkin] (Moravská Ostrava, 1931), at center, and right, below, copy no. one in an addition of 250 copies, signed, and held only by the Czech National Library, Olomouc State Library, and Harvard's Houghton Library.



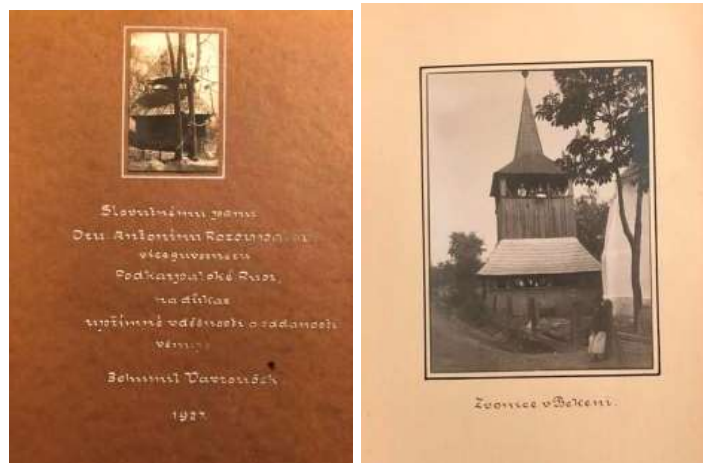
- Columbia also added two 1960s-era Czech titles by students of František Muzika, a Devětsil member and an important early Surrealist, at the Academy of Arts & Industrial Design. These are: Clara Istlerova's illustrations to Edouard Jaguer's *Dějiště stávký* [Scene Strike] (Prague, 1968), copy no. 31 of 36, published in September 1968, just



Graphics by Istlerova (left), and Vincourová (right)

weeks after Soviet tanks squashed the Prague Spring; and Tatiana Vincourová's illustrations to Boris Pasternak's *Dopisy z tuly* [Letters from Tula] (Prague, 1966), number 24 of 30 copies. This volume served as the final diploma project of the artist Taťána Vincourová, studying at UMRUM in Prague. Both titles are unique in WorldCat.

- The Avery Classics Library purchased Bohumil Vavroušek's *The Wooden Structures*



of Subcarpathian Russia. Dated 1927 and hand-titled by the photographer, this album contains thirty-three silver print photographs laid-down on card backing sheets. Vavroušek's images of Podkarpatská Rus were the subject of a solo exhibition at Galerie Josefa Sudka in Prague, which closed at the end of January 2019.

Cornell's Kroch Rare Book & Manuscript Library has likewise added important titles since our last *Newsnotes*. Among them are:

- [Sergei Eisenstein photographs, film posters and other material], a collection of posters, programs and photographs relating to Eisenstein's films "Alexander Nevsky" and "Ivan the Terrible" at the time they were released in post-war Czechoslovakia.

- A first edition of František Halas's *Staré ženy* [Old Woman] (Prague, 1935), one of the most translated Czech-language poems of the 20th Century, illustrated by Antonín Procházka. The poem first appeared in English in 1947.
- Marketa Hejna's samizdat collection of poems *Zmínky* [Mentions], dated 1979, with one original photograph and one silk-screen. Hand and typewritten, signed and inscribed by the author/artist on the title page. Marketa Hejna graduated from gymnasium in Prague in 1969, then spent the succeeding two decades focused on writing, art and dissident activities, before resuming her formal studies following the Velvet Revolution.
- *Styx: bulletin skupiny Lacoste* [Styx: bulletin of the Lacoste group], nos. 1-7 (complete run, in five issues (nos. 2 and 5 were confiscated before distribution of this samizdat Surrealist review (Brno, 1966-1969).

Additions to Cornell's outstanding and historic collections on Human Sexuality include:

- Carl Heinrich Stratz. *Kráska ženského těla* [The Beautiful Female Body] (Prague, 1904);
- *Kam s nim?* [Where to go with them?], dating from the early 1920s, with mounted hand-tinted silver print photographs created using an autoknips self-timing device, with images of a couple in various stages of heterosexual intercourse.
- *Utrpení mladého Werthera* [The Sorrows of Young Werther] ([Prague?, ca. 1920s). An erotic reformulation of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's semi-autobiographical novel *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* of 1774, illustrated throughout.
- *Zpověď devíti* [The Ninth Confession] (Prague-Žižkov: Borský a Šulc, 1923), a supposed modern day "French" erotic novel which rather is almost certainly originally of Czech origin. Though the author and illustrator and likely to be fictitious, the illustrator is Robert Schlosser, known largely for his children's books of the same era.
- Ladislav Veltruský, *Ženění, ženění: humoresky* [Marriage, Marriage: Humor] (Prague-Žižkov, 1924), illustrated by René Legros, documenting the adventures of a recently-married young woman, with accompanying erotic illustrations.
- *Balada cudná* [Wicked Ballad] (Prague, 1929), second in a series of three titles in the series *Knihovna cudných autorů* [Library of Chaste Authors]. The third volume, *Sto negalantních anekdot*, was purchased by Cornell last year. This is copy 89 of 100 numbered copies.
- Josef Hodek, [*Five Views of Women, Circa 1930*] is a group of five prints produced by Hodek at his Plzeň studio, circa 1930 employing a variety of techniques, from woodblock print to etching.
- Benjamin Klička (pseudonym of Benjamin Fragner), *Slečna z kiosku* [Girl in the Kiosk] (Plzeň, [1931]), containing three four-color lithographs by Josef Hodek, copy seven in an edition of 120.
- Pierre Louÿs, *Písně Bilitiny* [The Songs of Bilitis] (Přerov, 1932), an artist's book edition (in 300 copies) of a collection of erotic poetry, first published in Paris in 1894. This edition produced by Bohumil Krs, who illustrated it and prepared it for distribution to attendees at the Congress of Moravian Bibliophiles in 1932.
- Marie Veverková, *Pod safírovou hvězdou: Tři cykly lyriky* [Under the Sapphire Star: Three Cycles of Lyrics] (Prague, 1932), copy 149 of 500 signed by the author and illustrator Bohumil Malý on the title page.

- Poet František Branislav's *Na houslích jara, podzimu* [On the Violins of Spring - Autumn] (Plzen, 1933), in an edition of 250 copies, with two full page erotic illustrations by Svatopluk Machal.
- *Žádné tajnosti* [No Secrets] and *Nebezpečná Nevědomost* [Dangerous Ignorance] ([Prague?, ca. 1960s]), two small pamphlets from the height of the communist period warning women on the dangers of sexually transmitted disease.

All of the above are rare, with some only available at the Czech National Library and a handful of European libraries.

Recent Bakhmeteff Acquisitions

Arkadii and Natalia Belinkov Papers, 1920-2010. Correspondence, published and unpublished manuscripts, photographs, personal documents and ephemera of Arkadii Belinkov (1921-1970), a well-known Soviet writer and dissident.

General Alexander McDowell McCook Papers, 1880-1900. General McDowell McCook graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1852, and served with the Union Army during the Civil War. In his later years, he was sent to St. Petersburg to participate in the Coronation of Nicholas II. His collection consists of the Coronation album of Nicholas II, diaries, correspondence, and photographs given by his family.

The Vladimir Kozlovskii Papers reflect the personal and professional life of a Russian émigré journalist, political commentator and translator. Vladimir Kozlovskii arrived in the U.S.A. in the early 1970s and was hired as a consultant by the BBC, representing them for almost 50 years during which he produced over 10,000 broadcasts on topics ranging from Russian-American relations, to émigré literary and political activities.

Electronic Resources

Columbia now subscribes to Russia's *Dozhd'* (TV Rain) research database (2010-present) via East View's Universal Database platform. According to the website, this continuously updated site includes access to some "60,000 video programs, 65,000 news segments, nearly 6,000 interviews, approximately 400 investigative reports, hundreds of photos" produced by this independent television channel.

Slavic funds supported the purchase of the Adam Matthew *Ethnomusicology: Global Field Recordings Database*, produced in collaboration with the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive, and the University of Washington. The database provides access to recordings from the Ankica Petrović collection of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish music from Eastern Europe.

Exhibitions

The exhibition "Ilia Zdanevich: The Tbilisi Years," curated by Dr. Thomas Kitson in the Chang Octagon of Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscripts Library, opened on schedule on March 7, during a two-day international workshop that examined Zdanevich as a transnational artist.

François Mairé, President of the Iliazd-Club spoke on “From Iliia Zdanevich to Iliazd: A Life in Images between Tbilisi and Paris,” followed by Boris Fridman, curator of the recent major exhibition on Iliazd at the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum in Moscow, on “Collecting and Displaying Iliazd.” The keynote address was titled “Zdanevich in Paris, 1923: *Zaum*, *Ledentu*, and the Eclipse of the Early Avant-Garde,” by Johanna Drucker, Breslauer Professor of Information Studies at UCLA.



The exhibit closed July 12, but for those of you who were not able to visit Butler Library, below are a few images of the installation, featuring works produced in Zdanevich’s hometown of Tbilisi, which became a “fantastic” haven for artists of all stripes during the Russian Civil War. Here, Zdanevich worked out the principles of “mature” *zaum* and a corresponding approach to book design. The exhibition was based on works held by Columbia, and progressed



Above left, *Sofii Georgievnie Mel'nikovoi: fantasticheskii kabachek*, [Sofiia Georgievna Melnikov: Fantastaic tavern] (Tiflis, 1919) with illustrations by Sigizmund Valishevskii, Kirill Zdanevich, Il'ia Zdanevich, Natalia Goncharova, A. Bazhbeuk-Melikov, Lado Goudiachvili, Terent'ev, and Mikhail Kalashnikov, published in 180 copies; this, one of two copies in North America (the other is at Stanford). At right, the newspaper *41°: ezhenediel'naia gazeta* [41 degrees: weekly newspaper] (Tiflis, 1919), issue 1 (14-20 July)—the only issue ever published. This title is also held by only Columbia and Beineke.

from before the First World War (the Case 1, at left, below), and Zdanevich’s apprenticeship as a propagandist for the Mikhail Larionov group in competition with Futurist rivals, and proceeded (Cases 2, 4) through masterworks he designed and typeset as a founding member of the group

41°. Included in Case 3 were a selection of works by his brother and collaborator, Kirill, including an original gouache and woodblock. The exhibit concluded (Cases 5-6) with a display of interconnected items associated with other poets, composers, and visual artists who frequented, and were influenced by, the “Fantastic Cabaret” at the center of Tbilisi artistic life between 1917 and 1920.



View of Cases 1-3 (l to r), Chang Octagon, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Butler Library, 6th floor.



View of Cases 4-6 (l to r), Chang Octagon, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Butler Library 6th Floor.