



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources. No. 21. Fall 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Until September 1, when I took my COVID test at Lerner Hall, almost six months had passed since I had last set foot on the Columbia campus. Back in March, we had a two hour window to grab what we needed, and head for the exits at Lehman Library. After a library-related visit to Ithaca back in February (where I was caught in a blizzard!), on August 24 I returned to drop off my daughter, a Cornell freshman. Parents were not allowed to stroll around campus, or even enter dormitories. For a move-in day, campus was uncharacteristically quiet.

To quote the Grateful Dead (something I am not in the habit of doing): “What a long, strange trip it’s been.” Working from home. Suspending delivery of new books and research materials with understandably anxious approval vendors. Remembering paper files you *wished* you had grabbed before you locked the office for the last time. Consultations with knowledgeable colleagues supplanted by one-way conversations with a hound dog rescue pup... Strange days indeed (yes, I know, John Lennon).

And yet, our academic institutions and their respective libraries are emerging—carefully and methodically—from these dark months. Materials from the Olin and Butler stacks are once again available for scanning or physical pick up (by advance request), and access to materials via ReCAP and BorrowDirect are at hand. Timed access reservations to a limited number of de-densified reading rooms are available to students. (You can keep up with these welcome advancements [here](#) for Columbia, and [here](#) for Cornell). Our approval vendors are once again prepping material, in the hopes that we will be sufficiently staffed in the near future to be able to accept their shipments. And, throughout this long COVID “winter,” we have intensified efforts to secure electronic access to materials whenever possible.

Despite the still unfathomable dimensions and impact of this pandemic, library work has proceeded on both campuses, and much has been accomplished. I am deeply grateful for the hardworking, thoughtful administrations and staffs of both the Cornell and Columbia libraries. In difficult—indeed, unprecedented—circumstances, they have remained committed to maintaining a robust resource base, and allowing their librarians, curators, and technical staffs to guide decisions that impact how we adapt to such fluid times.

I hope to see you face-to-face (and, eventually, mask-free!) in the fullness of time. In the meantime, stay well, and keep in touch.

Rob Davis

CURRENT ACQUISITIONS

The COVID shutdown began with almost four full months left in our Fiscal Year. Thankfully, because Cornell strongly encourages an acquisitions spend-down by early April, new approval plan shipments from vendors were at least “in transit” by early March, and were ultimately received over the summer, as staff became available to receive them. At Columbia, the impact of the shutdown was greater: we received almost 3,000 fewer items from our approval vendors than budgeted for. Eventually, materials selected by vendors in the waning months of the last Fiscal Year *will* reach our shelves, but the short term impact is significant—although somewhat lessened by the approximately 800-title e-book package (see “Electronic Resources, below) obtained by both libraries in the immediate post-shutdown period.

Remarkably, for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Columbia’s book budget did NOT suffer an outright cut. Although given inflation, a “flat” budget does in fact represent a cut, our administration made a point to ensure that approval budgets actually *increased* over the previous FY, which is great for world language collections like ours. Meanwhile, almost three months into the new fiscal year, Cornell’s overall acquisitions budget for all subjects and areas remains to be determined, and likely significant cuts will be forthcoming. Needless to say, library collections nationwide face significant COVID-related headwinds in the years ahead.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

In the first weeks of the COVID outbreak here in New York, I pulled together two separate resource guides to subscription-based and purchased offerings in the Slavic, East European and Eurasian fields available to current affiliates at Columbia, and Cornell, as well as URLs for various free, web-based titles. I have since revised the two guides and have distributed them via listservs on both campuses. Please let me know if you would like a PDF copy.

**OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC
RESOURCES FOR SLAVIC AND EAST
EUROPEAN STUDIES AT CORNELL
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

August 2020

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**OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC
RESOURCES FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND
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Revised August 2020

Rob Davis

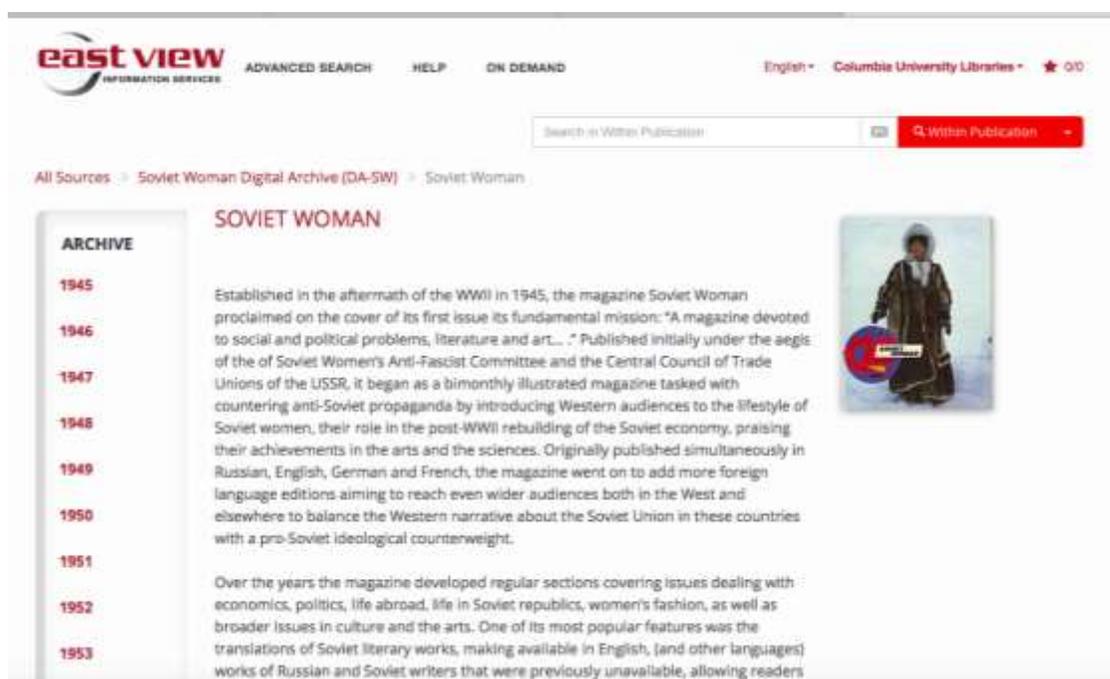
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Shortly after our campuses shut down in March, we were able to negotiate a parallel e-book block purchase with East View for nearly 800 recent Russian titles produced by some of the more important academic presses, including Novoe Literaturnoe obozrenie, and ROSSPEN, among others. This provided students and faculty from both institutions with access to materials that, in some cases, we already had in paper, but that could no longer be requested from the

stacks, from offsite storage, or through one of our BorrowDirect library partners. And while this represented a retreat from our largely successful efforts to try to reduce unnecessary duplication between institutions, by focusing on major publishers that we likely would have duplicated anyway on the basis of demand, it has served the purpose of making important resources available under decidedly unusual circumstances.

In the current Fiscal Year that began July 1, we have further refined and expanded our efforts to provide access to recent Russian imprints electronically by negotiating an e-book package of an estimated 450-500 titles from more than 30 academic publishers in Russia *as they appear*, ensuring timely access to these new materials. This partnership involves Columbia, Cornell, NYPL, and Yale, and is cost-efficient in that these four institutions are splitting the cost of original cataloging records for these titles, meaning records will appear more quickly in our respective online catalogues.

Among the stand-alone databases acquired by Columbia on the cusp of the “virtual” spring semester were the English-language [Soviet Woman](#), published in Moscow from 1945-1991, and the pre- Revolutionary St. Petersburg journal [Ogonek](#) (1899-1918).



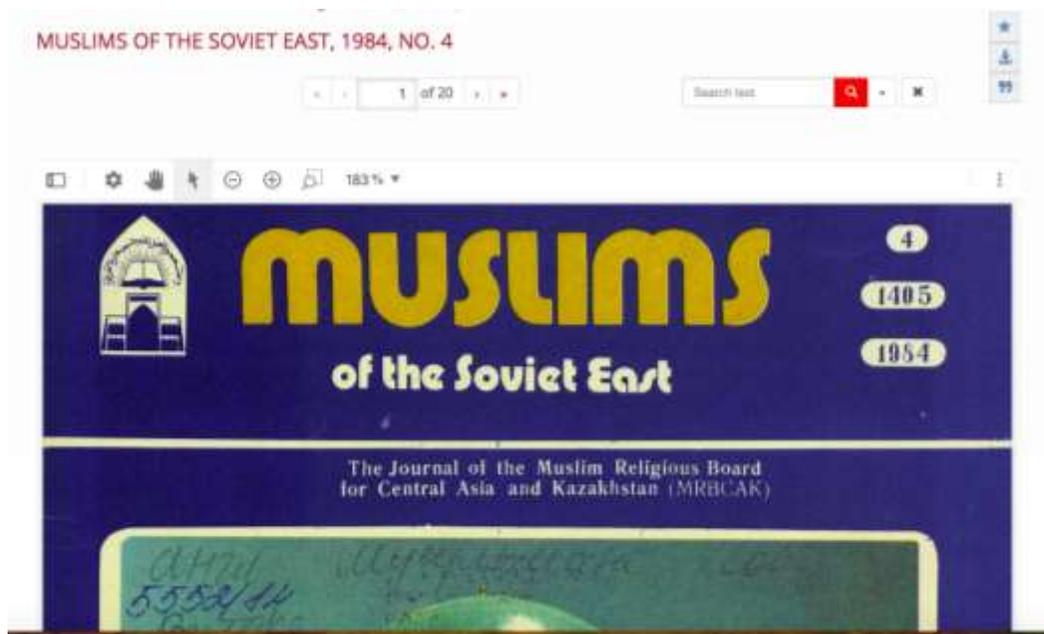
Opening screenshot from the journal Soviet Woman.

This latter title originated as a weekly illustrated supplement to the newspaper *Birzhevye Vedomosti*, becoming independent in 1902 as *Ogonek* and attracting notable journalists,



photographers, *literati* and critics as contributors.

Another addition to Columbia’s electronic databases of journals is the [Muslims of the Soviet East Digital Archive](#). Published from 1968 to 1991, the journal was the only Islamic periodical carrying the official seal of approval of the Soviet government. *The Muslims of the Soviet East* Archive contains the most complete collection of the journal in the English language. “Fully searchable, the database provides researchers from a variety of disciplines a unique and a valuable insight into the life of Soviet Muslims, journal’s obvious propagandistic slant and purpose notwithstanding.”



Meanwhile, Cornell added a major subscription package of [Ukrainian current serial publications](#), also accessible via the East View Universal Databases platform. This is described by EastView as a “full text database of newspapers and magazines of Ukraine published in Ukrainian, English,

+	✓	Defense Express. Weekly Newswire	Kyiv	May. 20, 2002	No. 12-31; Dec. 31, 2018
+	✓	Demokratychna Ukraina	Kyiv	Jan. 11, 2019	-
+	✓	Derr'	Kyiv	Jan. 09, 2019	-
+	✓	Dnepr vechernii	Dnipro	Jan. 03, 2019	-
+	✓	Holos Ukrainy	Kyiv	Mar. 07, 2002	No. 250-1; Dec. 29, 2018
+	✓	Kalendar znamennykh i gam'iatnykh dat	Kyiv	Jan. 01, 2002	No. 4, 2018
+	✓	Khreshchatyk Kyiv	Kyiv	Feb. 26, 2019	-
+	✓	Korespondent	Kyiv	Jan. 11, 2013	No. 24; Dec. 21, 2018
+	✓	Krymskaia pravda	Simferopol'	Jul. 01, 2004	No. 239; Dec. 28, 2018
+	✓	Krymskie izvestia	Simferopol'	Jan. 04, 2019	-
+	✓	Literaturna Ukraina	Kyiv	Jan. 09, 2003	No. 49-50; Dec. 20, 2018
+	✓	Molod' Ukrainy	Kyiv	May. 16, 2002	No. 43-44; Dec. 20, 2018
+	✓	Narodna Armia	Kyiv	Oct. 24, 2003	No. 52; Dec. 27, 2018
+	✓	Odes'ki visti	Odesa	Jan. 05, 2019	-
+	✓	Rabochnaia gazeta	Kyiv	Apr. 03, 2002	No. 144; Dec. 28, 2018
+	✓	Slava Sevastopolia	Sevastopol'	Jan. 09, 2013	No. 238; Dec. 28, 2018
+	✓	Slobids'kyi kraj	Kharkiv	Jan. 03, 2019	-
+	✓	Ukrainna moloda	Kyiv	Jan. 04, 2019	-

Sample screenshot of the Ukrainian module of EastView's Universal Databases.

and Russian. Provides access to the eight bibliographies that constitute the Ukrainian national bibliography published by Knyzhkova palata Ukrainy (Ukrainian Book Chamber): Litopys knih, Litopys avtoreferativ dysertatsiï, Litopys hazetnykh stateï, Litopys kartografichnykh vydan', Litopys obrazotvorchykh vydan', Litopys retsenziï, Litopys zhurnal'nykh stateï. Also includes news wire reports and other products of Ukrainian news agencies.”

ANTIQUARIAN ACQUISITIONS

One of the major impacts of COVID has been a significant curtailment—albeit temporary—of antiquarian purchases to maintain the inflow and processing of current materials at a pre-crisis level. Nevertheless, before March, we were able to make a number of bibliographically significant purchases. For example, Columbia acquired a number of examples of bibliophile editions of Western European imprints illustrated by Slavs working abroad. These included:

- a limited edition (copy 273 of 300) titled *Die erste Liebe* (Berlin, 1923), a German translation of Turgenev's *Pervaia liubov*, which contains twenty sepia lithographs by Boris D. Grigoriev (1886-1939), and signed by the artist;
- Copy No. 1 (“Exemplaire unique”) of a 1925 Parisian edition (limited to 100 copies) of Anatole France's *Balthazar* illustrated by Sergei S. Solomko (1867-1928), with a custom binding, and containing all of his original watercolors and an additional watercolor not included in the published edition. Solomko may be best remembered for his design work

on elaborate recreations of historical costumes for attendees of the famous 1903 “Bal d’Hiver,” such as that worn by Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich (executed by the Bolsheviks in 1919), *below*, from the original album held by The New York Public Library.



- the artist Dmitry Mitrokhin’s (1883-1973) [*Piatnadsat' graviur reztsom i sukhoiu igloi*](#) (Leningrad, 1934) with 15 etchings, no. 4 of 150 copies;
- Leonhart Frischlin’s *Deutsche Schwänke* (Leipzig, 1906) includes 10 hand-colored illustrations by Elena Luksch-Makowsky, with a title page, endpapers and illustrated vellum binding designed by Ignatius Taschner. It is one of only 50 copies of the deluxe edition bound in vellum; and
- an exceptionally rare limited edition (120 copies) Czech translation (Praha, 1932) of Pushkin’s [*Poltava*](#), with seven illustrations by Wasyl (Vasilii) Masjutyn (1884-1955).

Finally, in recent years Columbia has also added a number of rare and in some cases unique albums of interwar photographica depicting Carpatho-Ruthenia. The latest purchase was [*Podkarpatská Rus*](#), a unique handmade scrapbook album containing 100 mounted images and documenting trips made by a group of Czech travelers to Carpathian Ruthenia in 1934, 1935 and 1936.

WEB-BASED RESOURCES

My U.K. colleague Gregory P.M. Walker reports that [UTREES](#), a bibliographical database of British and Irish university theses in Russian and East European studies, is now available online. It was set up in 2008 with the support of the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA) and now lists over 5,800 doctoral and masters’ theses, the oldest dating from 1907.

The venerable [Novyi zhurnal/The New Review](#) has uploaded a free, downloadable partial digital collection of archival issues, from 1942 onwards. As of this writing, it includes issues 1-3, 6, 8, 15-20, 30-47, 49-66, 100, 114-136, 138-139, 282-297, and an index to 2015-2019. By the way,



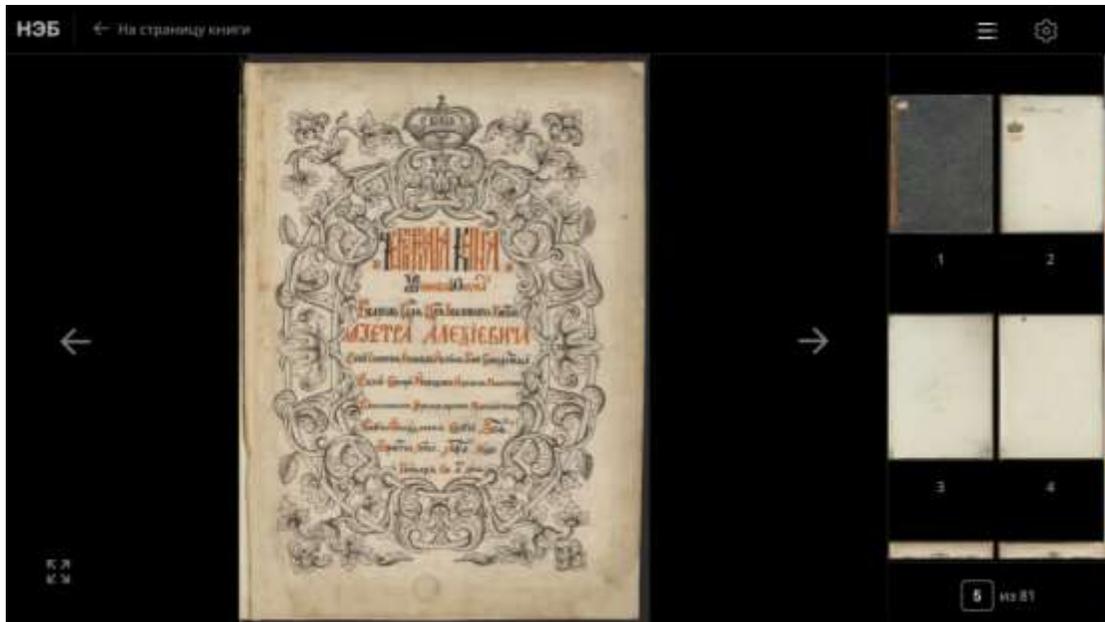
Sample screen of the Novyi zhurnal archive.

there is a complete set of issues for the years 2001 (No. 225)-2020 (#299) available via the online [Zhurnal'nyi zal'](#).

Michael Neubert of the Library of Congress reports that there has been a significant addition of material, from Russian archives, to the “Meeting of Frontiers” website, a “multimedia English-Russian digital library that tells the story of the American exploration and settlement of the West, the parallel exploration and settlement of Siberia and the Russian Far East, and the meeting of the Russian-American frontier in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.” Initiated in 1999, the work on the Russian contributions is now complete and live on the [loc.gov](#) web site, presenting more than 12,493 items including books, prints and photographs, maps, and manuscripts. The Russian materials are a subset of the larger updated site (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/meeting-of-frontiers/about-this-collection/>). [This search](#) will retrieve all the Russian contributed materials:

Michael points to the fact that “collections were digitized at 33 libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies in twenty cities in Siberia and the Russian Far East: Aleksandrovsk-Sakhalinsky (Sakhalin Island), Barnaul, Berdsk, Birobidzhan, Blagoveshchensk, Igarka, Kemerovo, Kolyma, Krasnoyarsk, Kyakhta (Buriat Republic), Nikolayevsk-on-Amur, Noril'sk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Tobolsk, Tomsk, Ulan-Ude, Vladivostok, and Yakutsk.”

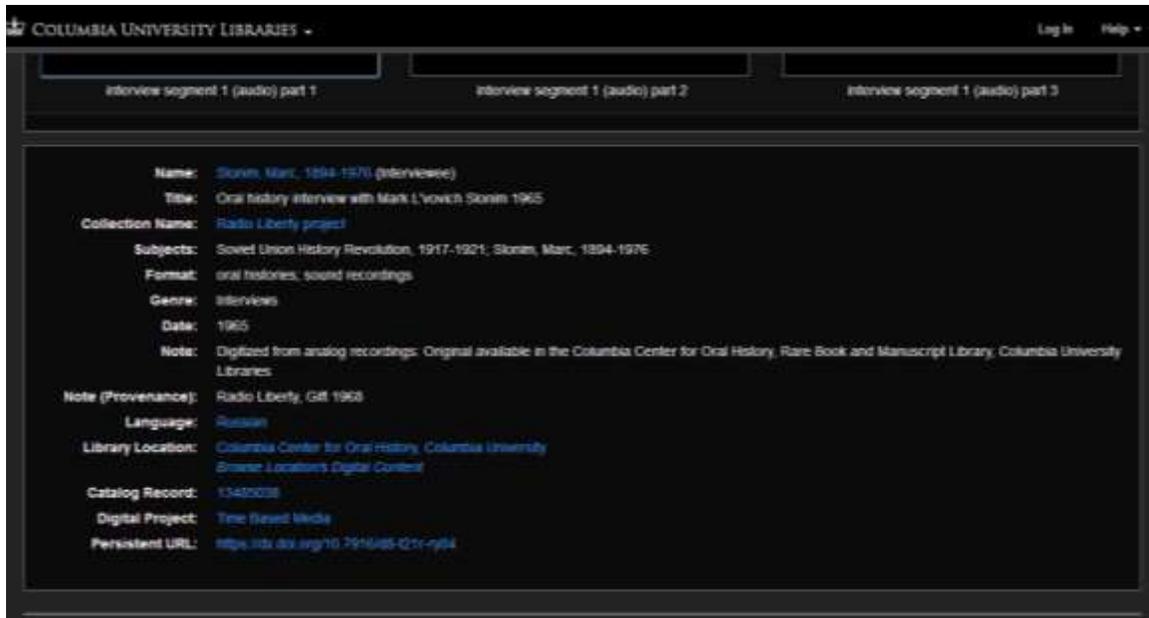
My colleague Dr. Liladhar Pendse from UC Berkeley has pointed to the Russian State Library’s site “[Book Monuments in the National Digital Library of Russia](#),” consisting of [8,000 high-resolution digitized book monuments](#) of historical, scientific, and cultural value are now available. A sample page is shown *below*.



One of our Columbia history grad students, James Nadel, came across a useful site with digitized documentation, sponsored by the [Tsal Kaplun Foundation](#). The site has the goal of promoting the study of Jewish genealogy: “We are collecting and organizing the Jewish genealogical information found in the archives of the countries and regions that were part of the Russian Empire prior to 1917 revolution and after.”

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

- Those of you who are part of the SEELANGS listserv may have noticed the very useful posting regarding updates on the current status of archival research in Russia, as institutions begin to reopen: <https://geohistory.today/russian-archives-covid/>
- Columbia’s Oral History collection recently re-negotiated access rights to a large and fascinating audio archive of first-person memoirs of the Revolution of 1917, most recorded between 1964 and 1966. CLIO has a succinct characterization of the project [here](#). From a recent CUL announcement regarding the digitization of the analog tapes: “This collection was previously closed except with written permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. *It is now open for research and digitized audio is available online.* Oral history curator Kimberly Springer renegotiated the terms of access with RFE/RL, and oral history archivist David Olson and DLST updated the metadata. The collection documents the 1917 Russian Revolution. Listen to interviews [here](#). Note that the DLC thumbnails are still the "padlock" symbol; these will be updated soon. The content is open.”



Record for the interview with Marc Slonim (1894-1976), recorded in 1965.

- Columbia's Bakhmeteff Archives is regularly processing or enhancing records for acquisitions. Among the most recent are:

[BAR Ms Coll/Political Printed Ephemera](#). This includes some 450 items of political printed ephemera dating from 1896-1922 produced by the Printed ephemera, including some periodicals. Most items concern various radical groups, such as the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDRP), the Party of Socialist-Revolutionaries (PSR), and to a lesser extent the Jewish socialist Bund, the Polish Socialist Party, and the Anarchist-Communists.

[BAR Ms Coll/Totleben](#). The Eduard I. Totleben Papers, 1850-1960, 1850-1960, including 125 items including correspondence, manuscripts, documents and photographs of Count Totleben, Russian Fortification Engineer, General of Imperial Russian Army. The correspondence includes one letter from Tsar Alexander II, two from Minister of War Dmitrii A. Miliutin, a draft of a letter Totleben sent to the Tsar, several invitations to official functions and a bound volume containing Totleben's letters to his wife written during the Crimean War. The manuscripts comprise nine volumes of Totleben's diary entries from the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.

[BAR Ms Coll/Bilyi](#). Ignat A. Bilyi Papers, 1918-1973, a collection of some 10,000 items, including correspondence, manuscripts, documents, subject files, newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs, and drawings. Most of the correspondence concerns Bilyi's activities as Ataman, and the journal "Kazak"; other correspondence is personal or relates to the activities of anti-Communist groups (such as the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations - ABN).

OUTREACH PROJECTS

I am delighted to report that sometime in October, I will be posting the following title: *Eastern European Modernism: Works on Paper at the Columbia University Libraries and The Cornell*

University Library to Columbia's Academic Commons, where it will be publicly available for consultation and download. The 251-page, fully indexed Checklist of 1,100 titles was compiled



Left: Checklist No. 266. Dvacáté století co dalo lidstvu. Výsledky práce lidstva XX. Věku. (Praha, 1931-1934). Part 5: Prokroky průmyslu. Photomontage wrappers by Vojtěch Tittelbach. **Center:** Checklist No. No. 615. Nový, Karel (pseud. of Karel Novák). Na rozcestí. (Praha, [1934]). Photomontage by Toyen. **Right:** Checklist No. 5. Krusten, Pedro. Südamerahu: romaan. (Tartu, 1928). Cover by Jaan Vahtra

by yours truly, includes a Foreword by the noted art historian Steven A. Mansbach (Distinguished University Professor of the University of Maryland, College Park), and an Introduction by Columbia Slavic Department graduate Irina Denischenko (now teaching at Georgetown). Covering imprints from the Baltics, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Serbia, it complements 2015's [Checklist of Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian Avant-Garde and Modernist Books, Serials and Works on Paper at The New York Public Library and Columbia University Libraries](#), containing 1,159 entries, and available to all via Columbia Academic Commons. As of July 31, this checklist has been downloaded 2,342 times!

I am grateful to the Harriman Institute's Faculty Publications Fund for supporting the preparation of both of these checklists.



I wish you all the best for the coming semester, and I look forward to a return to normality in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, stay healthy, and keep (virtually) in touch!