



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies

Resources. No. 7, Fall 2013

Dear Colleagues:

Hard to believe, but September marks the third anniversary of the great 2CUL experiment! Coordinating Slavic and East European reference services and collection development was just the beginning. Southeast Asian, and Latin American studies have followed, each reflecting the specific programmatic and faculty situations across both campuses. The project now includes closer cooperation and coordination in technical services/cataloging, getting materials processed more quickly by utilizing the great range of linguistic skills available among the staffs of both institutions.

This has generated significant professional and faculty interest, and by all accounts has succeeded in attaining the two core goals of broader, deeper collections with a minimum of duplication, and getting that material into the hands of readers more quickly. The multifaceted 2CUL project is bringing unprecedented benefits for students and faculty at both institutions and—via the BorrowDirect expedited interlibrary loan network—well beyond Ithaca and Morningside Heights.

New Imprints

Once again, acquisitions budgets on both campuses increased year-over-year. In the past Fiscal Year (July 1 2012-June 30, 2013), approval plan intake for cataloging alone approached 14,000 titles, with several thousand additional titles acquired via gift or antiquarian purchase. More than twenty-eight languages were represented in our collective acquisitions.

Beginning in July 2013, 2CUL partner Columbia initiated two new approval plans for materials from Mongolia, and the Northern Caucasus. For many years, Mongolia was a region that fell between the cracks in terms of collecting, and the new approval plan is intended to rectify this.

The 2CUL Librarian has also worked with Ms. Manana Khergiani to develop closer ties to National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, as well as the National Library. It is hoped that these institutions may serve as a direct channel for Georgian materials in the near future.

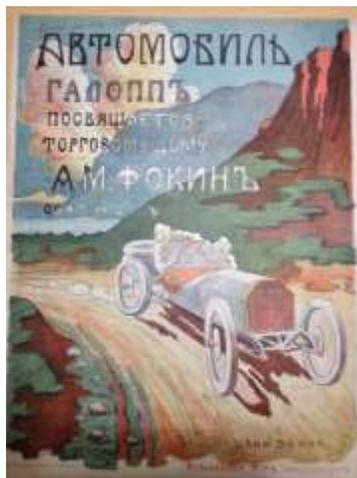
Antiquarian Purchases

Cornell purchased two stunningly illustrated Hungarian artist books by Tibor Galle (1896-1944). *Linoleumok. Második könyv.* [Linoleum. Second Book] (Budapest, [1925]), an extremely rare portfolio of striking expressionist prints. No other copy is recorded in any public collection. The other title, *11 Eredeti linoleum-metszete* [Eleven Original Linoleum Engravings] (Budapest:

Juventus: 1923), limited to an edition of 100 copies, has eleven images combining modernist impulses with romantic nationalism.



This past May, Columbia acquired a remarkable collection of 160 examples of Russian sheet music, with illustrated covers, dating principally from the 1920s. Among the artists represented are Vladimir Mayakovsky (1893-1930) and Iliazd (Ilya Zdanevich, 1894-1975), as well as virtually all of the major sheet music illustrators of the period. A sampling of the variety of covers and genres are found below.



Composers represented include Emmerich Kálmán (1882-1953), the Hungarian-born composer who would later immigrate to the United States, fleeing post-*Anschluss* Vienna; Nikolai Roslavets (1881-1944), the Ukrainian Modernist composer whose works were subsequently banned in 1930s Soviet Russia; and “father of the Blues” W.C. Handy (1873-1958), to name but a few.

Perhaps the most spectacular single purchase made during the past FY was Vlastislav Hofman’s (1884-1964) *F.M. Dostojevskij: Cyklus třiceti kreseb*. [Dostoyevsky: Cycle of Thirty Drawings] (Praha: F. Borovy, 1917). Hofman was trained as an architect, but was a talented graphic artist

and set designer as well, strongly influenced by Cubism. Containing thirty full-page plates, the title is a great rarity, made unique by the presence of two of Hofman's original sketches tipped in.

Below are images of the cover of the printed book, as well as his original sketches, of "Starý Karamazov," and "The Double" which is also reproduced on the cover.



This item was purchased for Columbia by the 2CUL Librarian in honor of Robert Belknap, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages, former Director of the Russian Institute, and former Director of the University Seminars, in recognition of his contributions to Dostoyevsky scholarship, his many kindnesses to generations of students, and his exemplary service to Columbia University.

From dealers and collectors in New York, Columbia acquired a woodblock-illustrated Church Slavonic *Menaion* (Moscow: Pечатnyi Dvor, 1646), previously lent to the Bakhmeteff Archive's exhibition *Quartercentenary of the House of Romanov*, as well as nine Russian and Czech titles dating primarily from the 1920s, including Aleksei Kruchenyk's *Chornaia taina Esenina* [Esenin's Dark Secret] (M., 1926); *Novaia zhivopis' v ee istokakh i razvitii* [New Painting in its Sources and Development] (Berlin, 1923), produced in an edition of 500; and a beautifully



illustrated copy of August Strindberg's *Královna Kristýna* [Queen Christina]([Prague], 1922) coincidentally also illustrated by Vlastislav Hofman.

Columbia also acquired (from a collector in Connecticut) a copy of the *Zolotaia kniga Rossiiskoi imperii*, [Golden Book of the Russian Empire](cover, shown below) published by the Society for the care of poor and sick children, under the patronage of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Mavrikiievna of Saxe-Altenburg (1865-1927), wife of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich ("KR", 1858-1915).



Gifts

A collection of some 3,000 Romanian imprints, as well as some 2,000 Classical Music LPs from Eastern Europe was donated to Cornell by Mircea Pitici. The collection, which was at his family home in historic Sibiu, was packed and trans-shipped (1.5 tons of material, shown below on shrink-wrapped pallets awaiting pick up!) to Ithaca in August 2013. Included are complete collections of historical documents, works by important Romanian authors, and art albums.



Burton Miller donated to Columbia a collection of microfilms from the collections of the Russian State Library, including (among other titles) all fifteen District volumes of the household census of the rural population of Kursk *guberniia* (1882-1887) carried out by the provincial *zemstvo*, the sixteenth summary volume, several issues of the survey of the state of the province published annually by the governor's chancellery (1892-1907), and all the numbers of a short-lived agricultural journal, also put out under the *zemstvo*'s auspices between 1898 and 1906.

David Mortimer, President of the American Assembly, donated thirty titles from the Library of his mother, Kathleen Harriman Mortimer (1917-2011), some dating from her residency in Moscow from 1943-45, and including many inscribed to her father, Ambassador W. Averell Harriman. Among the items donated are *Charl'z Spenser Chaplin* (M.: Goskinoizdat, 1945) and *D.U. Griffit* (M.: Goskinoizdat, 1944); *Kartinnyia gallerei Evropy* [Art Galleries of Europe] (St.Pb: Vol'f, 1862-1864), all rarities in North American collections, as well as one curiosity-- Brezhnev's *Malaia zemlia* [A Small Land](M.: Politizdat, 1978) inscribed by the author to Ambassador Harriman!

New Electronic Resources

At Columbia & Cornell:

- The “*Iskusstvo Kino* Digital Archive” captures the complete run (1936-present) of this esteemed monthly publication and its two predecessors (*Proletarskoe kino*, 1931-32, and *Sovetskoe kino*, 1933-35) in a complete online archive, in full-image and fully searchable text (just toggle between tabs). Columbia link: <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10261197> Cornell link: <http://resolver.library.cornell.edu/misc/8238033>
- The "Slavic Humanities Index Database” indexes some 150 major scholarly and cultural journals and series produced in Eastern Europe (most especially Ukraine) from 1994 to the present. The Database contains more than 165,000 records and is continuously updated. <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10258416> Cornell link: <http://resolver.library.cornell.edu/misc/8239476>.

At Columbia:

- EBSCO Central & Eastern European Academic Source provides access to full-text journals, serials, and reports on a wide array of topics. A list of titles is found here: <http://www.ebscohost.com/titleLists/e5h-coverage.pdf>
The URL of the resource itself is found at: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&profile=e5h&defaultdb=e5h>
- The “Jewish Theater Under Stalinism” database contains digitized documents from the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI) in Moscow concerning the Moscow State Jewish Theater and the affiliated Moscow State Jewish Theater School (MGETU). <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10275782>
- “The Stalin Digital Archive” database is the result of many years of collaboration between Yale University Press and the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI). RGASPI documents from Stalin's personal papers will eventually number over 400,000 pages. The SDA also includes access to the complete *Annals of Communism* series, with twenty-five volumes of scholarly commentary, annotation, and interpretation of documents from state and party archives selected by teams of Western and Russian editors. <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10275929>

Useful Websites

The Russian Virtual Library is an attempt to provide the text of “authoritative academic editions of Russian Classics.” <http://rvb.ru/>. Unfortunately, the texts are provided in the pagination of the original, but not with the same appearance, so multiple pages of text appear on the same screen. Aesthetically a bit off-putting, but still potentially useful!

The Latvian National Library’s Digital Library <http://periodika.lndb.lv/#allperiodicals> is a wonderful resource for those researching the history of 20th century Latvia, with particularly strong coverage of the interwar, wartime, and postwar era. Digital versions of serials and newspapers are a great strength. Titles under copyright, available for viewing only onsite, are clearly indicated.

Enhanced Access Beyond 2CUL

In July, it was formally announced that the venerable University of Chicago Library was now part of the BorrowDirect network, joining M.I.T. and the eight Ivies. This opens to our faculty and students expedited borrowing from yet another historic North American Slavic and East European collection, with great breadth and depth of linguistic coverage.

Outreach

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced that it will support yet another prestigious Summer Institute for College & University Teachers, this entitled “America’s East Central Europeans: Migration & Memory” which will run from June 8-29, 2014. Principal Investigator Alan Timberlake, Director of Columbia’s East Central European Center, will be assisted by Co-Directors Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis. This institute will bring together some fifty master teachers, with twenty-five Summer Scholars who are in residence for three weeks on the Columbia campus. NEH Summer Scholars are competitively selected from a large pool of applicants, and include educators from American colleges and universities, as well as independent scholars, research librarians, and museum curators involved in educational programs.



This will be the third Summer Institute awarded to East Central European Center/Harriman Institute, the previous taking place in June 2011 and June 2013 (the 2013 Summer Scholars are shown with "Alma Mater," above). It will be the sixth co-directed by Messrs. Kasinec & Davis.

On May 30th, the Libraries hosted a meeting of representatives of the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation (VHLF), to discuss issues connected with their efforts to build a digital archive of Haveliana. This will be followed up with a two-day invitation only meeting in October at The New York Public Library entitled "Vaclav Havel and His Times: Views and Orchestrations from the New World." This working meeting, supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Carnegie Corporation, is organized by the VHLF in partnership with the NYPL and Columbia University's Harriman Institute and the East Central European Center. Edward Kasinec, Staff Associate at the Harriman Institute and NYPL Curator Emeritus, will serve as facilitator for the focus meeting. The 2 CUL Librarian will serve as one of the respondents at the morning session on October 11.

The 2CUL Librarian is planning on visiting Ithaca in September, and when I have a firm date, I will pass it along to my Cornell colleagues.

As always, please be in touch with any questions/special requests.

Have an enjoyable semester!

Robert H. Davis