



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies  
Resources. No. 8, Winter/Spring 2014.***

Dear Colleagues:

Until this year, I was one of those people who actually *looked forward* to the winter season. Crisp, dry air, the wonderful stillness after a snowfall...

My warm fuzzy feelings towards the season, sadly, have melted away in the shadow of the ominous "Polar Vortex" and inept snow removal procedures here in NYC.

As we all look forward towards warmer and drier weather, I wanted to share with you a few collection highlights that have helped to make this long, cold season more tolerable!

***Archival Collections***

**Laura Engelstein**, the Henry S. McNeil Professor of Russian History at Yale University, has donated a unique collection of Russian ephemera from the 1990s concerning sexuality and feminism/gender to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Cornell.

Among the materials are "tabloids" about AIDS, sex education, and publications by gender groups, which she collected while conducting research in Moscow. This donation will further enhance Cornell RBML's important book and archival collections on sexuality and gender. Professor Engelstein has also donated a collection of her working notes and Xeroxes of Russian archival documents to Columbia, below.

**Loseff/Brodsky Collection.** I am also delighted to report that Columbia has acquired the papers of **Lev Loseff** (1937-2009), noted Russian émigré poet, literary critic, professor of Russian

Literature at Dartmouth College, and a lifelong friend and authoritative biographer of Nobel Prize Laureate **Joseph Brodsky** (1940-1996). Quoting from our press release:

“The collection, which contains approximately 40 feet of linear material, is comprised of manuscripts, poems, correspondence, photographs, and autographed first editions of Loseff’s work, as well as a significant number of subject files on Joseph Brodsky. Brodsky’s correspondence, drawings, typed and holograph manuscripts, and books with inscriptions cover the period 1969 to 2001. Some of the photographs cover an even earlier period in Brodsky’s life in Soviet Russia. The collection also includes legal papers relating to Joseph Brodsky’s will. ‘These papers represent an important addition to the already rich collection of Russian materials to the Bakhmeteff Archive of Russian and East European History and Culture at RBML,’ said Tanya Chebotarev, Curator of the Bakhmeteff Archive. ‘His correspondence with well-known Russian émigré intellectuals including Sergei Dovlatov, Ivan Elagin, Konstantin Kuzminsky, Leonid Rzhevsky is complimented by his research materials on these significant representatives of Russian Diaspora.’



*Loseff (right) with Brodsky in Stockholm at the Nobel Prize ceremony. {Photo by Bengt Jangfeldt?} 1987.*

Loseff immigrated to the U.S. in 1976, and spent several years in Ann Arbor working for the Ardis Publishers while obtaining his American doctoral degree. In 1979, he accepted a position at Dartmouth College where he worked until his death. He published 14 well-received collections of verse, as well as numerous works of literary criticism.

The collection offers valuable research opportunities on Russian émigré literary circles and Twentieth-century Soviet literary culture. The collection will also enhance the research and outreach activities of both the Harriman Institute and the East European Studies Center, both recipients of recent NEH Summer Institute grants for the study of America's Russophone and East Central European diaspora communities. The Loseff collection constitutes an important complement to Brodsky materials already held at the Beinecke Library, Yale University, The Russian National Library, St. Petersburg, and the Green Library, Stanford University."

The 2CUL Librarian wishes to thank Edward Kasinec, for bringing this collection to our attention last November, University Librarian Jim Neal, and CUL Associate Vice President Kristine Kavanaugh for their support in making this exciting acquisition possible, and to the executors of Lev's estate for offering this wonderful collection to Columbia!

**Prokofiev Collection.** Columbia will become the home of the Serge Prokofiev Foundation's collection of scores, documents, and ephemera covering the years 1918-1938.

The collection is described in The New York *Times* of October 16, 2013:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/17/arts/music/columbia-to-house-a-trove-of-prokofievs-items.html?\\_r=0&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1393272616-i0+Q8qgShsUhOPTN8QFz+Q](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/17/arts/music/columbia-to-house-a-trove-of-prokofievs-items.html?_r=0&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1393272616-i0+Q8qgShsUhOPTN8QFz+Q)

Previously held by Goldsmiths College, London, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, ownership will be retained by the Foundation, with the understanding that it may permanently become part of the rare Book & Manuscript Library in five years. The transfer of materials from London and Paris began in late 2013 and is scheduled to continue into 2014.

### *Antiquarian Purchases*

Carolyn Yerkes of the Avery Classics Collection has supplemented Columbia's holdings of *Arkhitektura za rubezhom* and *Zhilishchnoe Stroitel'stvo* by acquiring lacking issues from 1935 and 1959, respectively. Carolyn also acquired *Projekty Konkursowe Nowego Gmachu*

*Uniwersyte* (1913), Karel Lodr's *Co kdo řekl o knihách: Zrnka o knihách a kolem nich* (N.d.), and a collection of architects' bookplates.

With some collection development support from the 2CUL Librarian, Avery also acquired a complete run of the Czech avant-garde journal *Pásmo=La zone = Die Zone = The zone = La zona*. (Brno, 1924-26).

Columbia acquired more than ninety rare titles in Russian and East European book studies from a New York area bibliophile.

### *Gifts*

In addition to a collection of ephemera (see above) Professor **Laura Engelstein** of Yale University has donated boxes of her notes and copies of Russian archival documents pertaining to her research on the Skoptsy sect, published as *Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom: A Russian Folktale*, and those relating to her *The Keys to Happiness: Sex and the Search for Modernity in Fin-de-siècle Russia*, both titles published by Cornell University Press. These materials will be catalogued under an artificial title for Butler Library.

**Ann Cooper**, CBS Professor at CBS Professor of Professional Practice in International Journalism at Columbia Journalism School and a member of the Harriman faculty donated over one-hundred volumes from her private library, some collected when she was NPR's Moscow correspondent during the waning years of the Soviet Union.

**Stephan Lang** donated twelve titles, the majority of which are publications by Displaced Persons in Germany in the late 1940s-early 1950s.

**Donna Leftwich** of Larchmont, New York, donated a collection of approximately 2,700 Soviet-era stamps circa 1921-1965, as well as a handful issued by the White armies of Anton Denikin and Nikolai Iudenich during the Russian Civil War. This is an excellent collection of philatelic "minor graphics" over four decades of Russian history.



### *New Electronic Resources*

Since the Fall 2013 *Newsnotes*, we have added a number of exciting new online databases to 2CUL research collections.

At Cornell:

***Early Russian Cinema.*** From IDC/Brill. <http://catalog.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=8334914&DB=local>

This collection includes the contents of fifty-seven Russian cinematographic journals ranging in date from 1907 to 1918, including both bimonthly periodicals and popular weeklies by major Russian film studios. [Only available at Cornell]

***Soviet Cinema: Periodicals & Newspapers.*** From IDC/Brill.  
<http://catalog.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=8335060&DB=local>

The contents of forty-seven different Soviet film magazines and newspapers from the 1920s and 1930s. [Also available at Columbia]

***Soviet Cinema: Archival documents from RGALI, 1923-1935.*** From IDC/Brill.  
<http://catalog.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=8336561&DB=local>

Sixty-four archival files of materials relating to Sovkino, ca 1923- 1935. [Also available at Columbia]

At Columbia:

Nineteen current newspapers from the **North Caucasus, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia**

<http://dlib.eastview.com/browse/udb/1210> East View Information Services. Current newspapers from a volatile region. [Only available at Columbia]

### *Useful Websites*

My colleague Dr. Diana Greene of NYU has done an excellent job of collecting information on URLs in Russia with digitized retrospective content.

Two of the sites she notes concern hard-to-find and—owing to their brittle state—difficult to use émigré newspaper titles.

The Gosudarstvennaia publichnaia istoricheskaia biblioteka Rossii offers digital versions of 128 émigré newspapers from the period 1910s-1930s: <http://elib.shpl.ru/ru/nodes/9806-gazety>

The second digitized émigré serial site is found at: <http://librarium.fr/ru> which includes a growing array of titles, albeit with many gaps in issue-by-issue coverage. It is a work in progress, so hopefully the compilers will fill these lacunae in the years ahead.

Dr. Greene also came across this great site: <http://haibvestnik.ru/arx/elb.htm> which brings together in one array URLs of sites in Russia containing digitized books and serials.

### *Beyond 2CUL*

As you know, the volume and cost of book materials from Eastern Europe and the countries of the Former Soviet Union keep climbing. By way of example, the average cost of a Russian book

acquired by 2CUL in 2010 was \$25.06, while last year it was \$30.79. Institutional cooperation on a larger scale is essential if we are to continue to offer faculty and students collections that are broad and deep across multiple subject areas.

The 2CUL partnership has greatly facilitated this effort, but we must also look to collaboration with other institutional partners to maximize our available resources. To this end, Princeton, NYPL, and 2CUL are pursuing collaborative collection development agreements for languages in addition to those already in force for Polish, Czech, and Belarusian. When implemented, these agreements will ensure that the Tristate area remains a resource-rich hub for the study of these regions, cultures, and languages by marshalling our resources in the most efficient way possible.

### *Outreach*

A National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College & University Teachers, “America’s East Central Europeans: Migration & Memory” will take place on the Columbia campus 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 2CUL Librarian Robert Davis. The institute brings 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.

A proposal for Summer 2015—*Globalization, The Disciplines & the Re-Invention of Post-Communist Area Studies: Teaching and Research*—was submitted last week. If funded, it would be the seventh NEH Summer Institute Co-Directed by Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis, and the second for Principal Investigator Alan Timberlake, all of Columbia University. Institute presenters would include Berkeley Provost George Breslauer, and Cornell’s Valerie Bunce, among other distinguished figures in the field.

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The 2CUL Librarian is planning on visiting Ithaca in early March, 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.

Stay warm and dry!

*Robert H. Davis*