

*Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies
Resources. No.1, Fall 2010*

Dear Colleagues:

As the new term begins, I wanted to take a few moments to update you on recent developments impacting the collections of both Columbia and Cornell, as well as some significant acquisitions made over the past several months. I shall endeavor to provide e-updates to *Newsnotes* three times a year: Fall, Winter, and Summer, with periodic special updates as needed.

“2CUL”

This semester marks the beginning of our Mellon Foundation-funded initiative to better coordinate current acquisitions and reference across New York State’s two Ivy League campuses. In practical terms, this has involved developing joint collection development profiles which are then submitted to our vendors as guidelines for what they should acquire, and for whom. As I have mentioned previously, the goal is to acquire just one copy, held by one or the other institution, thereby greatly expanding our collective purchasing power. Let me reiterate, however, that if you identify a book that you feel is needed at BOTH campuses, please let me know, and I will order a second copy. Note also that the “one copy” guideline does NOT pertain to English-language titles.

I will be traveling to Ithaca several times a year, and look forward to meeting with faculty, students, and Cornell Libraries staff on those occasions. ***Nota bene that I’ll be traveling to Ithaca on the 27-28th of September, so please email me if you wish to meet!***

Please know that I am always open to research inquiries, by email (rhd2106@Columbia.edu), phone (212 854-4701), and—as of September—via Skype (my contact name is **Robert-H-Davis**). Oh, brave new world!

2011 NEH Summer Institute

I am delighted to report that Columbia has received a prestigious Summer Institute grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Entitled “America Engages Eurasia: Studies, Teaching, Research,” the Institute will bring twenty-five college and university faculty, independent scholars, librarians and curators to New York for three intensive weeks of daily lectures, discussions, research, and field trips. The focus of the Institute is the development of Eurasian studies in North America as a discipline, from its origins in the late 19th century, down to the present. Institute faculty and discussants include distinguished specialists from American universities, including from both Cornell and host institution Columbia. This will be my fourth NEH Institute as co-director, with Edward Kasinec of the Harriman Institute. Professor Timothy Frye, Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy, and Harriman Institute Director serves as Principal Investigator.

Donation of the Alexander Rabinovich Collection to Columbia

At the end of last semester, Columbia received more than 900 volumes of Russian, English, and Western European titles on Russian art and architecture as a gift from the noted antiquarian bookman, Alex Rabinovich. Mr. Rabinovich is a longstanding friend of the Columbia Libraries, having donated rare works by the rocketry pioneer Tsiokolsky, posters by theatre and film designer Nikolai Akimov, and a unique collection of Russian editions of "Alice in Wonderland," among other gifts.

This latest donation has significantly enhanced Columbia's already rich holdings on Russian art in the Avery Library, while duplicates have been directed to Cornell, to the circulating collections at Barnard, as well as East Coast Slavic Consortium members Seton Hall and NYU. The collection includes numerous lavishly illustrated art volumes covering all genres and periods that would cost a small fortune to acquire today.

Other Multivolume Gifts

Columbia has received two large collections of Czech interwar imprints: Forty-four volumes from Antoinette Orsky of Massachusetts, including works by Capek, Masaryk, and Jirasek, among others, and 365 volumes from George and Marcela Hladik of New Jersey. The Hladik Collection included a large number of Czech art books, as well as imprints produced by the Czech diaspora in Toronto and Western Europe. Mr. Daniel Rothstein of New York donated some 30 items pertaining to the former Yugoslavia.

Thanks to AIRL (Arts Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory, Georgia), Daniel Baumann (freelance curator, Switzerland), and Mzia Chikhradze, a Fulbright visiting scholar at Columbia University, the extensive number of book facsimiles reproduced for the exhibition "Georgian Modernism/Tbilisi Avant-Garde Art" have been catalogued and preserved. Displayed at the Harriman Institute from April 1- May 15, 2010, the materials were originally presented as the show "Fantastic Tavern. Tbilisi Avant-garde" at the Casey Kaplan Gallery NY, curated by Mr. Baumann and AIRL.

Columbia is anticipating another large donation of Ukrainian imprints, representing duplicates from the Ukrainian National Federation in Toronto. This would follow on the 550 volumes of Ukrainian imprints donated by the St. John's Institute of Edmonton in the early Winter of 2009.

Antiquarian Purchases

In the Spring, Columbia purchased a collection of fifteen illustrated early Soviet film programs by Kinopechat, including "Konets Sankt Peterburga" [The End of St. Petersburg](1927), "Predatel'" [Traitor] (1926), "Prostitutka"[Prostitute] (n.d.), and "Bronenosets Potemkin" [Battleship Potemkin] (1927), among others. All have photomontage covers, and are exceedingly rare. Columbia also bought an original

maquette for *Oktyabr* [October] (1924), with covers by Nikolai Ushin (d. 1942), a Petrograd theater designer and graphic artist.

The Avery Architectural collections benefited from the acquisition of two works, *Himes udvar* [The Decorated Court], published in Budapest in 1916, depicting traditional Transylvanian architecture and interior design, and a serial *Sto vzornych planku rodinnych domku* [One-Hundred Model Plans for Residences] (Prague, ca. 1900), containing plans for residential homes based on traditional and contemporary design.

Electronic Resources

In September, faculty and students at Cornell began a trial of the [Integrum Database](#), a comprehensive electronic archive of the most authoritative sources of information on Russia and the CIS countries. Integrum contains about 400 million documents in more than 5000 databases which include full-text versions of central and regional newspapers and magazines, teletypes of more than 400 information agencies, analytical and statistical bulletins, texts of laws and decrees, address and phone databases, full texts of Russian classic literary works, etc.

Cornellians can get access as follows: <http://aclient.integrum.ru/gate/?name=cornelluni>. Then choose the language of interface (English is set as default) and click Enter (No registration).

Please send any comments you have to Prof. Gavriel Shapiro (gs33@Cornell.edu) and copy rh2106@Columbia.edu. Once we get your feedback, we can decide whether Cornell should subscribe. I would especially encourage you to compare and contrast the content and interface of Integrum with the East View Universal Database product, currently subscribed to. Advantages? Disadvantages? How are they complementary? Where do they overlap?

As we go to press, I'm please to announce that "2CUL" has made its first negotiated two-campus discount, for a database of 104 digitized 15th and 16th century printed Bibles and Cyrillic religious works held by the Moscow University Library. Included are editions of the Gospels, New Testaments, Acts and Epistles, and Psalms, printed by proto-typographers such as Skarina, Fedorov, Mstislavets, and others from presses in Moscow, L'viv, Ostrih, and Vilno, as well from the Slavonic presses outside of the homelands. As soon as the product is up and running on our campuses, I'll alert you with access information.

At Columbia, students and faculty now have access to the following electronic databases:

[Digital Pravda](#), a searchable database of the complete run of *Pravda* from 1912 to 2009, is now available to Columbians at <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7731687>

As I reported in late January, Columbia has also added the following:

Russian Military Intelligence on Asia Prints a supplement to Columbia's purchase of the *archival* database of the same name. This latter resource, from the Voенно-uchenyi arkhiv, covers the period 1651-1917, and consists of 1,900 archival files of "Historical-geographical, statistical, topographical and ethnographical descriptions of countries and their individual regions; material on the domestic political and economic situation of states, their foreign policy and international relations, and the state of their armed forces and military skills," while the newly-acquired Prints supplement includes "A 96-volume collection of articles, descriptions, reports, and treatises, by Russian military and diplomatic staff, and also translations and summaries of works originally published outside Russia, issued by the general staff of the Russian army in order to support existing and potential Russian activities on the Asian continent."

See <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475388>, and <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7822874>, respectively.

Middle East and Central Asian Studies (MECAS) is a bibliographic index of research, policy and scholarly discourse on the countries and peoples of the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa. See <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7484722>

Oxford Russian-English Dictionary Online (available as an E-Book via CLIO)

And don't forget some of the other significant stand-alone databases acquired by Columbia over the past two years: Soviet Cinema (Archival documents from RGALI, 1923-35 at <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475377> and Soviet Cinema Periodicals, 1918-1942, <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7475368>), as well as the *Ezhegodnik imperatorskikh teatrov* [Yearbook of the Imperial Theaters] at <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7154765>.

We are also looking at creative ways to get more hard-to-find paper-based materials digitized by the holding institution—for example, 19th and early 20th century newspapers from Central Europe, held only by the national libraries of, e.g., Hungary, Romania, etc. Over the next couple of years, it is my hope that we can find ways to underwrite such initiatives, using existing budgets, and thereby make the material freely accessible to scholars over the internet. In other cases, we are working to obtain for Cornell microfilms of rare pre-1917 newspaper titles from library holdings in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The input of faculty and students is crucial in identifying and prioritizing such activities, and I think we have already made progress in that direction.

* * *

This has been a busy and productive year, and I am gratified by the strong support and commitment the Columbia and Cornell library administrations have given to the development and processing of these collections.

With all best wishes for a productive semester,

Rob Davis