



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources. No. 6, Spring 2013

Dear Colleagues:

A new semester, and a New Year are well underway. Herewith, a brief report on developments at Cornell and Columbia libraries since the 2CUL Librarian's last report in September at the start of the fall term.

Current Imprints

One of the core aims of the 2CUL experiment was to see if two academic libraries could build larger, more diverse collections by reducing the level of duplication. Would our common book vendors for each of the fifteen Slavic and East European languages covered by the 2CUL agreement respect this policy? The 2CUL Librarian of course receives detailed invoices for what is coming in to both libraries, but due to the lag time between receipt and processing, he previously lacked quantitative data to see how this was functioning.

Now two years into 2CUL, we are able to collect some initial data from OCLC's World Cat that suggests that we are indeed succeeding in collaboratively building collections that are far bigger and broader than we could have assembled alone.

The 2CUL Librarian looked at two sets of data for a "before" and "after" comparison. Using imprint dates, and language of publication, he looked at the number of titles held by Columbia and Cornell, and then searched to see which were held by both libraries (i.e., duplicates). He looked at two, two-year periods before and after 2CUL: 2008-2009, and 2010-2011. (He purposely did NOT look at the full 2CUL period, as many 2012 imprints acquired last year are still not in WorldCat).

Here are two examples of what was found. For Russian titles with imprints of 2008-2009, the duplication rate for Columbia and Cornell was 14%. However, for 2010-2011 imprints, this rate has dropped to 4%, and the remaining overlap reflects multi-volume reference titles (not easily shared), and faculty-driven "firm order" requests for individual titles. For Serbian imprints, the figures are 12% duplication for 2008-2009, compared with a mere 2% for titles with 2010-2011 publication dates.

What does this translate into? In the case of Serbian, Cornell and Columbia collectively spend about \$30,000 a year on book materials; for Russian, \$130,000. By reducing duplication, we effectively have an additional \$3,000 for Serbian materials, and \$13,000 for Russian. Last fiscal year, the average price of a Russian book acquired by 2CUL was \$29.39; for Serbian, \$27.75,

meaning that we were able to purchase 550+/- additional titles in these languages alone, thanks to 2CUL coordination!

Gifts

Gifts regularly add hundreds of titles to our collections every year. Since September, deepening our retrospective collections, and often bringing us scarce current imprints in many area languages. One larger gift that arrived last fall was the Stanislav Ambrozek Collection. The late Mr. Ambrozek walked out of Czechoslovakia after escaping from the Germans in World War II, and subsequently joined the Czech Free Air Force in England. He came to New York after the war, where he worked for the United Nations. The collection ranges from classic Czech works, to transcripts of talks by Beneš, to works on the art and architecture of Prague.

There are several very promising initiatives that the librarian hopes will further deepen our collections in the year ahead. The first is the so-called “Georgian-Western Literary Communications Program,” an effort initiated by Manana Khergiani (Harriman M.A. in Regional Studies ’10). As part of a broader emphasis on fostering discussion of Georgian literature in a global context, this program seeks to make Georgian scholarly and literary materials more accessible to researchers. This initiative encourages Georgian authors to donate their books to the libraries of Columbia and Cornell Universities and by extension, make them available to other leading academic libraries through the BorrowDirect network. To date, some 60 books have been donated to 2CUL by scholars working at the Tbilisi State University and the Tbilisi Academy of Sciences.

A second initiative involves a systematic review of the duplicates collection of the Ukrainian Museum & Library in Stamford, Connecticut. This collection is one of the largest of its kind in North America, and its many duplicates could fill many lacunae in our Ukrainian holdings—holdings that serve a dynamic and growing Ukrainian studies program on the Columbia campus. The 2CUL librarian plans to meet with Monsignor John Terlecky, Librarian, later this winter.

Rare Books & Manuscripts

Since the fall report, two rare books were purchased for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Columbia: Il’ia Iasinchuk’s *Druhe lykholittia* (Praha, 1940), an illustrated work of fiction of which only two other copies exist in WorldCat, and Zofia Stryjenska’s *Tance polskie* (Krakow, 1929) with beautifully colored illustrations of Polish folk dances.

Also acquired were 245 items of ephemera—flyers, brochures, stickers, posters—pertaining to 2012 Ukrainian parliamentary elections. These documents were meticulously collected and systematized by our researchers during the entire duration of the election campaign and include a great variety of printed materials and ephemera published or otherwise produced by the major Ukrainian political parties and factions.

Carolyn Yerkes of the [Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Classics](#) collection continues to expand Columbia’s holdings of Eastern European materials. Recently, Avery Classics acquired early

1930s issues of the journal *Sovetskaia arkhitektura*, and the architect Petr Pomazanov's 1930 work on the design of model school buildings.

However, the most dramatic piece acquired by Avery since last fall is a large poster with a personification of "Architecture" by the Art Nouveau artist Karel Vítězslav Masek (1865-1927), depicted here.



New E-Resources

Since the fall semester, Cornell acquired two large and unusual e-resources. After polling faculty for their preferences, and squaring that with the available budget, the following online resources were purchased:

Russian Anarchist Periodicals of the Early 20th Century. According to IDC/Brill, the publisher "This collection of writings [nineteen titles, with the originals held both the Russian National Library and the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences] reveals the eventful history of Russia during the revolutionary era, from the perspective of metropolitan and provincial newspapers and journals published by the most radical political forces... These materials shed new light on the relationship of the anarchists with the Bolsheviks and the Soviet State, and also reveal the impact of anarchist ideas on the literature and art of the period. The newspapers and journals from Kiev, Kharkov and Krasnoyarsk presented in this collection are particularly rare

documents, since most anarchist publications from the province have not survived.” Cornellians may access this at: <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=7934540&DB=local>

Popular Literature, Fiction and Songs in Imperial Russia Online. Again, according to the description provided by IDC/Brill “The collection [of 208 titles from the Russian National Library] illustrates the chief genres of Russian popular literature and includes chivalric tales, historical fiction and updated fairy tales, as well as stories of adventure, banditry, detectives, success, war and empire, women and gender. The collection also includes rags-to-riches tales of social mobility, adventures set in Siberia and the Caucasus, and the stories of the occult world of wizards and sorceresses. Taken together, these lively texts illustrate changing stereotypes of gender, ethnicity, and social class. Their authors also invoke historical memory, celebrating notable personages and eras of interest to their readers. From popular songs to fairy tales and war stories, the collection follows the evolution of the Russian language in its popular commercial print form, an evolution that the Bolsheviks interrupted, but one that has now resumed.” Access at: <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=7934546&DB=local>

Two new online products are becoming available that we may wish to acquire for one or both libraries by the end of the current fiscal year. East View now offers the *Iskusstvo Kino Digital Archive*, a complete run (1931-2012) of this monthly publication. It is also serving as the “middle man” for Yale University Press’s long awaited Stalin Digital Archive. The result of years of collaboration between the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) and Yale University Press, the SDA provides access to materials from Stalin’s personal archive and monographs. Although this latter compendium is not yet complete, it is being offered at a discounted pre-publication price.

Digitization Projects

Digitization of the remaining forty-six rare Ukrainian Displaced Person Camp serials continues apace. As reported in the last *Newsnotes*, this work is being performed by the Center for Research Libraries. This project should be up and available online via the CRL catalogue by the end of the year. You should also be aware that CRL has digitized the first ten years (1908–17) of *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*, founded in Chicago in 1908 by the Polish National Alliance. You can find information and links to these materials at <http://www.crl.edu/collections/digital>

Another large, recently-completed CRL *microfilm* project covers issues from 1910-1924 of *Ilustrowany Kuryer Codzienny*, a popular daily newspaper in Poland in the 1920s and ’30s. Reels may be borrowed through our libraries.

Just to bring your attention to another interesting site, “KGB in the Baltic States: Documents and Researches” <http://www.kgbdocuments.eu/> is an interesting assemblage of digitized archival documents with capsule characterizations pertaining to the Soviet security apparatus as it functioned in the Baltics from ca. 1940-1991. The documents were assembled from the archives by scholars in all three Baltic countries.

Grants—A Reminder!

As mentioned in the last *Newsnotes*, Columbia will host *America's Russian-Speaking Immigrants & Refugees: 20th Century Migration & Memory* from June 8-29. The three-week long NEH Summer Institute considers the substance of the terms “diaspora,” “transnational,” “accommodation,” and “memory” through the specific prism of the four distinct waves—First (1917-40), Second (1947-55), Third (1967-89), and Fourth (1989 to the present)—of Russian-speaking immigrants to America. Full details (including application information) may be found at <http://NEHSummerinst.Columbia.edu>

Current faculty members at U.S. institutions, independent scholars, and two advanced graduate students—will compete for the twenty-five available Summer Scholar spots. Over a three-week period, this select group will engage in a lively dialogue with an extraordinary array of upwards of fifty master teachers, scholars, and social services and community representatives of the last three waves of emigration (and with the children of the first).

The application **deadline is March 3** so please circulate this information—and apply, if you feel so inclined!

As a “heads up,” the Co-Directors Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis are now drafting yet another proposal to the NEH concerning Eastern European Immigration to the United States. This institute, if funded, would take place in June 2014, and would represent our sixth NEH Summer Institute.

Useful Databases

Past *Newsnotes* have noted both subscription and freely-accessible databases that come in handy for reference work, and may be useful to you as well.

The website *ViFaOst* (Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Osteuropa) <http://www.vifaost.de/> has, among other features, a very useful collection of links to free, online journals concerning Eastern Europe (as well as links to those to which you must subscribe). Here, for example, is the link to the Bosnian journal *Most*: http://www.vifaost.de/zeitschriften/ezb/ru/?jour_id=35924

A word of caution: not all of the links found on *ViFaOst* work. Some titles have clearly changed their “free access” policies since the list was prepared, and the link unceremoniously bounces you into a subscription service. Other links are simply “dead.” Nevertheless, enough *do* seem to work to make it worth a glance. (As a librarian, the site is worthwhile even as simply a listing of Eastern European journals).

The website *Zhurnal'nyi zal* includes the transcribed content (i.e., not image Pdfs) of current Russian-language journal titles, such as *Arion*, *Zvezda*, *Kontinent*, *Neva*, *Novyi zhurnal*, *Oktiabr*,

etc. etc., as well as backfiles of varying depth (their online file of *Novyi zhurnal*, for example, goes back to Volume 225/2001, while *Arion* extends back to 1/1995). The site is <http://magazines.russ.ru/>

Miscellanea

- The 2CUL librarian attended the Second Conference on Ukrainian Museums, Libraries, and Archives in Stamford, CT in September. This two-day conference brought together representatives from institutions throughout the United States for a discussion of issues impacting repositories of Ukrainian intellectual and cultural heritage. It is hoped that Columbia may be selected to serve as the venue for the 2014 conference.
- At the Association for Slavic, Eurasian & East European Studies annual meeting in New Orleans, the 2CUL librarian chaired the fall meeting of the East Coast Slavic Library Consortium. The Consortium will meet again, in New York in April, before the Library of Congress representative assumes the chairmanship in November.
- In October the current Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States Olexandr Motsyk, accompanied by former U.N. Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky met with Columbia University Librarian Jim Neal, and toured Butler Library and the rare Book & Manuscript Library where he met with Bakhmeteff Curator Tanya Chebotarev. Discussions included the possibility of getting more in the way of Ukrainian university and official governmental publications *gratis* through diplomatic channels.



Left to right, Amb. Kulchinsky, Amb. Motsyk, Rob Davis.

- Visitors to the Columbia University Libraries this past fall included a large delegation of Russian librarians sponsored by the State Public Science and Technology Library (GPNTB). Each year, GPNTB brings a large group of librarians to tour libraries throughout the United States from institutions large and small; academic, public, and school.

(Renovated) Space—The Final Frontier...

As far as the librarians of Global Studies are concerned, the most welcome news concerns the reopening of our offices in Lehman Library, here on the Columbia campus. Last painted during the first Nixon Administration, our dingy, dim, and claustrophobic quarters were “functional.” (But then, so was the shoe blacking factory in which young Dickens worked...).



During the demolition. The 2CUL Librarian’s old office space, door (Rm. 306), bookcase & files. Note the outline of the high enclosure walls on the stark white linoleum floor, as well as four decades of accumulated dust, debris & (quite possibly) detritus...

Today, thanks to the herculean efforts of our intrepid director Pamela Graham, the logistical expertise of Facilities Coordinator Aline Locascio, and the unwavering support of Associate University Librarian Damon Jaggars and University Librarian Jim Neal, Global Studies has boldly moved into the 21st century, facilities-wise.



The 2CUL Librarian’s space today... Clean, bright, efficient...oxygenated.

On February 6th, Global Studies will host an Open House to celebrate our liberation from early 1970s library chic. A formal ribbon-cutting, followed by opening remarks, will take place at 4:15pm. If any 2CUL faculty or students would like to attend, please **RSVP at global@libraries.cul.Columbia.edu**

Travel Schedule

The 2CUL Librarian plans to be in **Ithaca** in early February, and welcomes the opportunity to meet with Cornell colleagues—faculty, staff and students. An email will go out to faculty in advance of the actual travel date.

With all best wishes for the Spring 2013 term!

Rob Davis

Rhd2106@Columbia.edu or RHD65@Cornell.edu

212 854-4701

Skype address: robert-h-davis