

*Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies
Resources. No. 4, Winter/Spring 2012*

Dear Colleagues:

With the new semester well underway, I want to update you on recent developments impacting the collections of Cornell and Columbia, as well as some significant 2CUL acquisitions made since the Fall 2011 *Newsnotes*.

Collections

Although final allocation figures have yet to be determined, the new Fiscal Year library budget picture is looking good for both 2CUL partners. Preliminary figures show Cornell holding steady, and Columbia seeing an increase in endowment draws and allocated book budget funding.

Current Imprints

Although e-formats are becoming a larger proportion of university library holdings, print remains the sole format for the vast majority of current publications from East Central, Eastern Europe and Eurasia—particularly in the humanities and social sciences. 2CUL employs a regular network of around twenty approval vendors worldwide to obtain vernacular materials from Central Asia and East Europe. This network of vendors has proven adept at locating often difficult to obtain materials. In addition to the existing joint 2CUL approval plans (now well into their second full Fiscal Year), this winter **Cornell** has established two new specialized approval plans for Armenian and Georgian, and the existing plan for Russian material has been revised to direct materials on Caucasian, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea archaeology to Ithaca.

Retrospective Imprints

Two recent gifts that have bolstered **Cornell and Columbia** collections include some 200 volumes of Ukrainica from the library of the late Professor Alexander Woroniak of the Catholic University of America in Washington University, donated by his sister-in-law Joan Patchowsky; and a large collection of post-war Ukrainian imprints offered by Ms. Hanna Zyruk. Polish imprints lacking at either Cornell or Columbia have been donated by the estate of Dr. Karol Pilarczyk. In addition, Mr. Edward Kline, the former President of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation and a tireless supporter of dissident publishing, has allowed 2CUL to search the catalogue of his vast personal library to select materials lacking from our collections for possible donation.

New E-Resources

This past fall, **Cornell** approved the purchase of several online research resources of relevance to our field. (Thank you to the faculty for input regarding priorities!) These resources are:

Russian Avant-Garde Online. "This collection represents works of all Russian literary avant-garde schools. It comprises almost 800 books, periodicals and almanacs, most published between 1910 and 1940."

<http://www.brill.nl/publications/online-resources/russian-avant-garde-online>

Imperial Russia's Illustrated Press Online. "Nothing illuminates the lost world of late Imperial Russia better than the pictorial magazines of the era. The illustrated weeklies gathered in this collection open a wide window on Russian cultural, social, and political life."**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**www.brill.nl/publications/online-resources/imperial-russia-s-illustrated-press-online

And, through the good efforts of my Cornell Library colleague Ali Houssa,

Muslims in Russia Online. "This collection introduces the uniquely varied and poorly explored Russian Muslim population during one of the most dynamic periods of their history (1861-1918).

<http://www.brill.nl/brill-search/results/title%3A%22muslims%20in%20russia%22>

In December, **Columbia** added digital *Izvestiia*, covering 1917-2010, to which the Cornell campus has had access since August.

Useful Databases

In past *Newsnotes*, I have made mention of both subscription and freely-accessible databases that have come in handy for my own reference work, and may be useful to you as well.

One subscription database of interest that is available on **both campuses** is *ProQuest Digital Dissertations*.

This ProQuest product is a great way to lay your hands on dissertation research that may or may not have subsequently appeared in book form. This searchable database of digitized microfilms of dissertations provides PDFs of the text—a big improvement over requesting microfilms from UMI. To access the database, from Cornell:

<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.cornell.edu/pqdtft/index?accountid=10267>

... and from Columbia:

<http://search.proquest.com/pqdtft/advanced?accountid=10226>

In the area of free databases, I would like to draw your attention to the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library website. This isn't what we think of as a "presidential library," documenting the printed and archival legacy of a specific presidency. Rather, it is a high-tech digital library of retrospective Russian imprints pertaining to the "Russian state authority," broadly defined. The Library is very well-funded, and regularly adds to its stock of retrospective "virtual"

publications. Although some materials considered “in-copyright” are available only as a content note, many pre-1923 materials are accessible via your desktop.

To give one example, if you go to <http://www.prlib.ru/en-us/Lib/pages/newitems.aspx> You will find yourself on their “New Additions” page. If you click on the 1722 edition of the Table of Ranks, you will see that you have a digital copy in front of you, with “turn-able” pages. If you go to their general catalogue search interface, you can search for titles by keyword.

One more resource that may be of interest to some of you pertains to the Osip Mandel’shtam archives at Princeton.

If you go to: <http://libguides.princeton.edu/mandelstam> and look in the center box “Archival Sources” and click on “Mandelstam Discovery Tool at PUL,” you will be able to view digital surrogates of materials in the Princeton UL archives. My colleague at Princeton, Liladhar Pendse, reminds us that this is an EXPERIMENTAL site, so don’t be surprised if you sometimes encounter difficulty getting to the actual digital files. Any suggestions for improving the site should be sent to his attention: lpense@princeton.edu.

Digitization Projects

In the last *Newsnotes*, I mentioned that we were involved in a three-way discussion between the Hungarian National Széchényi Library and the Center for Research Libraries to digitize the newspapers *Népszava* (1887-1940) and *Pesti Hírlap* (1840-1939). This would be a pilot project, supported largely by Cornell funding, which could set a precedent for future library digital partnerships. Alas, the wheels grind slowly, but... at least they continue to grind!

Rare Books & Manuscripts

Cornell has purchased (for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library) a collection of publications from the short-lived 1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic, which lasted from March 21 to August 6 of that year. The Soviet Republic had ousted the Hungarian Democratic Republic of 1918, and was subsequently crushed by the Romanian army and succeeded by the Kingdom of Hungary. Publications issued by the Communist government were destroyed at the time of the Romanian occupation, so this archive includes a number of rare works. Contemporary issues are recorded in the weekly *Érdekes Újság*, which offers numerous photo-documents of the time, including public gatherings and images of the chief players of the Hungarian Communist Party.

Columbia has added to its holdings of rare Hungarian interwar serials, including *A Hang*, an avant-garde, anti-fascist journal published in Arad from ca. 1932-34; *Munka*, 1932-38, published in Budapest by Lajos Kassák; and *A Másik út*, Cluj-Kolozsvár, 1931-32, a rare literary periodical, among other titles. Also, Columbia purchased a number of Hungarian monographs from the pre-1918, and interwar period, including Árpád Szélpál, *Tüntetés*, Budapest, 1918. Produced in an edition of 100 (the only other WorldCat copy is at the Getty), it was an urgent call to revolution through poetry and art. This collection is part of Columbia’s [Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Classics](#) collection, and reflects Columbia’s ongoing interest in building its

holdings of the underrepresented modernist traditions of Eastern Europe. My colleague, Carolyn Yorke Yerkes, Head of Avery Classics, has supported the Columbia purchase, and has made additional purchases in the field as well.

Since my last *Newsnotes*, The Bakhmeteff Archives received Mstislav Dobuzhinskii Personal Papers from his family friend in Prague (two boxes), and approximately twenty linear feet (forty boxes) of the papers of Henryk Grynberg, a Polish writer in exile. The Bakhmeteff also received a small collection of Czeslaw Milosz photos, from Zygmunt Malinowski.

Enhanced Access to Other Collections

As promised, Cornell and Columbia faculty and students now have reciprocal onsite borrowing privileges! Huzzah!

In addition, there are efforts to make viewing the availability of materials across collections more transparent and “easy”—so that a search for an item in your home institution’s library catalogue will effortlessly direct you to a request button from a holding partner, with no intermediary steps. Stay tuned...

Beyond 2CUL

Princeton, Columbia and NYPL share a state-of-the-art offsite storage building. As space in this remarkable facility is at a premium, collection coordination is especially important, in order to avoid multiple copies of the same new imprints. Multiple copies translate into missed opportunities for expanding common holdings. To that end, the 2CUL librarian has met with colleagues at NYPL and Princeton to work out pilot coordinated approval plans for specific languages where we share a common vendor. We are very close to moving ahead with a common approval plan for Polish and Czech before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Grants

The 2CUL Librarian, along with Harriman Research Fellow Edward Kasinec, will submit another National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute proposal for funding in June 2013. Entitled “Teaching & Researching 20th century Transnational Migration, Diasporas, Accommodation and Memory: America’s Russian-Speaking Immigrants & Refugees,” this Institute would bring twenty-five college and university educators to Morningside Heights for three intensive weeks of presentations and individual research. This would be our fifth Summer Institute as Co-Directors. Wish us luck!

By the way, the videos for the 2011 NEH Summer Institute “America Engages Eurasia,” are now available: http://nehsummerinst.columbia.edu/?page_id=163

Among the videos are talks by **Cornell’s** Valerie Bunce, **Columbia’s** Tim Frye, Cathy Nepomnyashchy, and Jim Neal.

The Year Ahead

Just a reminder that Russia is the featured country of this year's BookExpo America, to be held at NYC's Javits Convention Center June 5-7, 2012. (Rumor has it that Poland may be the featured country in 2013, so good publicity for the vibrant publishing scenes in both countries!) There will be various lectures/roundtables connected with BookExpo involving prominent Russian authors, so an event worth monitoring. I'll forward details as I receive them.

Columbia will host the Spring 2012 meeting of the East Coast Slavic Consortium during BookExpo, on June 4th and 5th, allowing our colleagues from geographically distant institutions to attend and participate in related programming.

Travel Schedule

Mother Nature willing, I am planning to travel to **Ithaca** on **Monday & Tuesday, February 20 & 21**, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet informally with my Cornell colleagues—faculty, staff and students.

In Case You Missed It...

... here's a brief blurb on 2CUL that appeared in the Cornell University Chronicle: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Dec11/LIBslavic.html>

As always, I welcome your suggestions, and hope to see or speak with you soon.

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