



NEWSNET

News of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

DEBATING “BACKWARDNESS” IN RUSSIAN HISTORY

In September 2006, a posting on H-Russia led to a spirited discussion of “Russian Backwardness”—a concept common in Western interpretations of Russian history. Below, two scholars weigh in with their thoughts about the veracity of this concept, and its role in the ways that Russian history is understood and taught in the West. The archived discussion logs can be viewed at <http://www.h-net.org/~russia/>.

**Boris B. Gorshkov,
Auburn University**

Many religious currents exist in the modern world and I sometimes think that the belief in Russian backwardness is one of them. Analysis of Russian history has often preoccupied itself with the question of backwardness, as well illustrated in a recent H-Russia discussion. In September 2006, under the rubric “Foreign Travelers Accounts,” I posted a question about these accounts and cited the early nineteenth-century remarks of Madame de Staël. De Staël, it so happened, visited Russia during 1814 and expressed positive views about the country. I asked why this and other positive views find so little place in histories of Russia. All too quickly, the question of Russia’s alleged backwardness arose in the discussion and eventually, to my dismay, the title of the very rubric shifted to “Russian Backwardness,” thus underscoring the beliefs of many scholars. As one can imagine, this had not been my intention.

Why did the discussion about one issue—foreign travel accounts—devolve into something else? What are the roots of the belief in Russian backwardness? Has the idea of Russian backwardness sufficient rationale to justify its constant utilization? Has the concept of backwardness any scholarly potential for understanding Russian history?

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**Alexander M. Martin,
University of Notre Dame**

I believe for several reasons that the concept of backwardness is helpful in teaching Russian history. By backwardness, I mean a condition in which a society’s political and economic structures, military and technological capabilities, and scientific and intellectual powers fall short of the standard of potency and efficiency achieved by the society’s principal competitors. I will focus on the 17th century and on my own field of expertise, namely the 18th and 19th century, but I believe that the same ideas and concepts are relevant to the 20th century as well.

Like it or not, the concept of backwardness—and its opposite, progress—pervades our scholarly understanding of history. We see it as paradoxical that the crimes of the Nazis originated in an advanced society. Our evaluations of colonialism or Stalinism rest in part on whether we believe that they fostered backwardness. In the study of pre-modern non-Western societies, we treat evidence that they were not backward as grounds for approaching them with respect. Backwardness need not be treated as a simple, absolute, all-encompassing concept. A society can be advanced in some respects and backward in others. Backwardness can be acquired as well as overcome, features

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Lastly, does the assumption of backwardness help us in teaching Russian history? Or does it produce negative effects? This essay seeks to explore these questions.

An examination of historical scholarship suggests that the theme of backwardness for the most part has preoccupied English-language scholarship, whereas scholarship outside of the English language, for example, German, French, or Italian, has been less concerned about this issue. English-language scholarship, which German and French histories sometimes call “Anglo-American” or “Anglo-Saxon,” has stigmatized as “backward” not only Russia but most nations other than Great Britain. The concept of backwardness has referred primarily to economic growth and recognized a gradation that included “advanced status,” as well as “relative” and “complete backwardness,” with Great Britain serving as an example of advanced economic growth. In contrast to advanced England, other European countries such as France and Germany have been seen as “relatively backward” or “moderately backward,” whereas Russia, Austro-Hungary, Italy,

and the rest of Europe fell into the category of “extreme backwardness.”¹

Regarding Russia, Anglo-American scholarship uses the characterization of backwardness with extraordinarily negative connotations. Originally the concept of backwardness arose to analyze economic, technological, and institutional realms. In its applications to Russian history, it seems to concern not only the nation’s economy and institutions but its culture and people as well. For instance, during the H-Russia discussion last fall, one historian asserted that Russian backwardness is “a cultural and historical fact [that] will not go away.” This emphasis on backwardness as a cultural phenomenon, and not just one that concerns the economic and institutional realms, is precisely what distinguishes Anglo-American scholarship of Russia from that of other European countries.

The roots of this perception of Russia as backward are in modernization theory, which has had a profound impact on English-language scholarship, especially American. Among the most influential theorists of modernization were Walt Rostow and Alexander

Gerschenkron.² Both were American scholars who studied industrialization and produced seminal works that influenced generations of economic historians. Their school utilized modernization theory primarily to analyze national economies. This essay is not the place for a thorough analysis of modernization theory, on which abundant literature already exists. I refer to it in order to underscore its pervasiveness in the analysis of Russian history, except that, as regards Russia, this analysis applies not only to economic aspects but to Russian culture as well.

Although modernization theory no longer dominates English-language historiography, it remains a powerful model for framing and teaching the national experience of Russia. I will refer to this scholarship as “modernist.” The modernist meta-narrative describes Russia’s past experience as “backward,” “tradition-bound,” “folklorish,” “anti-capitalist,” and “anti-modern.” Thus in the view of modernist historians, all Russian history is a story about backwardness, anti-liberalism, and the struggle of modernizers to overcome Russia’s continuous lag behind the West.

In order to support the idea of backwardness, English-language scholars often refer to certain late Imperial Russian figures, usually members of the radical intelligentsia, who spoke and wrote about their country’s “backwardness” and the necessity to follow the “advanced West.” At this point I would like to remind scholars that the capacity of self-criticism – samobichevanie – is perhaps one of the most peculiar and well-known features of the Russian intellectual tradition, an issue that also cannot be reasonably addressed in this essay. Still, one can hardly accuse Russians of lacking the capacity for self-criticism, nor do self-critical attitudes, if not properly analyzed, necessarily constitute ultimate truths. Later in history, the Bolsheviks picked up the backwardness trope and asserted the need “to catch up and overtake” more advanced countries. In the Bolshevik version, they somehow “found themselves” in power in a backward country, “80 percent” of whose population consisted of “dark peasants.”

The idea of backwardness expressed by some late imperial intellec-

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tuals cannot serve as a justification for scholars who support this idea today. Many English-language scholars have assimilated the idea of backwardness without criticism. For example, Russian Slavophiles and later Populists are usually cast as traditional and anti-modern, whereas these groups were in fact far more complex and dynamic than our usual characterizations suggest. Slavophiles and Populists possessed diverse views on various issues and many changed their views over time. The Russian intellectual tradition had many tendencies and groups, including, along with Slavophiles and Populists, liberals, liberal conservatives, conservatives who did not associate themselves with the Slavophiles, and many others. By no means were all of them preoccupied with backwardness. The modernist narrative tends to emphasize only the opposite extremes (Slavophiles vs. Westernizers or Populists vs. Marxists) and habitually ignores the existing diversity, while prioritizing the voices of backwardness. All these groups are usually viewed as representing struggling antagonisms between tradition and modernity. Let me point out here that Russian skepticism about industrialization was hardly an exclusive phenomenon. The United States had its own "Slavophiles" (although with different nuances). The American pastoralists had contemptuous attitudes toward industrialization and urban life. In Europe many groups were highly critical of industrialization, especially during its early stages.

The idea of backwardness is especially strong among Western historians of the Soviet period, who often accept Bolshevik estimations on this and other matters without serious question. Late imperial Russian historians who work in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century archives are increasingly skeptical of the historical accuracy of the backwardness concept, although some strong supporters still exist among them and, it seems, among historians of earlier periods. In the story of the "struggle to overcome backwardness," historians of the Soviet era characterize the Bolsheviks and early Soviet leaders as modernizers of backward Russia. Should this alleged backwardness be taken for granted?

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These ideas were, above all, rhetorical means designed for concrete policies and activities. The late imperial intelligentsia yearned for radical reforms, whereas the Bolsheviks simply used the idea to justify their policies when they came to power. It is no surprise that the Bolsheviks characterized themselves as modernizers and portrayed in the darkest terms (with rampant disregard for reality) everything that happened before 1917. What else could they say, especially in view of the economic disasters caused by their early policies? The only surprise is how seriously we take their self-descriptions.

Of course, the perception of backwardness existed in late Imperial Russia, but it existed alongside many other views. This perception hardly represents a general or coherent notion of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century Russian intellectual and public life. Recent studies of the late imperial period reveal a much more complex picture. More and more, views that do not include backwardness are coming

to prevail. (Witness the well-attended panel on revising views about Russia's peasantry at the most recent AAASS Convention.) In support of this new approach, readers might like to know that during the first half of the nineteenth century, numerous journal articles devoted to the peasantry were about peasant economic activity, peasant territorial mobility, peasant awareness of various issues, and peasant entrepreneurial success. Indeed, most authors of the period seem to have been impressed by the degree of peasant involvement in the already developing free-market economy. I have not seen any serious nineteenth-century author who described peasants as a "dark mass," although for a time some disgruntled Populists developed a negative view of the peasantry. During the last imperial decades, most Russian intellectuals and business elites, as well as the general populace, were hardly preoccupied with backwardness, peasant or otherwise. They believed that Russia was developing in an appropriate manner,

perhaps with lags in some, but not all, spheres. Where they existed, lags were practical matters to be addressed with a completely neutral awareness of what other countries were doing.

Unfortunately, these views find little place in the dominant modernist historical narrative. English-language scholars usually choose to concentrate upon views that underscore problems, lags, and misguided or failed reforms, i.e., backwardness. The dominant modernist meta-narrative and its emphasis on backwardness become a harshly judgmental universal truth about Russian reality. (Recall that original modernization theory emphasized potential progress from backwardness to development and even saw "lateness" as an advantage. Alas, not for Russia!) The internalized belief in backwardness blinds historians and makes them leery of working with primary sources or unable to produce fresh interpretations of such sources. Ironically, as some posts on H-Russia suggest, the

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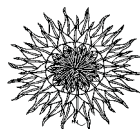


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matter is often simply reduced to the position: why study the subject if it is already known?

In my view, the idea that “we already know” disorients historians. (One colleague suggested to me that as regards Russia we “know” too much and know too little.) It encourages ignorance and discourages archival work. Although many studies that increasingly question the assumption of backwardness have appeared during the past decade, there are still too many black holes in Russian history waiting to be explored. Historical reality cannot be assumed, it must always be studied and developed. A helpful model for us might be that of current English historiography (a brilliantly studied field, everyone will admit) where just now literally everything is under re-evaluation, not by new methodologies or post-modernist approaches, but by arduous new archival work. (Recently, a scholarly British publication commented in this regard that already three volumes of the new multi-volume Oxford history of England underway have titles that end in

question marks, as old beliefs fall one by one.) While we fill gaps to fit into pre-existing dogmas, other fields move ahead. Is it not we the scholars who are backward?

One example of the inadequacy of English-language scholarship about the late imperial period (the area of my research) is the fact that no coherent study of late imperial labor protection legislation exists to this day. This encourages students and scholars to think that this legislation was insufficient or simply non-existent, a highly misleading belief. A handful of articles on some aspects of the issue, including my own “Tsarist Factory Labor Legislation in European Context,” have attempted to fill this gap, but the theme is too broad and significant to be thoroughly addressed in a few articles.³ In contrast, historians of England and France have produced hundreds of studies of labor protection laws in their countries.

The “backwardness/we already know” approach also discourages practitioners of Russian history from critical analysis of statistics. Late imperial sta-

tistics can be misleading if not properly analyzed. Statistics have to be checked against other primary evidence. Again, I would like to provide a couple of revealing examples. The imperial statistics on schools actually cover only schools under the ministry of education, creating the impression that schooling in Imperial Russia was grossly inadequate. (As in many places at that time, it may well have been inadequate, but the question is, how inadequate?) Here I would like to refer to one of Christine Worobec’s informative articles where she has cited an example of an early-twentieth century village in Central Russia where all peasants were literate.⁴ How was this possible in a country with such a small number of schools? Simply put, many schools, including factory schools, Sunday schools for factory workers and children, various private schools, and numerous other educational establishments, are all missing from the official statistics. Without the assumption of backwardness, a professional historian might at least be tempted to look beyond the statistics to other sources about educational establishments. For example, one serf memoirist from Yaroslavl’ mentioned that his serf village built an elementary school for the village’s children. This and many other schools find no place in imperial statistics on schooling. The rapid late imperial advance of literacy shown by the official statistics, which nonetheless under-represented the phenomenon, make more sense with a broader view of what was going on in the realm of education.

The imperial statistics on urbanization and the working population are also full of flaws. For well-known reasons, Russian urbanization was not especially advanced in the European context in the 18th and 19th centuries. But statistics on Russian urban populations failed to account for numerous peasant migrants (many hundreds of thousands in any year) with temporary urban residence rights who fulfilled urban functions. Moreover statistics on urban populations discount numerous proto-industrial villages, which in fact were small towns although they were not officially recognized as such. Regarding the working population, by the late nineteenth century historians

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usually cite the data produced by late imperial factory inspectors. This normally yields the result, in the view of many historians, that Russia had an underdeveloped proletariat (between two and four million). The problem here is that the factory inspectorate statistics, accurate as far as they went, included only workers of enterprises (privately-owned concerns of a certain size) examined by the inspectors. Millions of workers of small and medium-sized businesses and of the numerous enormous state enterprises (armaments, metallurgy, railroads, mining, and so forth) remained uncounted in the inspectors' reports. In what other field would such basic errors remain uncorrected?

Inadequate knowledge of empirical data also leads to notorious assumptions about the missing middle class. The imperial *soslovie* or social estate system, unfortunately, did not reflect people's real economic and social activities. By the late nineteenth century *soslovie* probably was no longer important and most people did not care about it. Still, it continued to define people's identity in official statistics, which therefore have to be approached with extreme care. Many entrepreneurs and professionals were recorded as peasants. Obviously this significantly reduced, at least in official versions, the actual extent of those who should be counted as the middle class in Imperial Russia. The problematic nature of the middle class in Russia should not, however, count as backwardness. After all, a monolithic unified middle class hardly existed elsewhere in Europe, as suggested recently by historians.⁵

Assumptions about Russia's absent middle class lead to another equally misleading assumption: the alleged absence of civil society. Modernist scholars, we should recall, traditionally associate civil society with the middle class. In this regard, scholars sometimes seem to forget that civil society is not a given historical fact but a scholarly concept, such as "class" or "power relations of gender." Any given scholar's judgments about civil society in Russia and its effectiveness would depend heavily on how that scholar defines the concept and on how willing he/she is to discover the existence of

the phenomenon in Imperial Russia in the first place.

The subtitle of this essay "old wines in new bottles" underscores the recent tendency among some practitioners of Russian history to utilize post-modernist approaches in order to reinforce conventional assumptions about backwardness. In other fields, post-modernism aims primarily at testing the modernist meta-narrative. Those who created the deconstructionist method precisely meant to indicate the cultural weight, prejudice, and inaccuracy of modernist analysis. The term backwardness carries so many loads with it by now that it disorients more than informs. Other fields have ceased utilizing it because of its inherent problems. In an H-Russia discussion a couple of years ago, I suggested that in our field post-modernist analysis is primarily deployed to support modernist approaches. Plus ça change...

My title promised to speak about teaching Russian history but the essay turned out to be an excursus in belief. Historians teach what they believe and, as regards Russia, many believe in backwardness. The H-Russia discus-

sion clearly revealed that many of us, even some who study the late imperial period, cannot proceed without Russian backwardness as the lynchpin of our understanding, as suggested by the passionate defense of the concept during the discussion. In what other field do so many scholarly commentators, until now without fear of contradiction, insist on the backwardness (i.e. inferiority) of their subject? In the January 2007 NewsNet, Ronald Suny noted that for many historians, Russia didn't even get feudalism right; the implication is that, for these historians, how could Russia possibly get capitalism or socialism or anything right. Why is the hyper-judgmental assumption about backwardness, even cultural backwardness, so pervasive among English-language historians and teachers of Russia today?

Let me point out some possible answers. In the recent H-Russia discussion, one historian remarked that Russians cannot judge themselves and therefore their history. "Patients should not treat themselves; this is the matter of doctors." (I suppose every non-Russian is Russia's doctor, a com-

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mon-enough delusion nowadays.) If Russians cannot write their own history, who can perform this task for them? A very banal question, but one that follows the logic of the statement from which it derives. The statement reflects some odd old prejudice that, after all, may have roots in Cold War passions or in late nineteenth-century chauvinism and racial theories. Does the current situation represent a residual legacy of these earlier tendencies? In a private conversation, one historian of Russia noted that students sometimes have the impression from their readings that scholars of Russian history hate Russia, whereas their counterparts who study other countries display no such tendency. One would not want to go so far as to accuse these writers of promoting hatred but as a field we should at least think about what kind of legacy we are creating.

Unfortunately, the modernist language of Russian historiography permeates most textbooks. The theme of Russian backwardness frames most European and World history texts for

undergraduate students. Most authors rely on the dominant narrative, often without considering the most recent research. Moreover, the language that world history textbook authors apply to Russia differs essentially from what they use for other nations or civilizations. This language is usually masculine and accusatory, as though the user is engaged in invisible warfare. This is perhaps not the fault of world history textbook authors. They are, after all, simply replicating the dominant language of Western historians of Russia. (An alternative, often met in journalistic and academic writing, is the condescending lecture to Russians about what they must do.)

In conclusion, I would like to urge English-language scholars of Russia to familiarize themselves with and take seriously new research, especially on the late imperial period. We should encourage discussion of major issues rather shutting down such discussions. We should be more skeptical about modernist assumptions of backwardness and, finally, be more

willing to undertake new approaches in the teaching and understanding of Russia's history. ♦

Boris B. Gorshkov is Assistant Professor of European History at Auburn University and the author of many publications on the Russian pre-1861 peasantry, child industrial labor, and imperial labor legislation.

NOTES:

1. For discussion of Anglo-American scholarship, see Richard Sylla, Gianni Toniolo, *Patterns of European Industrialization: The Nineteenth Century* (London and New York, Routledge, 1991). Richard F. Kuisel also discusses American perceptions of French backwardness. See his "American Historians in Search of France: Perceptions and Misperceptions" *French Historical Studies*, vol. 19, no 2 (Fall 1995).
2. For further discussion of this scholarship, see Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, a Book of Essays* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1962), Henry Rosovsky, *Industrialization in Two Systems: Essays in Honor of Alexander Gerschenkron by a Group of his Students* (New York: Wiley, 1966), W. W. Rostow, *The stages of economic growth; a non-communist manifesto* (Cambridge, Eng.: University Press, 1971); idem, *The process of economic growth* (New York: Norton, 1962); and idem, *Theorists of economic growth from David Hume to the present : with a perspective on the next century* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1990).
3. Boris B. Gorshkov, "Toward a Comprehensive Law: Tsarist Factory Labor Legislation in European Context, 1830-1914" in *Russia in the European Context: A Member of the Family, 1789-1914*, Susan P. McCaffray and Michael Melancon, eds (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).
4. Christine D. Worobec, "An epidemic of possession in a Moscow rural parish in 1909" in *The Human Tradition in Modern Russia*, William B. Husband, ed. (Wilmington, Del. : SR Books, 2000).
5. See, for example, Sarah Maza, *The Myth of the French Bourgeoisie: An Essay on Historical Imaginary*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003).

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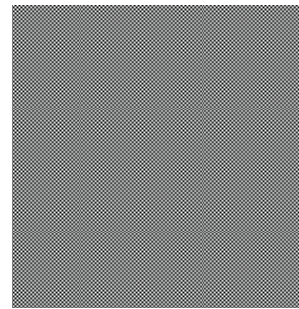
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that represent advances in some contexts can become sources of backwardness in others, and particular advances can occur simultaneously in different societies yet touch only certain sectors of those societies. However, efforts to remedy backwardness in matters that states deem especially important—e.g., military or fiscal affairs—can also have profound implications for many other areas of society.

The term “backwardness” accurately characterizes objective historical realities. It has also been a key tool that historical actors used in their subjective reflections on reality. Finally, since the concept is already familiar to undergraduates, it is a useful tool when we try to cram Russian history into 50- or 75-minute lectures.

I was recently trying to explain to the students in my Imperial Russia course the origin and course of the Petrine reforms—a challenge many of us face with some regularity. Seventeenth-century Muscovy, I argued, was at a disadvantage vis- vis Europeans who were advancing more rapidly in military, economic, and intellectual matters. As our

class explored the Russian monarchy’s response to Muscovy’s deepening backwardness, I stressed three points that I find particularly important.

First, Russia’s backwardness was relative, not absolute. Muscovite armies were well adapted to mobile warfare on the steppe; they were backward only in the—ultimately crucial—arena of wars against European infantry. Analogous observations could be made about pre-Nikonian religion or pre-Petrine administrative practices. Similarly, the mere fact of living in a largely cashless economy didn’t mean that Russian peasants lived poorly in comparison to their counterparts in Western Europe.

Second, the crucial causal nexus is the dialectic of objective realities and subjective perceptions. Overemphasize the “objective” factors—pig-iron output, agricultural yields, literacy rates—and you lose sight of the human agents whose perceptions helped mold society. Overemphasize the cultural baggage that those human agents carried, however, and you forget that they were responding to objective realities. The fact of Russia’s backwardness was

visible to all in lost battles, e.g., in the 1632-34 Smolensk War or in 1700 at the battle of Narva. Once the problem had been identified, the proposed remedies were derived from the European models that had proved more successful. This was doubly rational, because it meant the adoption of a model that had demonstrated its effectiveness and also permitted alliances with European powers. But it also led Russian thinkers and policymakers to begin seeing many features of Russian life as “backward.”

Third, the “advances” introduced by Nikon, Peter and others, in turn had brutal costs, which I try to illustrate by assigning Pushkin’s *Peter the Great’s Blackamoor*, *The Captain’s Daughter* (as well as the recent film version *Russkii bunt*), and *The Bronze Horseman*. These texts show an ambivalence about backwardness, and the price paid for overcoming it, that became part of Russia’s cultural mainstream. Pushkin fears the archaic “Russian revolt, senseless and merciless”; he admires the living Peter the Great (in *Blackamoor*) but not his ghost (*Bronze Horseman*); he disdains the cosmopolitan affectations of Korsakov

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(*Blackamoor*) and Shvabrin (*Captain's Daughter*), and dreads the machine-like inhumanity of the imperial state (*Bronze Horseman*). The word "backwardness" never comes up, but implicitly it is there—in the way conflicts are framed as pitting organization, shallow cosmopolitanism, and cold rationality against spontaneity, rootedness, and feeling, and in the tragic inevitability of the defeat of the recalcitrant elements—whether Muscovite traditionalists in *Blackamoor*, Cossack rebels in *Captain's Daughter*, or the lowly individual in *Bronze Horseman*.

The issues raised by the problem of Russia's backwardness—both as empirical fact and as cultural construct—provide an effective framework for teaching the 17th century. Aspects include the incremental changes in military organization, where new-formation regiments appeared alongside the traditional *strel'tsy* and cavalry; the Nikonian reforms, which introduced to Russia some of the ways and attitudes of early modern Western confessionism; and the way Mikhail and Aleksei Romanov pursued European-style state-building even while retaining a medieval ideology about the nature of monarchy. In all these areas, limited reforms destabilized society without resolving the problems arising from Russia's growing backwardness. The Petrine reforms then appear as a radical effort to cut this Gordian knot, as James Cracraft argues in his highly readable and teachable book.¹

Once Peter had jettisoned the pretense of loyalty to tradition, he and his successors transformed the culture and sociopolitical structures of Russian society in targeted ways to overcome the deficits that hampered Russia's competitiveness in a world of old-regime European states. The successes of this model were impressive and culminated in Russia's victory over Napoleon, which Dominic Lieven attributes in large measure to the effectiveness of Russia's typically old-regime army.² However, the post-Petrine model also had features that obstructed success in the next round of modernization, such as the reliance on unfree labor, the preservation of the increasingly anachronistic *soslovie* system, the limited extent of literacy, and

the absence of institutional restraints on the monarchy. A comparable argument is often made about 20th-century Russia, where, as Stephen Kotkin and others remind us, the Soviets built an economic system that performed well in the middle third of the century but faltered in the last third.³

Educated Russians at least since Peter's time have disagreed profoundly about whether being backward in relation to "the West" is a bad thing. In fact, the principal significance of the backwardness theme in Russian thought probably rests precisely in the questions it has opened up, not those it has foreclosed. Let me offer a few examples from my own area of research, the early 19th century.

During the era of the Napoleonic Wars, fundamental debates about Russian culture tended to revolve around a contrast between idealized versions of 17th century Muscovy and "enlightened" Europe. The nationalistic journalist Sergei Glinka advocated

abandoning the emulation of Europe and returning to Muscovite values and morals. The conservative writer Aleksandr Shishkov shared Glinka's view and was glad to see that they "displease many whose heads have been turned by the new ideas," whereas the poet Konstantin Batiushkov retorted: "Can one love ignorance? Can we love morals and customs from which centuries separate us, and, what is more, an entire century of enlightenment?"⁴ Napoleon's 1812 invasion of Russia provided further grist for the debate. Napoleon was defeated in part by a popular resistance whose ferocity educated society generally attributed to the peasantry's cultural traditionalism. Some observers, including Glinka, saw this armed resistance as proof that rustic traditionalism encouraged classical virtue among the peasants, while others (e.g., Dmitrii Runich) attributed the peasants' ferocity to their atavistic xenophobia and brutishness.

Debates about Russian urban life
continued on page 12

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revealed a similar ambivalence about backwardness and progress. In the reign of Alexander I, Nikolai Karamzin's journal *Messenger of Europe* exulted at developments—such as improvements in the water-supply system or signs of an emerging popular consumerism—that suggested that Moscow was growing more "enlightened," i.e., European. For example, he argued that Muscovite commoners had recently learned to appreciate the beauties of nature, and told his readers: "You have seen this in foreign lands, but at home we have been seeing it only recently, and it should make us happy." Karamzin also urged nobles to promote education among their peasants in order to make them more like those German, Swiss, and English rustics who were "hard-working but enlightened farmers, living with elegance and good taste, peaceful and contented—the more enlightened they are, the more contented they become."⁵

Under Nicholas I, by contrast, writers loyal to the regime praised the backwardness that distinguished Moscow from Paris or London, including Muscovites' religious traditionalism and socioeconomic ties to the village: as the Journal of the Ministry of the Interior reported in 1832, Moscow had escaped the upheavals that rocked West European cities because "we do not have as yet the kind of destitution that deprives unfortunates of all hope for their lives. Desire remains undeveloped and religious belief undiminished."⁶ By the 1860s-70s, the wheel turned again, and Moscow's retrograde features were once more the focus of attention—as one contemporary of the Great Reforms wrote dismissively, Nicholas I's Moscow had been "an immobile backwater, the capital of the kingdom of drowsiness."⁷

The same tension over the question of backwardness pervaded many other areas of Russian intellectual life in the 19th century. Cathy Frierson has shown how educated Russians after 1855 grappled with the question of whether to celebrate or deplore peasant traditionalism.⁸ The relationship between the capitals and the provinces, between "European" Russians and "Asian" minorities, and between the intelligentsia and the narod, exhibits

a similar pattern, and while I won't elaborate on it here, the same issues have remained central to Russian life in the 20th century and beyond.

The 19th century debate over backwardness has a direct relevance to the materials we use in our courses. In this age of PowerPoint, paintings on historical themes constitute marvelous material for teaching, but we can't make sense of them without addressing the tension surrounding the "backwardness" question, e.g., when we compare Sergei V. Ivanov's satirical paintings of pre-Petrine Russian government—such as "The Arrival of the Governor" (Priезд voevody) or "In a Muscovite Government Department" (V prikaze moskovskikh vremen)—with the far more reverential treatment of 17th century life in the paintings of Andrei Riabushkin. Literature raises the same issues: archaic behaviors and personality types are prominently featured, yet judged in opposite ways, in such commonly assigned primary sources as Sergei Aksakov's Family Chronicle and Maxim Gorky's My Childhood. Post-Soviet Russian movies that dramatize the imperial era open up similar issues, e.g., Nikita Mikhalkov's *The Barber of Siberia*, in which American entrepreneurs seek to force a soulless modernity—symbolized by a grotesque machine that they devise for destroying Siberia's pristine forests—on recalcitrant Russians who remain loyal to old-fashioned values of love and truthfulness.

Westerners too, like the Russians themselves, have been deeply divided about the implications of Russia's backwardness. Leibniz and Voltaire considered Russia a quasi-virgin nation capable of bold advances toward enlightenment; by contrast, Napoleon is said to have quipped, "Scratch a Russian and find a Tatar." Westerners routinely criticized Russian Orthodoxy as ignorant and superstitious, yet the pietists of the Napoleonic era also saw Russia as a source of religious renewal for all Christendom. Similar debates continued throughout the 19th century—witness the differences between the Marquis de Custine and Baron von Haxthausen—and of course Soviet communism inspired comparable debates in the 20th century.

These tensions within Western

thought can be fertile material for class discussions. For instance, my class recently read lengthy excerpts from William Richardson's *Anecdotes of the Russian Empire* (London 1784), which is available electronically through Eighteenth-Century Collections Online. Richardson takes the view that the Russians are a nation of primitive morals and youthful vitality, yet demoralized by despotism; among his evidence that Russia's future looks bright, however, are lengthy quotations from Catherine II's Instruction to the 1767 Legislative Commission. I found Richardson's reflections on Russia's backwardness an excellent tool for sparking class discussion on a whole range of topics, including Enlightenment ideology, Catherinian propaganda, and of course Russian social realities. In conjunction with Karamzin's *Memoir on Ancient and Modern Russia*, which presents a far more critical view of Russia's 18th century transformation, Richardson's analysis can also form the basis for student papers that address the theme of backwardness.

In my experience, American undergraduates—familiar with gauzy images of the American frontier, grim accounts of the Industrial Revolution, and dystopian visions of a high-tech future à la *The Matrix*—have little difficulty grasping the ambiguous relationship between the rhetoric of progress and the reality of human happiness. A more daunting obstacle is the common assumption that being "advanced" is intrinsic to the timeless essence of the West (which students often equate with "the rest of the world"). In reality, of course, "we"—not "they," the Russians—are the historical exception, for of all the nations whose cultural roots lie in Europe, only some of the Northwest Europeans and a few of their colonies became "advanced" in the 17th-19th century, thereby helping to render everyone else backward.

We should treat this aspect of teaching about backwardness as a challenge. Fortunately, a rich literature has emerged that studies Russia in comparative context—one thinks of Marc Raeff's work on the "well-ordered police state" in 17th-18th century Russia and Germany,⁹ Peter Kolchin's

on Russian serfdom and American slavery,¹⁰ Dale Peterson's on Russian and African American literature,¹¹ or Theodore Von Laue's on the pressures underlying late imperial and Stalinist modernization,¹² among others. The problem of Russian backwardness thus opens up many broader issues in the history of the European world, from the German Sonderweg debate to New World slavery. Moreover, many of today's undergraduates are at least somewhat aware of Middle Eastern affairs. Although the comparisons are complicated and we need to acknowledge their limitations, we can help students understand both Russia's history and the dynamics of the present time if we draw parallels between, say, Shiite fundamentalism and the Old Believer movement, or between Atatürk (or the Shah of Iran, or Saddam Hussein) and Peter the Great, or between the House of Saud and the 17th-century Romanovs.

In sum, then, there are several reasons why I believe "backwardness" to be a valuable tool in teaching Russian history. It is deeply embedded in the conceptual framework of historical scholarship generally, so there is no

continued on page 14

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reason to ignore it selectively when we teach about Russia. The concept of backwardness—and its implications and limitations—is also sufficiently well known that we can convey it to undergraduates without consuming inordinate amounts of scarce classroom time. The concept opens up key issues in many different areas of Russian history, and forms an analytical framework that is both capacious and flexible and that permits discussion of the dialectic between objective realities and how these realities are understood and imagined by historical actors. It also opens wider horizons by linking Russia's experience with that of many other societies past and present. Lastly, present-day Russia—its politics, culture, and social realities—would be difficult to understand without addressing both the reality and the perception of backwardness. ♦

Alexander M. Martin is Associate Professor of European History at the University of Notre Dame.

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AAASS attendees may book using this link: <http://cwp.marriott.com/msyla/2007aaassconvention>, which is also posted on our website. The link will automatically plug in the group rate of \$169 per night single or double. Information about making discounted reservations at the New Orleans Marriott by telephone will be posted on the AAASS website.

Registration Deadlines and Fees

Please that the registration fees for the 39th Annual Convention are as follows:

If you register by August 17, the fees are as follows: AAASS Member—\$100; Non-Member—\$150; Student or Income under 20K—\$25; Non-Member Student or Income under 20K—\$35.

If you register after August 17 but before October 12, the fees are as follows: AAASS

Member—\$120; Non-Member—\$170; Student or Income under 20K—\$30; Non-Member Student or Income under 20K—\$40.

If you do not pre-register by October 12, 2007, you must register on site. On Site Registration fees will be: AAASS Member—\$150; Non-Member—\$200; Student or Income under 20K—\$40; Student or Income under 20K—\$50.

Please avoid long lines and extra expense by pre-registering. We accept personal checks, MasterCard, and Visa. Please be sure to write clearly—your name badge will be generated using the information you provide on your registration form.

Audio Visual Equipment Requests

All requests for audio visual equipment must be received by August 1, 2007. Please note that we will not provide PowerPoint equipment—it is too expensive to rent. We only provide up to \$100 worth of equipment (normally the cost of a slide/overhead projector and screen) and we will bill the panel organizer for any equipment requests over that amount. If you miss the deadline, you will have to contact the audio-visual company at the hotel to arrange for your equipment and pay for it. ♦

Call for Nominations for the Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize

The Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen prize is awarded annually (if there is a distinguished submission) for an outstanding doctoral dissertation defended at an American or Canadian university in the tradition of historical political science and political history of the Soviet Union as practiced by Robert C. Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen. The prize carries a \$5000 award intended to help the author turn the dissertation into a publishable manuscript. The next prize will be awarded at the AAASS convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2007, for a dissertation defended in 2006.

Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Prize Committee members are: Alex Rabinowitch, Chair, Indiana U; William Taubman, Amherst College; Elizabeth Wood, MIT.

A nomination will consist of a detailed letter from the dissertation's main faculty supervisor explaining the ways in which the work is outstanding in both its empirical and interpretive contributions, along with an abstract of 700-1000 words, written by the candidate, specifying the sources and general findings of the research. A faculty supervisor may nominate no more than one dissertation a year.

The deadline for nomination letters is April 15, 2007.

More information is available on the AAASS website at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/prizes/tuckercohenprize.html>.

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2007 AAASS COMMITTEES

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Michael Brewer, 2005–2007, U of Arizona
Jared Ingersoll, 2006–2008, Columbia U
Karen Rondestvedt, 2005–2007, Stanford U
Nadia Zilper, 2006–2008, U of North Carolina
Faculty Liaison: David Birnbaum, 2005–2007, U of Pittsburgh

BDC Subcommittee on ABSEES

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Angela Cannon, 2006–2008, Library of Congress
Brenda Carter, 2005–2007, U of Pittsburgh
Stephen Corrsin, 2005–2007, New York Public Library
Jon Giullian, 2006–2008, U of Kansas
Patricia Thurston, 2004–2006, Yale U
Kristen Hill, ex officio, ABSEES Editor, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Faculty Liaison, 2006–2008, to be announced

BDC Subcommittee on Collection Development

Michael Brewer, Acting Chair, 2004–2006, U of Arizona
Michael Biggins, 2005–2007, U of Washington
Geoff Husic, 2005–2007, U of Kansas
Jared Ingersoll, 2004–2006, Columbia U

BDC Subcommittee: Slavic and East European Microfilm Project

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Daniel Pennell, Secretary, 2005–2007, U of Pittsburgh
Geoff Husic, Member-at-Large, 2005–2006, U of Kansas
Diana Greene, Member-at-Large, 2005–2007, New York U
Ex-officio Members:
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Angela Cannon, Library of Congress representative
Tatjana Lorkovic, Immediate Past Chair, Yale U
Daniel Pennell, SEES-ACRL/ALA Chair, U of Pittsburgh
Miranda Remnek, AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee representative

BDC Subcommittee on Slavic Digital Projects

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Michael Brewer, 2005–2007, U of Arizona
Kevin Hawkins, 2005–2007, U of Michigan

Eileen Llona, 2005–2006, U of Washington
Bradley Schaffner, 2005–2006, Harvard U

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Karen Rondestvedt, 2005–2006, Stanford U
Cathy Zeljak, 2005–2006, George Washington U

NOTE: AAASS has no input into the B&D committee and its subcommittees, which is actually a consortium administered by CRL.

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Sally Boniece, Chair, 2007–2009, Frostburg State University
Elise Giuliano, 2007–2009, University of Miami
T. Clayton Black, 2005–2007, Washington College
T. Mills Kelly, 2006–2008, George Mason U
Alexandra Hrycak, 2007–2009, Reed College

AAASS/AATSEEL Committee on Language

This joint committee was appointed in 2003 in cooperation with Benjamin Rifkin, 2004 president of AATSEEL, to increase dialogue between area studies specialists and language specialists about the place of language study in the academic preparation of future area studies specialists
Karen Evans-Romaine, Chair, Ohio U
David Birnbaum, U of Pittsburgh
William J. Comer, U of Kansas
Benjamin Rifkin, U of Wisconsin, Madison

Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

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Zsuzsa Gille, 2006–2008, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Diana Greene, 2006–2008, New York U
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Douglas Northrop, 2006–2008, U of Michigan

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David Holloway, 2007–2009, Stanford U
Larry Wolff, 2006–2008, Boston College

Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee

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Bruce Grant, 2006–2008, New York U

Caryl Emerson, 2007–2009, Princeton University
One additional member to be named

Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee

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Yoshiko Herrera, 2007–2009, Harvard U
Jack F. Matlock, 2005–2007, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

Ed A. Hewett Book Prize Committee

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Gérard Roland, 2007–2009, U of California, Berkeley
Elizabeth Dunn, 2006–2007, U of Colorado, Boulder

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize Committee

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Jeremy King, 2006–2008, Mt. Holyoke College
Timothy Snyder, 2007–2009, Yale University

AAASS/Orbis Books Prize for Polish Studies Committee

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Larry Wolff, 2007, New York U
Keely Stauter-Halsted, 2007, Michigan State University

Committee on the Student Prize

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Sean Cotter, 2006–2008, University of Texas, Austin
Sascha Goluboff, 2007–2009, Washington and Lee University
Anne Nesbet, 2006–2008, UC, Berkeley

Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Prize

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William Taubman, 2007–2009, Amherst U
Elizabeth Wood, 2006–2008, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Slavic Review Committee

Ronald Grigor Suny, Chair, 2007, University of Michigan
Katherine Verdery, 2007–2009, CUNY Graduate Center
Judith Kornblatt, 2005–2007, U of Wisconsin, Madison

2007 Nominating Committee

Ronald Grigor Suny, Chair, 2007, University of Michigan
Lewis Siegelbaum, 2007, Michigan State University
Juliet Johnson, 2007, McGill University
Kevin Platt, 2007, U of Pennsylvania ♦

Call for Nominations for 2007 AAASS Book Prizes

AAASS invites nominations for the 2007 Book Prizes. To be eligible, books must have been originally published in English in 2006 in the form of a monograph, preferably by a single author, or by no more than two authors. The Hewett Prize, however, may be awarded for chapters of books or substantial articles. Textbooks, translations, bibliographies, and reference works are ineligible. The AAASS Book Prizes carry a cash award and will be presented at the Awards Ceremony during the 39th National Convention in New Orleans, LA, on Saturday, November 17, 2007.

If you wish to nominate a book, please ask the publisher to submit copies for consideration to the prize committee, or contact the AAASS National Office at newsnet@fas.harvard.edu. For precise rules of eligibility for each prize and the mailing addresses for committee members, visit our Web site: www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/prizes.html.

Deadline for nominations is May 4, 2007.

Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize – awarded annually for the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences. Policy analyses, however scholarly, are not considered. Committee: Terry Martin, Chair, Harvard U; Bruce Grant, New York U; Caryl Emerson, Princeton U

Marshall Shulman Book Prize – awarded annually for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations, foreign policy, or foreign-policy decision-making of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe. The book must have been published in the United States; authors must be American scholars or residents of the U.S. Committee: Matt Evangelista, Chair, Cornell U; Yoshiko Herrera, Harvard U; Jack F. Matlock, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton U

Ed A. Hewett Book Prize – awarded annually for an outstanding publication on the political economy of the centrally planned economies of the former Soviet Union and East Central Europe and their transitional successors. Only works originally published in English in the form of monographs, chapters in books, and substantial articles are eligible. Committee: Peter Murrell, Chair, U of Maryland; Gérard Roland, UC Berkeley; Elizabeth Dunn, U of Colorado

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize – awarded annually for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history. The book must have been published in the United States; authors must be citizens or permanent residents of North America. Committee: Maria Todorova, Chair, U of Illinois; Jeremy King, Mt. Holyoke College; Timothy Snyder, Yale U

AAASS/Orbis Books Prize for Polish Studies – awarded annually for the best book in any discipline, on any aspect of Polish affairs. Only works originally published in English, outside of Poland, are eligible; the book must be a monograph, preferably by a single author, or by no more than two authors. Committee: Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Chair, Washington and Lee U.; Larry Wolff, New York U, Keely Stauter-Halsted, Michigan State U

REPORT FROM THE BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

The Bibliography and Documentation Committee (B&D) of AAASS serves as the most prominent gathering of Slavic and East European librarians in North America. It consists of a six-member parent committee, and five subcommittees. Four subcommittees focus on the following: ABSEES (the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies Online), Collection Development, Copyright Issues, and Digital Projects. In addition, B&D provides a venue for members of the Slavic & East European Microfilm Project (SEEMP), hosted at the Center for Research Libraries. All six groups meet at the AAASS national convention to review progress and discuss salient issues, and all have been involved in a number of activities over the past two years.

THE B&D COMMITTEE

During 2005 the main focus of the B&D Committee itself was on (1) publicity, (2) international activities, and (3) educational events. We began in March 2005 by fulfilling a long-recognized need to publicize information about the committee by establishing a B&D website (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/BnD/index.htm>), currently hosted at the University of Illinois. It lists resources such as the program of the Pre-conference Digital Resources Workshop sponsored biennially by B&D, AAASS library panels, and other materials. It also lists memberships and websites for B&D subcommittees, including the new subcommittees on Copyright Issues and Digital Projects that were converted from working groups in May 2005 with the approval of the AAASS Executive Board.

In the summer of 2005 the B&D Committee played a conspicuous international role, first by composing a detailed letter of support for Slavic libraries at Oxford University that helped to mitigate a proposed consolidation. Second, the chair of B&D was able to raise sufficient U.S. funding to host an international reception for librarians at the 7th World Congress on Slavic Studies in Berlin. The reception at the German


National Library took the place of the Librarians' Pre-conference normally scheduled prior to each World Congress, and allowed 50 librarians and vendors to exchange news and information.

Finally, at the November 2005 convention in Salt Lake City, the parent B&D Committee coordinated its annual vendor session, open to scholars as well as librarians, and hosted its biennial Pre-conference Workshop on Digital Resources. Organization of the six-session workshop was complicated by the conference venue, which had no specialized library staff on site. Eventually the event was held in good facilities with up-to-date equipment; there were 20 registrations, and the workshop was well-received. The workshops are intended to serve faculty from small institutions with little access to specialized help, yet half the attendees in 2005 were librarians. This experience led us to conclude that we should strive for new ways to attract faculty, perhaps by offering "generic" sessions like "Digital Resources for History," and should not hold workshops in venues that do not present sufficient local help. For this reason the 2007 workshop may be postponed until 2008 in Philadelphia.

During 2006 the parent B&D Committee continued to maintain its website and plan the annual vendor session held at the convention. We also turned to other issues: (1) improved B&D—and subcommittee—efficiency; and (2) more active engagement of the parent committee with current professional needs (since most of our work is currently conducted by the subcommittees, to be described below). To promote B&D efficiency we decided to halve the length of our main public session at each convention, and devote the remainder to a working session of the parent committee. We tested this structure in November 2006, and agreed that we can grapple more productively with pressing issues. We also proposed that the chair of B&D join the AAASS Board as an ex-officio member—to permit two-way communication of library issues important to AAASS members.

On the issue of engagement with professional needs, we considered whether the parent committee should become more involved with actual projects. We concluded that besides helping with the active solicitation of new members (an increasing challenge in the face of cutbacks in Slavic library positions, and one reason why we hope for a more solid relationship with the Association through the Board), the parent committee should focus on assisting subcommittees with the identification and referral of salient issues. In 2006 we articulated the following: (1) developing guidelines for handling the disposition of faculty collections and (2) establishing a clearing-house for serials price inflation data. We also actively helped with (3) establishing an international educational wiki named Digital Slavist to promote greater digital expertise in the field, and (4) fostering efforts to establish a national digital repository for Slavic materials.

continued on page 22



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B&D SUBCOMMITTEES

In terms of subcommittee achievements over the past two years, the following are of note. The ABSEES subcommittee continues to provide the managing editor at UIUC with valued feedback from librarians regarding future directions for ABSEES. Now that the vending of the database has been transferred to a commercial vendor, enhancements are available; but with changing boundaries in Slavic Studies, advice from the field is much needed in terms of core journals to be reviewed and geographic areas to be emphasized. The Collection Development subcommittee has recently provided online access to a wonderful database of Slavic vendors (<http://www.library.arizona.edu/slavvend/index.jsp>) that provides immediate information for librarians and scholars seeking to acquire Slavic materials. The committee is also framing an online survey of collection management librarians that will elicit details on selection areas, collecting responsibilities, deselection, consortial agreements, management policies, assessment.

The much-needed new subcommittees on Copyright Issues and Digi-

tal Projects both focus on emerging demands in the scholarly arena, and offer energetic support to AAASS members as they build skills in these areas. The Copyright Issues subcommittee is involved in several projects directed toward education and current awareness on copyright issues for Slavic & East European materials. It has recently established its own website (<http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/brewerm/copyright/>) which gathers extensive non-legal information on Slavic and international copyright questions. The group also promotes ongoing study of copyright developments, and serves as a resource for copyright information. The Copyright Assistance section of the website is an especially valued feature that actively responds to questions from the field. The group has fielded 150 queries since its formation, and is so successful that the numbers are growing rapidly. The Digital Projects subcommittee (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/BnD/DigPro.htm>) has also been pursuing needed activities. These include development of an international Inventory of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Digital Projects ([\[library.uiuc.edu/spx/inventory/index.htm\]\(http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/inventory/index.htm\)\) describing over 110 projects and 370 collections; it is now an OAI data provider so that its records are discoverable through aggregated search services like Oaister \(<http://oaister.umdl.umich.edu/o/oaister/>\). The subcommittee has also created Digital Slavist \(<http://digitalslavist.xwiki.com/xwiki/bin/view/Main/>\), an international educational wiki designed to give Slavic librarians, scholars, and digital managers the chance to share and build their skills in humanities and social sciences computing. Lastly, the two co-chairs are participating in a four-institution collaboration that is pursuing grants to create a prototype national Slavic digital repository.](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

This roster of subcommittee achievement is extensive, and underscores our belief that these groups play a significant role! The profession would be the poorer if it were not for these multifaceted activities at the national level in support of Slavic scholarship. ♦

Miranda Remnek
Chair, Bibliography & Documentation Committee

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

At the November 2006 AAASS Convention, the AAASS Committee on the Status of Women convened with a new membership roster: Margaret Beissinger (Princeton University, incoming Association of Women in Slavic Studies President); Heidi Bludau (Indiana University), representative; Zsuzsa Gille (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana), Diana Greene (NYU), Natasha Kolchevska (University of New Mexico, outgoing President of AWSS), Douglas Northrup (University of Michigan), and Stephanie Sandler (Harvard University, committee chair).

The Committee reaffirmed and clarified its sense of purpose. Members discussed the different missions of AWSS and our Committee and, while recognizing the considerable strength and significance of AWSS as an organization, the Committee agreed that AWSS was not able to do all the work needed to support the work of women within the profession. We agreed that our mission was less to advance the study of women and gender within Slavic Studies, which is a key element of AWSS's mandate, and more to assess the status of women within our profession and to provide support for their equal professional advancement.

To that end, we agreed on three issues we intend to pursue in the coming year. First, we will ask AAASS to update the

survey on the status of women in the profession spearheaded by Christine Worobec nearly ten years ago. We hope that questions about women, work, and family might be part of a larger survey of the membership. We very much hope that the survey design might include an open-ended question that could reveal additional issues the Committee should address in the future. However it is formulated, the survey ideally would become a regular event, done approximately every ten years, so that a snapshot of the organization would always be relatively current and so that comparative data could be developed.

Second, we plan to raise again with AAASS leadership a key issue brought up by the 1990s survey and frequently since then, the provision of childcare at the annual meeting. Third, we will work to make known more widely our existence as a functioning AAASS committee through several avenues; this Newsnet report on our work is part of that effort. We use the occasion to ask members to alert us to issues that the Committee on the Status of Women should address. Please send your ideas and suggestions to the committee chair, Stephanie Sandler, ssandler@fas.harvard.edu, or to any committee member whom you may know. ♦

THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION EXPLAINS ITSELF

The AAASS webpage devoted to the Association's committees describes the purview of the Committee on Education with this sentence: "[The] Committee on Education solicits and edits contributions for the column 'Teaching Slavic Studies' in the AAASS *NewsNet*."¹ The committee has also organized one or two sessions at the AAASS conference over the years, and from time to time it solicits an essay that emerges as a "feature" column in the *NewsNet*.² Its main bailiwick, though, is the "Teaching Slavic Studies" column. As the current and former chairs of the Committee on Education, we'd like to take a few column inches of *NewsNet*'s space to explain how the committee goes about its business.

At each annual AAASS conference, the committee's chair and its four members sit down with the ever-helpful Jolanta Davis (*NewsNet* editor and AAASS publications coordinator) to discuss potential "Teaching Slavic Studies" topics and to match these topics with potential authors. The committee's goal is to present new ideas about teaching, teaching techniques, and teaching resources in a way that represents the varied interests and disciplines of AAASS members. As a result, more than half of the thirty-four "Teaching Slavic Studies" columns published so far have focused on inter-disciplinary or "trans-disciplinary" issues.

More specifically, four of the recently published essays discussed integrating web-based materials and computer technologies into teaching; six dealt with teaching or study abroad programs and experiences; five examined specific efforts at program-building and/or educational outreach; and four explained new pedagogical methods that cut across disciplinary lines. Of those "Teaching Slavic Studies" essays on discipline-specific topics, the greatest number have concerned the teaching of History (five essays), Languages and Literature (four essays), and Anthropology (three essays), although the column has also included essays on teaching Political Science (two essays)

and Economics (one essay). Expanding the range of disciplines represented by the column has been one of the Committee's recent concerns, as has the inclusion of essays that reflect the experience of colleagues teaching at four-year institutions.

The Education Committee is currently in the process of soliciting articles to be published in 2007-08. Having secured commitments from writers on the topics of "teaching (or not teaching) Russian backwardness," "the art of lecturing," and "keeping Slavic studies alive at a small college," we are seeking contributions on the topics of "teaching Russian politics as a moving target," "teaching Russian studies courses from the perspective of a non-Russian specialist," and "incorporating Russia and Eastern Europe into general geography courses." We also welcome eagerly any suggestions from our readers! To submit essays or essay proposals for the Committee's consideration, please contact the chair by e-mail: sboniece@frostburg.edu. ♦

Sally A. Boniece and Michael C. Hickey
Current and former Chairs

NOTES:

1. <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/about/committees.html>
2. Modesty, however, demands that the committee note that *NewsNet* runs many very interesting essays on teaching and curricular matters produced independently of its efforts! See, for instance, *NewsNet* 39, no. 4 (September 1999) [picked at random to illustrate our point], which in addition to the "Teaching Slavic Studies" column included two feature essays "Reforming the Area Studies Curriculum: Three Views," by Mark D. Steinberg, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Harley Balzer, Georgetown University; Timothy J. Colton, Harvard University, and "The Fall of the USSR and Pre-College Russian Enrollment," by John Schillinger, American University.

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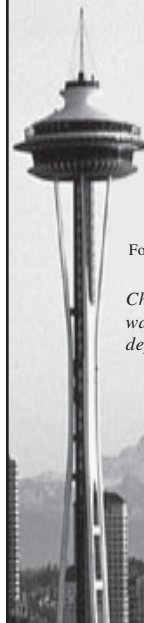
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SCHOLARS' NETWORK

This column offers scholars and institutions conducting a large-scale research or survey an opportunity to announce their project to others and to request input and information.

New Religious Movements in the Russian North: Competing Uses of Religiosity After Socialism (NEWREL)

This 3-year social science and humanities research project comparatively investigates the religious landscape across the Russian North today in various cultural and historical contexts. NEWREL brings together 25 researchers led by nine principal investigators from six countries in disciplines ranging from folklore and literature to cultural anthropology and linguistics.

NEWREL is one of seven collaborative research projects selected for inclusion in the European Science Foundation's Programme BOREAS—"Histories from the North: Environments, Movements, Narratives." Research funding comes from the Estonian Science Foundation, the Academy of Finland, The Swiss National Foundation, and the National Science Foundation of the U.S.

Rather than focusing on such visible phenomena as the resurgence of the Russian Orthodox Church and the revival of shamanism, NEWREL researchers shift attention to "in-between" religious phenomena located at the interstices of institutionalized religion.

These include evangelical protestant groups, new age spiritualities, "ekstra-sens" practitioners, and any other phenomena that our interlocutors may be engaged in. We do not presume that shamanism is always practiced by indigenous peoples while Orthodoxy is always practiced by Russians; rather we interrogate what causes a sense of belonging in any religious practice. We are extremely sensitive to the mixed nature of communities in the Russian North, and to the fact that religious practices are similarly mixed.

NEWREL participants are interested in networking with other scholars working on similar issues; we would like to engage in joint conference panels as well as to explore collaboration in research and publication. For more information, please contact Project Leader Patty Gray, ffpag@uaf.edu. You may also visit the newly-launched NEWREL website at www.newrel.org. ♦

PERSONAGES

James T. Andrews, Associate Professor of Modern Russian History at Iowa State University, is the 2007 recipient of the first Cassling Award for Career Achievement in Teaching in the Humanities. This is the third career teaching award in three years for professor Andrews, including the highest distinction in the LAS College (2005) and University (2006).

Ethan S. Burger, Esq., Scholar-in-Residence at the School of International Service at American University and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center, presented a lecture titled "The Divergence Between Declaratory and Action Policy: U.S. Non-Recognition—The Case of Belarus" in Warsaw and at the AAASS Conference. He also presented a lecture at the Davis Center at Harvard University on the state of the Russian Arbitrazh Courts.

Thomas Butler, with the help of the Serbian composer Nikola Radan, prepared the text for the "Canon to St. Demetrius of Salonika" composed by St. Methodius in the ninth century (ca. 882). On December 22, 2006, in the great hall of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the men's choir "Bulgaria," directed by Valentin Bobevsky, performed the "Canon" in its original Old Bulgarian for the first time in nearly a thousand years. The day after the concert, Butler was interviewed on Radio Christo Botev.

Robert Channon of Purdue University, Vice President of American Council of Teachers of Russian, was honored as this year's recipient of the ACTR Service Award. Presenting the award at the annual Membership Meeting of ACTR on December 29, 2006, Richard Brecht cited Bob's love of the Russian language and culture, devotion to teaching, and outstanding service to the profession in the classroom and beyond.

Terry D. Clark, professor of political science and director of the graduate program in international relations at Creighton University, was the recipient of the 2007 Dean's Award for Scholarship in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences.

Kirill Fesenko has been appointed to be the first head of the Carolina Digital Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill Library. In this newly created position, Fesenko will provide leadership for the library's expanding programs to create, preserve, and manage research materials in digital form. His appointment is effective February 19, 2007.

Victor A. Friedman has been nominated for an honorary doctorate at the University of Skopje. The nomination was initiated by the Department of Macedonian and South Slavic Languages with the support of the Department of Albanian Language and Literature and has been approved by all the necessary commissions. It is the first time the two Departments have cooperated on such a nomination.

Brian Horowitz, Director of Jewish Studies and Associate Professor of German and Slavic at Tulane University has won two grants for his program. The Posen Foundation for the Study of Secular Jewry will be giving Tulane's program \$50,000 and the program has won a Schusterman Visiting Israeli Studies Grant for \$60,000. Prof. Horowitz will use both grants to hire additional faculty to teach courses in Israeli, Russian and East-European Jewish politics and culture.

Jeffrey D. Kahn has returned to academia after a brief period of employment at the U.S. Department of Justice. He has accepted a permanent position at the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law as Assistant Professor of Law.

Antony Polonsky of Brandeis University was awarded the Statuette of Felek Scharf in 2006. The statuette, established by the Judaica Foundation in Kraków in 2004, is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in preserving and making known the history of Polish Jewry. The ceremony of awarding the statuette to Professor Polonsky took place in the Centre for Jewish Culture in Kazimierz during a New Year's Eve concert on December 31, 2006.

Donald J. Raleigh, professor of history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, received the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies Senior Scholar Award on March 23, 2007, at the conference's meeting in Montgomery, Alabama.

Charlotte Rosenthal has been promoted to the rank of full professor at the University of Southern Maine, effective September 2007.

Marian J. Rubchak recently retired from the classroom to become Senior Research Professor—the first woman at Valparaiso University to receive this honor. She is editing a collection of articles on women in contemporary Ukraine and is seeking additional submissions. She is also re-searching a comparative study of women creating themselves as women in Ukraine and Western Europe.

As of this year, **Heidi M. Sherman** has accepted a tenure-track position in Medieval History at the U of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Douglas Smith has been named an affiliate scholar at the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies.

Daniel Stone retired on January 1, 2007 after thirty-seven years at the University of Winnipeg (Canada) where he taught Russian, East European, and Holocaust history. Recent publications before retirement were: "Coverage of the Holocaust in Winnipeg's Jewish and Polish Language Press, 1939-1945," *Polin XIX* (November 2006), pp. 183-203 and "Tadeusz Korzon: Patriotism in History," in Peter Brock, John D. Iey, and Piotr J. Wrobel eds., *Nation and History: Polish Historians from the Enlightenment to the Second World War* (University of Toronto Press, 2006), pp. 123-40. In addition, a 1993 article on the Polish constitution of 1791 was republished in a British sourcebook.

Anne Swartz received a 2007-2008 Short-Term Grant from the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, for her book-length study, "Piano Makers in Russia in the Nineteenth Century."

Inna F. Ishchenko Tigountsova accepted a Senior Lecturer post (Russian, Russian literature, and culture) at the University of Denver, CO. ♦

LIBRARY AND THE INTERNET NEWS

The editor of the "Library and the Internet News" is Allan Urbanic, the Librarian for Slavic & East European Collections at UC Berkeley. He is also the moderator of the listserv SLAVLIBS, whose members include nearly 300 librarians, archivists, and students who work with Slavic collections from around the world, and recently co-edited the Guide to Slavic Collections in the United States and Canada. You can contact him at: aurbanic@library.berkeley.edu. The full column from the current issue, with working links, is also available on the AAASS page "Additional Resources," <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/resources.html>.

New York Public Library Exhibits

In his memoir *At a Century's Ending: Reflections 1982–1995*, statesman George F. Kennan cited the Library's celebrated Slavic and Baltic Division as "a haven of unspoken understanding, sympathy, and support for the great and tragic and immensely dramatic and moving history of the ... peoples whose history is represented and preserved in these premises." The sheer depth and breadth of the division's holdings—a voluminous 500,000 titles—make characterization difficult. However, a number of areas stand out as unusually distinguished—among them, Russian Futurist and Constructivist book design; publications produced over the past century by New York's many Slavic and Baltic émigré communities; some 3,000 titles from Russian Imperial and Grand Ducal libraries, purchased from the Soviet government in the 1920s and 30s; and periodicals of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

From this collection emerge exhibitions that explore Slavic history, culture, and lore. *Russia Imagined, 1825–1925: The Art and Impact of Fedor Solntsev*, which will be on

view in the Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III Gallery from March 2 through June 16, 2007, presents the work of Fedor Solntsev, a Russian artist and designer who forged a national identity in the early 19th century. A second exhibition, *From the Baltic to the Balkans: Modernism in Europe, 1910–1935*, will closely follow in the Wachenheim Gallery, from October 5, 2007 to January 27, 2008. It emphasizes the interplay between post-World War I national and political revivals in Eastern and Central Europe from the Baltic north to the Balkan south, and the literary and artistic movements of Europe, such as Expressionism, Cubism, and Dada.

Under four tsars, Fedor Solntsev stocked the nation's imagination with images that clothed the concept of "Russianness" in archaeologically accurate forms. Best known as the artist of the sumptuous six-volume *Antiquities of the Russian State (1849–53)*, funded by Nicholas I, Solntsev is presented in this exhibition as a chronicler in pictures, who painstakingly transcribed artifacts and monuments throughout the empire; an artist who wished to resuscitate the past; and a

progenitor of a Russian school of design and architecture. *Russia Imagined* will culminate in one of the most exquisite early examples of Russian Revival design—the Kremlin porcelain service that Solntsev designed for Nicholas I in 1837–38.

From the Baltic to the Balkans will present more than 35 works on paper—books, journals, posters, prints, and photographs—from eight curatorial units of the Library. Each of the five principal display cases will be anchored by a featured artist whose vision dominated a given region—El Lissitzky in Germany, Lajos Kassák in Hungary, Jindrich Styrsky and Toyen in the Czech Republic, and Sigismunds Vidbergs in Latvia. These materials offer a clear perspective on those regions' interplay with progressive aesthetics of the time with the strong stamp of national identity in these regions.

Support for *Russia Imagined, 1825–1925: The Art and Impact of Fedor Solntsev* has been provided by Mrs. Charles B. Wrightsman and by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. Support for *The New York Public*

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Library's Exhibitions Program has been provided by Celeste Bartos and Family and by Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III. [Submitted by Robert Davis, NYPL]

The Cold War International History Project issues a new Working Paper

The Cold War International History Project is pleased to announce the publication of Working Paper No. 54, *Evolution and Revolution: Sino-Hungarian Relations and the 1956 Revolution*, by Péter Vámos, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Drawing on newly available Hungarian and Chinese archival documents, Vámos examines a still controversial aspect of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, China's role in the Soviet decision-making during October and November 1956. Arguing against the claim that Chinese pressure was critical in convincing Soviet leaders to intervene militarily in Hungary, Vámos notes that the commonly accepted narrative, namely that Mao Zedong realized the true "counter-revolutionary" character of the Hungarian events, and thus exerted Chinese influence in order to persuade a weak Khrushchev to intervene militarily, is not supported by the documentary record. Vámos argues that this legend only came into existence in the 1960s, with the attempt by Chinese propagandists to conceal evidence of Chinese subservience to the Soviet Union during the 1950s. Placing special attention on how the Hungarian events influenced Chinese policy-making and propaganda, Vámos concludes that Beijing's interest in the Hungarian events was primarily focused on drawing lessons for use domestically, and that in 1956, the Chinese government was not prepared for an open confrontation with Moscow over the Hungarian issue.

The Working Paper can be downloaded at the CWIHP web site (<http://www.cwihp.org>). This publication has been made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and other donors.

The Center for Research Libraries highlights its Slavic Collections and Projects

The Center for Research Libraries FOCUS Newsletter, Winter 2006-07 issue (Eastern and Southeastern Europe) is now available online. The issue highlights CRL's resources and activities in support of scholarly research on Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Among the reports provided are:

- 1) Slavic and East European Microform Project (SEEMP): An overview of SEEMP's history, acquisitions, and vital role in identifying, documenting, and acquiring critical research materials on and about the region.
- 2) A Note on Human Rights Archives:

Observations on the growing international network of human rights organizations—and their burgeoning archival efforts—that coalesced during recent conflicts in South-eastern Europe.

3) Some CRL Resources Related To Eastern and Southeastern Europe: A sampling of CRL collections, newspapers, radio transcriptions, and other resources that support scholarly research and teaching on the region.

The issue can be downloaded in PDF format at <http://www.crl.edu/PDF/pdfFocus/Winter2006-07.pdf>.

[Information provided by James Simon, Director of International Resources, Center for Research Libraries]

Russian Copyright information available on the Web

©copyright.ru: portal ob avtorskom prave provides information concerning the legal issues of Russian copyright along with a historical perspective and useful documents. It is reported that the authors of the site are willing to answer questions posed by visitors.

[Information provided by Boris Gorshkov, Assistant Professor, Auburn University]

New location for Linguistic Bibliography

As of January 1, 2007 the Linguistic Bibliography will be produced under a new institutional setting. After having been housed at the Dutch National Library for over 20 years, the editors will move to the Instituut voor Nederlandse Lexicologie in Leiden. BLonline, the electronic version of the Linguistic Bibliography, will remain accessible free from charge at <http://www.blonline.nl/>.

The new editorial address is: Linguistic Bibliography, P.O. box 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands. Tel.: 071-5353588 or 071-5353589, e-mail: bl@inl.nl; olbertz@inl.nl; tol@inl.nl

[Information provided by Sijmen Tol & Hella Olbertz, Editors of BL]

Belarus' Legal Web Site

A variety of news, legal, and economic information can be found at the National Legal Portal of the Republic of Belarus. The English language version can be found at <http://law.by/> and a Russian language portal can be found at either <http://pravo.by> or <http://zakon.by>. There does not seem to be a portal available in Belorussian. The legal database has a search engine and access appears to be free of charge.

Online Archives of Ancient Russian Texts

Rukopisnye Pamiatniki Drevnei Rusi (<http://www.lrc-lib.ru>) supplies a number of texts in several categories. Hundreds of documents are available under the heading

Drevnerusskie berestiane gramoty (also directly accessible at <http://gramoty.ru>). The first three volumes of *Polnoe Sobranie Russkikh Letopisei* are available as well as *Drevnerusskii perevod "Istoriia Iudeiskoi Voiny" Iosifa Flavii* and *Psalter 1683 g. v perevode Avramia Firsova*. The site requests that written permissions are submitted before reusing the materials. The documents appear in PDF format and because some are rather large, the downloading process can be a bit slow.

Another site which provides access to Early Russian texts is the Ukrainian web page *Izbornyk* (<http://litopys.org.ua/>). Also included are a variety of publications relating to the Ukrainian language and literature.

[Information provided by Peter Houtzagers and Iryna Prykarpatska]

Blogging Po-russki

The web site *landex* provides a home page and search engine for hundreds of blogs that exist in Russia. The page is available at <http://blogs.yandex.ru/>.

[Information provided by Alina Israeli, LFS, American University]

Wikipedia in Old Church Slavonic

A version of Wikipedia in Old Church Slavonic is available at: <http://cu.wikipedia.org/>.

Double Issue of *Neprikosnovennyj Zapas* Available Online

NZ is a Moscow-based interdisciplinary journal featuring the best Russian and international experts from all sectors of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Its name is an acronym for a Russian term meaning something between private stock, emergency ration and golden reserve, and as this suggests, the magazine continuously takes stock of the latest developments and disputes in the fields it covers. In its thematic sections, NZ makes high-level specialists discuss their respective topics in a way that is both sophisticated and accessible to an educated non-specialist public. E-mail us at nz@nlo.magazine.ru. NZ#48-49: <http://www.nz-online.ru/index.phtml?cid=3>

The special double issue of *Neprikosnovennyj Zapas* is dedicated to the topic of historical makings of corporativity and the place of corporations in the modern world. The phenomenon of corporation is looked at from several angles. The issue presents articles by sociologists, economists, political scientists, historians and even corporate practitioners not to mention direct political opponents of modern transnational corporations. In this way the editorial board tried to present a broad spectrum of analytical and political opinions, since those opinions had rarely been found under the same cover before. ♦

“THANK YOU” TO AAASS DONORS

The following AAASS members made donations to the AAASS endowment between April 25, 2006 and February 16, 2007. Thank you for your support of the AAASS!

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Masing-Delic, Irene Ingeborg
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Call for Nominations for the AAASS Award for Distinguished Service to Slavic Studies

The Nomination Committee for the Association's Award for Distinguished Service to Slavic Studies invites members to submit letters of nomination for this award. The award honors those at the close of distinguished careers who have helped to build and develop the field of Slavic Studies through scholarship, training, and service to the profession.

Awardees since the year 2000 have included: Keith Hitchins, Murray Feshbach, Alexander Vucinich, Robert V. Daniels, Maurice Friedberg, Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, Andrzej Korbonski, Josef Skvorecky, William Zimmerman, Istvan Deak, Rep. David Obey (D-WI), Moshe Lewin, and James Millar.

Nomination Committee members are: Victoria Bonnell, University of California, Berkeley; David Holloway, Stanford University; and Larry Wolff, New York University.

The committee members will consider ONLY nomination letters WITHOUT accompanying documentation.

Nomination letters may be submitted by **May 1, 2007** by e-mail to: vbonnell@berkeley.edu.

PUBLICATIONS

An Anthology of Jewish-Russian Literature: Two Centuries of Dual Identity in Prose and Poetry: 1801-2001, edited, selected, co-translated, and with introductory essays by Maxim D. Shrayer, is forthcoming from M. E. Sharpe.

Ex-Soviets in Israel: From Personal Narratives to a Group Portrait by Larisa Fialkova and Maria Yelenevskaya has been published by Wayne State University Press.

In the Shadows of the Holocaust and Communism: Czech and Slovak Jews Since 1945, by Alena Heitlinger, is about identity and community formation among post-war Czech and Slovak Jews who grew up under Czechoslovak communism and who came of age during the de-Stalinization period of 1962–68 (Transaction Publishers).

‘Gäste, die bleiben’: Vladimir Solov’ev, die Juden und die Deutschen (*‘The Guests Who Stays’: Vladimir Solov’ov, the Jews, and the Germans*) by Dmitrij Belkin, will be published by Philo-Verlag in Hamburg in the second half of 2007.

International Law and the Russian Legal System, by B. L. Zimnenko, edited and translated by William E. Butler, has been published by Eleven International Publishing.

Lenin Rediscovered: “What Is to Be Done?” In Context, by Lars T. Lih, includes a new translation of the entire text of Lenin’s “What Is to be Done?” (Brill, 2006; paperback forthcoming from Haymarket Press).

Miklós Horthy: Ungarn, 1920-1944, by Thomas Sakmyster, is a revised and expanded edition of the English language version of the biography of Hungarian political leader Miklós Horthy published in 1995 (forthcoming from Edition Steinbauer, Vienna).

Milosz i Brodski. Pole magnetyczne (*Czeslaw Milosz and Joseph Brodsky, Magnetic Field*), by Irena Grudzinska Gross, has been published by Znak Publishing House, Krakow, Poland. The book looks at the friendship and poetic alliance between the two Nobel Laureates against the backdrop of their lives and work.

The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society, edited by Xavier Bougarel, Elissa Helms and Ger Duijzings, is a collection of local-level studies of post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina by a new generation of European and US scholars, (Ashgate, January 2007).

Political Anti-Semitism in Post-Soviet Russia: Actors and Ideas in 1991-2003, by Vyacheslav Likhachev, edited and translated from Russian by Eugene Veklerov (Stuttgart/Hannover: ibidem-Verlag, 2006), shows that anti-Semitism is alive and well in contemporary Russia, particularly in her political life. The study focuses on anti-Semitism in political groups, mass media and religious organizations from the break-up of the Soviet Union until shortly before the elections of the fourth post-Soviet State Duma.

Post-Communist Economies and Western Trade Discrimination: Are NMEs Our Enemies? by Cynthia M. Horne, examines U.S. and EU patterns of trade protection against former Communist countries in the pre- and post-Cold War period and explores how Cold War discriminatory beliefs against communist countries impact present levels of trade protection (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).

The Quality of Sociological Information: Validity, Representativeness and Prognostic Potential, by Vladimir Shlapentokh, is a large collection (650 pages) of the author’s work published in Russia during the 1970s, with an additional preface and an interview with the author about his professional life in the Soviet Union and America (Moscow: Tsentr sotsialnogo prognozirovania, 2006, in Russian).

Regional Cooperation, Peace Enforcement, and the Role of the Treaties in the Balkans, by Stefano Bianchini, Joseph Marko, Craig Nation, and Milica Uvali (Ravenna:Longo Editore, April 2007).

Rulers, Guns, and Money: The Global Arms Trade in the Age of Imperialism, by Jonathan Grant, has been published this month by Harvard U. Press. For private armaments producers in the nineteenth century, contracts from tsarist Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and the Balkan states proved so crucial for the sustainability of armament firms that the region became the most important defense market in the world in the period between 1860-1914.

Russian Colonial Society in Tashkent, 1865-1923, by Jeff Sahadeo, dissects Imperial and early Soviet rule and colonial society in Islamic Central Asia. Viewpoints from tsarist functionaries, Soviet bureaucrats, Russian workers and lower-class women, as well as Central Asian notables and traders, contribute to an understanding of the complexity of the colonial capital of Russian Turkestan (Indiana U. Press).

Russian Foreign Relations and Investment Law, by William E. Butler, has been published by Oxford University Press.

Slavic Martyrs. Sainthood and Canonization; Chronology and Typology; Criticism and Apology of Slavic Martyrdom, by Panayot Karagoyozov, is a comprehensive study of Slavic martyrdom investigating and comparing numerous Slavic martyrs from a historical, cultural, political, and theological point of view (St. Kliment Ohridski U. Press, 2006).

Spitsbergen: Legal Regime of Adjacent Marine Areas, by A. N. Vylegzhanin and V. K. Zilanov, edited and translated by William E. Butler, has been published by Eleven International Publishing.

Where Empires Collided: Russian and Soviet Relations with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, by Michael Share, utilizes documents from Russian, British, US, Taiwanese, Hong Kong, and Macao archives to document Russian involvement along China’s Eastern Periphery, where Soviet officials closely followed political and economic developments, seeking to expand trade and culture, and where possible, establish a permanent political presence (Chinese University Press). ♦

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Title VIII Research Scholar Program

Awards of \$5,000 - \$25,000 for field research in Russia, Southeastern Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Combined Research and Language Training Program

Awards of \$5,000 - \$25,000 for 10 hrs/week of intensive language training in addition to field research in Eurasia. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Special Initiatives Fellowship Program

Fellowships of up to \$35,000 for field research on policy-relevant topics in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

Southeastern Europe Language Program

Support for one to nine months of intensive language study at major universities throughout Southeastern Europe. Deadline: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).

National Russian Flagship Program

Intensive, nine-month language training with stateside and overseas components for U.S. students who wish to attain “distinguished” or “superior” (ILR 3, 3+, 4) Russian-language skills. Deadline: January 31.

NEH Collaborative Research Fellowship

Fellowships of up to \$40,000 for four to nine months of humanities research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Proposals must include plans to work with at least one collaborator in the field. Deadline: February 15.

Summer Program for Russian Language Teachers

Full support for university and secondary school teachers of Russian to study in Moscow for six weeks. Graduate students are also encouraged to apply. Deadline: March 1.

Contemporary Russia Program

Five-week summer area-studies program at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Open to university students and professionals at all levels of Russian-language proficiency, including those with no prior language training. Deadline: March 15.

For more information on eligibility and applications, contact:
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AAASS welcomed many of our new 2006 members in the May 2006 issue of NewsNet. We are now pleased to welcome the following new members, who also joined the AASSS for the first time as 2006 members.

Allensworth, Wayne
Aron, Leon
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Grover, Justin Leigh
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Igmen, Ali F.
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Robinson, Marc
Rossbach, David

Safariants, Margarita
Savchenko, Andrew
Shaheen, Jonathan Louis
Sherwin, Lindsey
Simons, Jr., Thomas W.
Sloin, Andrew
Stefany, Michael G.
Thorne, Michael Benjamin
Tigountsova, Inna F. Ishchenko
Titov, Alexander
Toal, Gerard
Tolone, Zara Martirosova
van Meer, Elisabeth
Vinogradova, Elena
Vodopivec, Peter
Vushko, Iryna
Wigzell, Faith Christine Mackley
Wilson, Tracie L.
Zajicek, Benjamin
Zuk, Orest John

Graduate Student Essay Prize

The Graduate Student Essay Prize is awarded for an outstanding essay by a grad student in Slavic studies. The winner of the competition receives free airfare to and room at the AAASS National Convention and a one-year honorary AAASS membership.

AAASS Regional Affiliates and Institutional Members are invited to hold their own competitions for best essay among their graduate students, and submit the winning paper to the AAASS Grad Student Prize Committee.

The Committee on the Student Prize is: Steven Marks, Chair, Clemson U; Sean Cotter, U of Texas, Dallas; Sascha Goluboff, Washington and Lee U; and Anne Nesbet, UC Berkeley.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2007.

More information is available at www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/prizes/studentprize.html.

NEWS FROM INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

The **Arizona State University Russian and East European Studies Center** is pleased to announce an initial \$1 million gift to the Center from Gregory and Emma Melikian, two of Phoenix's finest civic leaders and philanthropists. The gift is accompanied by a pledge to assist the Center in raising an additional \$1 million for its expanded international programming. In recognition of this generous contribution, the Center has been officially renamed **The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies at Arizona State University**. Kathleen Evans-Romaine has been appointed Research Administrator for The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies at ASU. Prior to moving to the Phoenix area, Evans-Romaine was Assistant Director of the Ohio University Institute for Applied and Professional Ethics and Bilingual Technology Assistant for the Middlebury Russian School.

The **Charles Braver Language Exploration Grant** is now available for students who demonstrate clear goals in wanting to study abroad in the FSU. The grant is dedicated

in memory of Charles Braver, an educator who worked for many years to promote and practice cross-cultural teaching, learning, and geographical and intellectual exploration. Two grants of \$500 each are currently available and may be used for study abroad in summer or fall of 2007. Students who have completed two semesters of Russian or Chinese language study may apply. The deadline is May 15, 2007. For more information, please see http://www.sras.org/sub_program.phtml?m=130

The **Eurasia Program, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)** wishes to congratulate the scholars selected to take part in the Dissertation Development Workshop, "Violence in Eurasia: Historical and Contemporary Approaches," at Yale University, March 23-25, 2007: -Halit Akarca, Princeton University (history), "The Russian Occupation of Anatolia during WWI" -Michael Dennis, The University of Texas at Austin (government), "Attitudes in Transition: War, Displacement, and the Roots of Political Violence in Chechen Refugee Communities"

-Rebecca Gould, Columbia University (anthropology), "Transgressive Sanctity: Islam and Anticolonial Rebellion in the Caucasus"

-Elana Jakel, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (history), "Ukraine without Jews? Contesting Belonging in Soviet Ukraine, 1943-1948"

-James Johnson, University of Pittsburgh (anthropology), "Framing Violence and Identity in the Pontic Steppe Iron Age"

-Jody LaPorte, University of California, Berkeley (political science), "The Politics of Participation in Post-Soviet Hybrid Regimes"

-Benjamin Loring, Brandeis University, (history), "Soviet Kyrgyzstan, 1921-1941: State-Building, Rural Development and Social Change"

-Lauren McCarthy, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, (political science), "Trying for Justice: Prosecution of Sex Trafficking Cases in Russia and Ukraine"

These scholars were selected through a national competition and were judged on the academic strength of their proposals, their ability to speak across disciplines, and the degree to which their research engages with the workshop's theme.

Details concerning the SSRC's annual Eurasia Program Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition will be available by September 1, 2007, as will materials for Summer Institutional Language Grants in support of summer instruction in the languages of the Eurasia region. Significant funding for these and other Eurasia Program activities is provided by the U.S. Department of State, Title VIII Program, in addition to other sources of support for individual events. To obtain information on the above-listed and other related activities, please visit us at <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/eurasia> or contact us by e-mail at eurasia@ssrc.org.

The **Kennan Institute** at the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** is pleased to announce the publication of a Special Report, "National Security and Human Rights" by Megan A. Yassenchak, Jennifer Giglio, and Margaret Paxson. The report is available online at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan. The Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Johns Hopkins University Press recently released "Rebounding Identities: The Politics of Identity in Russia and Ukraine," edited by Dominique Arel and Blair A. Ruble. It is an examination of post-Soviet society through ethnic, religious, and linguistic criteria. The Kennan Institute offers Research Scholarships to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses

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on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States). The Kennan Institute also offers Short-Term Grants (up to one month's duration) to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C., area. Information about eligibility and deadlines for Research Scholarships and Short-Term Grants is available at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan.

Just before its closing in 1994, the New York Office of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on 1775 Broadway, contacted Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Executive Director of the **Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA)** and offered to deposit close to 300 large reel-to-reel audio tapes containing radio broadcasts to Poland. The offer made by Albert Arkus, RFE's Broadcast Operations Director, was immediately accepted and arrangements for a speedy transfer were made by PIASA's director and his deputy Jane Kedron. Unfortunately these reel-to-reel tapes were not catalogued and they were so fragile and brittle that for all practical purposes they were not accessible to researchers. Recently, however, these conditions have been dramatically changed as a result of an agreement that was made between Poland's National Archives (Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych) in Warsaw and PIASA in New York. The audio tapes were sent to the National Archives in Warsaw for deposit. In return the Poland's National Archives, using the technological capabilities of its "Archiwum Dokumentacji Mechanicznej," performed the formidable and labor-intensive task of cataloging the contents of the tapes and then transferring them electronically to compact discs (CD's). Thus a large proportion of radio broadcasts produced by Radio Free Europe New York Office between 1956 and 1989 are now conveniently available to researchers studying the Cold War period. Over 600 radio broadcasts to Poland have been identified and can now be easily heard at PIASA's Sound archives located at 208 East 30th St. in New York City.

These CD's include interviews with such notables as Czeslaw Milosz, Adam Ulam, Artur Rubinstein, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Henryk Grynberg, etc.; lectures by Leszek Kolakowski, Piotr Wandycz, Stanislaw Baranczak, Wacław Jędrzejewicz, Jerzy Lerski, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Feliks Gross, etc., coverage of important events like the Papal visits to the U.S., PIASA's Congresses, Polonia programs, etc. A complete listing of the broadcasts will be made available on PIASA's website www.piasa.org

under the link "Archival Information Center." Each year PIASA has the services of a Visiting Research Archivist from Poland made possible by the cooperation and support of Poland's National Archives and the Kosciuszko Foundation. This year Krzysztof Porolniczak, from the Gdansk State Archives serves as the Visiting Research Archivist. For more information email: piasany@verizon.net.

Given the high demand in Europe for objective information about Russia, a roundtable event organized by **Russia Profile** and the **German Council on Foreign Relations** featuring Presidential Aide Igor Shuvalov and former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder proved very well timed. Over 800 business leaders and opinion makers filled the main function hall at Berlin's famous Hotel Adlon to hear two key decision makers engage in a wide ranging discussion called to commemorate the passing of the G8 presidency from Russia to Germany. Under the title "Strategic Partnership Germany-Russia - Looking back on Russia's G8 Presidency, Looking forward to Germany's" former G8 Sherpa Shuvalov, told the packed audience that Russia's strategic interests as a gas exporter lie in a reciprocal relationship with European consumers, and that Russia would prove a most dependable partner in

energy provision. Schroeder, Chairman of the North European Gas Pipeline project that will transport gas from Vyborg to the German coast added that the benefits of such EU-Russia cooperation are mutual. "Cooperation with Russia provides us with great opportunities, but we should not proceed as if only Russians should be grateful to us for allowing them to become our partners. We too have a great interest in it and are also grateful for this partnership because we know that only together can we provide peace, stability and well-being for Europe and keep it safe and prosperous in future." Please see our website <http://www.russiaprofile.org/international> for the full video of Igor Shuvalov's speech to the Berlin round table and a transcript of Gerhard Schroeder's speech.

The **S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies at Central Connecticut State University** in conjunction with the New England Air Museum will create a permanent exhibit dedicated to the history of the Kosciuszko Squadron of the Polish Air Force. The Squadron, originally largely composed of American volunteers, fought in the 1919-21 Polish-Soviet War and later gained fame during the Battle of Britain in 1940. For further information see www.ccsu.edu/Kosciuszko. ♦

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NEWS FROM AAASS AFFILIATES

The **Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)** has established a new relationship with the journal *Central Asian Survey*. CESS members are eligible to subscribe to *Central Asian Survey* at the reduced annual rate of \$40. CESS is also represented on *Central Asian Survey*'s Editorial Board and International Advisory Board. *Central Eurasian Studies Review* will no longer be available in print, but will be available for free to CESS members on the CESS website. Submissions guidelines for both *Central Asian Survey* and *Central Eurasian Studies Review* are available on the CESS website: <http://cess.fas.harvard.edu>.

The CESS Secretariat will soon be completing a transition to a new host institution. Since its establishment in 2000, CESS has been hosted by the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at Harvard University. The new host will be the Havighurst Center at Miami University of Ohio. Details about the move to new addresses and the new administration CESS will be available on the CESS website.

The CESS Annual Conference will be held this year October 18-21 at the University of Washington in Seattle (see http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS_Conference.html).

The **Central Slavic Conference (CSC)** will hold its 46th annual meeting (a joint meeting with the International Studies Association-Midwest) at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri on November 2-4, 2007. Those interested in participating by giving a paper or organizing a panel may contact one of the conference co-chairs: Kurt Jefferson (CSC President) at 573-592-5294 or jefferk@westminster-mo.edu; or Robin Remington (CSC Vice President) at remingtonr@missouri.edu. The 2007 CSC annual meeting will see academics, students, practitioners, and others speaking and giving papers on several interdisciplinary topics related to politics, history, culture, language, journalism, and economics, along with other topics related to the study of Russia, the post-Soviet regions, central and eastern Europe, and the Slavic world in general. The Central Slavic Conference puts out a bi-annual (Fall and Spring) newsletter. If one would like a copy please contact Kurt Jefferson at his e-mail above or write him at: Kurt W. Jefferson, President, Central Slavic Conference, c/o Department of Political Science, Westminster College, 501 Westminster Avenue, Fulton, MO 65251-1299.

The **Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)** announces a competition

for the 2007 Dr. Joseph Hasek student awards. The names of the winners will be announced in the Society's newsletters. The main purpose of the Society's awards is to generate and encourage scholarly interest in Czech and Slovak affairs among university students living outside the Czech and Slovak republics. There will be one prize for the best undergraduate and one for the best graduate study dealing with some aspect of Czech and/or Slovak history, politics, or culture. The winners will receive the \$250 Dr. Joseph Hasek award, a year's membership in the Society, which includes a year's subscription to the Society's newsletter, and a Certificate of Merit. The following rules apply: 1) The paper must be submitted by the professor in whose class it was presented and should be accompanied by his recommendation; 2) The study must have been written for an undergraduate or graduate course during the academic year 2006-2007. Chapters of theses or dissertations are not admissible; 3) The deadline for submission is May 15, 2007; 4) The study essay should be submitted in triplicate to professor Vera Borkovec, 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. It must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted in Czech, Slovak, or any of the major Western languages (English, French or German); 5) The Student Awards Committee which will judge the quality of the submitted essays consists of: Prof. Ivo Feierabend (San Diego State University), Prof. Milan Hauner (University of Wisconsin), and Chair, Prof. Vera Borkovec (American University); 6) Submitted papers are not returned.

The **Czechoslovak Studies Association** awarded the 2006 Stanley Z. Pech Prize to Peter Bugge, Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark, for his article: "The Making of a Slovak City: The Czechoslovak Renaming of Pressburg/Pozsony/Presporok, 1918-19," *Austrian History Yearbook* 35 (2004).

The Thirtieth Annual **Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference (MASC)** will be held on March 31, 2007 at Barnard College in New York City. The conference is sponsored by Barnard and The Harriman Institute. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Those who wish to be put on our mailing list for this or future conferences should email Tim Doyle, Treasurer: tdoyle@lawrenceville.org.

The **European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS)** will hold its Tenth Confer-

ence on "Central Asia: Sharing Experiences and Prospects" from September 12-15, 2007 at The Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. The event will be organized by the Center for Black Sea and Central Asia of the Middle East Technical University. Pre-registration will begin on May 1, 2007. For further information, please see www.escas.pz.nl or contact Associate Professor Pinar Akcali (Chair of Organizing Committee) at akcali@metu.edu.tr or the ESCAS 2007 Organizing Committee at escas@metu.edu.tr.

The **Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA)** has scheduled its 65th Annual Meeting for June 15-16, 2007 at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Deadline for receipt of all proposals with short abstracts is March 31, 2007. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to: tgromada@mindspring.com or by mail to PIASA 208 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016. The proposal form may be found at www.piasa.org/annualmeeting.html. PIASA is reserving single and double occupancy rooms with private baths at a Georgetown University Residence Hall for the rate of \$65 per room. Participation in the multidisciplinary conference is not restricted to PIASA members. Papers presented will be seriously considered for publication in "The Polish Review". Further information will be available at www.piasa.org.

The PIASA, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. has created an award to honor the memory of the first ambassador of the Third Republic of Poland to the USA who arrived in DC in 1990, Kazimierz Dziejawowski. The Kazimierz Dziejawowski Dissertation Award is designed to recognize annually an American graduate student who writes an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of Polish studies. The award, with a cash prize of \$1000 and an appropriate plaque, is granted each year to an American student during the banquet at PIASA's Annual Meeting. Dissertations accepted at an American university in 2006 will be eligible for the prize. Nominations by mentors with a copy of the dissertation should be submitted on or before April 6, 2007 to Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Executive Director, PIASA 208 E. 30th St. New York, N.Y. 10016. Past awardees include Lisa DiBartolomeo, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2002); Barbara Milewski, Ph.D. Princeton University (2003); Patrick G. Vaughan, Ph.D. West Virginia University (2004);

Marek Suszko, Ph.D. University of Illinois at Chicago (2005) and Martha Brozyna, Ph.D. University of Southern California (2006).

PIASA has established the following awards with cash prizes of \$1000 each: *the Oskar Halecki Polish/East Central European History Award* for the best book on Polish and/or East Central European History; *the Wacław Lednicki Humanities Award* for the best book in the humanities dealing with Polish themes, and *the Bronisław Malinowski Social Science Award* for the best book in one of the social science disciplines dealing with some aspect of Polish affairs. Monographs are given preference. Names of past awardees can be found on PIASA's website. Books published in the years 2005 and 2006 in North America by authors living and working in the United States and Canada are eligible for the 2007 PIASA Awards. Nominations should be sent to the Polish Institute (208 E. 30th St. New York, NY 10016) no later than June 30, 2007. For further information e-mail tgromada@mindspring.com. 2007 Awards will be presented in New York City in mid November 2007.

The **Polish Studies Association** invites submissions of articles on any topic in Polish Studies for its first biennial article prize. Articles must be singly authored and published in English in any scholarly


journal during calendar year 2005 or 2006. Submissions may be made either by journal editors or by authors. The prize committee is particularly interested in articles that reflect new trends or innovative methodologies in research on Polish subjects. The prize winner will be announced at the Polish Studies Association annual meeting at the AAASS conference in New Orleans in November 2007. The recipient of the prize must be a member of the PSA by the time the prize is awarded. Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2007. Please send articles in .pdf format to stauterh@msu.edu or three copies to: Keely Stauter-Halsted, Associate Professor, 4820 Greenway Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 Questions about the prize may be directed to Keely Stauter-Halsted, Prize Committee Chair, at stauterh@msu.edu.

The **Society for Slovene Studies** has submitted the following panel and roundtable proposals to AAASS for its next conference in New Orleans: (1) Home Again? Return Migrations between Politics, Practice and Theory; (2) From a Countryman to a Citizen; (3) New Approaches to Slovene Linguistics and Slovene Literature from Young Scholars in Slovene Studies; (4) Serb and Slovene Yugoslavism in 1918; (5) How Work and Life of Three Slovene Americans Was Influenced by the Events in the Homeland; (6) Newest

Research on Slovenes of Carinthia; (7) Current Slovenian Foreign Policy: Exercising Leadership in Europe (roundtable).


Another roundtable, although not sponsored by the Society, but including Slovene participants and issues, is titled "Self" as a Theoretical Category. The Society invites submissions by young scholars, residing outside Slovenia, interested in things Slovene, for its 2007 competition for the Rado Lencek Graduate Student Prize and the Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Essay Prize. The Rado Lencek Prize in the amount of \$1000 is awarded annually to the best graduate student paper on a Slovene-related topic and the Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Essay Prize in the amount of \$500 to the best undergraduate student essay on a Slovene-Related topic.

The deadline for the 2007 submissions is September 15, 2007. More information about the prizes with the list of previous winners is on the SSS webpage: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ljubljan/sss.html> Slovene Studies Vol. 29 (2006) has been published and is available from Professor Timothy Pogacar, Department of German, Russian & East Asian Languages, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0219 (pogacar@bgsu.edu). Vol. 30 (2007) on ethnomusicology will be published in summer 2007. ♦



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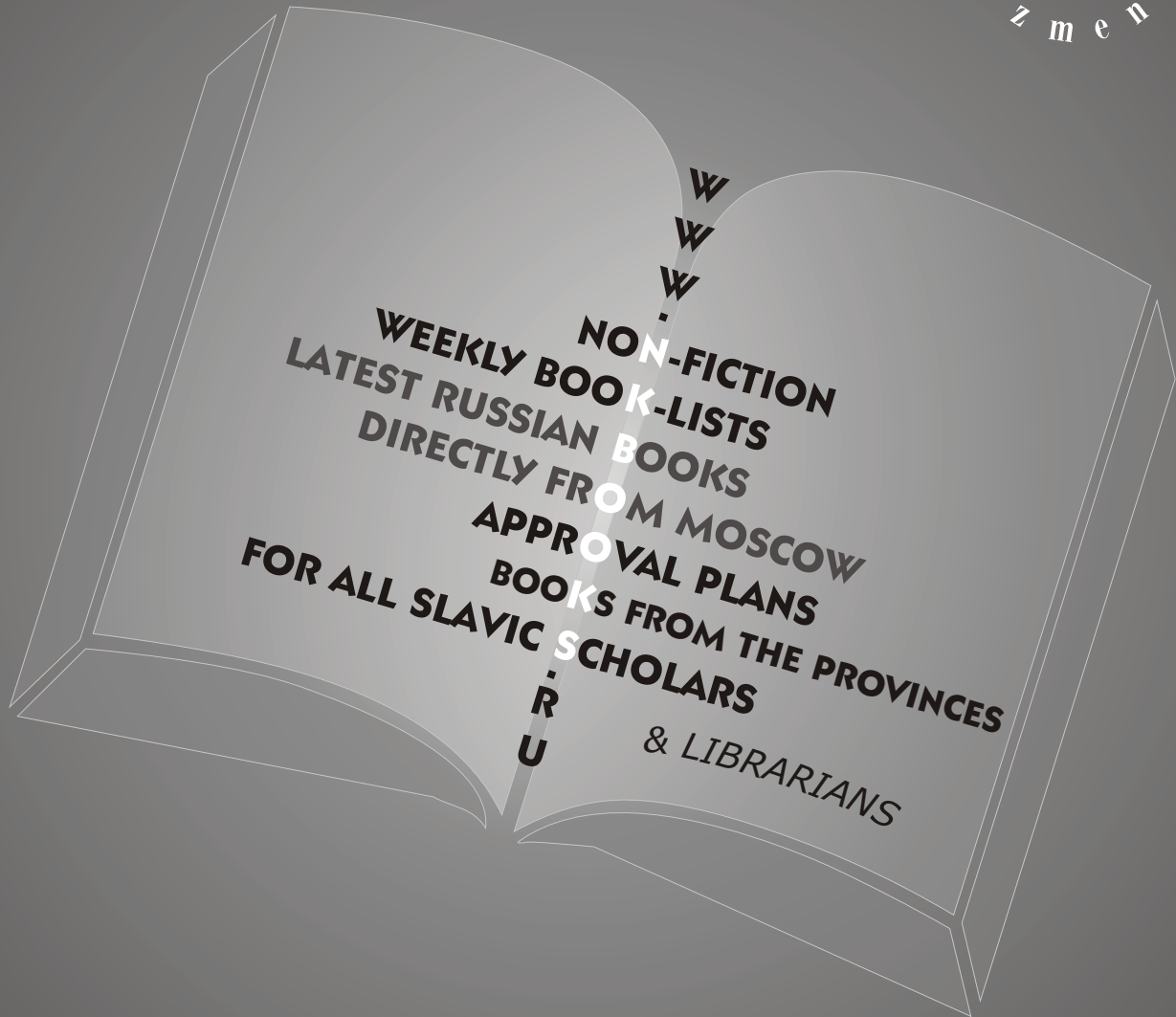
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Through April 9. Exhibition, 'The Firebird and the Factory: Modern Russian Children's Books,' University of Virginia's Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture. For more information, contact: Kelly Miller, Curator and Affiliate Librarian, University of Virginia Library, Slavic Languages and Literatures, e-mail: kelly-miller@virginia.edu, or Margarita Nafpaktitis, Co-Curator and Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Virginia, e-mail: nafpaktitism@virginia.edu.

March 30–April 1. Ninth Annual Conference CARTA (Central Association of Russian Teachers of America), Austin, TX. For more information, contact: Mara Sukholuts-kaya, e-mail: msukholu@mailclerk.ecok.edu, web site: <http://carta.us>.

March 31–April 2. The British As-

sociation for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Annual Conference, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, UK. For more information, see: www.basees.org.uk.

April 5. International Debate 'Russia and the West: Media, Democracy and Conflict,' Part Two, 'The Media and the War on Terror,' Frontline Club, London. For more information, see: www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/Research/Projects/AnAnalysisofPost-SovietRussianTelevisionCulture/.

April 11–14. 49th Annual conference of the Western Social Science Association and Western Association of Slavic Studies (AAASS regional affiliate), Hyatt Regency, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information contact: Evguenia Davidova, Portland State University, e-mail: evguenia@pdx.edu.

April 12–14. 2007 Midwest Slavic Conference, (AAASS Regional Affiliate), The Ohio State University,

Columbus, Ohio. For more information, contact: Center for Slavic and East European Studies, tel.: 614-292-8770, e-mail: csees@osu.edu, web site: <http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/midwestslavicassociation.html>.

April 20–21. 27th Annual Slavic Forum, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. For more information, visit: <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/slavicforum>.

April 26–27. Conference 'Iberian and Slavonic Cultures: Contact and Comparison. **Towards Crisis and Prosperity**,' University of Lisbon, Portugal Faculty of Letters. For more information, see: www.iberian-slavonic.org.

April 26–27. 3rd Biennial Conference of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) 'Beyond Little Vera: Women's Bodies, Women's Welfare in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe,' The Ohio

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State University, Columbus, OH. For more information, e-mail: csees@osu.edu.

April 26–28. Third Annual Conference of the Southeast European Studies Association (SEESA), The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. For more information, contact the organizers: Daniel Collins, e-mail: Collins.232@osu.edu, or Brian Joseph, e-mail: joseph.1@osu.edu.

May 15–22. 16th Russian-American Seminar, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia. For more information, contact: Walter C. Uhler, e-mail: waltuhler@aol.com, or Dr. Boris Shiriaev, e-mail: shiriaev@dip.pu.ru.

May 26–28. Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. For more information, visit: www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/conference.html.

June 8–10. 7th Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe, 'The Baltic Re-

gion between Germany and Russia. Dependence and Independence—Past and Present,' Nordost-Institut Lüneburg (near Hamburg), Germany. For more information, see: www.ikgn.de/en.cbse_2007.htm.

June 15–16. 65th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA), Georgetown University, Washington, DC. For more information, visit: www.piasa.org.

June 25–28. Fifth International Congress of the Society for Romanian Studies, Constanta, Romania. For more information, visit: www.huntington.edu/srs/srs_conferences.htm.

July 9–13. Seventh biennial meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) 'Responding to Genocide Before It's Too Late: Genocide Studies and Prevention,' Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For more information, please contact the IAGS Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Steven Jacobs,

e-mail: sjacobs@bama.ua.edu. **August 2–4.** First regional ICCEES European Congress, 'Transcending Europe's Borders—The EU and Its Neighbours,' Germany, Berlin. For more information, see: www.iccees-europe.de.

August 30–September 2. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. For more information, see: www.ap-sanet.org.

November 15–18. The 39th National Convention of the AAASS, New Orleans, Louisiana, New Orleans Marriott.

September 14–16. Third International Congress of the Rusyn Language, at the Pedagogical University of Cracow. For more information contact: ukr.chair@utoronto.ca. ♦

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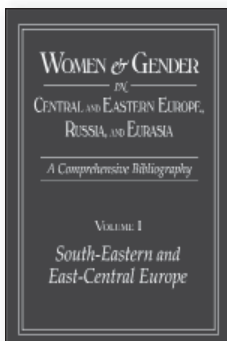
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