



***Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources.  
No. 16, Winter/Spring 2018.***

Dear Colleagues:

More than a century after their initial establishment, the Slavic, Eurasian and East European library holdings of both Cornell (134 years) and Columbia (112 years) continue to deepen, obtaining current imprints from these regions, as well as rare and often unique older materials in a variety of languages and subject areas. These resources have provided the essential grist for generations of researchers, in the broadest array of topics in the humanities and social sciences, broadly defined.

With all best wishes for a productive, peaceful, and happy New Year!

*Rob Davis*

**Current Approval Acquisitions**

In the Fall of 2017, Columbia & Cornell engaged a new principal vendor for Russian materials, Natasha Kozmenko. Kozmenko, you may recall, is a regular sponsor for the annual ASEES Convention, and is a supplier to many of the largest collections in North America, including our ReCAP partners Princeton and Harvard.

As of this writing, all twenty-six of our approval plans, covering Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, are performing well, yet the ongoing challenge remains cataloging capacity—getting titles from box to shelf in as timely a fashion as possible. This challenge is not unique to Columbia and Cornell: as fewer institutions collect in foreign languages, there is less copy cataloging available, requiring our dedicated tech services staffs to do original cataloging which can be a time-consuming (and costly) process.

Those responsible for building collections in these areas are therefore constantly on the lookout for greater efficiency, collecting more with less duplication. **Cooperation is the key!** In that spirit, I have reported in the past of the deepening of coordination between great research libraries in our region. Coordinated approval plans exist across the board for 2CUL, Princeton, and NYPL, and for a more limited number of plans with Harvard. I am happy to report that we are planning expanded number of coordinated plans with Harvard (where the former Slavic Department in Widener has recently merged with the European Division). Such plans will bring in *more* material by minimizing duplication in many areas.

Speaking of greater sharing, through the launch of a Shared Collection Service developed in partnership with Princeton University Library and The New York Public Library, Columbia added access to *over seven million circulating items* to its catalog as of October 2017. Columbia faculty, students, and staff now have access to the expanded collection through the Columbia catalog, CLIO. Users can locate additional items in CLIO and request direct delivery to campus.

With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP) partner institutions - Columbia University, Princeton University, and The New York Public Library (NYPL) - began a project in 2013 to transform the management of the ReCAP offsite storage facility from a shared physical shelving space to a shared collection of materials *accessible to all three partners*. (Excluded from this sharing arrangement are, of course, rare and fragile materials, as well as many large reference sets). Now, faculty, students, and staff of Columbia and its affiliates can request Princeton and NYPL circulating materials directly from the ReCAP offsite facility using the “Offsite Request” link in CLIO, just as they have done with Columbia materials at ReCAP.

ReCAP was created in 2000 to support its members’ goals of preserving their library and archival collections and providing access to researchers. ReCAP consists of a preservation repository and resource sharing services, jointly owned and operated by Columbia University, the NYPL, and Princeton, and located on Princeton's Forrestal Campus. More than **14 million** items are currently in ReCAP's care and used to fulfill approximately 250,000 reader requests to borrow materials each year. Obviously, ReCAP continues to provide borrowing access to institutions in the greater BorrowDirect network, including Cornell, as well as to non-BorrowDirect institutions via Inter-Library Loan.

This project facilitates not only rapid delivery of material - including electronic delivery of journal articles, but also improves the management of materials, empowering each partner institution to build deeper, broader, and stronger collections.

For more information about how to use the ReCAP service, visit [library.columbia.edu/find/request/off-site](http://library.columbia.edu/find/request/off-site) or e-mail [recap@library.columbia.edu](mailto:recap@library.columbia.edu) with specific questions.

### **Antiquarian Acquisitions**

**Cornell** made a major purchase of sixty Czech modernist books from the collection of the late Robert Leibowitz and his wife June—one of the greatest private collections of the avant-garde art of Central and Eastern Europe in the United States. This group of books includes the work of many of the greatest modern Czech book designers including Karel Teige (1900-1951), cofounder of the Devětsil movement and chief theorist of the Czech avant-garde, as well as Ladislav Sutnar (1897-1976), Zdenek Rossman (1905-1984), Josef Čapek (1887-1945) and Vojtěch Tittelbach (1900-1971). Of particular note are the superb examples of Čapek’s Linoleum cut book covers which have drawn increasing attention in recent years as well as Teige’s typography for the first edition of Jaroslav Seifert key collection of verse *Na vlnach TSF* [On the Radiowaves] from 1926. There are many examples of the extraordinary publications from Jan Fromek’s (1901-1966) Odeon publishing house, some with compelling photomontage wrappers by Teige and his fellow Devětsil member Otakar Mrkvička (1898-1957), as well as the very first Odeon publication, an important text by the Czech novelist Vladislav Vančura (1891-1942). This group also includes a spectacular example of Czech binding from the 1920’s with constructivist design.

Other highlights include a presentation copy of Jaroslav Seifert’s (1901-1986) *Slavík zpívá spatně* [The Nightingale Sings Off-Key] (Praha, 1926) with illustrations by Josef Šíma (1891-1971) and title-page by Teige; Stanislav Kostka Neumann’s (1875-1947): *Horký Van a jiné básně* [A Hot Breeze and Other Poems] (Praha, 1918) with a lithographed frontispiece in red

and linoleum-cut endpapers in yellow by Čapek; Pitigrilli's (pseudonym of Dino Segre, 1893-1975) *Prepychové zinky* [Luxurious ladies] (Praha, 1933) with wrappers incorporating a photograph by František Drtikol (1883-1961);



Clockwise from top right: Pitigrilli. *Prepychové zinky* (1933); Poláček. *Povídky Pana Kockodana* (1922); Nechvátal. *Vedro na paletě* (1935); and Lacina, *Ozubené okno* (1930).

Karel Poláček's (1892-1945) *Povídky Pana Kockodana* [Stories of Mr. Kockodan] (Brno, 1922); František Nechvátal's (1905-1983) *Vedro na paletě* [Heat on the Palette] (Praha, 1935) designed by Rossmann, employing a photograph by Man Ray (1890-1976); Václav Lacina's (1906-1993) *Ozubené okno* [Toothed Window] (Praha, 1930), illustrated by Karel Šourek (1909-1950); Ivan Olbracht's (1882-1952) *Zalár nejtemnější* [The Darkest Prison] (Praha, 1929) one of 100 copies on japa, with gold lettered leather binding; and Karel Smrž (1897-1953). *Jak se vlastně dělá*



Decorative leather binding of Olbracht. *Zalár nejtemnější* (1929)

*Film?* [How Are Movies Really Made?] (Praha, 1928), with photomontage wrappers and illustrations by Mrkvička. Inscribed on the half-title page by the author.



Cover of Smrž. *Jak se vlastně dělá Film?*(1928).



**Cornell** acquired a collection of thirty issues of an important and scarce Soviet circus periodical (above), *TSirk* [Circus; also titled *Tsirk i estrada*](M., 1925-1930). A lively, heavily-illustrated chronicle of circus performances, it also served to inflect Soviet ideology into the rich popular tradition of the Russian circus. Of particular note are the vivid color covers, by artists such as Mikhail Getmanskii (b. 1900), Dmitrii Moor (pseud. of Dmitrii Stakhievich Orlov, 1883-1946), Z. Makhlina (dates unknown), F. Kiselev (dates unknown) and N. Rogacheva (dates unknown) among others.

The historic Human Sexuality Collection at **Cornell** has added fourteen rare interwar Czech antiquarian items since last September. In many cases, Cornell is the only North American holding library. These included Lucius Apuleius's (124-170) *Amor a Psyche* (Praha, 1923), bound in abstract, textured paper-covered boards and containing sixteen original lithographs by Hugo Boettinger (1880-1934), number 11 of 15 copies (the regular edition was produced in a run of only 100!); two illustrated books of erotic songs by Josef Hodek (1888-1973): *Zpěvník 25*

*českých er. písniček* [Songbook of 25 Czech Erotic Songs](Plzeň, 1925), number 6 of 106 copies, with full-page lithographs by Hodek, and his *Zpěvník po půlnoci : patnáct lidových písniček* [Songbook for after midnight: Fifteen Folk Songs](Plzeň, 1927), number 5 of just 10 copies, produced by the artist in his studio and individually hand-numbered and signed. Karel Matěj Čapek-Chod (1860-1927). *Psychologie bez duše: bizarerie filosofická* [Psychology Without a Soul: Philosophical Fantasticalness] (Praha, 1927), with custom paper-covered boards with constructivist design and original linotypes by Alexandr Vladimír Hrska (1890-1954); *V.H.B: Z krásné knihy plné parády* [From a Beautiful Book Filled With Fun] (Praha, 1929), numbered 141 of 300 copies, a portfolio with plates by Brunner, many of an extremely graphic nature; and Jiří Rais (dates unknown). *Vánek a oblaka: Chlapecké verše 1936 - 1938*. [Breeze and Clouds – A Boy's Verses 1936-1938] (Praha, 1948), illustrated with full page plates (below).



Two items pertaining to human sexuality dating from the Russian Imperial and Soviet periods were also purchased: a samizdat book on sex, circa 1970s, which is a Russian translation of a British book for married couples printed in the 1960s, and a folding *lubok* from 1917 (below). It is marked “Approved by cancelled censorship. Petrograd, 1917.”



**Cornell’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library** also acquired *Stavbu dráhy Handlová-Hornia Štubnia a tunelu* [Construction of the Handlová-Hornia Track and Tunnel] ([Slovakia, ca. 1930]), an album of 100 large-format photographs showing the construction of the complex

private railway line through the hills and valleys of central Slovakia from 1928-1930, and [Scenes of Crimea] ([Crimea, Ukraine, ca. 1880]), 27 unique photographs of scenery and buildings in Crimea. Trained as a military topographer, Dmitri Ermakov (1846-1916) took part in the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878) and then ran photographic ateliers in Georgia.

**Columbia** also made a number of important purchases on the antiquarian market. One of the most spectacular recent acquisitions (below) was the very large-format photogravure album *Svobodná Podkarpatská Rus: svým osvoboditelům = Svobodnaia Podkarpatskaia Rus': svoim" osvoboditeliam" = Fre [sic] Carpathian Ruthenia: to her liberators*, a unique album (unregistered at the Czech National Library) produced in Prague by UNIE circa 1923. This hefty



album contains twenty-one large-format photogravures, and one map with brief captions in multiple languages. It also includes photographs of notables including Vice-Governor Petr Ehrenfeld (1866-1944). (I am grateful to Edward Kasinec for establishing the connection with the dealer, Brooklyn's David Winter).

The album complements an album titled [\*Karpatská Rus\*](#), of circa 1920 photos of Sub-Carpathian Ruthenia, which was acquired at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair last spring. The seller of that album, James Steerman of Red Hook, New York, kindly donated a related title, the very rare Jaroslav Zoha's *Podkarpatská Rus* [Sub-Carpathian Rus'] (Praha, 1935), a collection of woodcuts issued in an edition of 150 copies (see following page).



With generous support from the Columbia University Libraries' **Primary Resources Fund** we acquired a convoy of rare Georgian interwar serial titles, including *Memarts'kheneoba*. [Leftism]. მემარცხენეობა (Tbilisi, 1927), an extremely important and rare journal of the Left Front of the Arts, a wide-ranging association of writers, photographers, critics and designers existing in Soviet Georgia from 1924 until the late 1920s. Only two issues of the magazine were ever published. The journal was a platform for key figures of the Georgian avant-garde, including the creators of *H2SO4*, such as Irakli Gamrekeli (1894-1943) who designed the cover of this issue, Demna Shengelaia (1896-1980), Nikoloz Chachava (1901-1974), Beno Gordeziani (1894- 1975), Nikoloz Shengelaia (1901-1943), among others; issue No. 1 for 1927 of *Nakaduli* [A



(Left) *Memarts'kheneoba* (No. 1, 1927), with cover by Irakli Gamrekeli; and (right) *Nakaduli* (No. 1 1927), with a photomontage by Gustav Klutsis (1895-1938).

Stream]. ნაკადული. (Tiflis, 1904-1927), a children's magazine published by the People's Commissariat for Education from 1904 through 1927; the first issue of *Merts'khali* [Swallow]. მერცხალი. (Tiflis, 1926), a monthly art and literary publication of the Georgian Association of



From left to right: *Merts'khali* (No. 1 1926); *Ch'veni gza* (No. 7 1924) cover by Kirill Zdanevich (1892-1969).

Proletarian Writers. Only four issues appeared; a 1924 issue of *Ch'veni gza* [Our Path]. ჩვენი გზა. (Tiflis, 1923-1926), the first ever Georgian women's magazine; an issue of *Sanakhaoba* [Sight]. სანახაობა. (Tiflis, 1925-26), a weekly supplement to the Georgian magazine *Art*. The last issue features Kirill Zdanevich's design for the play 'The Robbers' based on a drama by Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), staged by the Tbilisi Red Theatre in the mid-1920s; and finally



*Sanakhaoba* (No. 8 1926) with a photo of the Georgian lyric soprano Olga Aleksandrovna Bakhutashvili-Shul'gina (1879-1950) in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

nine issues of *Drosha* [*The Flag: Weekly Artistic and Literary Magazine*] დროშა. (Tiflis, 1923-1935).



Covers of *Drosha*.



Following two large purchases in Spring 2017 of Bulgarian modernist imprints circa 1919-1940 (as reported in *Newsnotes* No. 15), this fall **Columbia** added six additional rare titles, including issues of the monthly journal *Arena* [Arena], an illustrated journal of art, literature and criticism (Sofia, 1926), Chavdar Mustafov (dates unknown), and Geo Milev (1895-1925), ed., *Antologija na bulgarskata poezija* [Anthology of Bulgarian Poetry](Sofia, 1940).

**Columbia** supplemented holdings of rare [Soviet film brochures](#) with the acquisition of *Amok*. ([Moscow-Leningrad, n.d.]), and *Kogda rastaet sneg* [When the Snow Melts]([Moscow-Leningrad, n.d.]), both promotional prospectuses sold along with the newspaper *Kino* and the journal *Sovetskii ekran*. *Amok* was a 1927 Georgian silent film by Kote Marjanishvili (known in Russian as Konstantin Mardzhanov, 1872-1933); *Tess of the Storm Country* was a 1922 film by the actor and director John S. Robertson (1878-1964) starring Mary Pickford (1892-1979) and Lloyd Hughes (1897-1958).

**Columbia** also added a group of Czech and Polish film- and theater-related publications and ephemera, including fifteen photographic programs for films imported or produced by Merkurfilm, the vast majority composed of photomontages; *Charlie Chaplin: Světla velkoměsta*, [Charlie Chaplin: City Lights] a photogravure promotional brochure for the 17 April 1931 premiere of Charlie Chapin's masterpiece, held at the Bio Alfa cinema in Prague; *Ročenka Kruhu solistů Městských divadel pražských* [Yearbook of the Prague City Theater Soloists] (Praha, 1933) with twenty-four full-page photomontages of the most popular Czech stage actors of the period; Magdaléna Robinsonová (1924-2006) *Hercova tvár* [Herc's Face] (Bratislava, 1955) containing over 100 full-page photogravure portraits of important Slovak theater personalities, actors, writers, designers, and individually signed by twenty-four of the subjects, on the text pages opposite their portraits; *Production 1964/1965 Polish Films* Warsaw: Socialist Film Production Board, [1965], a spiral-bound catalog of recent Polish films. Each photographic montage/collage page faces a short description of the film; and finally *Zlatou Knihu Metropolitan-Filmu* [Golden Catalog of Metropolitan Films] (Praha, 1937), a catalog distributing RKO Radio Films in Central Europe, with photomontages.

## Gifts

Columbia received three large unrestricted gift collections this fall:

- A gift of 351 Bulgarian titles from the collection of Princess Maria-Louise of Bulgaria. Princess Maria Louisa is the daughter of Tsar Boris III (1894-1943) and Tsaritsa Ioanna (1907-2000) and the older sister of Simeon II (b. 1937) of Bulgaria. She is a Trustee of the American University in Bulgaria, and received Princess Maria-Louise received an honorary doctoral degree in Humane Letters in 2012. (My thanks to Edward Kasinec for putting me back in touch with Princess Maria-Louise).
- A gift of 111 Russian-language titles from the library of Zora Essman (1925-2017), a retired professor of Russian at NYU and Sarah Lawrence. Born Zora Pressman in New York City, her grandfather, Leo Feodoroff (b. 1870), was director of the Russian Grand Opera Company, and her mother, Anastasia Feodorovna (b. 1896), performed with the opera's dance company.
- A gift of 162 Serbian, Croatian, and émigré book materials from the library of Milojub Djuric (1924-2017). Born in Milosevac, Yugoslavia, Djuric spent six years in Italian DP camps before arriving in the US in 1951. After building a successful business in Detroit,

he became a political activist in the anti-Communist cause, and when the Serbian church split in 1963, became a leader of what became the Free Serbian Orthodox Church, serving on its Diocesan Council for over 25 years and as vice president for two terms. He was involved with the Serbian Unity Congress as well.

I would also like to thank Anna Frajlich-Zajac for contacting her fellow poet Eda Ostrowska, based in Lublin, who graciously donated seven volumes of her works lacking in Columbia holdings. This gift was in turn supplemented by Anna, who donated two additional volumes of Eda's work.

### **Archival**

Columbia's **Bakhmeteff Archive** acquired the papers (approximately 180 linear feet) of Edward Kline (1932-2017), a publisher and a co-founder of the Helsinki Watch Group. Kline founded the Chekhov Publishing Corporation in 1968, issuing works of Soviet dissident writers, and in 1973 he was the co-founder of Khronika Press. In 1990 he helped establish the Andrei Sakharov Foundation.

Also acquired by Bakhmeteff in 2017 was a collection of archival documents and photos pertaining to the Lithuanian revolutionary Ivan Adamovich Rachgus (b. 1895), and his daughter the sculptor Monna Ianovna Rachgus-Dokshitser (b. 1921). The Rachgus family suffered persecution during the Stalin Era.

### **New E-Resources**

Columbia added two new resources this fall, both offered via the existing East View Universal Databases platform:

- The English-language [Moscow News](#) contains all published issues (1930-2014, approx. 60,000 pages), including the newspaper's short-lived sister publication *Moscow Daily News* (1932-1938).
- The [Weekly of Vilnius](#) is an English-language "analytical and balanced news digest on Lithuania and the Baltics for a professional foreign audience, covering internal politics, foreign affairs, economics and business, and societal development." Columbia affiliates may access both current issues, and a backfile to 2012.

### **Digital Projects**

Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library now offers access to the digitized interviews (and transcripts of same) conducted by Thomas de Waal, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe. (A screenshot from the RBML website is below. Note that the collection must be accessed onsite). The collection of interviews with policymakers and participants from all sides of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, and Chechnya is a trove of unique primary source materials. For a very recent interview with Mr. de Waal, see: Masha Udensiva-Brenner, "Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus," in *Harriman Magazine*, Fall 2017: 32-41. [Harriman Magazine](#)

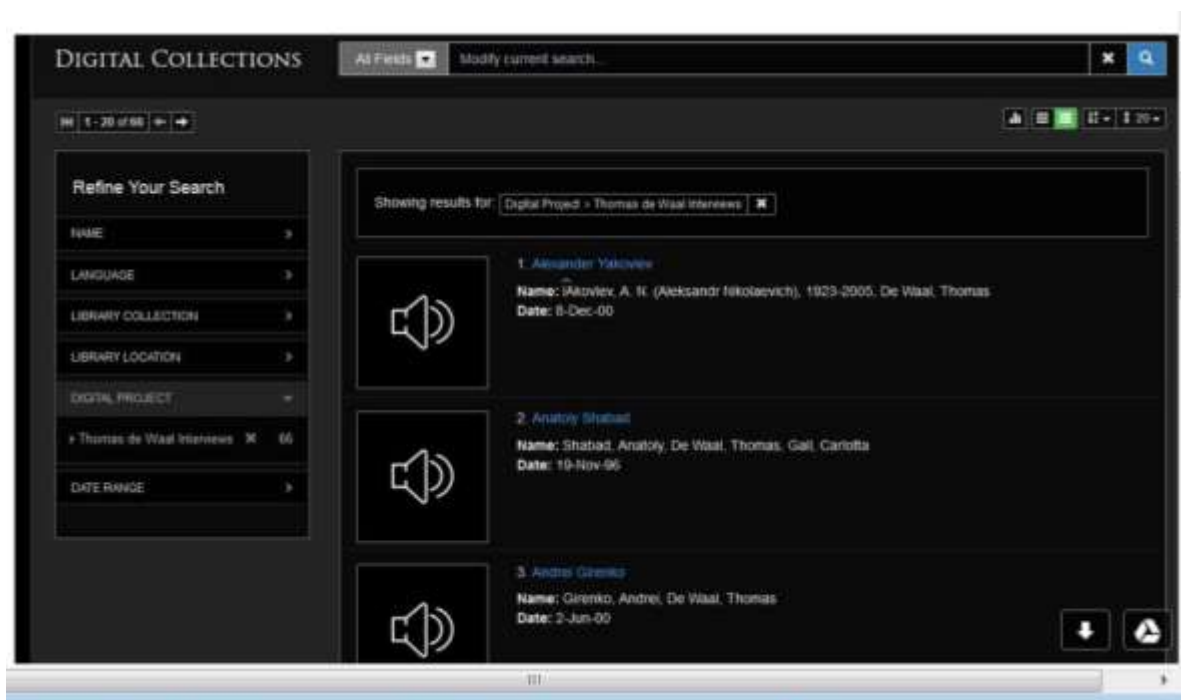
## Thomas de Waal Interviews



Thomas de Waal conducted interviews with some sixty participants and policymakers during the struggle between former Soviet Republics Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, and Russia's conflict with the breakaway republic of Chechnya. These files are an important resource for scholars and journalists alike.

[View this content »](#)

More information about the project may be found [here](#).



A sample screenshot of the de Waal Digital Collection access page.

In the Fall 2017 issue of *Newsnotes*, I reported on the digitization of our large collection of **Russian and Early Soviet sheet music** via the Columbia University Libraries' steadily expanding [Digital Gallery](#). Princeton graduate student Julia Khait has now completed an introductory article situating the collection in historical context from a musicologist's perspective, with additions by yours truly on the visual aspects of the collection. The article—

with links to the cited images in Columbia’s Digital Gallery—is now available for viewing and download via Academic Commons at [this link](#).

### Useful Web Resources

Corralling the vast (and scattered) resources floating on the free web could be a full-time occupation. Here are some interesting websites that I have across in recent months.

<http://journal-club.ru/> This site includes scattered downloadable issues of Soviet era titles from various years. For example, using the screen-shot examples (below), there are only seven issues of *Ogonek* for 1928: #10, 15, 22, 30, 31, 40 and 52.



<https://oldgazette.ru/> An interesting site with a very eclectic (and laconic) collection of digitized newspapers, most represented by single issues. It is most interesting in its materials from the Stalin Era (as well as in post-1953 publications of Stalinists). In its introduction, it notes that the “First Five-Year Plan, industrial plan, collectivization, industrialization ... the trials of saboteurs in 1930-31 and 1937-38 ... Spain and the Far East. Chelyuskin and German fascism ... all this from the point of view of old Soviet newspapers.”

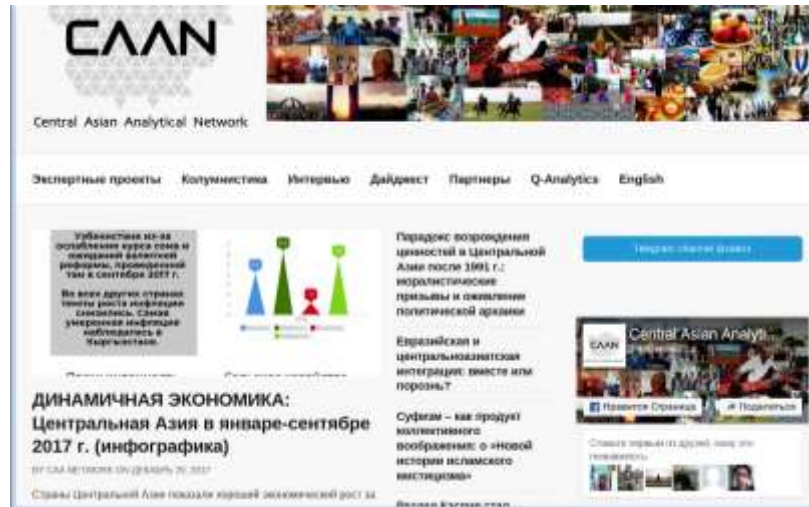


Sample page, here for the newspaper *Molot*, downloadable page-by-page.



(Left) Sample page of *Molot* from 1945; (Right) from *Stalinskaya smena*, 1956.

For those of you researching Central Asia, the Open Society-funded [Central Asian Analytical Network](#) (see screenshot, below) is an interesting source for political, economic and social analyses of the region. The project is described in a [2015 article](#) by Marlene Laruelle, Director of the Central Asia Program at George Washington University.



Screenshot of CAAN website.

## Miscellanea

**Tanya Chebotarev**, Curator of the Bakhmeteff Archive of the Rare Book & Manuscripts Library, organized an international conference with Irina Reyfman, Professor of Russian Literature in the Columbia University Department of Slavic Languages entitled *Two Revolutions and Beyond*, on November 2-4, 2017. The conference was sponsored by the Harriman Institute and the University Seminars.

She also organized a significant exhibition at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, “Actors and Perpetrators,” which ran from October 2 - December 22, 2017 in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library’s Kempner Gallery. The exhibit, drawing upon the Bakhmeteff’s rich and diverse collections, commemorated the dramatic events of that year and attempted to show their significance down to the present day.

Ms. Chebotarev gave presentations at the ASEEES Convention in Chicago at a round table on the Centennial of the Russian Revolution, and presented a paper at the international conference "Convention and Revolution: Life writing by Women," held in Warsaw.

**Robert Davis** authored two articles: “2CUL Slavic: The View So Far,” *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, 18(1-2): 67-73 (2017); and “Collecting Modernist Works on Paper at Columbia, Cornell, and The New York Public Library: Past and Present,” *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, 18(3-4): 203-222 (2017).

He was a panelist on: “Leadership, Literature, Libraries, and Lenses: Edward Allworth’s Legacy in Central Asian Studies,” *18<sup>th</sup> Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference*, Seattle; and on “Collecting the Revolution,” *ASEEES 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*, Chicago, and served as a discussant for “Collecting Grey Literature from Eastern Europe: Opportunities and Challenges,” *ASEEES 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*.

In September, 2017 the Columbia University Libraries were visited by Natallia Hardziyenka, Vice-Director, Belarusian State Archive-Museum of Literature & Art.



Cornell colleagues, I am planning to visit Ithaca during the second week of February. Please let me know if you like to meet then. I will provide a specific date as we get closer to February. Til then, stay warm!