



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources. No. 23. Fall 2021.

Dear Colleagues:

Much has transpired since my last *Newsnotes* back in January. Vaccines, eased masked mandates (well, for the moment!), and the prospect of a return to our respective campuses in late August/early September are all welcome signs of progress.

I am also happy to report that, the pandemic notwithstanding, budgets and library activity are returning to normal. (While we are still not allowing non-affiliates onsite, the situation is constantly evolving, and I would recommend periodically checking this [Libraries website](#) for Columbia updates, and [here](#) for Cornell information). Despite the challenges posed by this past year and a half, much has been accomplished in the area of collection-building on both campuses.

Perhaps the biggest news of the semester is the fact that 3.27 million records for Harvard Depository and ReCAP items are now available for request or scan directly from the CLIO catalog. By my calculations, there are in excess of 400,000 records for our area alone. Harvard's records join those of ReCAP partners Princeton and the NYPL, putting substantial parts of these great research libraries at your fingertips. Special thanks for this go to the Bibliographic Control, and Access and Delivery Services of the Columbia Libraries. While I am still mostly working remotely, I have started easing back to campus. While we all maintain a degree of de-densification and social distancing, I am looking forward to seeing you all in person in the weeks and months ahead. As always, keep in touch!

Rob Davis

CURRENT ACQUISITIONS

In spite of COVID, which physically sickened at least two of our in-country vendors, in FY 10,608 items on paper in the vernacular languages of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union arrived at Columbia; Cornell received 2,430 paper titles on approval in Russian, Belarusian, Serbian, and Romanian. Just to underscore, this figure *does not* include an additional 500 Russian-language e-books received by each library, nor does it include titles in English and Western European languages *about* the region. Also note that due to COVID restrictions, approval shipments from our principal Russian approval vendor resumed at Cornell only on December 31, 2020, resulting in reduced intake for the overall fiscal year.

As of May 2021, Columbia's vernacular-language holdings, in some 66 languages of the region, numbered over 522,000 records in the OCLC bibliographic database, while Cornell's stood at

272,000, of which 70% are in Russian. These are two of the largest, most historic collections of their kind in the United States, and among the best supported.

ANTIQUARIAN ACQUISITIONS

Through the support of the Primary Resources Fund, and the Avery Classics Library, **Columbia** acquired the graphic artist Jaroslav Šváb's (1906-1999) personal archive of approximately 650 items, including printing samples and specimens, test printings, alternate variations, publisher's ephemera, and original renderings, spanning the period 1928-1968.



The Šváb Archive before processing.

Šváb was a key participant in the inter-war avant garde in Czechoslovakia, proved himself to be a master of disparate forms of graphic art and design during a long and focused career, and, in the process, became the most prolific 20th Century designer of books and book bindings in Central Europe. Though his illustrations and book designs have found their way into most



Examples of Šváb's graphic design from the Interwar period.

significant private and institutional collections focusing on the avant-garde movements of the period, the breadth of Šváb's work and its origins have been little studied outside of his homeland. An adherence to the principles of modernism and the flourishes of Prague's inter-war avant garde marked Šváb's approach to illustration for most of his career. He was trained and nurtured by proto-modernists, especially Ladislav Sutnar (1897-1976) and Jaroslav Benda (1882-1970), and his earliest commissions are notable for their fine use of constructivism, photo collage and photomontage. The collection, now being processed, is held by the Rare Book and Manuscript Division.

Columbia also purchased a first edition of Aleksei M. Remizov's (1877-1857) first book, *Posolon'* (M., 1907), designed and illustrated by N.P.Krumov (1884-1958), an artist who participated in the Golubaia Roza (Blue Rose) and Zolotoe Runo (Golden Fleece) groups.

Cornell's Rare Book holdings were enhanced by a number of new and unusual additions.

One such acquisition is a modern take on the Russian folktale "Masha and the Bear." Produced by the New York émigré artist Mikhail Magaril (b. 1950) in only five copies (New York, 2020) in a clamshell box.



Cover and box of Magaril's Masha and the Bear (New York, 2020).

Cornell's world-renowned Human Sexuality collection was enhanced with titles produced in Russia, Armenia, and in emigration from the 1970s, 1990s, and 2000s, including Aleksandr Afanasiev's *Erotic Tales of Old Russia* (Oakland, 1988), illustrated by Alek Rapaport; *Eroticheskie taro*. (M., 2003); and *Pol'naia seksual'naia entsiklopediia* (Kharkiv, 2010).

Titles documenting political dissent, such as Grigorii Klimov's *Delo No. 69* (NY, 1974), were also added to Rare Book holdings.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

The Bakhmeteff Archive added two significant collections since the beginning of 2021: Additions (ca. six linear feet of material) to the papers of Russian-born émigré painter Serge Hollerbach (b. 1923), and the Arkadii Belinkov (1921-1970) Papers (ca. five linear feet of material).

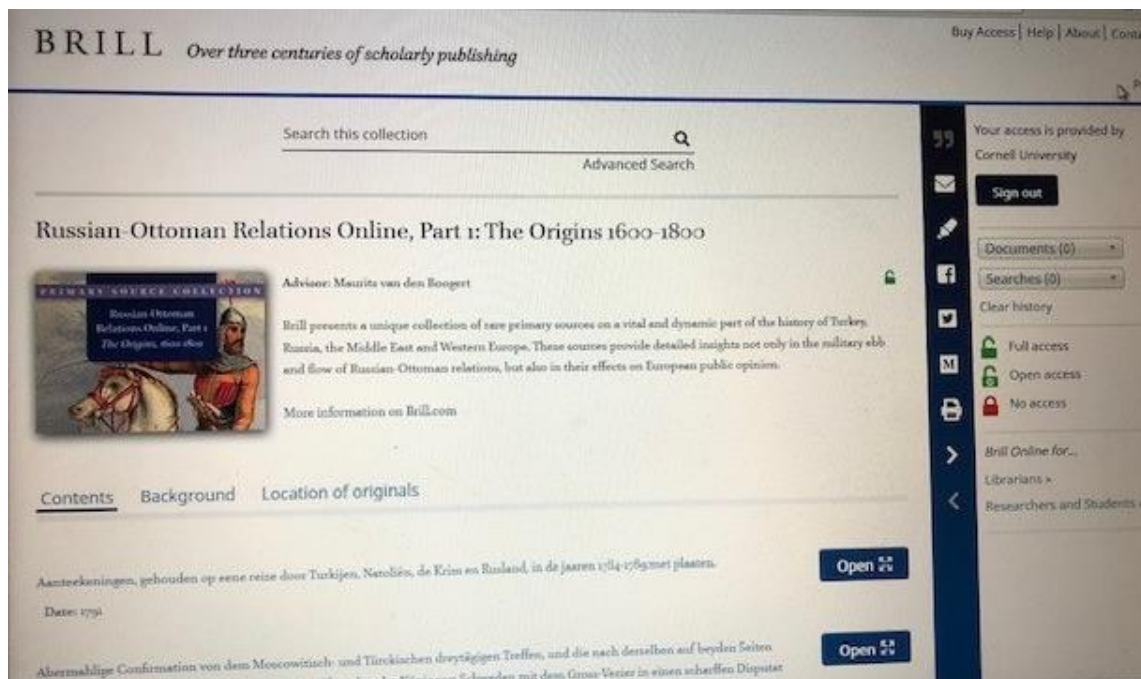
Curator Tanya Chebotarev reports that Belinkov's papers include a holograph manuscript of his first novel—*A Diary of Feelings*, 1944—for which he was arrested and spent almost 10 years in the Gulag, and includes correspondence with many prominent Russian, European and American intellectuals.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

In 2020, Cornell and Columbia embarked on an experiment—driven by COVID-driven shut-downs of physical facilities—to provide access to 450-500 titles produced by more than 30 academic publishers in Russia *as they appeared electronically*, ensuring timely access to these new materials at a time when traditional print materials were not circulating. The success of this Cornell-Columbia, Yale and NYPL pilot project, has led to a renewal and expansion this fiscal

year, now including also Princeton, Harvard, and NYU, which has the added benefit of significantly reducing the cost to provide full cataloging for these titles.

Cornell purchased Brill's "[Russian-Ottoman Relations](#)," a large collection of 193 digitized printed sources from the Russian National Library. The collection is divided into 1. The origins, 1600-1800; 2. Shifts in the balance of power, 1800-1853; 3. The Crimean War, 1854-1856; and 4. The end of the empires, 1857-1914. Imprints date from the 1670s.



Brill Opening Page

Columbia was able to add eleven serial titles with deep backfiles to its electronic resource offerings since January: The illustrated literary journal *30 dnei* (1925-1941); the Russian daily *Gudok* (1917-2020); *Illiustrirovannaia Rossiia* (1924-1939); the long-running *Kavkaz* (1846-1918), the first Russian-language newspaper in the Caucasus; the illustrated weekly *Nedelia* (1960-2019); the official daily *Pravda Ukrainy* (1938-2014); the monthly *Slaviane* (1942-1958); *Slovo Kyrgystana* and its predecessor titles (1925-2009); the journal of military theory *Voennaia mysl'* (1918-2019) and its predecessors; *Warsaw Pact Journal* (1970-1990); and a collection of Ukrainian KGB documents on Chernobyl'. Titles presently are listed only on East View Information Service's (EVIS) Universal Databases platform, not individually, so Columbia affiliates should visit the links connected with [this record](#) to access.

Columbia also purchased two digital collections of documents and ephemera. The first was for materials produced during the [August 1991 Coup](#) and includes "...official telegrams issued by the GKChP, newspapers published by the opposition, samizdat leaflets, flyers, and posters produced by and for the people on the streets that provide one of a kind visual and textual insight into the events as they were unfolding." The second documents political leaflets and other ephemera connected with the [Russian State Duma](#) election of 2016

Finally, Columbia acquired an e-book package of some 150 titles from EVIS entitled “Ukraine Between the Wars,” which includes imprints circa 1895 to 1957, with most dating from 1900-1931. The collection documents concerns of intellectuals and politicians during early attempts at statehood and initial experience of Sovietization.

WEB-BASED RESOURCES

Unquestionably, for our area of the world, the biggest open-access project completed—and gearing up for another round—is the [Imperial Russian Newspapers Project](#). Sponsored by the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, with extensive financial support from its member libraries (including both Cornell and Columbia), and made available on the EVIS Universal Database platform, the project has digitized extensive runs of pre-1917 titles.

The collection currently includes 19 titles with nearly 26,000 issues and over 230,000 pages. Titles include: *Birzhevye vedomosti* (SPb, 1862); *Den'* (SPb, 1912-1918); *Kommercheskaia gazeta* (SPb, 1825-1860); *Moskovskie vedomosti* (M., 1913-1916); *Olonetskie gubernskie vedomosti* (Petrozavodsk, 1917); *Orenburgskie gubernskie vedomosti* (Samara, 1845-1846); *Zemledel'cheskaia gazeta* (SPb, 1834-1916); and various *Sankt-Peterburgskie vedomosti* editions of the late 18th and mid-19th century.

Other open-access websites of note:

- RGDB (The Russian State Children’s Library) presents a digital archive of books, magazines, and newspapers dating back to 1728: <https://arch.rgdb.ru/xmlui/> For newer, in-copyright titles, only covers are shown.
- Josh Wilson, the Assistant Director of SRAS.org posted the following videos for those “with interests, or with students with interests, in Russian archives”: a video on YouTube about foreigners using archives in Russia – specifically GARF and RGALI at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_mSoPl5R2M They have also added to their archive resources at GeoHistory: <https://geohistory.today/category/archives/>
- Bookseller Branko Vukovic notes access to digitized items from the National and University Library in Zagreb at: <http://www.nsk.hr/HeritageUnits.aspx?id=136>
- My Berkeley colleague Dr. Liladhar Pendse notes the existence of a useful new Harvard-based site: <https://caspiana.omeka.fas.harvard.edu/> **Caspiana** is “A Digital Toolbox for Students and Scholars of Central Asia and the South Caucasus.” Developed and hosted by **The Program on Central Asia** at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, there are links to media sources, government portals, legislation databases, statistics, and academic resources pertaining to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Angela Cannon of the Library of Congress has produced two detailed and comprehensive descriptions of Russian newspapers held by the Library of Congress, found at:

<https://guides.loc.gov/russian-newspapers> which is supplemented by *Russian Newspapers Published in the United States*, <https://guides.loc.gov/russian-newspapers-united-states>.

- Finally, there are links to several open access Albanian journals of note: Studime historike = Historical Studies: http://asa.edu.al/site/ih/?page_id=826
Studime per artin = Art studies: <http://iaksa.edu.al/revista-studime-per-artin/>
Iliria = Illyria: <https://www.persee.fr/collection/iliri>
Hylli i drites = Near the light: http://bibliotekashkoder.com/digital/hylli_i_drites/

OUTREACH & EXHIBITION PROJECTS



On September 7, 2021, the Harriman Atrium Gallery in the International Affairs Building will host an exhibit devoted to the library collections at Columbia and Cornell, marking the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Harriman (originally the Russian) Institute. An issue dedicated to the Harriman anniversary will appear as Volume 22, no. 3-4 (December 2021/January 2022) issue of *Slavic & East European Information Resources*. The issue will be guest edited by Edward Kasinec, Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution and Research Associate at the Harriman Institute, and include the following contributions: Robert H. Davis, Jr. *The Slavic, East European & Eurasian Collections of Columbia University @ 118: Vignettes Towards a History*; Lyubov Ginzburg. *Two Russian Foundational Collections at Columbia University Library: Witte & Warburg*; Tanya Chebotarev. *A Path to Non-Oblivion: A Brief History of the Bakhmeteff Archive*; Bogdan Horbal. “‘42nd’ and ‘The Heights’: A Century Long Romance”; David Chroust. *A Rusyn-American Life in Books: George Sabo in New York and Florida*; Franklin A. Sciacca. *Amassing Russica and Ucrainica: Memoirs of a Collector and His Collecting*; Richard A.

