



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources. No. 5, Fall 2012

Dear Colleagues:

A new Academic Year begins! Herewith a brief report on developments at Cornell and Columbia libraries since the 2CUL Librarian's last report in January at the start of the spring semester.

Collection Budgets

Happily, final collection development funding allocations for both Cornell and Columbia came in according to preliminary projections. Cornell's base allocation was steady, while endowment draws ticked up 4.5%. Columbia increased the base budget by 5% and, like Cornell, increased endowment draws as well. In total, 2CUL has allocated \$651,154. for the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian collection development for the current Fiscal Year—a very substantial sum! In addition, this year Cornell is making additional funding available for one-time electronic purchases, so the Librarian will be approaching Cornell faculty for recommendations, building upon our success in this area (more than \$50,000. in online database purchases!) at the close of last calendar year. Meanwhile, at Columbia, the 2CUL Librarian will be seeking the help of our Primary Resources Fund to bring additional rarities to Morningside Heights,

Current Imprints

One of the great challenges to collection-building these days is that book publishing in the languages and countries of our world region are thriving. Simultaneously, the cost of obtaining these materials has sharply increased. Great university libraries, which once could claim to be “comprehensive” for a given language, are today anything but! The 2CUL initiative is giving us greater flexibility to reduce duplication, devoting our resources to collecting a greater number of titles than was possible before.

For example, this fall, Columbia and Cornell established a new approval plan specifically for current imprints from Eastern Ukraine. We now use two approval vendors for the country—one based in Western Ukraine, the other in the East—to ensure that we capture a greater percentage of Ukrainian publishing output. Likewise, we have also established profiles for Russian regional imprints, bringing on board two additional “in-country” vendors (material in the languages we collect in from this part of the world are currently supplied by eighteen different vendors!). As always, materials are distributed to both campuses.

Gifts

Gifts regularly add hundreds of titles to our collections every year, deepening our retrospective collections, and often bringing us scarce current imprints in many area languages. Gifts that have arrived since January 2012 and benefiting both libraries include:

- More than 200 volumes from the library of Belarusian émigré author Masei Siadniou (1914-2001), including many copies inscribed by prominent Belarusian authors both in the homeland and in emigration.
- The Estate of Columbia Library School graduate Alvin Skipsna donated extensive and scarce Latvian imprints, including works by émigré writer Anslavs Eglitis.
- Russian-language gifts included rare books from the library of the late Paul Klebnikov, the American journalist and editor of *Forbes* in Russia.
- A selection of recent imprints published by the All-Russia Library for Foreign Literatures was presented to the 2CUL Librarian by Rudomino Library Director Ekaterina Genieva.
- A collection on Soviet foreign policy and Third World relations was donated by Dr. Jonathan Charnis.
- The University of North Carolina donated a duplicate set of U.S. geological Survey satellite maps of the Republic of Armenia. The maps, now at Cornell, are held by just a handful of North American institutions.
- Professors Richard Wortman, and Elizabeth Valkenier of Columbia both donated additional titles from their working libraries.
- Nineteenth and 20th century South Slavic titles were given by Violet Todorovich.
- Ukrainian gift materials included almost 100 titles from Hanna Zyruk, as well as duplicates from the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York, as well as items donated by Professor Frank Sysyn, and Dr. Roman Procyk.
- More than 130 English-language translations of Macedonian literature and poetry were presented by the Consul General.
- A dozen recent titles were given by the Azerbaijani Mission to the United Nations.
- The largest single gift received this FY—some 1,500 recent Russian titles—was provided to 2CUL by the Boris Yeltsin Foundation, and consisted of imprints of various publishers displayed at the Russian pavilion at the June 2012 BookExpo America.



One section of the expansive “ReadRussia” pavilion at the Javits Center, June 2-7, 2012.

Rare Books & Manuscripts

The 2CUL Librarian purchased Nabokov's *La Course du Fou*. Paris: Univers A. Fayard et Cie: (1933) for Cornell's Rare Books & Manuscripts Library. This was the first foreign-language translation of *Zashchita Luzhina*, and the Cornell copy is a particular bibliographic rarity: a pristine, uncut copy, in a special edition of 75 copies.

At Columbia, Carolyn Yerkes of the [Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Classics](#) collection has expanded holdings of the underrepresented modernist traditions of Eastern Europe. Since my last report, she has added almost seventy examples of late 19th and early 20th century art & architectural works from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Poland, and Russia, including Jindrich Eckert's visually-stunning *Karlův Most* (Praha, 1892).

Other unusual purchases included two collections of ephemera--posters, calendars, newspapers, brochures and other related campaign paraphernalia. The first was connected with the run-up to the Russian Duma elections of December 2011, and the second dealt with the Russian presidential election of 2012.

As this issue went to (virtual) press, the 2CUL Librarian was informed that Columbia's Primary Resources Fund had agreed to support the purchase of a twenty-three item collection of rare works of poetry, experimental literature, and cultural magazines, representing the avant-garde spirit of early modernism as it found expression in Latvia.



Jauna Gvarde. Riga, 1928-1929. Columbia purchased four issues of this militant leftist journal.

This collection includes books and serials designed and illustrated by some of the country's leading interwar artists, prominent among them Niklavs Strunke, who worked closely with Riga's radical leftist literary community. This purchase will reside in Avery Library's Classics Collection, and supplements a purchase of twenty Latvian avant-garde books and serial issues of the same vintage purchased last fiscal year. This acquisition further enhances Columbia's standing as a major repository of avant-garde graphic design from this underrepresented part of the globe.

New E-Resources

The price of e-resources keeps rising, yet their great utility compels us to bite the bullet, and sign on! Since January, both campuses have acquired access to the complete *Literaturnaia gazeta* (1929-present) database. Columbia has also obtained the full back file for *Voprosy literatury* (1957-present).

At the end of the Fiscal Year, Jeff Carroll, Columbia's new Director of Collection Development, used unused general acquisitions funds to purchase an important (and expensive) electronic database in our field, "The History of Modern Russian & Ukrainian Art," offered by IDC/Brill. This collection of 215 digitized titles encompasses critical literature, illustrated books, and art periodicals, with texts by, for example, Kandinsky, Pavel Filonov, and Malevich, as well as by groups such as "Bubnovyi valet." The 2CUL Librarian is grateful for Jeff's efforts on behalf of Slavic and East European studies!

As mentioned earlier in this issue of *Newsnotes*, Cornell will be taking proposals for e-resource special purchases. The 2CUL Librarian will be soliciting faculty input anon!

Digitization Projects

The first forty-eight (of ninety-four) rare Ukrainian Displaced Person Camp serials have been digitized by the Center for Research Libraries. This project, spearheaded by Dr. Ksenya Kiebusinski of the University of Toronto, brings together scarce titles held by Harvard, Toronto, and (with the assistance of both the 2CUL Librarian and Lyudmila Shpilevaya of NYPL) the Ukrainian Academy of Arts & Sciences in the U.S.A. on West 100th Street. This project is capturing and preserving these rare titles—often printed on poor-quality paper, or issued in rotaprint—and making them widely available to researchers.

Grants

The 2CUL Librarian is pleased to report that Columbia's Harriman Institute, and the Columbia University Libraries have received a prestigious NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers grant for June 9-29, 2013: *America's Russian-Speaking Immigrants & Refugees: 20th Century Migration & Memory*.

Co-Directed by your correspondent and Harriman Research Scholar Edward Kasinec, and with the leadership of Harriman Director Timothy M. Frye, the Institute will consider the substance of the terms "diaspora," "transnational," "accommodation," and "memory" through the specific prism of the four distinct waves—First (1917-40), Second (1947-55), Third (1967-89), and Fourth (1989 to the present)—of Russian-speaking immigrants to America.

Institute applicants—current faculty members at U.S. institutions, independent scholars, museum curators, and two advanced graduate students—will compete for the twenty-five available Summer Scholar spots. Over a three-week period, this select group will engage

in a lively dialogue with an extraordinary array of upwards of fifty master teachers, scholars, and social services and community representatives of the last three waves of emigration (and with the children of the first).

This is the 2CUL Librarian's second NEH Summer Institute grant at Columbia, and fifth overall.

Enhanced Access Beyond 2CUL

Initiatives to more widely coordinate collecting efforts are expanding. After decades of librarians *talking* about coordinating efforts, libraries are now taking concrete steps to ensure that we collectively continue to provide access to a broad and deep resource for the scholarly community, building upon the great legacy of the past century.

In May, the three institutions that share an offsite library storage facility—Columbia, Princeton, and the NYPL—initiated common “selective/limited duplication” approval plans for Polish materials, and a similar plan was implemented for Czech between Columbia and NYPL alone. As with 2CUL, our respective institutions are able to collectively acquire more, by duplicating less, and reinvesting these savings in additional material.

Most recently, at a June meeting of the East Coast Slavic Library Consortium held at the Harriman Institute and at Butler Library, the assembled librarians (from 2CUL, Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, NYPL, NYU, Princeton, Seton Hall, UNC, and Yale) discussed possible ways to broaden coverage of Russian provincial publications through greater coordination of efforts. The 2CUL librarian is the incoming Chair of the Consortium.

This East Coast meeting coincided (quite intentionally!) with the annual New York BookExpo America, held at the Javits Convention Center June 5-7, with Russia as the featured country. Among the many panel presentations in the large and impressive “Read Russia” Pavilion was “What Are American Slavic Librarians Buying?” Chaired by the 2CUL librarian, panelists included library colleagues from Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, NYPL, and the Library of Congress.



BookExpo library panelists, from l. to r.: L. Pendse, H. Leich, T. Lorkovic, R. Davis, S. Corrsin.

Useful Databases

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

Columbia's *Human Rights Web Archive* collects and—significantly—captures and preserves--web content produced by human rights organizations throughout the world, including many organizations active in Eastern Europe. A project of the Columbia University Libraries, the website is found at:

<http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/humanrights/hrwa.html>

Both Columbia and Cornell have subscriptions to the Central & Eastern European Online Library (perhaps better-known by the initials CEEOL). This searchable database of 813 different serial publications in the humanities and social sciences—most especially titles that appear quarterly and annually—is a very efficient way to search across resources. Please note that in terms of number of titles, the South Slavic, Romanian, and Hungarian languages are best-represented.

The link for Cornell: <http://cornell.worldcat.org/oclc/51443810>

The link for Columbia: <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5887498>

Miscellanea

In August (at long last!) the tired-looking, 1970s-era precincts of the Global Studies Division of the Columbia Libraries fell under the blows of a sledgehammer, making way for a complete re-imagining of the space, scheduled for completion by the end of the semester. This renovation will vastly enhance the availability of private conference spaces for faculty/student consultations with Area Studies librarians. During the renovations, the 2CUL librarian is located in Room 1232 of the International Affairs Building, although contact numbers (212 854-4701) remain the same.

Travel Schedule

The 2CUL Librarian is planning to travel to **Ithaca** in October, and would welcome the opportunity to meet informally with Cornell colleagues—faculty, staff and students. An email will go out to faculty in advance of the actual travel date.

Oh, and there are still a few remaining softbound copies of the *Read Russia! Anthology*, distributed free of charge at BookExpo: <http://readrussia2012.com/anthology/read-russia-anthology> Please email the 2CUL Librarian if you are interested.

With all best wishes for a successful term!

Rob Davis

Rhd2106@Columbia.edu or RHD65@Cornell.edu

212 854-4701

Skype address: robert-h-davis