



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies Resources. No. 25. Fall 2022.

Dear Colleagues:

As we slowly emerge (thankfully) from a muggy, hot summer season, I want to update you on developments and acquisitions at Cornell and Columbia since February.

It is a mixed picture, to be sure, reflecting the challenges we are facing at home and abroad—ranging from rampant inflation, lingering COVID, political division and climate disruptions here at home, to hot wars and the threat of widening conflict in Europe and Asia.

I live in hope, as we all do, that positive resolutions to these myriad challenges will ultimately emerge; in the meantime, many additional gray hairs and sleepless nights...

In the meantime I look forward--after two years of distancing--to see and interact with you, my colleagues, in a post-Zoom environment. I am now regularly on the Morningside Heights campus, and always up for a cuppa joe... And I will soon be resuming my regular visits to beautiful Ithaca.

Warmest wishes,

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CURRENT ACQUISITIONS

Looking just at books that arrived on approval—where a vendor selects new material based on our existing subject profile, and send them throughout the fiscal year—Columbia received 9,647 items in the vernacular languages of the vast region we cover, from 13 mostly in-country vendors. Cornell received 2,611 approval items from four vendors. Again, these figures exclude so-called firm orders (specific individual titles ordered by faculty or student request), gifts, or e-resources. For example, in addition to the combined 12,258 physical titles obtained on approval, both Cornell and Columbia purchased a package of some 416 recent e-books from 44 different major Russian publishers.

These impressive numbers belie the difficulties encountered in the course of the past FY. At Cornell, the acquisition of materials from our main Russian vendor was paused for several months following the invasion of Ukraine and subsequent sanctions. As a result Cornell received far-fewer Russian-language titles this past FY.

For Columbia, which has an active approval plan for Ukrainian imprints, the invasion initially disrupted the flow of materials, but our colleagues on the ground soon developed alternative shipping routes, and we ultimately received more than 724 recent Ukrainian titles—no small feat under the circumstances.

In the FY that began July 1, the endowment payout from both institutions increased substantially, adding funding to the library and acquisitions pot for both. Cornell's 7% increase in payout was the largest in more than eight years. However, while Columbia's allocated (as opposed to endowed) budget for materials increased, Cornell's did not, making the current FY more of a challenge.

In the area of coordinated collection development, we have expanded the languages and subjects for which Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, NYPL and Princeton are dividing responsibilities. This spring Columbia, Princeton, and Harvard have organized new approval plans for Central Asia and the Caucasus. Columbia's responsibilities are for Uzbek and Turkmen (in all subjects), as well as for art & architectural materials from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan).

GIFTS

Amir Bey donated a published collection of memoranda prepared by his father, Romeo A. Cherot (1920-2006), when the latter was an editor and analyst for Radio Free Europe. The series spans the period from 1954-1956, at the beginning of his 20 year career at RFE. Cherot was among the first African-Americans to receive a Certificate from Columbia's Russian Institute.

Columbia also received as an anonymous gift the monthly *Prorocheskoe Svietlo/Prophetic Light* ([Proctor, VT, 1919-?]) of religious texts mostly in Russian, with some in Carpatho-Rusyn. The monthly was issued by a self-governing community of Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants in Vermont. (See the article by Paul R. Magocsi, "[Immigrants from Eastern Europe: The Carpatho-Rusyn Community of Proctor, Vermont.](#)" *Vermont History*, 42(1): 48-52, Winter 1974). The gift included scattered issues from 1919 and 1920, as well as a fairly complete run from 1921 till March 1953.

Dr. Richard Brody, a Columbia alum, donated materials obtained in Russia during his dissertation research in the early 1990s, as well as Soviet wartime propaganda publications, and historical and ideological publications from the early Cold War years.

Miriam Cohen, Executor of the Estate of her late husband Professor *Emeritus* **Laurent Stern** of Rutgers University donated four large boxes of Hungarian titles from his library. Ms. Cohen also generously provided funds towards the cataloging of the many *lacunae* encountered in this gift. Columbia is proud to hold the second largest collection of Hungarian-language books in the

nation (exceeded only by the Library of Congress), and so are very grateful to fill gaps whenever possible.

Dr. Ervin G. Otvos of Mississippi donated a number of Hungarian books on history and literature that represented lacunae in our holdings.

Dr. Reuven Rudich of Connecticut donated forty-three Romanian monographic and serial titles lacking in ReCAP, as well as an item from the library of playwright Eugene Ionesco.

Dr. Paul Michael Taylor, Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program, and Curator, Asian, European, and Middle Eastern Ethnology donated a number of pamphlets and volumes lacking in our holdings here at Columbia and at ReCAP, including Sonya Bekkerman's *At the crossroads of Asia and Europe: 20th century masterpieces from the A. Kasteyev State Museum of Arts in Kazakhstan*. (New York: National Arts Club, 2018), *Central Asia: A Treasure Trove from Private US Collections* (New York: National Arts Club, 2019), and *International Exhibition In search of Shambala* (New York: Nicholas Roerich Museum, 2017).

Professor Franklin Sciacca donated additional materials to Columbia, supplementing several important gifts of recent years. This donation was particularly timely, including miscellaneous artifacts, ephemera, and booklets from the 2004 Orange Revolution and campaign of Viktor Yushchenko (see below).



Joan Vician de Cristofaro of Milan donated forty-two Slovak-language titles from the libraries of her uncle, **Klement Simoncic** (1912-2010, a former Columbia Slavic Department faculty member), and her father (and Simoncic's brother-in-law) **George Vician, Jr.** (1913-1986).

Simoncic (1912-2010) was born in Dolna Krupa, Slovakia, taught Slovak at Strasburg before World War II, was made a POW by the Vichy Government, escaped to the Allied lines and joined the U.S. Army. After the war, he became a chief writer for the New York Slovak newspaper *Denik*, as well as a scriptwriter for RFE for 30 years. He also taught Slovak language & literature at Columbia. His papers are held by the Hoover Institution. Vician was a New

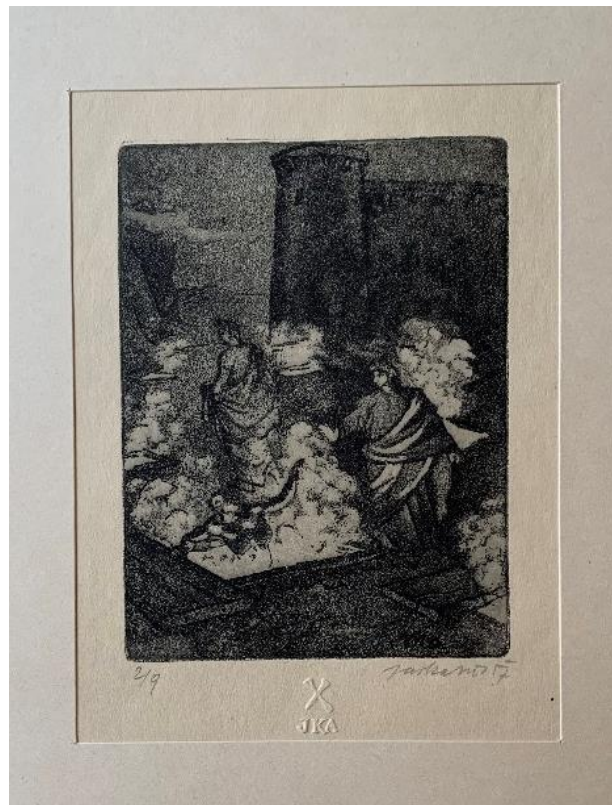
York-born attorney active in assisting Slovak immigrants, and also active in the émigré political and artistic scene in NYC.

Dr. Magdalena Ptaszyńska and Radosław Ptaszyński, of the Instytut Historyczny, Uniwersytet Szczeciński, presented the library with a copy of their book *Skalpel '68: kampania antysemitka w środowisku szczecińskich lekarzy* (Kraków: Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych Universitas, 2021). With special thanks to Anna Frajlich-Zajac for making the connection!

ANTIQUARIAN PURCHASES

Cornell acquired:

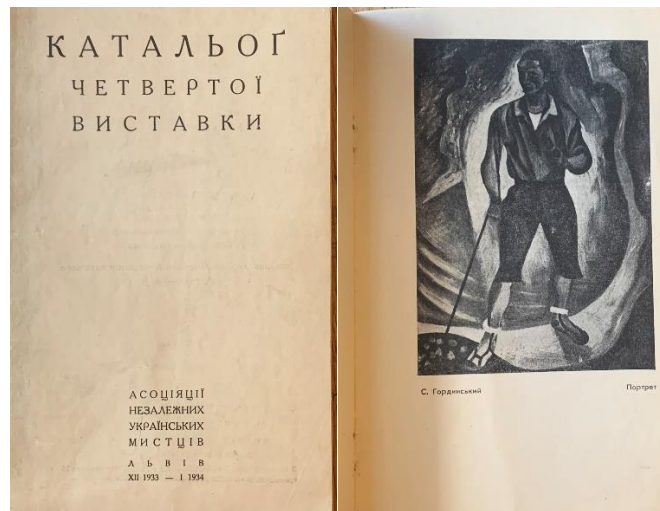
- An illustrated edition of Dante Alighieri's *Peklo* [The Inferno] (Uherské Hradiště: Published by the artist, 1957). Jiří Jaska (1906-1982) was a Moravian sculptor and graphic artist trained under Josef Mařatka (1874-1937) at Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová in Prague. He was also a noted teacher and founder of the Art School at Zlin. His self-published portfolio of etchings inspired by Dante's Inferno is rare and present in no public collection.



The eight matted etchings are signed by the artist.

Columbia acquired:

- *Puti Tvorchestva* Nos.1-2 (Of 5 issued). (Kharkov: Izdanie Zhurnala Khar'kov Pod'otdel iskusstv Otdela nar. obrazovaniia khar'kovskogo gub.ispolkoma, 1919), an extremely rare periodical with no hard copies in any public collection, covering art exhibitions, theater and opera. Seven tipped-in illustrations and four illustrations in text, and a cover design by the Ukrainian avant-garde artist Vasily Ermilov (1894-1968).
- Sviatoslav Hordyns'kyi (Ed., 1906-1993). *Kataloh Chetvertoi Vystavki* (Lviv: Asotsiatsiia nezaleznykh ukrains'kykh mysttsiv, 1934), documenting the fourth group exhibition of ANUM, the association of independent Ukrainian artists, formed in 1930 and disbanded by the Soviet government in 1939. ANUM exhibited Ukrainian émigré artists as well as those working in Ukraine and did not adhere to the tenets of socialist realism. This exhibition featured a spectacular cubist composition by Pavel Kovzhun (1896-1939) as well as more conventional figurative works.



A number of recent Czech antiquarian imprints were recently acquired, including:

- *Hvězdám blíž* (Brno: Zdeněk Bilík, 1943), consisting of 45 color caricatures of film stars;
- A collection of 67 Czech film programs, circa 1933-35 published by Max Fuchs (for the *Obrázkový filmový program*), and M. Schulz (for the series *Bio-Program v obrazech*), 1933-35;
- And the theater almanac *Nové české divadlo: Sborník Dramatického svazu*, dated 1926, 1927, and 1928-29. Each volume, bound in a deluxe binding, is copiously illustrated with photos of productions, actors, stage designs, costumes and caricatures.
- Issues Nos. 1-10 for 1925 of the Hungarian serial edited by Tivadar Raith, *Magyar Irás*. The serial was published from 1920-27, before a hiatus, resuming in 1932.

- A group of eleven issues of the leading Georgian avant-garde literary and artistic journal *Drosha: orkvireuli samkhatvro-saliteraturo (dasuratebuli) zhurnali* [The Flag. Bi-monthly Artistic and Literary Magazine] now supplement an existing file first purchased in 2017 (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/1235674>). Published in Tiflis from 1923 to 1935, *Drosha* includes photographs, caricatures, film stills, and reproductions of art. One of the wrapper designs is by Irakli Toidze (1902-1985), a Tbilisi-born painter and poster designer best known for his anti-Nazi propaganda works during World War II, especially the iconic poster "Rodina-mat' zovet!" created in 1941. In the early period represented by this purchase, the aesthetics were dominated by the graphic artist David Kutateladze (1901–1958), who was influenced by the avant-garde work of Il'ia Zdanevich in his typographic and cover designs. The issues for 1924 also contain cubist drawings by Mikhael Gotsiridze (1901-1975) and a number of early photomontages.
- Three original signed drawings by Ryszard Dąbrowski (b. 1968), a Polish comic book artist and creator of the popular “Likwidator” series, enhance Columbia’s excellent graphic arts holdings. The Likwidator (below) is a masked social justice warrior, eco-terrorist and anarchist. In addition to his devilish grin and propensity for violence, Likwidator has journeyed to the past to offer his help to like-minded anarchists, including fighting alongside Nestor Makhno.



ARCHIVES

Since late January, Columbia's Bakhmeteff Archive has acquired or processed the following:

- **Jaroslav Sustar papers, 1914-1992.** "Correspondence, documents, photographs, printed matters, memorabilia pertaining to the life of Jaroslav Sustar (1908-1988). He was born in Pardubice, Czech Republic. After the German invasion, he fled to France via Yugoslavia to avoid Gestapo persecution. In 1941, Captain Sustar was evacuated to Britain and began recruiting men from the Czechoslovak Division in England to participate in secret operations. Called Special Group "D", the recruits went to Special Training Centers located in remote parts of England and Scotland and formed a special group trained to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich. On May 27, 1942, two members of the group assassinated Heydrich who later died in the hospital. In June 1944, Jaroslav Sustar was appointed Czechoslovak military attaché in China. He returned to his homeland after the war and worked for the Ministry of Defense. From November 1946, he was Ministry of Defense representative with the Military Mission of the Allied Control Commission in Berlin. He went into exile in 1948, after the Communist takeover. In the U.S. Jaroslav Sustar was a radio and television journalist in the Pittsburgh area and a lecturer at universities before becoming director of Allegheny Academy in Gibsonia, Pa., where he worked in the 1960s and early 1970s." https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_12918087
- **Marshall Shulman papers, 1940s-1980s.** "Marshall D. Shulman was a special assistant to the Secretary of State from 1950 to 1953 and ambassador and special advisor on Soviet Affairs to the Secretary of State from 1977 to 1980." https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_5002860
- **Mikhail Dmitrievich Skobelev Papers, 1785-1913.** "Mikhail Dmitrievich Skobelev (1843-1882), Russian general who played prominent roles in Russia's conquest of Turkistan and in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878." https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4078095
- **Soiuz Pazhei Records, 1830-1970.** "Lists, subject files, photographs, etchings and printed materials relating to the Pazheskii Korpus (imperial Corps of Pages), a school for the sons of the Russian nobility founded in 1802, and the Soiuz Pazhei (Union of Pages), the emigré alumni organization founded in 1920."
- **Nataliia Valerianovna Usacheva Papers, 1890-1950.** "Materials by A. N. Skriabin include: a brief letter to Usacheva; a poem he wrote to her; his autograph; piano exercises; and a brief composition. (All these appear to be in Skriabin's hand.) There are also clippings and a book about Skriabin. Also in the collection is a memoir by Usacheva about her second husband, Il'ia Gurliand, who was an assistant of Petr Stolypin."
- **Russian Freemasons in France Collection.** "The collection is largely composed of Igor' Krivoshein's materials related to Freemasonry, including his manuscripts, personal

documents, and printed materials. Also included are photographs and biographical materials, as well as materials relating more broadly to Russian Freemasonry.”

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Just a reminder that I have circulated updated *Guides to Electronic Resources* for both Cornell, and Columbia affiliates. I am also organizing informational webinars conducted by East View staff that will provide tips on how to search their online products—both serials and e-books—most efficiently. I will send out a general announcement when I have more details.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Columbia immediately purchased access to any databases not already acquired. Specifically:

- The archive (from 1992) of the newspaper *Demokratychna Ukraina* <https://www.eastview.com/resources/gpa/demokratychna-ukraina/>;
- A collection of newspapers from Chernobyl from the years leading up to, and after the 1986 disaster; <https://www.eastview.com/resources/gpa/chernobyl-newspapers/> and
- Digitized elections ephemera from Parliamentary and Presidential elections in 2014 and 2019, and the Crimea elections of 1994. <https://www.eastview.com/resources/e-collections/social-movements-elections-ephemera-ukraine/>

The titles are available to Columbia affiliates from the main EastView Universal Database platform <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4320231>

GRANTS

Columbia Libraries’ Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) Award Selection Committee has funded the project *Challenges (and Successes) in Collecting LGBTQ+ Materials from and About Eastern and East Central Europe*. The project will result in a survey of relevant holdings across ReCAP institutions and Cornell, statements regarding our expansive collecting policies in this area, and a webinar for interested students and faculty in Spring 2023 devoted to the topic.

The project brings together my library counterparts from Harvard, Princeton, and NYPL to discuss and document the resources we have assembled on LGBTQ life and history in the region, our efforts to enhance access to resources (print, archival, and electronic) in often challenging circumstances. We are joined in this endeavor by academic and community colleagues from Columbia and NYC, led by Professor Tanya Domi.

OUTREACH

In April, I “re-purposed” the Harriman Atrium Gallery exhibit (which closed October 27) devoted to the library collections at Columbia and Cornell. The 27-panel exhibit is now on view outside Global Studies on the third floor of the International Affairs Building. Prepared by the

Harriman Institute's Edward Kasinec and your correspondent, and designed by student Erica Stefano, the exhibit also lives on via the Harriman website:

<https://harriman.columbia.edu/harriman-at-75-exhibit/>

- A substantial companion volume marking the 75th Anniversary of the Harriman Institute was published as a double issue of *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, available in both hard copy and (for [Columbia](#) and [Cornell](#) affiliates) electronically.

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- On June 3, the Librarian was a panelist for “The Future of the Profession,” at the 51st Annual *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Slavic Library Institute (SLI)*, which took place from May 16-June 3.
- From April 18-22, Jiří Kratochvíl, Head of the University Campus Library at Masaryk University and a Visiting Scholar met with the Slavic & East European studies librarian, as well as other Columbia Libraries' colleagues.

WEBSITES

The Slavic Reference Service (SRS) at the University of Illinois announced that a new digital collection, “Russian Books of the 18th Century,” is now freely available via the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/reeces-18th-c-books>

This ongoing project seeks to make all of the titles listed in the *Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi grazhdanskoi pechati XVIII veka* available digitally—currently, Illinois has made over 400 titles available in digital format.

I plan to visit Ithaca in October, and when I have a firm date, I will pass it along to my Cornell colleagues. As always, please be in touch with any questions or special requests.