



Newsnotes: 2CUL Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies

Resources. No. 28, Winter/Spring 2024

Dear Colleagues:

Another semester is behind us, with another straight ahead! I hope you all had a restful holiday.

This past semester went by quickly, but had a number of positive developments, despite the many conflicts roiling the world. Particularly gratifying were a number of antiquarian purchases of exceptionally rare interwar Ukrainian materials. Under the very conscious efforts of Putin to destroy Ukraine's cultural heritage—see for example the report [Russian Attack on Ukrainian Libraries](https://www.alterpravo.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Russian-attack-on-Ukrainian-libraries_eng.pdf) (https://www.alterpravo.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Russian-attack-on-Ukrainian-libraries_eng.pdf)—such acquisitions help to preserve this rich cultural legacy.

Please note that our guide to Eastern European LGBTQ+ materials held by Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, NYPL and Princeton libraries is now available for downloading or viewing at Columbia's Academic Commons. This 1,066 item guide represents a first attempt to document our collection development efforts of such materials.

Finally, EastView Information Services now offers as a pilot project a limited number of AI-generated English-language translations of Russian newspapers and journals with backfiles.

I look forward to seeing some of my Cornell colleagues when I visit campus January 22-24.

Wishing you all a successful semester.

Rob Davis

Current Acquisitions

As of mid-December, our approval plan intake from overseas vendors is just shy of 3,000 titles. Distributed over a wide range of languages, the four largest languages for intake are Russian (594 titles), Bulgarian (516), Romanian (459), and Bosnian (365). Ukrainian intake remains below what it was before the war, but still manages a respectable 159 recent titles.

In the area of Ukrainian imprints, Columbia is working closely with our partners at NYPL and Princeton to further broaden and deepen our collecting across Ukraine, working with two principal vendors EastView, and Alexandra Isajevych.

Cornell now has access to EastView's Ukrainian e-book package, available through the main Eastview portal as "Slavic & Judaica E-Books":

<https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/4265835>. This supplements the existing database of Ukrainian periodical and newspaper titles: <https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/13065234>

Antiquarian Purchases

In September, Columbia obtained four examples of Ukrainian interwar modernist book design with considerable importance for the study of Ukrainian art and literature:

- Mykhailo Semenko (1892-1937), ed. *Mystetstvo*. (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/17765812>) Issue 1, April 1920. (Kyiv, 1920). Cover, frontispiece, decorations and tailpieces by Heorhiy Narbut (1886-1920). An important literary and artistic review, *Mystetstvo* appeared in eight numbers between May and July of 1919 in Kyiv, one later in 1919, and one (the issue here) in April of 1920. (As this issue goes "to press," I am delighted to report that we have now purchased the first three issues from 1919 of this rare journal, which make us the only holding institution in OCLC).



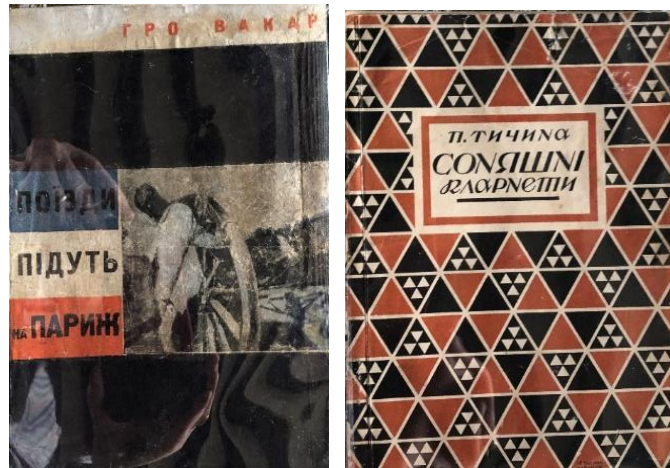
- Ostap Vyshnia. *Holovpolitovita*. (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/17765817>) (Kyiv, 1930);
- V. Vladko. *Donbas: Zolota kraina*. (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/17765823>) (Kharkiv, 1920), and
- Modest Rubinshtein. *Kapitalistychna ratsionalizatsiia*. (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/17765827>) (Kharkiv, 1930).

Just acquired, and not yet processed, are:

- *Poizdy pidut' na Paryzh*. (Kharkiv, 1932) with a cover design by Vasyl Dmytrovych Yermilov (1894-1968), and two photocollages on front and rear covers. Yermilov was a

Ukrainian avant-garde painter and designer, and a pioneer of art modernism who worked with Cubism, Constructivism, and Neo-primitivism.

- Pavlo Tychyna (1891-1967). *Soniashni klarnety*. (Kharkiv, 1925). OCLC locates two holdings of this edition worldwide (Stanford, UNC Chapel Hill).



Left to right: *Poizdy pidut' ...*; *Soniashni klarnety*.

The following film programs were added to supplement an existing [collection](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/7747155) (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/7747155>):

- *Krest i Mauzer*. *Kinodrama v 8 chastakh*. (Leningrad) (1925), an oversize prospectus for the Goskino production directed by Vladimir Gardin (1877-1965), with photomontage designs of Anton Mikhailovich Levinsky (1893-1968).

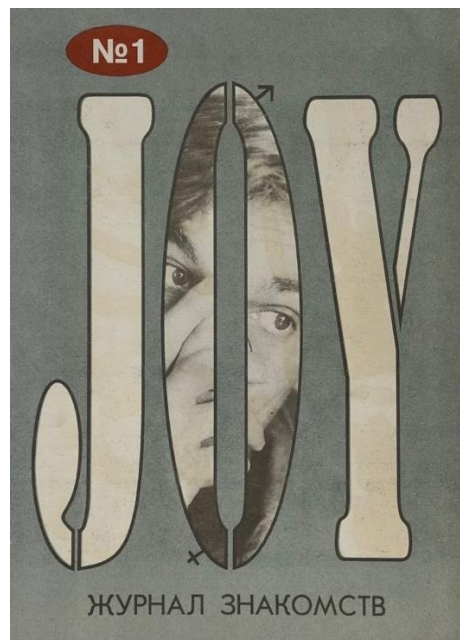
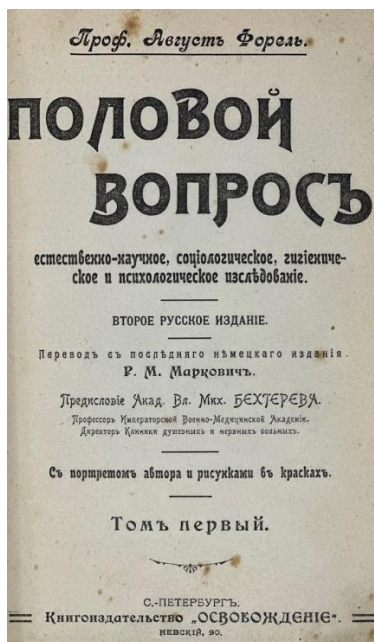


- *Dina Dza Dzu*. (Moscow, 1926). Cover and page design by Konstantin Vialov (1900-1976) making use of photomontage throughout. A film directed by Iurii Zheliabuzhskii (1888-1955) of a tale based in Abkhazia.



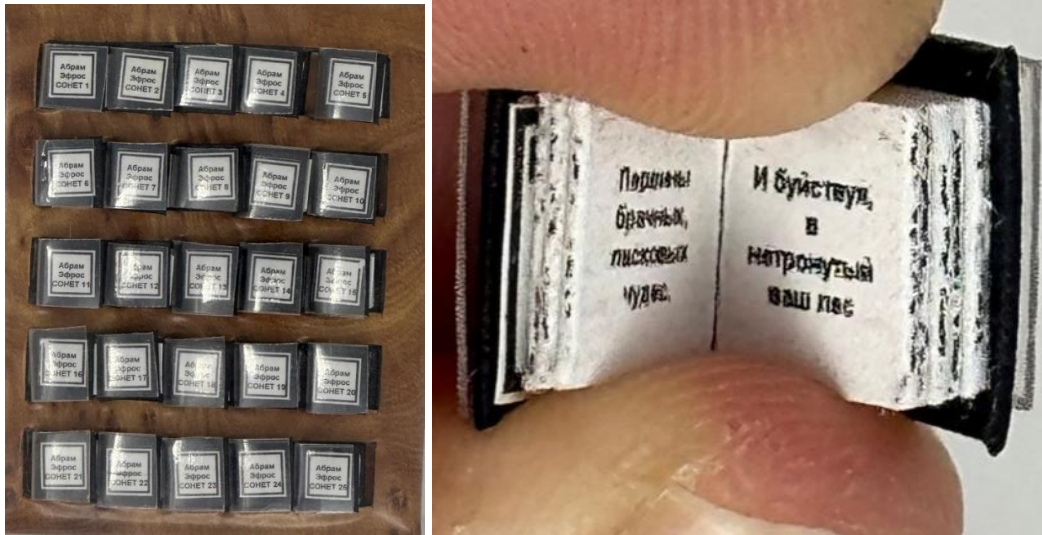
Cornell's outstanding Human Sexuality Collection acquired:

- Auguste-Henri Forel (1848-1931). *Polovoi vopros*. (<https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/16120639>) In 2 Volumes/ translated by R.M. Markovich with preface by Vladimir Bekhterev. (St-Petersburg: Osvobozhdenie, 1909). 2 vols. Bekhterev (1857-1927) was one of the advocates of sexual education, and was one of the first Russian scientists to state that homosexuality is not a disease. Forel's book became a best-seller in Russia, with eleven editions produced between 1906 and 1917. After the Revolution it was banned in Russia and not reprinted until the 1990s.



Left to right: Forel; and the cover of *Joy*.

- *Joy. Zhurnal znakomstv.* (St-Petersburg: Lomonosovskaia typografiia, 1993). The first issue of a short-lived magazine for adult encounters, of which only four issues were produced. For visual content, frank discussions of human sexuality, and the incorporation of erotic art, the magazine was quite revolutionary.
- Abraham Markovich Efros (1882-1954). *Eroticheskie sonety* (Pushkino: printed by the artist, ca. 2000s). A set of 25 books, each consisting of one sonnet. In the original glass



Above, the miniature *Eroticheskie sonety*.

box. The artist Andrey Leonidovich Rykovanov is a master of micro-miniatures and a publisher of miniature books. Efros was a literary critic and translator, though perhaps best known for this group of erotic sonnets.

Gifts


Professor and philanthropist **Elihu Rose** of NYU recently made two gifts to the collections: issues of *SSSR na stroike* (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/13561811>) and *USSR in Construction* (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/1645607>) that will supplement Rare Book & Manuscripts' existing files of these remarkable titles.

The second item is a unique album of original photographs of a Soviet military unit during the interwar period, "Pamiat' o veselykh rebriatakh, Kuzhenkino 1934-35 god." The album depicts



the training and daily lives of a specialized military unit, at a facility in Tver *oblast*, and is distinguished by a unique visual background created by an unknown artist clearly influenced by contemporary avant-garde aesthetics.

A bit of sleuthing suggests that the compiler was one Ivan Kuz'mich Orokhovatskii (b. 1907), an artillery officer who according to digitized records appears to have survived the siege of Leningrad.

	Дата рождения	20.01.1907
	Место рождения	Ростовская обл., Обливский р-н, Обливская
	Место призыва	Ленинградский ГВК Ленинградская обл., г. Ленинград
	Дата призыва	___1941; __10.1934
	Воинское звание	майор арт-тех. сл.; майор; ст. техник-лейтенант; майор тех. службы; капитан арт-тех. службы; гв. рядовой
	Воинская часть	10 стрелковый корпус полевой фронтовой артиллерийский склад 542 10 артиллерийский корпус Ленинградский военный округ Ленинградский фронт ФПАСб 542 ЛенФ ПФАС 542
	Награды	Орден Красной Звезды (3) Медаль «За оборону Ленинграда» (2) Медаль «За победу над Германией в Великой Отечественной войне 1941–

The compiler(?) I.K. Orokhovatskii.

The well-known New York collector **Sasha Lurye** donated a copy of author/artist Vladimir Krichevskii's *Krichevskii: svoboda pechati* ([M.; Suzdal'] MIRA, 2023), containing commentary of numerous examples of Eastern European book design.



Sample page from Krichevskii, depicting *Vuhil'ni Barykady* (Kharkiv, 1931).

Barbara Weedon of Vermont donated five Czech and Russian titles from the library of her late father, **William E Schwanda** (College 1916, Law 1929). As an undergraduate, Schwanda studied Russian with the polyglot John Dyneley Prince (1868-1945), and after graduating traveled to Russia in 1917 as a war relief worker employed by the YMCA.

Electronic Resources

Eastview has begun a pilot project to provide AI-driven English translations for full backfiles of selected digitized serials and newspapers. The project offers the ability to toggle between the original Russian and English, offering enhanced accessibility to students wishing to include Russian sources into their research, without having a grasp of the language.

Columbia has access to this project. The list of titles that currently translated are [Krasnaia Zvezda](#) (2007-2023) [16 years, 3,288 issues, 77,534 articles]; [Rossiiskaia Gazeta](#) (2008-2023) [15 years, 4,671 issues, 335,153 articles]; and [Nezavisimaia Gazeta](#) (2008-2023) [15 years, 3,733 issues, 165,221 articles]

In addition, they provide translations for only the most recent content to *Zavtra* (in UDB-COM), and in the UDB-MIL module, *Flag Rodiny*, *Kaspiets*, *Na Strazhe Rodiny*, *Tikhookenskaia vakhta*, and *Voennyj vestnik iuga Rossii*.

Via a joint Center for Research Libraries/Eastview Global Press Archive project, Columbia and Cornell have access to [five digitized retrospective newspaper](https://gpa.eastview.com/crl/seun/) (<https://gpa.eastview.com/crl/seun/>) titles from Ukraine: *Borot'ba* (Kyiv, for 1919-20); *Dilo* (Lviv, for 1899-1936); *Kievskaiia mysl'* (Kyiv, 1918); *Proletars'ka pravda* (Kyiv, 1924-25); and *Visti VUTsVK* (Kharkiv, 1922-1939).

Publications

An illustrated article by the present author: "Pre-War Collecting at Cornell & Columbia: A Note" was published online and in print in the journal *Slavic & East European Information Resources* 24(2-3): 107-119 (2023).

As mentioned above, I am delighted to report that *LGBTQ+ Materials From & About Eastern & Central Europe, the Caucasus & Central Asia: The Holdings of The New York Public Library & the Libraries of Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, & Princeton Universities* (New York, 2023) is now available as an open-access document!

Prepared by your correspondent (Columbia & Cornell), Dr. Bogdan Horbal (The New York Public Library), Dr. Thomas Keenan (Princeton) & Anna Rakityanskaya (Harvard), and supported by a grant from the Columbia Libraries' ADEI program, it is now available free of charge via Columbia University's Academic Commons repository. To download or view, visit the following link: <https://academiccommons.columbia.edu/doi/10.7916/xrn3-kn56>

Or scan the QR code, below:



Talks are now underway with Harvard regarding the creation of a regularly-updated version that would reside on their server.

In Memoriam

In October, we lost Professor Cynthia Hyla Whittaker, a much loved and admired colleague. A longtime Baruch and CUNY Graduate Center historian, I first had the pleasure of working with her in the late 1980s, when CUNY hosted the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference. In subsequent years, we had many fruitful collaborations, including her curatorship of the magnificent NYPL exhibit "Russia Engages the World, 1453-1825," an accompanying interactive [website](http://web-static.nypl.org/exhibitions/russia/home.html), (<http://web-static.nypl.org/exhibitions/russia/home.html>) and the exhibition [catalogue](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4175302) (<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4175302>), also at [Cornell](https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/4883859) (<https://catalog.library.cornell.edu/catalog/4883859>) and more than 400 other OCLC libraries, published by Harvard in 2003.

Cynthia was married to our late colleague Professor Robert Belknap, and was instrumental in guiding volumes from Bob's vast personal library to Columbia University Libraries and the Slavic Department after his passing. She is greatly missed.

