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Slavic Studies in the United States: An Overview*

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Introduction

This paper is a rigorously pruned composite of some of the talks which I gave during my association with the Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, to Slavicists of universities and colleges in Sapporo and to other academic audiences in Japan on Slavic studies and research resources in the United States, with special emphasis on themes and questions frequently raised in discussions.

I. The Beginnings**

The enigma of Russia has been the subject of fascinated curiosity and lively reporting by European travelers and visitors since the 16th century, when foreigners on diplomatic, trading, or, simply, adventurous missions, began to enter Russia, among them the Austrian diplomat von Herberstein and the English adventurer Chancellor. In the following centuries, their successors have done much to increase, through their reportage, the knowledge and better understanding of this hitherto little known part of the world.

It is not surprising that geographic proximity and political involvement had also prompted European governments to advance Slavic studies at an early juncture. In France, governmental initiative created in 1840 a Mickiewicz Chair of Slavonic Studies in the Collège de France and lent support to scholars such as Louis Leger and Alfred Rimbaud. Slavic Chairs were founded in Berlin in 1841, in Breslau in 1842, and in Vienna in 1849, and distinguished Slavic learning there was represented by Schieman, Palme, and later by Otto Hoetzsch.

* I should like to express to the Slavic Research Center — Japan's only multi- and interdisciplinary institution of that kind — my gratitude for their hospitality and for giving me the opportunity for research and writing on this and other topics and for gaining an insight into Slavic learning in Japan.

** This capsule account of the beginnings of Slavic studies in the United States greatly benefited from two detailed and meticulously researched papers by Robert F. Byrnes:

Archibald Cary Coolidge; A Founder of Russian Studies in the United States. (*Slavic Review*, v. 37, no. 4, 1978: 651-667.)

Russian Studies in the United States before the First World War. (Osteuropa-Institut an der Freien Universität Berlin. Historische Veröffentlichungen. *Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte*. Band 25, 1978: 35-46.)

Some embryonic forms of Slavic studies in the United States did exist prior to the 20th century, begun by the first immigrants from Russia into Alaska, and some settlements along the California coast nurtured church and language education among the younger immigrants. The Russian Orthodox Church in North America developed educational and missionary programs to convert the Indians and Eskimos of the Northwest.

Beginning with the latter part of the 19th century, the immigration waves from Central and East Europe brought to America, via its east coast ports, hundreds of thousands of Slavic new arrivals, who often established their own ethnic enclaves within existing communities. To date, large Slavic populations may be found in cities such as New York, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco, as well as in the rural areas of New Jersey, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas. Again, the religious institutions the immigrants brought over with them, along with the fraternal societies they founded in the new country, engaged in cultural and language education for these groups, perpetuating the cultural legacy of the old country and helping them adapt to the new country of their choice. Already in 1885, Oberlin College began to teach Czech in its School of Theology to potential Czech missionaries dedicated to proselytizing in Czech-American communities.

At about that time, American journalists, diplomats and translators of Russian literature began to open a window on Russia and Eastern Europe for a relatively small segment of American society. George Kennan's reports to the American press on his explorations in northern and eastern Siberia and, later, his two-volume *Siberia and the Exile System* (1891) aroused lively interest in the United States of America. Jeremiah Curtin and Eugene Schuyler, two American diplomats who served in the 1860's and 1870's in official capacities in Russia, both thoroughly steeped in the language and the knowledge of the country of their assignments, made valuable contributions to American awareness of the Slavic world. Curtin's writings focused on Russian and East European folklore, and he translated, among other things, novels by Gogol, Sienkiewicz and Prus. Schuyler's experience and travels in Russia brought forth an important work, *Central Asia*, and his notable biography of *Peter the Great*, his translations of Turgenev and Tolstoy, and numerous publications on the explosive developments of that time in the Balkans to which he was an eyewitness, having served there also in diplomatic posts. Translations into English of Dostoevsky, Leskov, Gogol, Tolstoy, and Turgenev, made in the 1880's by Isabel Hapgood, Nathan, H. Dole, and others, were enthusiastically received by the American reading public.

Yet, prior to the turn of the 19th century, the United States — intensely engrossed in the enormous tasks of developing a huge continent, forging the union of the country, and building a new social and economic-industrial system — had but

little opportunity and inclination to turn its attention to Eastern Europe. Only with the stunning defeat of Russia by Japan in 1904–1905 and the Russian Revolution of 1905 did American opinion begin to take an active interest in that part of the world.

Serious academic research on Slavic civilization commenced in the United States only in the late 1880's and early 1900's, and these beginnings are intimately connected with the name of Archibald Cary Coolidge of Harvard University, who was instrumental in the vigorous promotion of Slavic scholarship in a variety of ways, untiringly advocating Slavic studies as an essential and legitimate part of an academic curriculum. Under Coolidge's direction, the first graduate courses on the area were offered at Harvard in 1895. He took the initiative in building up the first strong Slavic research library. Among his own writings, *The United States as a World Power* (1908), his best known work, was reprinted ten times before his death and translated into French, German, and Japanese.

His outstanding merit, however, was his ability to select and train at Harvard especially gifted graduate students and to persuade scholars of great promise to join its Faculty. These men, in turn, later moved on to other campuses, where they founded Slavic Chairs which became focal points for distinguished Slavic teaching and learning. The career of Slavic scholars of the repute of Samuel Cross, Michael Karpovitch, Frank A. Golder, Robert J. Kerner, Robert H. Lord, Leo Wiener, and others testify to his eminent ability as an academic talent scout and teacher. Of his former students, Robert J. Kerner produced a pioneering bibliography, *Slavic Europe*; Frank A. Golder, author of a basic work on Russian expansion in the Pacific, became the first Director of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University; Robert H. Lord wrote his dissertation on Poland; and Leo Wiener, a Harvard scholar for thirty-five years and competent in dozens of languages, authored a spate of articles and books on Slavic and non-Slavic subjects. The first doctorate at Harvard in Slavic languages and literatures was granted to George Ronall Noyes, who subsequently went to the University of California at Berkeley, where he introduced courses in almost all Slavic languages and translated into English some Polish authors, Serbian ballads, and Russian plays. Samuel N. Harper, later at the University of Chicago, focused his investigations on Russian life and politics. By 1914, there were three Chairs of Russian Language and Literature — at Harvard, Columbia, and Berkeley — and courses in Russian history were taught at California and Harvard. Yale started offering Russian studies in 1908, and at Columbia the first lectures in Russian were given in 1909.

A special role among the pioneers of Slavic academic studies in the United States was played by Charles Crane, a wealthy industrialist who, in the words of Robert F. Byrnes, acted as "an aggressive private foundation." Aside from a

consuming personal interest in Russia, which he had crisscrossed on his travels many times, he lent generous financial aid to Slavic scholarship, provided funds for the development of Russian research sources, and made possible visiting lectureships at Chicago and Harvard for prominent Slavic personalities, including Miliukov, Masaryk, Beneš and others. Thus, at the outset of the First World War, the foundations for Slavic academic learning had been laid.

The events of World War I, the peace settlements and the resultant emergence of independent Slavic countries, the Russian revolutions, the Allied and American intervention in Russia, and the ascendancy of the Soviet system brought Russia and the Slavic countries into the forefront of acute public and governmental interest. Considerable numbers of Americans were personally involved in these occurrences and committed their experiences to published eyewitness accounts. As a result, the United States, groping toward an understanding of its emerging role in world politics, felt a need to enlarge its intellectual horizons beyond the traditional concentration on West Europe and Mediterranean cultures. This trend too could not help but stimulate the growth of Russian studies in America. Russian scholars, uprooted by the revolutionary turmoil, began to make their way to our shores to find places in academic life, where, in concert with their American colleagues, they contributed to the gradual development of Russian studies through teaching, research, publications, and the establishment of new journals. Among them, the names of Russian specialists such as Michael Karpovitch, George Vernadsky, Roman Jakobson, along with quite a few others, come to mind.

In the interwar years, training and research in the field continued at Harvard, where William L. Langer wrote on European diplomatic problems, including those of East Europe, and directed the work of graduate students in that domain. At Columbia, Philip Moseley and John N. Hazard, among others, and at the University of Colorado, S. Harrison Thompson carried the torch of Slavic studies.

II. The Coming of Age and Present State of Slavic Academic Studies

The Second World War provided a powerful impetus to the development of Slavic studies in Western Europe and, especially, in the United States. The need for accurate information concerning the Soviet Union's policies and intentions urged an improvement of our knowledge of the Soviet Union, particularly in the light of her growing power and impact on world affairs. It was during the war period that the United States began to become actively involved in supporting and undertaking Slavic studies. Vast numbers of Soviet and East European specialists and linguists were needed, literally overnight, to meet the war need, and to this end language

centers were created throughout the country to train linguistically competent members of the Armed Forces and civilian officials. Thus, the foundations were laid for close government-university cooperation in Slavic programs.

As the war came to a close, provident university administrators and foundation officials were inquiring into the meaning of the US world-wide contacts and responsibilities and the methods by which the universities could contribute to advancing the requisite width and breadth of knowledge and understanding of distant areas and unfamiliar peoples. In this context, a novel concept in American higher education, the approach of area studies programs, crystallized and was introduced, with tangible foundation support, at several major American universities, with coverage for the world's major areas, including the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The purpose of these centers, in the words of Philip Moseley, was "to help people see a society, a system of power or an economy, or all three, interacting together as they do in real life, and to see them both in their interconnection and as a whole." The study of an area's political, socio-economic and intellectual life is thus combined in one interdisciplinary curriculum to produce so-called "area specialists," who could be called upon to provide expertise on various facets of a particular culture.

Among the early practitioners of this sort of training were the Russian Research Center at Harvard, the Russian Institute at Columbia, and, somewhat later, the Institute on East Central Europe at the latter University. Their prime objectives have been the training of graduate students for scholarly and professional careers in Russian, Soviet, and East European Studies, and the promotion of scholarly research in the social sciences and humanities on problems related to these countries. The general pattern of their activities and programs is similar, notwithstanding some divergencies in curricular and organizational structure. At Columbia a two-year course of graduate work leads to the award of the Institute's Certificate, at Harvard to an M. A. degree. Both programs are designed to provide the students with an extensive knowledge of Russia and the Soviet Union from a multidisciplinary perspective; command of one discipline of the student's choice and ability to apply it to the study of the area of specialization; and competence in the pertinent language. Some of the graduates begin professional careers immediately upon completing the program, be it in government or elsewhere. Many graduates have gone on to complete the requirements for a Ph. D. The Center or Institute serves, so to say, as a home base from which the graduate student specializes in one or more fields and, at the same time, works for an advanced degree in the Department or School most closely related to his specialty, within the Institute or Center. Advanced graduate students and post-doctoral scholars doing research in Russian, Soviet and East European studies frequently receive scholarships from the Center or Institute, participate

in their lecture programs and colloquia and are provided with facilities, such as office space, library support, etc. Alumni from these and other area programs have formed, over the past decades, a reservoir of expertise, both broad and specific, from which scholarly life, government, the press, and business have greatly benefited. It should be noted, however, that the area concept has had its share of criticism in the academic world, with proponents arguing its benefits and opponents its shortcomings vis-à-vis the more traditional “department” concept, in which the scholar’s loyalty is first to his discipline and second to his area.

As was the case in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, Communist seizures of power in East Europe and repression of dissenting intellectuals throughout the decades following the Second World War have caused large numbers of persecutees to seek a new home in the United States, including many scholars and teachers, some of whom have found their way into American universities and managed to bring to bear their specialized knowledge and experience of the reality of Communist life on the learning and study of the Soviet orbit.

In the 1950’s and 1960’s, Soviet advances in space and military technologies, the competition of the USA and the Soviet Union in the world arena, and, on the other hand, some measure of relaxation in the barriers to the exchange of information and persons, spurred the growth and expansion of Slavic academic studies, and even gave rise to the introduction of language instruction on the secondary school level. The combined efforts of universities, private foundations, such as Carnegie, Ford, and Rockefeller, and, last but not least, of governmental bodies have provided a mighty stimulus in that direction. In the very recent past, the phenomenon of growing ethnic awareness among the second and third generations in the Slavic communities has been a dynamic factor in furthering interest in Slavic affairs and language programs.

Today, three and one half decades after the Second World War, our knowledge of the Soviet orbit, compared with the prewar period, has indeed increased. No longer does Churchill’s dictum of 1949, characterizing the Soviet Union as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma,” bear unreserved validity, even though certain gaps in our knowledge undeniably persist. The study of the USSR and Eastern Europe is now an accepted and integral part of the academic curriculum at many universities and colleges. Moreover, every language of the area — Bulgarian, Czech, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, Slovak, Ukrainian, and even Sorbian — has been taught with some degree of regularity at one or the other institution of higher learning, and foundation and government grants have enabled hundreds of graduate students to gain or perfect language skills at summer schools in the United States or in Slavic countries. A recent survey revealed, for example,

that Czech was taught at thirty-three colleges and universities in the U. S. and Canada. The larger area establishments at Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia, Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Washington, and Yale have been joined by new or developing Slavic centers, institutes, programs, departments or course offerings by discipline-oriented departments at virtually scores of universities all over the United States and at Canada's major universities.

In the course of the last ten years, Harvard University has become the focal point of Ukrainian studies in the USA. The numerous Americans of Ukrainian origin are known as a group of strong ethnic cohesiveness, with loyalty to their cultural heritage, and readiness to lend financial support to their cultural institutions. Thousands of individual contributions, large and small, made it possible to establish the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and three endowed Chairs for Ukrainian history, language, and literature, with active teaching and research programs, conferences, and seminars.

To give some quantitative indicators: American and Canadian universities in the years 1977 and 1978 accepted 255 doctoral dissertations on Russia/Soviet Union and 65 for the other Slavic countries, the latter represented, in descending order of frequency, by Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria. As to subject concentration, Literature and Language, History, Foreign Affairs, and Politics and Government were the predominant foci of interest, although a diversity of other disciplines, e. g., Arts, Drama, Education, Economics, Public Health, were also covered in some dissertations.

Still another breakdown, only for the instruction of Slavic languages and literatures in the years 1977-1978, yielded the following statistics: There were 157 Slavic — chiefly Russian — undergraduate programs with a minor and 121 with a major. In graduate studies, 22 institutions offered M. A. degrees and 26 had Ph. D. programs.

Given the space limitations of this paper, it would be an impossible undertaking to present here, even in broad outline, the multifaceted Slavic programs and research facilities of major universities and colleges. In light of this predicament, Japanese Slavists, desirous of preparing for their research in North America, or of gaining current awareness, may find it profitable to consult a few reference works for pertinent information. Under the auspices of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Steven A. Grant produced *Scholars' Guide to Washington, D. C.: Russian and Soviet Studies* (Washington, D. C., Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977), a veritable mine of data on the multitude of both better-known and obscure research and study sources in which the United States capital abounds. A companion volume on *Central and East Europe an Studies*, prepared by Kenneth J. Dillon, is in print and will soon be released. *East Central Europe and Southeastern Europe: A*

Handbook of Library and Archival Resources in North America, by Paul L. Horecky and David H. Kraus (Clio Press, Santa Barbara, Cal., 1976), and *Slavic and East European Resources in Canadian Academic and Research Libraries* (Ottawa, National Library of Canada, 1976) survey in some detail the major repositories and their collections.

Although they are no teaching institutions, leading municipal libraries such as the New York Public Library system and Cleveland Public Library should be noted for their significant research collections and services in support of Slavic and East European studies.

III. Government Research

In this domain of activities, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Services deserve primary mention as outstanding research resources and information facilities for Slavic studies.

The Library of Congress

General Information

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress, in addition to serving the U. S. Congress and the entire government establishment, is the preeminent U. S. national repository of books, periodicals, newspapers and many other forms of the recorded and accumulated knowledge of mankind's civilization, past and present, as well as a leading center of culture and information in the United States.

Its extensive collections are universal and global in scope, including books on every subject and in a multitude of languages, an estimated two thirds of its catalog entries describing foreign-language publications. Admission to the various research facilities is free, and no introduction or credentials are required for visiting foreign scholars or researchers.

The Slavic Collections

The Slavic collections of the Library of Congress are the richest, largest and most diversified on the North American continent and, probably, second to none outside the Slavic countries of origin.

Among Slavica in the social sciences and humanities, notable strength is shown in literature and language, history, government and politics, geography, and law. Generally, one can expect to find very rich holdings of the publications of academies and other academic and scholarly institutions, including their serial publications. The same holds true for the official publications of the various Slavic countries. These holdings are mostly quite complete, at least for the central governments and leading ministries, and also for the major administrative subdivisions of the countries (in the case of the Soviet Union, coverage is virtually complete down to the Republic

level).

The cornerstone for the Library's Russian collections was laid in 1907, when a private library of some 80,000 books and periodicals, chiefly on Russian intellectual history, was received from Mr. Genadii Vasil'evich Yudin, a wealthy merchant, book collector, and bibliophile residing in Krasnoyarsk in Siberia. By selling this outstanding collection to the Library of Congress for so nominal a sum as to make this transaction virtually a gift, Mr. Yudin wished to promote closer relations between Russia and the United States — for, as he put it, “he did not know a more honored place for his collection than the American National Library.”

The particular strength of this collection (now incorporated in the Library's general collections) lies in Russian history, literature, and bibliography, including the important works of Russian historians and literary critics, from Tatishchev and Karamzin to Soloviev and Kliuchevskii, complete works from Kantemir to Chekhov and Korolenko, and full sets of bibliographical journals. Also included are Russian government documents and publications of learned societies, such as the *Sbornik* of the Imperial Russian Historical Society, the *Chteniia* of the Moscow Society of Russian History and Antiquities, the *Russkaia Starina*, and the *Istoricheskii vestnik*, as well as manuscript materials on Russian explorations of the Pacific Ocean and Pacific Coast and on Russian settlers of the North American West Coast and of Alaska.

Through a systematic collection development, with the use of a variety of procurement devices, the Library's Slavic resources have since grown by leaps and bounds, so that its book and bound periodical collections amount at present to 850,000 volumes on Russia and the Soviet Union — including ca. 55,000 Ukrainian and 10,000 Belorussian ones — 130,000 on Poland, 90,000 on Czechoslovakia, 90,000 on Yugoslavia, and 35,000 on Bulgaria — in toto about 1,300,000 volumes.

Nearly every third book of informational or scholarly value currently published in the Slavic orbit is now represented in the Library of Congress, and it is thought that its Slavic collections have the strength and depth to support Slavic research at all levels in most fields.

Most of the Library's Slavic resources are accessible to the researcher through the two large general reading rooms, others through reading rooms responsible for the custody of special subject or format materials.

The map, atlas, and cartographic collections of the Geography and Map Division are extensive for all Slavic countries and include rare items dating to the 15th century and offer a rare 16th century collection.

All types of law materials, past and present, form the mainstay of the Law Library's Slavica. To mention, at random, some of the Law rarities, there are the

extremely rare 1650 printing of the *Kormchaia Kniga* (the Byzantine Nomokanon), three 18th century editions of the Kievan *Russkaia Pravda*, the earliest known Russian legal code, and, as could be expected, the *Polnoe sobranie zakonov*, and *Svod zakonov Rossiskoi imperii*.

The Slavic collections of the Prints and Photographs Division include a large number of posters, photographs of Russian and East European scenes and architecture, portraits of prominent Slavs, and prints by renowned Slavic artists.

The Manuscript Division houses the records of the Russian Orthodox parishes in Alaska (1816–1936) and other Russian-American materials (100,000 items in all), papers of Slavic immigrants who gained prominence in the United States, letters of Kościuszek and Pułaski relating to their stays in America, or Maksim Gorkii's correspondence with the émigré poet, V. Khodasevich, from the 1920's when Gorkii sojourned in Europe as a semi-exile.

A rich record of treasures of past Slavic civilization is preserved in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Among the *pièces de resistance* are early Western travel accounts of Russia, dating back to the 16th century; *Apostol* and the illustrious *Ostrog Bible*, representing relics from the infancy of Russian printing during the second part of the 16th century; the *Ulozhenie* of Tsar Aleksei Mikhailovich of 1649; the Ukrainian *Euchologion albo molyvoslov ili trebnyk* (1646), edited by Peter Mohyla; outstanding collections of the Bohemian 16th century Renaissance and rarissima of Husiana and Comeniana; several "first books" of a Slavic language, exemplified by the Croatian *Missale Glagoliticum* (1483); the first (1543) edition of *De revolutionibus Orbium celestium*, the pioneering work by the Polish astronomer Copernicus; and the early Bulgarian imprint collection of 700 extremely rare Bulgarian books published outside Bulgaria between 1806 and 1878, before that country gained its national independence. The Library's holdings of the 18th century Russian books may well be the best outside the Soviet Union.* In 1921a portion of the so-called Winter Palace Library of Tsar Nicholas II of more than 2,000 volumes, consisting in part of rare administrative and legal documents on political developments during the reigns of Alexander III and Nicholas II, was purchased by the Library of Congress.

All fields and periods of Slavic music are covered in the Music Division. Materials relating to Chopin, Dvořák, Smetana, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, and noted Soviet composers are well represented.

The recorded sound collections in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division features Slavic folk songs, ethnic music and lore.

* For a description see *Eighteenth Century Publications in the Library of Congress. A Catalog*, by Tatiana Fessenko (Washington, D. C., Library of Congress, 1961, 151 p.).

The Library's Archive of World Literature on Tape reproduces readings given at the Library by visiting Slavic poets and authors.

Services and Access to Collections

Since the European Division is the Library's principal Division for Slavic matters, it is the natural place for scholars to turn with their research and study problems. The Division's staff of twenty includes area specialists for each of the Slavic countries. They are engaged directly in information, reference, research and bibliographic services and in the development of the Library's Slavic collections in the social sciences and humanities. The Division also maintains the European Reading Room, which offers a reference collection of about 10,000 volumes and services current Slavic serials (about 8,000 titles, including 400 newspapers), as well as extensive Soviet and Czech *samizdat* deposits and several partially cataloged collections of older Russian monographs and serials. This Reading Room is open to the public seven days a week and is staffed by reference librarians with linguistic expertise who assist the readers. Problems of greater complexity, requiring scholarly and in-depth knowledge of a Slavic country's political, socio-economic and intellectual life, past and present, are handled by the Division's senior area specialists.

Many other divisions of the Library which are specialized by function, subject or format, are also engaged, inter alia, in the processing or servicing of Slavic materials. The Slavic staff of the European Division can arrange for the necessary referrals, if indicated. A special function of that Division is the compilation of the *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*, under the sponsorship of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, which is also its publisher and distributor. This annual inventory presents as full a record as possible of U. S. and Canadian-published books, periodical articles, reports, and scholarly book reviews on Slavic and East European subjects in the social sciences and the humanities. Listed are writings, primarily in English but also in other languages, which are of research or informational value and which were published in the United States or Canada, or, if published elsewhere, were written, edited or compiled by U. S. or Canadian authors. Foreign-language materials published in the USA are included on a selective basis. The geographic area covered includes next to Russia and the Soviet Union all Slavic and non-Slavic countries of East Central and South-eastern Europe, including Greece and Cyprus. The organization is by 16 major subject categories, most of which are subdivided by countries, and the bibliography concludes with a biobibliographical and an author index. The 1977 issue of this Bibliography cites a total of 6,907 entries.

A matter of paramount importance for the reader on all levels is the availability of adequate aids ensuring easy access, utilization and exploitation of the Library's

research resources.

First, the Slavic-oriented reader may use the general public card catalog and the numerous catalogs in specialized reading rooms. For Cyrillic alphabet publications with imprints up to 1956, the Cyrillic Union Catalog and the Slavic Cyrillic Union Catalog can be consulted with benefit. The former (CUC), divided into author, title and subject sections, comprises approximately 700,000 entries representing LC cards and cards reported by major participating libraries. The Slavic Cyrillic Union Card Catalog, organized by author only, but more complete than the Cyrillic Union Catalog, is arranged only by alphabet. It contains 450,000 entries for holdings by LC and by 185 research libraries in the United States and Canada, with the inclusion of 11,500 entries for serial titles. Both catalogs are available in microform.

Indispensable tools, particularly for those who cannot inspect the Library's card catalogs in person, are provided by a series of printed catalogs in book form, assembled at the Library of Congress. Many of those are union catalogs, listing Library of Congress printed cards and titles reported by other American libraries. The Slavic scholar will find the two-volume printed catalog, *Half a Century of Soviet Serials, 1917-1968*, very helpful in his search. A number of multivolume printed union catalogs of the Library of Congress and other domestic libraries list, of course, also cards pertaining to Slavic affairs. Among the most important of them are printed union catalogs for books with pre-and post-1956 imprints, as well as of manuscript collections, serials, music, books on music and sound recordings, and microforms. They offer the scholar who is far away from Washington the opportunity of long-distance information on resources which he can expect to find in the United States when he plans a research stay there.

Another method of "long-distance" use of the Library's resources is the domestic and international interlibrary loan system, which enables libraries in the USA and abroad to borrow from the Library, for scholarly research, publications which cannot be found elsewhere. If the requested item is too rare to be sent, or is needed on the spot, the Library's Photoduplication Service will make available for a fee photocopies of specific desiderata, subject to copyright and other legal provisions.

Other tools facilitating access to the collections are various published Slavic and East European reference aids, specialized area bibliographies, and collection inventories and guides. Some of these aids have been published by the European Division, and they are described in a leaflet, which can be obtained by writing to the Chief of the European Division. Scholars specializing in international relations, Soviet/East European government, politics, economics, and related affairs, may be interested in purchasing the pertinent studies and reports by the Library's Congressional Research Service listed in the *Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government*

Publications. Other Library of Congress publications, though of general scope, also bear on matters of Slavic interest. In this category, the following should be noted: The annual *Library of Congress Publications in Print*; *The Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress*; *The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*; *New Serial Titles in Libraries of the United States and Canada*; and a forthcoming new edition of a *Guide to the Special Collections of the Library of Congress*.

Most divisions of the Library of Congress have brochures on their collections and services and readily distribute them to interested readers.

Finally, guidance and consultative assistance by the Library's seasoned Slavic specialists can be helpful and time-saving for the Slavic scholar in pursuit of specific themes or objectives.

General inquiries concerning the Library, location and service hours, and the availability of study-desk facilities should be addressed to the Information Office, Library of Congress. Information on the Slavic holdings and services can be secured from the Chief, European Division. Information on the Slavic holdings of special format or subject divisions may be obtained by writing to the pertinent Division Chief. The mailing address is: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., 20540.

One major development, the result of long-time automation research by a special office at the Library, is now transforming fundamentally the information retrieval process. The computer has been replacing the traditional methods of cataloging and arranging card catalogs and already has the capacity of producing almost instantaneously printouts of bibliographies on almost any subject. The user will be amply rewarded for the ten minutes or so spent learning to manipulate the machine.

Free public computer terminals are posted at many convenient locations in the Library buildings, and staff members are at hand to instruct researchers in their use. As of January 1, 1981, the old Library of Congress public catalog will be frozen, and, from that date on, all new cataloging data will be fed into the computer and retrieved exclusively therefrom. The old card catalog will be used solely for pre-1981 imprints.

In the past two decades, many large, machine-readable bibliographic data bases containing location information as well as bibliographic data have been developed in the United States. These data bases for libraries tend to be regional, for example, the New England network and the Pacific Northwest network; some data bases attempt to reach the whole nation, for example, the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). Such networks have grown independently and are not necessarily compatible with each other. A Network Development Office was established at the Library of Congress in 1976 to devise the means to make these different systems compatible.

When this result is accomplished, the way will be open to establishing a national bibliographical network, whereby a reader anywhere in the United States will be able to determine whether a U. S. library holds the item he seeks and, if so, which library nearest to him has the item. This will be done electronically in a matter of seconds or minutes, depending on the complexity of the request.

The National Archives and Records Services

The National Archives are open to all researchers, American and foreign, over the age of 16, upon presentation of a permit, which is issued after proper identification. Recent estimates of the size of this official repository for the records of the United States Government indicate the presence of more than one million cubic feet of material, which roughly amounts to some three billion records. Among these holdings are 1.6 million maps, 85,000 reels of film, five million still photographs, 90,000 sound recordings, and 2,259,000 aerial photographs. Deposited here are the past records (from 1774) of all branches of the Federal Government, and materials collected by them as well.

For the research in modern Russian and East European history, the National Archives offers a treasure chest of resources. Not only is it one of the world's major centers of source materials on the two world wars, it also contains many thousands of reports and other documents created by U. S. government agencies, with intimate details on the politics, economy, society, and culture of every part of our area of interest over the past two centuries.

The Archives' holdings are organized into 400 record groups, one for every agency as a whole, or subdivision of it, and for other governmental bodies and organizations. Although the absence of a subject arrangement makes the research process somewhat difficult, the guidance of the staff, who are thoroughly familiar with the particular facets of their work, coupled with the availability of finding aids, will ease considerably the researcher's task.

Among the holdings of the National Archives there are large quantities of records relating to Russia/USSR and to Eastern Europe. Only for Russia/USSR is a specialized finding aid available, entitled *Records of the National Archives Relating to the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union* (Reference Information Paper No. 41, August 1952). Several general orientation aids exist which can be used with great benefit:

Guide to the National Archives of the United States (1974-), of which a new edition is planned.

Published finding aids (inventories, special lists, etc.) to many record groups can be obtained free upon request from the ten divisions into which the National Archives are organized. These finding aids are listed in the very helpful *Select*

List of Publications of the National Archives and Records Service, also available free upon request.

National Archives Microfilm Publications (1974) is a source of basic information on thousands of microfilms now for sale or available at the Archives. They include the State Department central file up to 1910 (and many later items), as well as vast quantities of German records captured in the Second World War, including the captured records of the German Foreign Office, which go back to 1855.

The Archives' State Department records for the USSR and East Europe during the Second World War are voluminous. For specific subject and country references, the State Department documentary series *Foreign Relations of the United States* serves as a supplementary finding aid, along with the Archives' two-volume guide, *Federal Records of World War II* (1950-1951), which assists the researcher in understanding the organization and records of wartime agencies which were involved with the USSR and East Europe.

Although the bulk of records in the Archives are open to researchers, some materials are still restricted.

Other Governmental Services

It stands to reason that the Soviet Union and East Europe, areas of vital national interest to the United States, are the subject of intensive and continuing research by a vast range of government agencies, both in the executive and legislative branches. The contributions of the governmental sector are reflected in a multitude of activities, of which only a thumbnail sketch can be given here. Some of the executive Departments, e. g., those of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, and Labor, maintain specialized divisions or units for USSR and East European research within the framework of their general functions and assignments. A wealth of studies and reports, often unclassified and available in published form, result from this research. Other agencies have at their disposal extensive library collections on the area, such as the U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, whose resources, focusing on the population, manpower, and socioeconomic characteristics of the Soviet Union and East Europe, serve to prepare detailed age-sex projections of the populations of these countries which are released periodically and are available to the public. Other governmental agencies, such as the U. S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, provide funding for the conduct of research programs, which are farmed out to qualified applicants.

An indispensable checking device for keeping abreast of the voluminous body of publications and reports originated by the agencies of government is the *Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications*, whose subject index permits the identification of Soviet and East European items of potential interest. Subscription infor-

mation can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The following abstracting and translation services may be of great utility to the researcher of Slavic affairs: The *FBIS Daily Report*, published by the Government's Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), contains current news and commentary, monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Of the eight separate series covering the world's major areas, two are devoted to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, respectively. They are available to foreign subscribers in paper version and in microfiche, either through appointed foreign dealers or directly from the National Technical Information Service (U. S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22151). Quarterly indexes can be bought from commercial firms. Another governmental research resource is the publication series on the USSR and Eastern Europe, issued by the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) and providing information in English translation derived from foreign newspapers, journals, and books, but also from broadcasts and news agency transmissions. (Subscriptions can be placed with JPRS, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington VA 22201), and detailed microform indexes can be obtained from Bell and Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691). Finally, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany, now a private, nonprofit broadcasting corporation, though under the oversight of the U. S. Board for International Broadcasting, publishes useful informational materials, such as *Research Situation Reports*, the weekly *Radio Liberty Research Bulletin*, and *Current Abstracts and Annotations*. (Subscription address: RFE/RL, Oettingerstr. 67, am Englischen Garten, D-8000, Munich 22, West Germany.)

IV. Private Research Institutions

The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace

Since its founding by Herbert Hoover in 1919 as a special collection dealing with the causes and consequences of World War I, the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace has evolved into an international center for documentation, research, and publication on problems of political, economic and social change in the 20th century. The library includes one of the largest *private* archives in the United States, with outstanding collections on Eastern Europe and Russia, as well as on Africa, East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and Western Europe.

Holdings, both primary and secondary sources, include government documents, files of newspapers and journals, manuscripts, memoirs, diaries and personal papers of personalities important in world affairs, publications of political parties, ephemeral

societies and of resistance and underground movements, the publications of national and international bodies, both official and unofficial, and strong book and pamphlet collections.

The East European collection's principal concentration is on 20th century political, historical, and ideological developments in Russia/Soviet Union, Poland, and Yugoslavia. A Russian collections survey, first published in 1969, is expected to appear in the near future in a revised and updated edition. The materials are open to all Stanford University students, faculty, and staff and to scholars from outside the University, who may be assigned carrels and shelves. The Institution has a resident research staff of subject-area specialists and promotes basic research and documentary studies, for which a limited number of fellowships can be granted. Notable long-term research topics focus on the international Communist movement and non-Russian nationalities in the Soviet Union. Since 1919, the Institution's publications program has yielded some 350 volumes, including, by way of example, the annual *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs*, edited by Richard F. Staar, *Constitutions of the Communist Party-States* by Jan F. Triska (1968), and *The Soviet Union and Post-War Japan: Escalating Challenge and Response* (1979) by Roger Swearingen.

Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies

The latest notable addition to research institutions dedicated to the furtherance of Russian-Soviet studies in the USA is the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, which, organizationally, is a division of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The Woodrow Wilson Center was established by Act of Congress as an international institute for advanced studies and the nation's living memorial to the 28th President, to symbolize and strengthen "the fruitful relations between the world of learning and the world of public affairs." Its range of interests is universal and on a global scale.

Founded in 1975, largely owing to the indefatigable efforts of George F. Kennan, distinguished scholar of Russian history and a former prominent U. S. diplomat, the Kennan Institute pursues the following objectives: to provide a center in the Washington area where advanced research on Russia/USSR can be conveniently pursued by qualified scholars; where hospitality and various forms of assistance can be offered to foreign and out-of-town visitors who come to Washington in connection with work of this nature; where encouragement and support can be given to the cultivation of Russian/Soviet studies throughout the country; and where liaison can be maintained with similarly placed institutions abroad. A Residential Fellowship Program plays a central role in enhancing these objectives. Fellowships offered are either senior fellowships in any field of the social sciences and humanities pertaining to Russia

and the Soviet Union, for periods up to one year, or short-term grants up to one month to advanced scholars in need of the library, archival, and other specialized resources in the Washington area.

Among activities sponsored by the Kennan Institute are colloquia, conferences, and evening dialogues, all on topics of interest to Russian/Soviet area specialists. Past conferences dealt, e. g., with "The Future of Soviet Agriculture," "U. S.-Soviet Relations in the 1980's" "American Journalistic Coverage of Soviet Affairs," and so on. Visiting scholars from abroad, including the USSR, frequently present papers and lectures to fellows and guests at the Institute.

Continuing cooperative projects, pursued in conjunction with kindred institutions and organizations are assigned a central role in the Institute's programs. Thus, public showings of both historical and contemporary films from the USSR are sponsored; in cooperation with other American scholarly institutions, agreements were concluded with the Main Archival Administration of the USSR, entailing the publication of documents from Soviet and American archives relating to the early period of Russian-American relations; and the preparation of an inventory of archival materials for Russia/USSR in manuscript repositories and private collections throughout the USA is in progress.

A well-selected and expertly staffed reference library ensures solid research support for the Institute's scholars. An especially valuable service by the Institute's library experts is the issuance of a seven-volume series of "Scholars' Guides to Washington, D. C.," with each volume covering the world's major geographic areas. For details, *see* Section II.

Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies

A remarkable and, in a way, unique institution is the Harvard-affiliated Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D. C., the research focus of which is the promotion of Byzantine civilization in all its aspects, including relations with neighboring countries, and the cultural history of the Orthodox Slavs, who were so profoundly influenced by Byzantium. Each year a limited number of fellowships are offered to qualified postgraduate and postdoctoral students of history, archeology, history of art, philology, and other disciplines, to support research at Dumbarton Oaks. The Center carries on an extensive publications program and maintains a research library, which contains probably the most comprehensive collection in the world of Byzantine civilization and a collection of prints, negatives, and color transparencies on Byzantine art.

V. Professional Organizations and Associations

Among nationwide professional organizations which have played a vital role in

moving ahead the frontiers of Slavic and East European learning and knowledge in the USA, the following deserve special mention in the context of this cursory paper: The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC); the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS); and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). They have been fulfilling this task in a multiplicity of ways: by taking stock of the state of the art, judiciously evaluating strengths and weaknesses, proposing and implementing imaginative solutions toward improvement and progress through collaborative efforts; by promoting cultural cooperation and exchanges with the countries and peoples of the area; and, last but not least, by securing the funding necessary to make these activities a reality.

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

The American Council of Learned Societies, founded in 1919, is a private non-profit umbrella federation of some 43 national organizations concerned with the humanities and the humanistic aspects of the social sciences. The purpose of the Council is "the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies." The work of the Council, which is more in the nature of a planning, initiating and developmental think-tank than of an operational agency, is carried on by a relatively small executive staff, in cooperation with committees on which scholars with a wide range of subject and area expertise are represented.

In the Slavic and East European perimeter of the Council's activities, committees on Russia/USSR and Eastern Europe award postdoctoral grants for studies in the humanities and social sciences, travel grants for humanists to international meetings abroad, and grants-in-aid and fellowships for language training and in support of humanistic research. Furthermore, they sponsor collaborative workshops, symposia and conferences in the USA, with the participation of foreign Slavic and East European scholars, or enable American scholars to take part in such events abroad. Also, the Council is engaged in supporting an active publications program, either by commissioning the preparation of works on themes and topics for which no satisfactory coverage is available in the existing published literature or by subsidizing the publication of completed original manuscripts of scholarly value. The Council has had a long and impressive record of successful initiatives and accomplishments over the years. One of its recent undertakings resulted in the creation of an ACLS-Soviet Academy of Sciences Commission in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Every two years, this Commission brings together, alternately in the U. S. and the USSR, a distinguished panel of American and Soviet specialists to identify topics of mutual concern in these branches of knowledge. Current projects encompass, for

instance, the preparation of a multidisciplinary study of aging and longevity in the USA and the USSR, a joint volume in honor of Academician V. Nemchinov, and histories of national literatures, symposia on Byzantine art, on Chekhov, etc.

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

IREX, established in 1968 at the request of American universities by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council, is the principal instrumentality for the administration of academic exchange programs of U. S. citizens with the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and with the USSR. With the Soviet Union, IREX conducts three exchanges; two of these, for graduate students and university faculty members, respectively, are with the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education as part of a general intergovernmental agreement between the USA and USSR, whereby the American participants are affiliated during their research stays in the USSR with institutions of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education; the third exchange, based on a special agreement between ACLS and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, provides for mutual visits of senior American scholars and affiliates of the Soviet Academy. Similar research exchange programs, subject to specific negotiation and renewal, are in effect with the East European socialist countries, except Albania. In addition, IREX provides a limited number of fellowships for essential linguistic preparation and area training of graduate students and administers a summer exchange of language teachers with the USSR.

This broad-gauged network of exchanges is complemented by various foreign study programs of individual American universities, which conclude separate exchange agreements with East European counterparts of their choice.

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS)

The United States Slavic specialist usually belongs to at least two professional associations, one in his own discipline, and one in an area association concerned with Slavic studies. By far the largest and most influential professional membership association in the field is the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), which is the representative national organization of over 2,500 scholars, students, and researchers specializing in the study of the USSR and Eastern Europe. Originally organized in 1948 by ACLS, with very limited functions, it became an official membership association in 1960, and since then has rendered the profession many meritorious services. AAASS is a nonprofit, non political professional organization which seeks to advance scholarly study, publication, and teaching relating to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Members receive the quarterly *Slavic Review*, the American leading professional journal in the field, published under the Association's auspices, the *Directory of Members*, and the *AAASS Newsletter*, which features current news and information of interest to the membership.

With the passage of time, the Association has developed active publications programs, principally of bibliographies and reference materials, including the aforementioned *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*, and *The Current Digest of the Soviet Press*, a weekly information service in journal format, which offers a highly time-efficient overview of Soviet affairs by featuring expertly selected full translations or extensive abstracts of articles and news items from approximately 100 Soviet newspapers. Quarterly content indexes are issued, and back files of the *Digest* can be obtained in microfilm or microfiche from commercial sources.

The AAASS, headed by an elected President and Board, is organized under a committee structure, in which the Research and Development Committee is of special importance. The Association's annual meetings, often attended by well over one thousand members, are held each fall and provide a forum of lectures and panels on a wide spectrum of topics. Regional chapters engage in similar professional activities.

Other Associations

The oldest Slavic discipline-focused association is the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL), founded in 1943-44 and affiliated with the overall professional Modern Language Association (MLA). AATSEEL has a number of chapters all over the country and publishes the *Slavic and East European Journal*, as well as a *Newsletter*, and holds annual meetings with programs and sessions on methodology, literature, language teaching, culture and linguistics, etc. Continuing proliferation of Slavic studies has brought into being in recent years several smaller groups with one specific area focus, such as the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America, the Bulgarian Studies Group, the American Association for Southeast European Studies, the Polish Institute for Arts and Sciences, the Society for Slovene Studies, the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences. Some of them publish newsletters for their membership. It is also not uncommon for Slavic specialist members of national discipline-oriented learned societies, such as the American Historical Association, the American Political Science Association, and others to form within these organizations Slavic subgroups and round tables.

In summation, the spectacular evolution of Slavic studies in the United States over the span of this century can be ascribed to several causative factors: The pioneering efforts of a small group of imaginative American scholars at the turn of the 19th century which led to the recognition of the role of Slavic peoples in history and their contributions to world civilization as an integral part of academic curricula; the impact of the steady influx of Slavic immigrants to the United States and the absorption into the academic life of quite a few distinguished scholars among

them; and the emerging role of the United States in world affairs as the result of its involvement in the First World War and its rise to a superpower in the wake of the Second World War; the subsequent polarization between the United States and the Soviet Union, the other superpower; the search for some measure of mutual accommodation and coexistence in the political, economic and cultural domains which led to an initiation of exchanges of persons and publications; and lastly, particularly in recent years, the rise of the ethnic awareness of American-born generations of Slavic immigrants.

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