



Center for Russian & East European Studies

Littlefield Center, Room 14, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-5013

NEWSLETTER

Spring
1996-1997

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A NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Letter from the Director

June, as you all know, is a time of ends and beginnings. Commencement both concludes academic studies and commences new endeavors. At CREES we will be graduating ten students in our M.A. program. In July CREES will move from Littlefield Center to Building 40, right in the heart of the Quad, two doors down from Memorial Church. The move is part of the Dean of Humanities and Science's efforts to raise the profile of the area studies programs on campus. We will be sharing Building 40 with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and with the Special Languages Program; our other neighbors will be the new Language Center (which oversees language instruction and assessment and the integration of high-tech into language teaching), the newly renovated Language Corner, now called Piggott Hall, and Building 50, future home of the East Asian Languages and Literature program and the Center for East Asian Studies.

Good things are already happening from the University's renewed commitment to language study. For example, the director of the new Language Center, Elizabeth Bernhardt, has developed a model by which Slavic languages other than Russian (Ukrainian, Czech, Serbian, Polish, etc.) can be taught upon demand by a Slavic philologist and a native speaker. CREES and the Language Center share funding for this expansion. CREES funding also is earmarked for language training in non-Slavic languages of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Other curricular initiatives have brought the area studies community together. This year the four area studies centers (Latin American, East Asian, African and REES) collaborated on a new course—"Design and Methodology for International Field Research." This interdisciplinary graduate course covered interview techniques, networking, data collection, survey techniques, archival research, and, in particular, ethical problems of carrying on research

in a foreign environment. Well received by students ranging from the Departments of Political Science and History to the Law and Engineering Schools, the course will become an on-going supplement to our graduate training programs.

CREES ended the year with two very successful events. Professor Laura Engelstein's lectures for the Donald M. Kendall Series in Soviet Studies marks the conclusion of this lecture series; we are very grateful to Mr. Kendall for having made this gift several years ago to stimulate research and publication in that field. Our Central Asia conference embarked us on what I hope will be an expanded CREES commitment to the study of the successor states of the former Soviet Union; we plan to follow up next year with lectures and round table discussions on Central Asia, as well as to maintain our abiding interest in other successor states, such as Ukraine.

CREES was gratified this year to win renewal of its Federal funding as a National Resource Center (Title VI, Department of Education) and continued FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) fellowships. CREES is one of about a dozen NRC's in the Russian and East European field in America; our mandate as an NRC is to serve as a point of intellectual energy for the

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CREES moves to the Quad

Please note our change of address, effective mid-July:

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Conference focuses on new Central Asian republics: Politics, Security, Environment and the Global Order

Reprinted with permission from the Stanford Report, May 28, 1997.

By Kathleen O'Toole

Was the ambassador from Turkmenistan given any trouble in Washington over his country's decision to work with Iran on an oil pipeline, the curious American wanted to know.

"We have a very long border with Iran, we receive our milk and bread from Iran, and we don't have much choice of neighbors," responded Halil Ugur during his visit to Stanford. "So far, we have received very well [sic] understanding with the U.S. administration."

That understanding in Washington and elsewhere in the United States is developing from a very low base of knowledge. A considerable amount of that base was gathered at Stanford on May 22 when the Center for Russian and East European Studies hosted a conference on the newly independent republics of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Interest in learning about an area famous for the exploits of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and ancient silk traders was evident from attendance: About 100 people, including many from the surrounding community, squeezed into the Hartley Conference Center in Mitchell Hall. At breaks, people huddled around wall maps, seeking their bearings in a region that was just background for the sickle and hammer when most went to school. Many also picked up brochures from the Hoover Institution advertising its textbook series on nationalities, which includes a 1990 volume on the Uzbeks and a 1995 volume on the Kazakhs.

The expertise present in the room included Stanford Professor William Perry, until recently the U.S. Secretary of Defense. Perry worked with Kazakhstan to dismantle its nuclear weapons, sent used Coast Guard boats there so the country could patrol its portion of the Caspian Sea, provided materials and technical assistance for the republics to form the "Central Asian Battalion" for peacekeeping, and arranged to send their military officers to a U.S.-German school to study for six months how a military operates in a democracy. The school was so important to him, Perry said, that he planned his schedule around its commencements and has given all six commencement addresses so far.

Present also was Coit Blacker, Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Studies, who until last fall was the White House's chief security council official for the region. Blacker said U.S. assistance to Central Asia, expected to be between \$60 million and \$75 million next year, was "modest and should be larger." The countries border the Caspian Sea, believed to be the world's second largest reserve of oil and gas. Facilities that can market and deliver that resource run mostly to Russia now, and the republics see their future political and economic stability tied to how those resources can be developed and marketed more widely, and the

'[The Central Asian Republics] will have to cut the long umbilical cord to Russia, which will be painful and expensive,' Perry said.

proceeds split. "How this comes out, I would agree, will determine the fate of the region," Blacker said.

Gail Lapidus, a former University of California-Berkeley sovietologist now at Stanford, said the republics had not desired independence when they got it in 1991 as a result of the Soviet break-up and were less prepared for self-governance than other parts of the old Soviet Union. One of the few American scholars to investigate the ethnic composition of the region during the Soviet era, she said each republic is ethnically diverse because Stalin slapped arbitrary provincial borders on Central Asia.

Unlike Soviet officials in Slavic states, the Soviet local officials in Central Asia were not rotated and therefore built up considerable local power, said Pauline Jones Luong, one of Lapidus' former students who did fieldwork in the region and who is finishing her dissertation while at Harvard. Luong said that many Western scholars and diplomats expected ethnic hostilities to flare up with the demise of the Soviet Union, but they haven't because the administrative borders laid down in Moscow actually did stick—reshaping people's identi-

ties to the point that they see themselves as citizens of a subregion, akin to the kind of regional economic connections that form in counties or metropolitan areas elsewhere.

There has been, however, a civil war in Tajikistan and the leaders of that republic and the others are worried about the potential for ethnic violence should the Taliban of Afghanistan cross over the mountains into their states, said David Holloway, a Stanford sovietologist who co-directs the Center for International Security and Arms Control. When he and Lapidus visited the countries' capitals recently, they found that only the officials in Turkmenistan were relatively "relaxed" about the fundamentalist Islamic group's takeover of northern Afghanistan. In Uzbekistan, there was even talk of inviting in Russian troops, Holloway said, but since the nature of the threat they saw was subversive rather than military, it was not clear to him how Russian troops could be effective.

The countries' leaders, all drawn from the same class that governed locally under the Soviets, see their major challenges as preserving political stability and developing an economic base in face of high birth rates, limited arable land, and water and environmental problems caused by careless Soviet development, speakers said. With the exception of Kyrgyzstan, they are one-party states that have not moved toward more democratic institutions. Environmental problems include erosion and salinity build-up from poor practices in irrigation, crop rotation and pesticide use, as well as contamination from nuclear waste. Water resources, which originate in mountains, pass through what are now three separate countries, creating new resource sharing problems, according to Erika Weinthal, a political scientist from Columbia University who is a visiting fellow at Stanford this year.

Ugur, the Turkmenistan ambassador, said the Soviets built an agricultural sector "without significant environmental concern. Now we face a huge investment costs to address the problems."

He stressed the necessity of his country's political neutrality because of its landlocked location and economic development needs. The country signed a recent agreement with Iran and Turkey to develop

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Stanford community and beyond. To that end, with CREES and Title VI funds we continue to support faculty and graduate student travel and research, particularly for summer research and language training; we sponsor visiting professors in underrepresented disciplines such as Sociology and Economics; we co-sponsor speakers of a wide intellectual range (see the list of events in the Newsletter); and we reach out to the community. Each year, for example, in cooperation with the Bay Area Global Education Project, the World Affairs Council, and the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, we sponsor a four-part workshop for high-school teachers, which offers lectures, discussions, curricular materials and reading lists on a particular theme. This year's theme was "Is Eastern Europe Obsolete?"; next year's theme will be Central Asia. These workshops are attended by teachers from all over California.

In the autumn quarter CREES will be in the capable hands of an interim director, Professor Richard Schupbach of the Slavic Department, because I will be spending the quarter at Stanford-in-Moscow, the Overseas Studies campus. We all can be reached by e-mail; visit our site on the Web as well. We appreciate the loyal support of CREES friends and supporters, whose gifts help enrich our programs, and we appreciate your input and comments on our programs and work.

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a pipeline that will reach markets in the West, is working with an Israeli company to upgrade a refinery and hopes eventually to work with Afghanistan and Pakistan on southern pipelines. It also works with the other Central Asian republics on making the region more attractive to outside investors by integrating communication and transportation infrastructure planning, and developing coordinated standards of accounting and laws affecting business, he said. Splitting Caspian Sea oil and gas revenues is "potentially contentious," he said, and may take a long time to resolve.

Besides their economic struggles to develop oil and gas, Perry said that the republics face ongoing struggles to retain their sovereignty and maintain internal stability, and to achieve free market/democratic institutions.

1997 CREES Summer Awards Recipients

Each year, CREES offers competitive fellowships and grants in the form of Mellon Grants, Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, and MacArthur Grants to graduate students for summer language study, travel, and research in the United States, Eastern Europe, and the Former Soviet Union. Congratulations to this year's award winners.

Those pursuing programs in **intensive language study** include: **Anne Eakin**, Slavic Languages and Literatures; **Stuart Finkel**, History; **Stephanie Langenfeld**, International Policy Studies; **Sean McIntyre**, German Studies; **Carol St. Louis**, Political Science.

The following students will conduct dissertation research: **Arkadii Blumbaum**, Slavic Languages and Literatures;

Nadezhda Bodanskaya, Slavic Languages and Literatures; **Rozita Dimova**, Anthropology; **Erin Jenne**, Political Science; **Lucja Kwasniak**, Slavic Languages and Literatures; **Sergei Severinov**, Economics; **Jonathan Terra**, Political Science.

Jennifer Daniell, Political Science, will conduct both language study and dissertation research. **Lisa McIntosh-Sundstrom**, Political Science, and **Valery Yakubovich**, Sociology, received grants for conference travel.

If they want to remain independent, he said, "they will have to cut the long umbilical cord to Russia, which will be painful and expensive." While Russia continues to exert influence, he said he doubted there would be any type of military showdown.

Internal stability is threatened by a cultural conflict, Perry said, that could be variously described as a struggle between fundamental and modern branches of Islam, a struggle between clerical and secular political leadership or as a struggle for influence between Turkey and Iran. Without a tradition of democratic or free market institutions, they are not likely to take hold easily, he said.

The most important thing U.S. government officials can do for the Central Asian republics, he contended, is "give them attention and respect. . . . These are important nations to the security of the region and to the security of the United States." SR

Congratulations Class of 1997

REES M.A. Graduates

Funda Akin came to Stanford from the University of Vienna and will be joining the consulting firm of McKinsey & Company in Istanbul as a Junior Associate.

Rachael Farber, FLAS fellowship recipient, will be continuing graduate studies at the School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Linda Gorsuch, U.S. Army Major, will be continuing area studies at the George C. Marshall Center for Eurasian Studies in Garmisch, Germany.

David Hosford, FLAS fellowship recipient, will be attending the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the Teaching and Curriculum Program.

Ji Hi Jung, Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, is planning to enter a Ph.D. program in Slavic Literature and is also considering returning to Korea to join the Korean Foreign Ministry.

Peter Martinson, U.S. Army Major, will be next attending the Command & General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Charles Roades, FLAS recipient, will receive dual M.A. and M.B.A. degrees and will be joining McKinsey & Company as an Associate in the Washington DC area. He and his wife are expecting their first child in July.

Andrew Snekvik will receive his coterminal B.A./M.A. degree. Besides getting married over the summer, he will be entering a Ph.D. program in History at Brandeis University.

Paul Stronski, FLAS fellowship recipient, graduated Autumn Quarter and will be continuing graduate studies at Stanford in the History Ph.D. program.

James Yentz, U.S. Army Captain and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, will be continuing area studies at the George C. Marshall Center for Eurasian Studies.

Calendar of CREES Events, 1996-1997

Lectures and Co-Sponsored Events

10/1/96
Vladimir Volkov, Member of Presidential Advisory Council; Director of the Institute of Slavic and Balkan Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. "*Dayton Agreement in Action: Post-electoral Phase.*"

10/2/96
Heinrich Bortfeldt, Professor, Department of History, Academy of Social Sciences, Berlin. "*Germany After Five Years of Unification: A Perspective from Eastern Germany.*" Co-sponsored with the Center for European Studies and the German Consulate General, San Francisco.

10/23/96
Valerii Vasil'ev, Pedagogical Institute, Vinnytsia, Ukraine. "*Politics and Society in Soviet Ukraine in the 1930's: A View from Local Archives.*"

10/31/96
The Honorable Tedo Japaridze, Ambassador, Republic of Georgia. "*Problems of Regional Security in the Caucasus.*" Co-sponsored with the Center for International Security and Arms Control.

11/18/96
Masha Lipman, Founder and Editor of ITOGI Magazine, Russia. "*Power Struggle in the Kremlin.*" Co-sponsored with the Department of Communication and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

11/19/96
The Honorable Alexander N. Yakovlev, Chairman of the President's Commission for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Repression, Chairman of the Board, Russia's Public Television. "*The Fate of Democracy in Russia After the Presidential Election.*" Co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Hoover Institution, the Institute for International Studies, the Center for International Security and Arms Control.

12/2/96
Victoria Koroteyeva, Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences. "*The Debate on Ethnicity and Nationalism: Russian Perspectives.*"

2/10/97
Matthew Bencke, Manager of Business Development, Boeing Defense and Space Group. "*The Space Age Outlives the Cold War: US/Russian Interaction in Space.*"

2/11/97
Roman Laba, Associate Professor, Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey. "*The Cossack Movement in the Russian State, 1990-1996.*"

2/25/97
Stelian Tanase, Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles. "*Is Romania Ready for Democracy?*"

3/5/97
Martha Brill Olcott, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "*The Many Faces of Central Asia.*"

3/10/97
Sergei Markov, Professor, Political Philosophy, Moscow State University; Research Associate, Moscow Carnegie Center. "*The Role of Big Business in Russian Politics.*"

4/3/97
David Tuller, Reporter, San Francisco Chronicle; Author. "*Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia.*" Co-sponsored by the Program in Feminist Studies, Stanford Humanities Center, Gay Alumni Association, Lesbian/Gay and Bisexual Community Center, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Program in Modern Thought and Literature, Department of English, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

4/9/97
Peter Rainov, Associate Professor, International Relations, Odessa University, Odessa, Ukraine; Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution. "*Ukraine: Current Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Problems.*"

4/23/97
Larisa Zakharova, Professor of History, Moscow State University. "*Russian Reforms in Historical Perspective.*" (Lecture in Russian)

CREES gratefully acknowledges the many co-sponsors who helped make possible another great year of events:

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures	Department of History
Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages	Program in Feminist Studies
Center for International Security and Arms Control	Stanford Humanities Center
Lesbian/Gay and Bisexual Community Center	Gay Alumni Association
Institute for Research on Women and Gender	Department of English
Program in Modern Thought and Literature	
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education	
German Consulate General, San Francisco	
Institute for International Studies	
Program in Jewish Studies	
Department of Communication	
Center for European Studies	
Hoover Institution	
Feminist Studies	

5/2/97
Kirill Postoutenko, Fulbright Fellow, Columbia University. "*Emile Medtner: Towards a History of Russian Imperial Consciousness.*" Co-sponsored with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

5/8/97
Andrei Illarionov, Director, Institute of Economic Analysis, Moscow; PEW Economic Freedom Fellow, Georgetown University. "*Will Russia Become an Economic Superpower in the 21st Century?*"

5/20/97
Irina Dezhina, Senior Researcher, Moscow Institute for the Economy; Fulbright Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "*Restructuring Russian Science and the 'Brain Drain'*"

Lecture Series

1996 Slide-Illustrated Lectures by Jack Kollmann

- 10/3 *The Muscovite Synthesis in Art*
- 10/9 *The Muscovite Synthesis in Architecture*
- 11/13 *The Muscovite Synthesis Shattered: Art and Architecture in the 17th and Early 18th Centuries*
- 11/25 *Art and Architecture in 18th Century St. Petersburg: From Baroque to Classical*

Special lectures in course on Early Modern Russia, 1400-1762, Nancy S. Kollmann. Co-sponsored with the Department of History.

1997 Seminar Series in Russian History. Co-sponsored with the Department of History.

1/27 **Anatol Shmelev**, Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution. "*The Foreign Policy of the Russian Whites During the Civil War 1917-1920.*"

2/24 **Randall A. Poole**, Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution. "*The Idealist Defense of Liberalism in Russian Philosophy.*"

3/10 **Dolores Davison Peterson**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Illinois, Chicago. "*An Alternative Society: Old Believer Women at Leksa.*"

3/31 **James D. Perry**, Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution. "*The Soviets and the Missile Crisis.*"

4/14 **Lesley A. Rimmel**, Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution. "*Popular Opinion and the Stalin Terror in Leningrad.*"

4/28 **John Connelly**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, UC Berkeley. "*The Sovietization of Higher Education in East Central Europe, 1948-1954.*"

5/12 **Thomas Emmert**, Visiting Professor, Stanford History Department. "*Separating Fact from Myth: The Serbian Experience*"

6/2 **Douglas Northrop**, Doctoral Candidate, Stanford History Department. "*Stalin's Central Asia? Uzbek Family Relations in the 1930s.*"

Calendar of CREES Events, 1996-1997

1997 Inner Asia/Silkroad Study Group (IASSG) Lecture Series

1/29 **Jeannine Davis-Kimball**, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads. Introduction by **Albert Dien**, Professor, Stanford History Department. "Muslims in Mongolia: The Nomadic Kazakhs of the Altai Mountains."

1997 Donald M. Kendall Lecture Series

May 13, 14, 15

Laura Engelstein, Professor of History, Princeton University. "Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom: A Story of Folk Religion in Tsarist and Soviet Russia." (see article on this page)

Seminars/Colloquia

10/30/96

Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Paper Presentation: **Jan Gross**, Professor, Department of Politics, New York University. "The Untangled Nexus: Confronting Stereotypes About Polish/Soviet/Jewish/German Relationships During the Second World War." Co-sponsored with the Program in Jewish Studies.

1/16/97

German Delegation Luncheon
Participants: **Margit Wehnert**, Member of State Parliament, Social Democratic Party (SPD); **Andre Hahn**, Whip, PDS, Saxony Parliament; **Claudia Spiewak**, Senior Political Editor, North German Broadcasting Corporation (NDR); **Bernd Niebruegge**, Correspondent, Bavarian TV and Radio; **Joerg Schwaeblein**, Member of State Parliament, Christian Democratic Party (CDU), Thuringian Parliament; **Alexander Kelle**, Researcher, Peace Research Institute (PRIF).

Conferences

November 1-2, 1996

"Transition to Constitutional Democracy and Market Economy in Poland" Co-sponsored with the Office of the President and the Hoover Institution. Organizer: **Wiktor Osiatynski**, Visiting Professor of

Law, Stanford School of Law; (Boston University).

Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Hoover Institution; Professor, Central European University.

Presenters: **Honorable John R. Davis, Jr.**, U.S. Ambassador to Poland 1987-1990; **Lech Garlicki**, Judge of the Constitutional Tribunal; **Bronislaw Geremek**, M.P., Chairman of the Parliamentary Caucus of the Union of Freedom and Foreign Policy Committee of the Sejm; **Jerzy Osiatynski**, M.P., Minister of Planning 1989-91 and Minister of Finance, 1992-93; **Hanna Suchocka**, Prime Minister of Poland, 1992-93.

February 21-22, 1997

"Poetry in Revolution: Boris Pasternak's My Sister, Life" Co-sponsored with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; Institute for International Studies; and the Hoover Institution.

Feb. 21

Panelists: **Stephen Moeller-Sally** (Stanford), **Steven Cassedy** (UCSD), **Kevin Platt** (Pomona College), **Monika Greenleaf** (Stanford), **Catherine Ciepiela** (Amherst), **Alexandr Zholkovsky** (USC), **Katherine Tiernan O'Connor**

(Stanford), **Lazar Fleishman** (Stanford), **Joseph Frank** (Stanford), **Gregory Freidin** (Stanford), **Johannes U. Gumbrecht** (Stanford), **Vyacheslav Ivanov** (UCLA), **Ronald Vroon** (UCLA).
Art Exhibition Introduction: **Elena S. Danielson** (Stanford)

Feb. 22

Panelists: **Andrey Arkhipov** (Stanford), **Vyacheslav Ivanov** (UCLA), **Stefano Garzonio** (University of Pisa, Italy), **Lazar Fleishman** (Stanford), **Evgeny Pasternak** (Institut of World Literature, Moscow), **Elena Pasternak** (Moscow)

Friday, March 7, 1997

XXI Annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference

"The Invention of Tradition After Communism"

Opening Remarks: **Victoria E. Bonnell** (Chair, CSEES, Berkeley)
Panels: "Inventing Tradition in East Europe and the Baltic States"—**Andrew C. Janos** (Berkeley), **Ronelle Alexander** (Berkeley), **Thomas Emmert** (Stanford), **Julia Bader** (Berkeley), **George Starr** (Berkeley),

Mikk Titma (Stanford); "Inventing Tradition in Russia"—**Reginald E. Zelnik** (Berkeley), **George W. Breslauer** (Berkeley), **M. Steven Fish** (Berkeley), **Michael McFaul** (Stanford), **Steven Zipperstein** (Stanford), **Gregory Freidin** (Stanford)

Closing Remarks: **Nancy S. Kollmann** (Director, CREES, Stanford)

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Central Asia in the Global Order: Politics, Security, Environment

Welcoming Remarks: **Nancy Kollmann** (Director, CREES, Stanford)
Panels: "Regional Politics"—**Gail Lapidus** (Stanford), **Pauline Jones Luong** (Harvard); "Foreign Policy Towards Central Asia: Domestic and International Perspectives"—**Coit D. Blacker** (Stanford), **David Holloway** (Stanford); "Economy and the Environment"—**David Bernstein** (Stanford), **Erika Weinthal** (Stanford/Columbia)
Concluding Speakers: **The Honorable Halil Ugur** (Ambassador of Turkmenistan); **William Perry**, (Stanford/Former U.S. Secretary of Defense)

Princeton history professor delivers Kendall Lecture Series

On May 13, 14, and 15 **Laura Engelstein**, Professor of History at Princeton University, delivered the Donald M. Kendall Lectures in Soviet Studies in a series entitled "Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom: A Story of Folk Religion in Tsarist and Soviet Russia." Professor Engelstein, a specialist in Imperial Russian history, received her Ph.D. from Stanford in 1976 and has authored numerous articles and two books: *Moscow, 1905: Working-Class Organization and Political Conflict* (Stanford University Press, 1982) and *Keys to Happiness: Sex and the Search for Modernity in Fin-de-Siècle Russia* (Cornell University Press, 1992). The latter, a study of changing laws, practices and attitudes towards family, the body and sexuality in the period from the Great Reforms to 1905, received wide acclaim, garnering the Vucinich Prize in Slavic Studies from the American Association for the Advancement of

Slavic Studies (AAASS) in 1993, and also the Barbara Heldt Prize from the Association of Women in Slavic Studies of the AAASS in the same year.

The three lectures of "Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom" chronicled Professor Engelstein's recent research into the spiritual and social life of a dissident Orthodox community in Russia called the "Castrators" or *skoptsy*. The group's name refers to its most striking practice, which was that members practiced physical mutilation (castration for men, effacement of nipples and genital organs for women) in an effort, Professor Engelstein explained, to achieve a genderless community, emancipation from physical passions and a purer spirituality. In exploring how the *skoptsy* maintained community despite their non-reproductive patterns (they settled in groups of several households in towns and villages throughout Central Russia and Siberia), she ex-

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Kendall, continued from pg. 5

plored the problem of marginality and the construction of identity in Imperial Russia. She also discussed how the specific discourses of official criticism directed at *skoptsy* changed with evolving political, ideological and scientific trends from the time of the group's origins in the 1760s to their eradication by Soviet power in the 1930s. The lectures were attended by large and enthusiastic crowds and each was followed by lively discussion. Professor Engelstein is preparing her research for publication with Cornell University Press.

The Kendall Lecture series was endowed by Donald Kendall with the aim of commissioning fundamental scholarship on Russia and the Soviet Union. Previous lecturers have included Ed Hewett, Economist at the Brookings Institute (1990); Ronald G. Suny, Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago (1991); Arnold Horelick, Senior Corporate Fellow, Rand Corporation (1992); Roman Szporluk, Professor of History, Harvard University (1994); and Loren Graham, Professor of History of Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and also at Harvard (1995). Ronald Suny's Kendall lectures appeared as *The Revenge of the Past: Nationalism, Revolution, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union*; Loren Graham's are forthcoming.

BOOK REVIEW

"Alleged Sex and Threatened Violence: Doctor Russel, Bishop Vladimir, and the Russians in San Francisco, 1887-1892."

TERENCE EMMONS

(Stanford University Press, 1997)

In the grand scheme of 19th-century Russian history, Dr. Nicholas Russel and Bishop Vladimir are insignificant and largely unknown figures. One was a Russian intellectual and revolutionary in exile, the other the appointed leader of an expanding Russian Orthodox diocese abroad. For a brief but scandalous stint in San Francisco, however, the two antagonists, through a series of combative legal spats, headlined local news and also aroused concern long-distance amongst Russian church authorities for disturbing the peace and reputation of the fledgling Russian community overseas. The list of crimes insinuated during the period of 1887-1892 includes pederasty, blackmail, arson, slander, and murder. In his most recent book, Stanford History Professor Terence Emmons offers a highly individualized chronicle of the Russel/Vladimir feud; by piecing together letters, telegrams, affidavits, and newspaper articles into a 'microhistory' of events, he allows us to glimpse the inner workings of their minds as well as the prevalent attitudes and politics of the community at large.

By the end of their tenure in San Francisco, Vladimir and Russel essentially drove each other out of the country. What began as a suspicious church fire fueled accusations of arson between the new, ambitious bishop and the doctor, the leader of the city's unorthodox "nihilists and outcasts." The bishop's subsequent attempts to excommunicate Russel corresponded to Russel's filing of a \$50,000 civil suit against Bishop Vladimir for slander, and most ignominiously, a

morals indictment for sexual abuse of the young men and boys under his charge in the church school. To retaliate, Vladimir repeatedly curtailed witness' testimony to his 'crime against nature,' thus perpetuating the conflict which would eventually end in an official investigation and an unconsummated duel.

By letting the documents speak for themselves, Emmons shows us nearly play-by-play action of individuals' experiences. Appropriately enough, objective historical discourse remains in the background of his narrative as does the distant yet pervasive presence of the motherland in San Francisco. But by no means does this scholarly technique delimit the book's breadth. Through the personal accounts and authorial commentary, we are given access to the many minor characters of this engrossing tale, whose setting spans the route from Russia to Alaska to California. Interestingly, the San Francisco newspapers themselves become a subject for investigation, as they competed to scandalize the events, if not increasing, then at least maintaining the obscurity of what actually transpired.

Thus many accusations remained "alleged" and violence "threatened," to fade unresolved into the recesses of various archives. It is lucky for us that the historian, with his resourcefulness, can restage and reveal the complex interactions and politics within and beyond this turn-of-the-century Russian community.

—By Chi-ming Yang

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