
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

CONFERENCES

- October 13-14, 1972:* Southern Conference on Slavic Studies of AAASS, Eleventh Annual Meeting, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. Program: Edward Chmielewski, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916. Local Arrangements: Gerald Govorchin, Department of History, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124.
- October 20-21, 1972:* Midwest Slavic Conference Meeting, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Contact: Patrick L. Alston, Department of History, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.
- October 26-28, 1972:* American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Planning and Action Conference, Neil House Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Leon I. Twarog, AAASS Executive Secretary, Room 254, 190 West 19th Avenue, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.
- October 28-29, 1972:* Conference on Baltic Literatures and Recent History, sponsored by the Ohio State University Center for Slavic and East European Studies, at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Frank Silbajoris, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, or Ilse Lehiste, Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.
- November 10-12, 1972:* Sixth Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Program: Dr. O. A. Horna, P.O. Box 115, Clarksburg, Maryland 20734.
- November 17-18, 1972:* Central States Slavic Conference, Eleventh Annual Meeting, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the conference at William Jewell. Theme: "The Samizdat Explosion." Program: Will Adams, Department of Political Science, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri 64068.
- December 1-2, 1972:* Conference on "Soviet Foreign Policy in the Seventies," sponsored by the Stanford Center for Russian and East European Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, California. Contact: Jan F. Triska, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305.
- April 19-21, 1973:* American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies meeting jointly with the Northeastern Slavic Conference, in New York City, at the Roosevelt Hotel. Program: Michael Cherniavsky, Department of History, State University of New York, Albany, New York 12203. Local Arrangements: Paul Trensky, Russian Institute, Fordham University, New York, New York 10458.
- April 19-21, 1973:* American Association for South Slavic Studies Annual Meeting, in conjunction with AAASS, in New York City, at the Roosevelt Hotel. Program: Kenneth E. Naylor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.
- April 26-28, 1973:* Rocky Mountain Association for Slavic Studies Annual Meeting, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Program: Betty Unterberger, Department of History, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas 77843.
- April 26-28, 1973:* Central States Conference on Teaching of Foreign Languages, St. Paul, Minnesota, at the St. Paul Hilton Hotel. Contact: Anthony Gradisnik, Milwaukee Public Schools, P.O. Drawer 10K, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.
- May 3-6, 1973:* Bulgarian Studies Group Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: Thomas Butler, Slavic Department, University of Wisconsin, Van Hise 720, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Leon I. Twarog of the Ohio State University was appointed executive secretary

of AAASS in March at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association. Dr. Twarog assumed the duties of the former secretary, George Demko, immediately following the meeting. Currently chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, Dr. Twarog has been on the Ohio State faculty since 1960. It was during his tenure as associate dean of faculties for international programs (1966-70) that the AAASS headquarters and the offices of the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* were moved to Columbus.

In a move to promote cooperation between AAASS and other area associations and organizations concerned with the future of international studies, the Association has joined the Committee on the Future of International Studies (COFIS), 1755 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20030. COFIS hopes to strengthen international studies in American education by (1) serving as a source of information on and liaison with institutions, professional and scholarly societies, government, foundations, and other bodies concerned with international matters, and (2) encouraging and facilitating cooperative efforts to explore new directions in international studies.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The School of Fine Arts in Banff, Alberta, Canada, has been selected as the site of the International Slavic Conference, September 5-7, 1974. The site was chosen for its unique setting and because it will accommodate at a very reasonable rate the thousand-plus participants anticipated. The site and date were selected by the International Planning Committee in meetings November 18-19, 1971, at Carleton University, Ottawa. Committee members include AAASS representatives Don K. Rowney, cochairman, Bowling Green University; Janet Chapman, University of Pittsburgh; Roger Kanet, University of Kansas; Leon Twarog, Ohio State University; and Piotr S. Wandycz, Yale University. Representing the Canadian Association of Slavists are Adam Bromke, cochairman, Carleton University; R. Carter Elwood, Carleton University; Zbigniew Fallenbuchl, University of Windsor; Julian Laychuck, University of Calgary; and Jacques Levesque, University of Quebec. The British Universities Association of Slavists representative is Richard Freeborn,

University of London. Fred Singleton, University of Bradford, represents the British National Association for Soviet and Eastern European Studies. Chairman of the local arrangements committee is Julian Laychuck.

The state of scholarship relating to East Europe and the USSR as conducted by scholars outside these areas is to be examined in sessions for the humanities and the social sciences. Interested scholars from Western Europe, Australia, Japan, and other countries will be invited to participate, and special efforts are being made to involve East European scholars. A second planning meeting is scheduled for September 28, 1972, at Bowling Green State University.

Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, has announced the establishment of an Institute of Soviet and East European Studies under the direction of Bohdan R. Bociurkiw to continue the interdisciplinary honors B.A. and masters programs set up under the former Committee on Soviet and East European Studies. The new institute will sponsor individual and group research, publication of monographs, and symposia in the field.

The Department of Slavic Languages and the Institute on East Central Europe at Columbia University have announced a new program leading to a Ph.D. in Slavic civilizations. The new graduate training program is designed for the student with a combined interest in the literatures, languages, and cultural histories of the Slavic peoples. Students may prepare for research and for university teaching in Slavic civilizations, the history of Russian culture and civilization, Slavic antiquities, Slavic folklore, and other aspects of Slavic cultural history. For application forms, bulletins, and fellowship information students are directed to the Office of Student Affairs, 106 Low Memorial Library, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027.

The Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies, 425 Van Buren Street, Monterey, California 93940, offers graduate courses leading to a certificate in translation and interpretation for French, German, Russian, and Spanish. Bilingual students with a B.A. can join either as special students or enroll in a regular two-year program leading to an M.A. in language and international studies.

The Institute for the Study of the USSR in Munich will close after serving for twenty-one years as a forum and research

center for leading Soviet experts from many lands. The decision to close the institute followed budget cuts sustained by its principal sponsor, the Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. After Congress, which has supported Radio Liberty since July 1971, voted budget cuts, Howland H. Sargeant, Radio Liberty's president, explained, "Faced with the need for economy, we had to end help to the Institute or cut out some of the languages in which Radio Liberty broadcasts to the peoples of the Soviet Union. Since broadcasting is the main business of Radio Liberty, which has been on the air night and day since 1953, we reluctantly decided that our aid to the Institute would have to end." The institute's library containing eighty thousand volumes is considered one of the world's richest specialized collections on the Soviet Union. Institute publications have a combined circulation of six hundred thousand in seven languages.

In the fall of 1972 the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University will initiate the first Doctor of Arts degree in Russian in the United States. The D.A. program shifts the emphasis from research and graduate instruction to the teaching of languages and literature and is primarily designed for those students who intend to teach at the undergraduate level. In addition to taking courses in Russian language, literature, linguistics, culture, and civilization, the D.A. candidate will intern as a teaching associate in the department or possibly at a nearby college for a minimum of three quarters. A doctoral essay of 100 to 120 pages may be an original contribution to Russian language and literature or may examine a problem of teaching or structuring curriculum at the undergraduate level.

The University of Kansas Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures has announced a new interdisciplinary degree called the M.A. in Russian culture. Available in September 1972, the program is designed especially to train persons to teach both the Russian language and survey courses in Russian culture. It will also appeal to students planning careers in government, business, or other professions. Prerequisites include a B.A. from an accredited college or university and twenty-two semester hours of Russian language and a course in Russian history. Requirements for the degree will be met with advanced courses in Russian language, literature, aesthetics,

and culture. No thesis is required, but comprehensive written and oral examinations will be given. For additional information write Gerald E. Mikkelson, Russian Culture Program Adviser, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Seventeen young American scholars were selected to participate in the Scholar-Diplomat Seminar for European Affairs sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., March 20-24, 1972. Six were specialists in Soviet and East European affairs: John H. Hodgson II, Syracuse University; Nish Jamgotch, Jr., University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Alfred Katz, Bradley University; Henry W. Morton, Queens College; Morton Schwartz, University of California at Riverside; and Joseph F. Zacek, State University of New York at Albany.

The seminars, begun in 1969, are designed to facilitate the exchange of expert opinion and knowledge between foreign affairs professionals in academic life and government service. During the week in Washington, participants were given a comprehensive and in-depth exposure to the work of the State Department. They received briefings from and had discussions with senior officers of the major geographical and functional units of the State Department, as well as related departments and agencies of the government. Each scholar was also assigned to monitor and participate in the work of the particular "desk" corresponding to his special interest.

Columbia University has announced the creation of a "Graduate Student Fellowship in West European Studies" in memory of Philip E. Mosely, former Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Relations at Columbia. Anyone wishing to remember Dr. Mosely by contributing to the fellowship fund should make the contribution payable to Columbia University and mail to Marguerite V. Freund, Administrative Assistant, European Institute, Columbia University, 420 West 118th Street, New York, New York 10025.

The Slavic Bibliographic and Documentation Center, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., will close in the near future, it was announced in the center's April *Newsletter*. Supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation, the center began operations in 1969. The Ford Foundation

recently concluded that it would be unable to provide an extension grant for further support of the center activities.

The Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia University, has announced an important precedent in the development of scholarly ties between Eastern Europe and the United States. The Nicolae Iorga Professorship of Romanian and South East European Studies has been created at Columbia in cooperation with the University of Bucharest. Named in honor of the Rumanian historian and statesman, the Iorga Professorship will be filled by distinguished Rumanian scholars from various disciplines who will lecture at Columbia for a semester each year. Professor Constantin Giurescu of the University of Bucharest, a specialist in the medieval and modern history of Southeast Europe, will hold the first appointment.

APPOINTMENTS AND STAFF CHANGES

University of California, Los Angeles: Michael H. Berman of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, appointed acting assistant professor of Slavic languages; Marija Gimbutas reassigned to the Department of Slavic Languages as professor of European archaeology as a result of the dissolution of the Indo-European Studies Section; Kenneth Harper, professor of Slavic languages, appointed chairman of the department in 1972-73; Michael Shapiro, associate professor of Slavic languages, to spend 1972-73 in New Haven, Connecticut; Alan Timberlake of Harvard University appointed acting assistant professor of Slavic languages; Dean S. Worth, professor of Slavic languages, appointed acting director of the Russian and East European Studies Center for 1972-73.

University of Chicago: Norman W. Ingham of Harvard University appointed associate professor of Russian literature, and on leave 1972-73 as a visiting fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D.C.

Columbia University: Stanislaus A. Blejwas reappointed assistant to the director, Institute on East Central Europe; István Deák promoted to professor of history; Andrzej Kaminski appointed assistant professor of history; Béla Király, Brooklyn College, appointed visiting assistant professor of history, Institute on East Central Europe; Roger E. Kanet, associate professor of political science, University of Kan-

sas, named joint senior fellow at the Russian Institute and the Research Institute on Communist Affairs for 1972-73.

University of Connecticut: Benedict V. Maciuka promoted to professor of history.

Colorado College, Colorado Springs: A. N. Malyshev promoted to professor of Russian.

Dominican College of Blauvelt, Blauvelt, New York: Peter P. Narkun appointed assistant professor of history.

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston: Stephen Horak promoted to professor of history.

East Texas State University, Commerce: Paul Griffith McCoy promoted to associate professor of political science.

University of Hamburg: Thomas Eekman of the University of California, Los Angeles, appointed visiting professor of Slavic languages for 1972-73.

University of Kansas, Lawrence: Thomas B. Larson of Columbia University appointed visiting professor of political science for spring semester 1972.

University of Klagenfurt, Austria: Alexander Isacenko of the University of California, Los Angeles, appointed professor of Slavic and general linguistics.

University of London: Gerta H. Worth of the University of California, Los Angeles, appointed professor of Russian in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

University of Munich: Henrik Birnbaum, on leave of absence from the University of California, Los Angeles, to serve as professor of Slavic, Baltic, and Balkan languages and codirector of the Seminar of Slavic Philology.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: Samuel H. Baron of the University of California, San Diego, appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor of History.

University of Washington: Herbert J. Ellison, vice provost for educational development, appointed director of the Institute for Comparative and Foreign Area Studies; Donald W. Treadgold appointed chairman of the Department of History.

York University: Henryk Flakierski, Erindale College, Toronto, appointed associate professor in the Division of Social Sciences; B. M. Frolic promoted to associate professor of political science; Maya Jenkins appointed assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Literature; Daniel Tretiak appointed lecturer in political science; George Weider promoted to assistant professor of history and humanities,

OSWALD PRENTISS BACKUS III, 1921–1972

The death of Oswald Backus removed from the academic scene an outstanding scholar, an inspiring teacher, and an excellent administrator whose honesty, loyalty, diligence, and good will have been sources of strength and encouragement throughout the academic world, not only in this country but also abroad. It is not often that a great talent for research, devotion to the best possible instruction of students, and the special gifts of the administrator are conjoined in such a harmonious way in one man. Hardly anyone who came into close contact with Oswald Backus could remain untouched by the unusually persuasive moral integrity and intellectual power radiating from this unique personality.

He was born in 1921 in Rochester, New York, and earned his B.A. degree from Yale and his M.A. from Columbia before World War II service in Europe. He returned to Yale to obtain his Ph.D. degree in history in 1949. After a spell of teaching French at Yale and history at Rutgers he came to the University of Kansas in 1950, where he was made a full professor of East European history nine years later. Meanwhile he earned a law degree from Harvard in 1959. A prime mover in establishing Slavic and Soviet area studies at the University of Kansas, he chaired that program for several years. This he did with signal success, although occasionally he chafed under the burden of his administrative tasks, which took away so much time from his teaching and research.

He filled visiting professorships at Michigan State University, the University of Chicago, and Marburg and Bonn in Germany. He delivered lectures at Wisconsin, Illinois, and Penn State; Berlin, Mainz, Cologne, Giessen, and Münster in Germany; Oxford in England; the University of Leningrad, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius, and the Institute of History in Leningrad, USSR. He also held Ford Foundation faculty fellowships, a Fulbright Research Fellowship, and numerous grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants. These were used for study in Finland, Poland, and the Soviet Union.

Oswald Backus was the author of several books and more than seventy-five articles in American and foreign learned journals, most of them dealing with Russian and Soviet law and legal history, and the history of Russia, Poland, and Lithuania in the fourteenth through the seventeenth century. His excellent linguistic endowments enabled him to publish in German, Finnish, and Russian, as well as in English. A considerable number of articles will appear only posthumously, while his literary estate comprises—a sign of his indefatigable industry and scholarly enthusiasm—a substantial body of work in progress, hopefully begun, yet never to be completed.

He was a member of several historical societies and served as a board and editorial board member for some of them, also filling the post of president of the Midwest Slavic Conference. In 1971 he was elected to membership in the Conference on European Problems. He was a participant in many international conferences, frequently playing a planning role. All in all, his was a life full of moral and intellectual vigor, restless activity, and a will to work, and of responsibility which went beyond all considerations of his own well-being and health, an insistence not on rights only but also on duties, and high standards of performance in all endeavors—an admirable achievement, worthy to be emulated, an example to be followed. His greatest asset, hardly fully realized in his all too modest appraisal of himself, was an

exceptionally high ethical standard and moral intensity, coupled with an open mind, absolute fairness, and, behind all this, a depth of spirit which only a few were aware of—a combination of qualities rarely found nowadays. He was his own sternest critic. None of his students, even the most reticent or cynical, could in the end escape his influence—the impact of a scholar singularly dedicated to the search for truth, who again and again stressed the purity and conscientiousness of research to whatever results it may lead. There was something of a Kantian ethos behind his scholarship, a desire to be so guided in research and teaching that the moral and methodological principles followed could become general and universally acceptable. At the same time he exemplified the kind of humility that is conscious of the ultimate fallibility of all human endeavor. *Vechnaia pamiat'!*

HEINRICH A. STAMMLER
University of Kansas

SAMUEL KUCHEROV, 1892–1972

Born into the family of Kiev's chief rabbi in 1892, Samuel Kucherov was reared in the increasing turmoil of revolutionary Russia. His life was protected during the Great Pogrom of 1905 when the metropolitan of Kiev sent his carriage to bring the rabbi's family to the sanctuary of the Lavra. His gymnasium diploma was presented in 1911 by Prime Minister Stolypin the night before his assassination. His law degree was conferred at the University of Kiev in 1915 as the war raged. During the turbulent years of the Civil War he had dramatic experiences as the Petliura lines wandered back and forth near his home. Finally, he fled to Germany, attended the University of Berlin for four years, and emerged with a doctorate in 1929. In his law practice his most noted client was Prince Yusupov, the noble assassin of Rasputin, who was establishing a new business career in Berlin.

Hitler's emergence sent the family moving again, this time to France, only to be hounded out as France fell—then America became the refuge. Kucherov chose to begin again and matriculated with his son Alexander at Columbia University. In demonstration of the dogged determination which characterized him, he achieved a new doctorate in 1955 and published as his thesis his noted book *Courts, Lawyers and Trials Under the Last Three Tsars*. This was one of the first five volumes chosen by the neophyte publisher Frederick Praeger to begin his now famous series on Russian and Soviet politics.

Kucherov's scholarship won him a place on Dr. Sergius Yakobson's research staff at the Library of Congress, where he continued to write even in retirement. Age dimmed his eyesight and his hearing but never his determination and skill. In 1970 he published in Leiden a massive volume entitled *The Organs of Soviet Administration of Justice: Their History and Operation*, and when he died on July 30 the *Slavic Review* had just published in abbreviated form what was planned as the first chapter of a history of prerevolutionary Russian law.

Kucherov was the last of those members of the Imperial Bar who contributed so much over the years to an appreciation by Western scholars of the continuities and discontinuities of Russian and Soviet law. He had become by his death indubitably the grand old man among Western scholars studying Soviet law.

JOHN N. HAZARD
Columbia University

ERNEST J. SIMMONS, 1903–1972

Ernest Joseph Simmons, pioneer and leader in the development of modern American Slavic studies, died on May 3, 1972, at the age of sixty-eight. If anyone needs succinct proof of the role Simmons played in the revolutionary development of American Slavistics, let him look at the *American Slavic and East European Review* in the years of his editorship, from 1947 to 1950. From a miscellany without strongly marked direction, the journal was transformed into a serious scholarly review, meticulously edited and proofread. The first year of the journal under Simmons's editorship features such stellar names as Vernadsky, Hazard, Gerschenkron, Stilman, Trubetskoy, Kridl, Miłosz, and Struve.

A similar transformation was wrought by Simmons in the teaching of Russian language and literature in this country, first at Cornell from 1941 to 1945, and then at Columbia, where he came in 1946. He organized the teaching of Russian language on a modern, professionalized basis, and he transformed the undergraduate and graduate major in Russian language and literature from a kind of cultural smorgasbord leading nowhere vocationally into a rigorous, structured sequence of courses with intellectual content and a deep sense of literary values. In particular the Slavic Department at Columbia University bears his imprint, but his influence spread far beyond Columbia, and scarcely a department in the country is without one of his students, or a student of his student. He was one of the founding fathers of the Russian Institute at Columbia and one of those who from the first gave it intellectual direction, scope, and integrity. He was active in the first attempts to create a student exchange with the Soviet Union, though his visit there in 1947 brought him only frustration. No one has done more to influence or shape the direction of undergraduate Russian language teaching or the graduate study of Russian literature in America today than he.

It is true that the brand of literary sociology that Simmons promulgated at the Russian Institute (and that he himself rarely if ever practiced) is out of fashion; it will return to favor. It is true that interest in Russian Formalism today seems to appeal to younger minds more than his solid type of literary biographism. The Formalist approach will pall (for all its brilliance, it is methodologically rigid and not always readily applicable) and pass away, and the immense scope and grasp of Simmons's work will then seem clearer to us. Not counting articles, prefaces, or books that he merely edited, his scholarly legacy consists of some ten volumes, which treat Russian literature and culture from the mid-sixteenth century up to the present day. All the giants of Russian literature are represented except Turgenev. Not long before Simmons's death the manuscript of an eleventh volume—a major work of criticism on Tolstoy—went to a British publisher.

The greatest work he wrought is doubtless his *Leo Tolstoy*, a colossal biographical portrait that is still well-nigh unique (there is absolutely nothing like it in Russian scholarship). It compares favorably in its objective and careful use of sources with its only real rival, the later biography by Troyat. Nor is Simmons's achievement limited to biography. How fine a critical essay, for instance, is the chapter on *Anna Karenina* in his later *Introduction to Tolstoy's Writings*! How full of finely observed details, good common sense, keen psychological perceptions, and well-crafted writing this essay is! Indeed, everything Simmons wrote bore the stamp of a lucid style, of an enviable clarity and precision.

Simmons's choice of career was one of those miracles on which today's Ameri-

can Slavic studies are founded. He studied English at Harvard under George Lyman Kittredge, and a chance travel grant took him to the Soviet Union to study connections between the English ballad and the Russian epos. He arrived there to face the hard winter of 1928 without an overcoat, an article quite unobtainable at that time—the possession of which meant virtual life or death for its owner. Like Philip Mosely, he was sustained through that winter by a heroic Russian peasant woman, and like Phil he came to love the Russian people and to chafe at the harsh monolithic character of their regime. Though later he was closely associated, at the Russian Institute and elsewhere, with the teaching of Soviet literature, he was singularly loath to dedicate his own scholarly energies to that literature. It was the giants of the Russian nineteenth century that moved him and concerned him, and they did not develop under Soviet conditions.

He was likewise impatient at the slowness of academic reform in American university life. Columbia frustrated his hopes for that growth and forward progress he envisaged and propagated as a leader in the councils of that institution. He withdrew in 1959 to pursue the career which he had no doubt always dreamed of: the pure scholarship of the study, as an independent writer and lecturer. Some of us envied Ernie in his retreat among the craggy mountains and eighteenth-century houses of middle New Hampshire. Yet he did not withdraw—he gave his advice and help as generously as he always had, visited colleges and departments that needed his ministrations, and before long returned to active academic service at the Center for Advanced Studies at Wesleyan University, a program he subsequently headed.

Like Phil Mosely and others of their generation, Ernie was almost wholly self-taught, the product of an era without systematic training in the field. The work of these men was a labor of heroic patience, industry, and love. Shall we who have learned from them do more?

WILLIAM E. HARKINS
Columbia University