Greetings!

Winter and spring have been filled with a storm of events, and winter quarter began with an actual blizzard that necessitated our postponing a research workshop entitled Islam, Modernity and Eurasia, organized jointly by CEERES and the Center for Middle East Studies here at Chicago together with the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center and the Center for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The workshop is now rescheduled for October 3 & 4, 2008. With that one exception, neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stayed CEERES from sponsoring and co-sponsoring a plethora of successful conferences, workshops, and events, and we will tell you about each and every one of them in the following pages.

The University of Chicago has always prided itself on being a teacher of teachers, and we are ending this academic year with three important outreach activities for educators. We are sending off two groups of K-12 and College teachers on Fulbright-Hays programs—one to Greece and Bulgaria and one to Russia—and the resulting curricular projects will be available on the CEERES website starting in the spring of 2009. We have also joined forces with the five other International and Area Studies centers at The University of Chicago to organize a Summer Institute for teachers on Climate Change: Biological and Social Implications, June 23-25.

Fall promises a bountiful academic harvest as well as some changes for CEERES. I will be on leave for 2008-09 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, to work on my project entitled “On Speaking Terms: Multilingualism, Identities, and the Sociolinguistics of the Balkan Linguistic League,” with support from Fulbright-Hays and Guggenheim Fellowships. In my absence, my colleague and fellow Guggenheim Fellow, Professor Susan Gal, the Mae & Sidney G. Metzl Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology, of Linguistics, and of Social Sciences in the College, will be Acting Director of CEERES. Professor Gal’s areas of expertise include linguistic anthropology, politics of communication, sociolinguistics, social theory, gender, ethnicity, European studies, and postsocialism. CEERES will continue to sponsor a broad range of events under her leadership, including an international conference Critical Spaces of Hope: Locating Postsocialism and the Future in post-Yugoslav Anthropology, with support from the American Council of Learned Societies, October 24 & 25, and the residency of Balkan film expert Dina Iordonova, who will offer a series of lectures on Southeast European film, October 6-17.

I wish you all success in the coming academic year, and I look forward to working with you when I return as Director in fall 2009.

~Victor A. Friedman, Director
**Crone Festschrift Showcases Chicago Scholars**

**Poetics.Self.Place: Essays in Honor of Anna Lisa Crone** was presented to Chicago Professor Anna Lisa Crone at the Slavic Department Reception at the AATSEEL National Convention in Chicago on December 28, 2007. The volume's publisher and Crone's former student, Prof. George Fowler (Ph.D., University of Chicago) of Slavica Publishers and Indiana University brought 8 pre-publication copies of this 850-page volume. A host of the contributors, Dr. Crone's colleagues and former graduate students were on hand for the event.

Among them was Prof. Catherine O'Neil (Ph.D., University of Chicago) of the US Naval Academy who headed the editorial team of Nicole Boudreau, (M.A., University of Chicago) and Prof. Sarah Krive (Ph. D., University of Chicago) of UNC-Greensboro.

Handing the volume to Crone, O'Neil called it “a labor of love.” Indeed, it contains 41 articles by 20 of Crone’s former and present students and 13 colleagues from American, British, Canadian, Italian and Ukrainian universities, and Professors Paul Friedrich, Bozena Shallcross, Robert Bird and Lina Steiner of The University of Chicago.

The images on the book’s cover reflect Crone’s decades of work on the Petersburg literary tradition. It shows Falconet/Pushkin’s Bronze Horseman not “on a shore of desolate waves,” but rearing his steed above an alphabetic “sea of words,” which symbolizes this book. Designed by Petersburg-trained architect Vladimir Donchik, the complex computer graphics were executed by Ingrid Plehanov, who studied architecture in Moscow and design at the Art Institute of Chicago.

This large volume of scholarly studies is divided into seven sections reflecting Crone’s interests and the richness of Slavic Studies at present: “Themes in Slavic Studies,” “From Enlightenment to Romanticism,” “Poetry and Poetics,” “Poets in Dialogue,” “Studies in Prose,” “Petersburg Tales,” and “Performance Arts.” They are preceded (pp.1-8) by the editors’ “Introduction,” which relates the rubrics to various areas of Crone’s involvement in the field, providing a kind of “biography” of her scholarly work in Russian literature, especially poetry, and including a discussion of her four major books. This essay serves as an excellent guide for the user of this multi-faceted volume and gives a helpful description and discussion of each rubric and a discussion of the literary approaches and content of each of the 41 articles.

At the reception, Professor Crone thanked all those involved in the Festschrift and especially emphasized that all the articles in it had been peer-reviewed by leading specialists in the field. She is particularly gratified to be the dedicatee of *Poetics.Self.Place*, which she described as “a concrete testament to the scholarly excellence and breadth of the young (and not so young) scholars of Chicago’s Russian Literature Program, of which the many contributors and our Department may be justly proud.”

The volume (849 pp.) is now available through Slavica Publishers, Bloomington, Indiana, and from Amazon.com for $39.95.

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**Profile**

Anna Lisa Crone is Professor of Russian Literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She received her B.A. in Russian language and literature from Goucher College in 1967, and her MA, and then PhD from Harvard University, 1975.

She received a Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1985, a Graduate Teaching Award for 2000, and was honored with the 2004 Barbara Heldr Award for scholarship and mentoring in the field of Russian literature at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in December 2004. She has overseen nearly 40 doctoral students’ dissertation work on Russian literature.

Her recent books are *The Daring of Derzhavin: The Moral and Aesthetic Independence of the Poet in Russia* (2001), and *My Petersburg/Myself: Mental Architecture and Imaginative Space in Modern Russian Poetry* (2004), and she has authored more than 50 articles.

Reflecting on a successful record of advising graduate students and placing them in jobs in the difficult field of Russian literature, Crone remarked in a 2000 article in the *Chicago Chronicle*, “Teaching and scholarship can be a kind of integrated life, and the one really serves the other,” she explained. “It satisfies me when they recognize that.”
Martin Koenig: Voices and Images from Bulgaria, 1966-1979 will run from July 5 to September 28, 2008 at the Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Avenue Galleries, 78 E. Washington St. It is free and open to the public.

Over 40 years ago, famed dance ethnomusicologist and cultural specialist Martin Koenig embarked on a trip to Bulgaria armed with a letter of introduction from Margaret Mead. In this initial trip and on several subsequent visits, he worked in villages throughout the country filming, recording and photographing the lively yet endangered aspects of the traditional culture he observed. As described in Vagabond (http://vagabond-bg.com), an English-language source of Bulgaria culture, Koenig’s project became one of documenting and memorialising a culture, through recording songs and music, filming dances and photographing people, the like of which had not been attempted on such a scale before. It was a labour of love for Martin. “Every year I’d go home and be selling my cameras to raise the money to be able to come back again. I wasn’t paid. We borrowed money to make the records.” The two records that were made as a result of his fieldwork were A Harvest, A Shepherd, A Bride: Village Music of Bulgaria (May 1970) and In The Shadow of the Mountain (October 1970), part of the Nonesuch Explorer series.

The photographs from this trip comprise this summer’s exhibit. These historic, black and white photographs portray villagers, especially musicians and dancers, and document a traditional way of life that has since been transformed by modernization and globalization.

The Opening Reception will be on Friday, July 11th and the exhibition will stay up until September 28th.

The event is sponsored by a wide partnership of organizations, including the office of Ivan Sotirov, Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Ensemble Balkanske Igre, and CEERES. Other events—such as film screenings, folk music and dance performances—will be announced by CEERES as they are scheduled.

“CCCP” Exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Foundation

CEERES is partnering with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design, to put together a program surrounding their upcoming exhibit CCCP: COSMIC COMMUNIST CONSTRUCTIONS PHOTOGRAPHED, scheduled to run July-October 2008 at their 224 S. Michigan Ave. location in the historic Santa Fe building.

Over the past five years, during the course of his travels in the former Soviet Union, French photographer Frédéric Chaubin, editor of the French magazine Citizen K, has documented an extensive collection of startling architectural artifacts born during the last two decades of the Cold War. Architects in the peripheral regions of the Eastern Bloc countries, working on governmental commissions during the ‘70s and ‘80s, enjoyed a surprising degree of creative freedom. Operating in a cultural context hermetically sealed from the influence of their Western counterparts, they drew inspiration from sources ranging from expressionism, science fiction, early European modernism and the Russian Suprematist legacy to produce an idiosyncratic, flamboyant and often imaginative architectural ménage.

Unexpected in their contexts, these monumental buildings stand in stark contrast to the stereotypical understanding of late Soviet architecture in which monotonously repetitive urban landscapes were punctuated by vapid exercises in architectural propaganda.

The subjects of Chaubin’s photographs, scattered throughout Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, were all constructed during the last two decades of the Soviet era. Very few of their designers achieved anything more than local recognition, and until now these buildings have never been collectively documented or exhibited. The authors of many works remain unknown, and some have been destroyed since Chaubin’s photographs were taken.

Conceived and executed during a moment of historical transition, these buildings constitute one of the most surprising and least known legacies of the former USSR.

Currently in the planning stage, programs associated with the exhibit will range from a reception with the photographer Chaubin, linked discussions of Chicago style and Soviet Avant-garde art and architecture, architectural preservation, and a screening of Soviet film.
CEERES Sends Off Two Fulbright Groups

Greece/Bulgaria

On May 29 and 30, CEERES hosted a group of 16 secondary and college teachers selected to participate in this summer’s Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program to Greece and Bulgaria. Before the teachers departed for Athens on May 31, they met as a group for the first time in Chicago to become acquainted with each other and the complex region to which they are traveling.

In Chicago, a hub with direct cultural connections to both Greece and Bulgaria, the Fulbrighters convened to hear presentations on the respective languages and cultures from distinguished Chicago faculty such as Victor A. Friedman (Slavic, Linguistics) and James Redfield (Classics). The teachers also took part in a curriculum development workshop led by Elizabeth Chandler, Director of UC’s Center for Teaching and Learning. Also present were Julia Stefanova of the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission, and Dimitrios Doutis of The Fulbright Foundation in Greece.

The major outcomes of the Fulbright-Hays experience are new curricula, lesson plans, school and district programming, and presentations to be shared among colleagues. CEERES will play a role in collecting and disseminating the projects developed by this year’s participants through our web page http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/outreach.

Outside of lectures, the group had a chance to experience Chicago’s authentic ethnic cuisine at Greek and Bulgarian restaurants, and even spent a dizzying evening learning Balkan folk dances, led by local ensemble Balkanske Igre’s director John Kuo, himself a Chicago alumnus.

You can track the group’s progress on their blog http://gbfulbright.blogspot.com/.

Russia

CEERES, in conjunction with faculty at Illinois State University and American Home/Serendipity-Russia, was selected by Fulbright-Hays to lead a Group Project Abroad for K-12 teachers to Russia this summer. The program “Discovering Russia: Challenging Stereotypes and Media Myths”, will feature a pre-departure orientation at The University of Chicago, before a month-long immersion in Russia in from June 19 to July 21, 2008.

The purpose of this project is to allow teachers to experience life in Russia first-hand and to develop an understanding of how Russia has come to be what it is today. Most Americans gain their knowledge about Russia through news media reports or through actors’ portrayals of Russians in Hollywood movies, most of which are generally negative, or sensationalized and misleading. These skewed representations are what students have direct access to, and what teachers have to filter or unravel in order to present a more accurate picture of Russia in their classes.

Thirteen teachers spanning elementary school to high school, and subjects such as language education, media, government and history were selected from a pool of applicants based on the strength of their proposals to develop lesson plans and programming for their school districts. The teachers also span the U.S.—from Maryland to Alaska.

Based at the American Home of Serendipity-Russia, founded by co-organizer Dr. Ron Pope (Associate Professor of Russian Politics at Illinois State University), the in-country seminar will take place mainly in the historic cultural city of Vladimir, Russia, followed by trips to Murom, St. Petersburg, and Moscow. Aside from trips to museums, churches and historic sites, the group will have a chance to visit schools, universities, orphanages, local governmental and law enforcement institutions, and meet with local business leaders.

Upon returning to the U.S., the Fulbright participants will begin work on their curricular projects, which CEERES will collect and disseminate on its web page http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/outreach. During the course of the trip, CEERES Associate Director Meredith Clason will be blogging at http://ceeres.blogspot.com/.
Upcoming Events

Fall 2008

Complete event details can always be found at http://ceeres.uchicago.edu

October 3-4, 2008
Workshop [RESCHEDULED]
Islam, Modernity, and Eurasia
A collaboration of The University of Chicago’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and CEERES, along with UIUC Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center and Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

October 6-17, 2008
Film Scholar Residence
Balkan Cinema: Watching Across Borders
with Dina Iordonova
A two-week intensive seminar series and public screenings of Southeast European film, taught by a pre-eminent scholar in the field. Students register for Cinema from the Balkans SOSL 27600 for credit.

October 24-25, 2008
International Conference
Critical Spaces of Hope: Locating Postsocialism and the Future in post-Yugoslav Anthropology
A two-day conference that will gather an international group of junior anthropologists engaged in ongoing post-Yugoslav field research, and senior anthropologists engaged in the study of postsocialism. Funded with grants from the American Council for Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Franke Institute for the Humanities.

2008 Spring Workshop Round-Up

CEERES Plays Host to 2008 Midwest Russian Historians Workshop
The 2008 Midwest Russian Historians Workshop was held at the Franke Institute for the Humanities on Friday, February 29 and Saturday, March 1. This year’s workshop was organized by Sheila Fitzpatrick—Bernadotte E. Schmitt Distinguished Service Professor of Russian and Soviet History, and Executive Committee member of CEERES—with the Russian and East European Studies Workshop and CEERES. The presentations were:

Panel: Late Imperial Lives and Deaths
Chair: Sheila Fitzpatrick (Chicago)
Mark D. Steinberg (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) “Suicide in Fin-de-Siècle St. Petersburg: Interpreting the Inexplicable, 1906-1914”
Willard Sunderland (University of Cincinnati) “The Baron’s Cloak: A Tale of the Russian Empire, from Promise to Collapse”

Panel: Borders, Ethnicities, and Emigration
Chair: Tara Zahra (Chicago)
Andrey Shlyakhter (Chicago) “Frontlines into Borderlines: The Birth of Soviet Border Controls, 1917-1921”
Brigid O’Keeffe (NYU) “We, Too, Are Soviet: The All-Russian Gypsy Union, 1924-1928”

Panel: Economic Issues, 1940s and ’50s
Chair: Richard Hellie (Chicago)
Marcie Cowley (Michigan State University) “[Soviet Inheritance Law] Necessary Compromises: The Great Patriotic War”
Joonseo Song (Manchester College) “The Politics of Postwar Stalinist Care: Motivations, Strategies, and Responses”
Kyung Deok Roh (Chicago) “Headquarters for the Old and Foreign: Rethinking the Varga Controversy and the End of the Institute of World Economy and World Politics, 1941-1953”
Oscar Sanchez (Chicago) “The Uses of the Soviet Union: Soviet Economic Relations with the Third World”

Panel: Persecutions and Prosecutions
Chair: Benjamin Frommer (Northwestern)
Leonid Trofimov (University of Western Ontario) “Soviet Reporters at the Nuremberg Trial: Agenda, Attitudes, and Encounters, 1945-46”

Panel: Roundtable on Revisionism
Chair: Mark Steinberg (UIUC)
Diane Koenker (UIUC)
Alexander Rabinowitch (Indiana)
Stephen Wheatcroft (Melbourne)
William Chase (Pittsburgh)
Sheila Fitzpatrick (Chicago)

Panel: Late Soviet Culture
Chair: Susan Larsen (Chicago)
William J. Risch (Georgia College and State University) “Russians, Rock, and the Western Periphery: Mass Culture and Counter-Cultures in Lviv, 1965-89”

Sergei I. Zhuk (Ball State University) “The West in the Closed City: Cultural Consumption, Identities and Ideology of Late Socialism in Soviet Ukraine, 1964-1984”
Two Annual Slavic Workshops @ Chicago

28th Annual Slavic Forum

The 28th Annual Slavic Forum, organized by the graduate students of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, took place April 11-12, 2008 with support from CEERES, ORCSA and Graduate Student funds. Following are the presenters and papers:

Reading with Russian Poet Vladimir Gandel'sman

Keynote Lecture: Lenore Grenoble (Chicago) Literature as Linguistic Data: The Strange Case of Odessan Russian

Panel: Linguistics

Jason Swiecki (Chicago) Vowel Raising in Proto-Slavic Word-Final Syllables

Andrew Dombrowski (Chicago) On the Development of Syllabic Liquids in East South Slavic

Erik Houle (Chicago) Pre-posed Adnominal Genitives in North Slavic

Panel: Linguistics

Christian Hilchey (Chicago) Realizations of the Predicate in Czech Distributive Verbs

John Korba (UNC-Chapel Hill) Teaching Stress to Beginning and Intermediate Students of Russian

Panel: Please Show ID

Petia Alexieva (Chicago) Determinacy in Russian

Aliakssandra Razor (UCLA) Russian Women Abroad: The Representational Practices in Contemporary Women’s Writing

Erin Pappas (Chicago) Turgenev’s Historical Typification: Using (Peircean) Indexicality to Make Sense of Metonymy

Michael Slager (UIC) Awakening from Sleep: Ethnicity and Identity in the Pushkinian Orient

Discussant: Prof. Angelina Ilieva (Chicago)

Panel: Space/Time Continuum

Qing He Meade (UIUC) Telling the Tales of Village Women Differently: Female Images in Olga Tokarczuk’s House of Day, House of Night and Andrzei Stasiuk’s Tales of Galica

Kathryn Duda (Chicago) Day as Ritual: Temporal Perspective in One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

Jennifer Croft (Northwestern) Conceptual Overlaps and Formal Gaps in Gombrowicz and Borges

Discussant: Prof. Susan Larsen (Chicago)

Panel: Reality Check

Natalya Khokholova (UIUC) The Phenomenon of Reality TV in Modern Russia

Zdenko Mandusic (Chicago) Remediable the Wars of Yugoslav Succession

Susanna Weygandt (Middlebury) Andrei Drozin’s Evening of Plastika, World of People and Objects: The Role of Plastika in Acting Training

Timothy Ormond (Toronto) Russian Adaptations and Illustrations of Anna Karenina from 1914: Gardin’s Film and Sytin’s Illustrated Edition

Discussant: Prof. Robert Bird (Chicago)

Panel: In the Know

Antje Postema (Chicago) If the Name Means Anything… Esterházy’s Danube and the Boundaries of Knowledge

Maksym Rosochynsky (UIUC) Poetry Structured by Terror: The Problematic of Revolutionary Identification and Self-Alienation in Osip Mandelshtam’s Writing

Daniel Pratt (Chicago) Noodles in a Tin: The Knowledge of Bohumil Hrabal

Discussant: Prof. Bozena Shallcross (Chicago)

11th Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop

The 11th Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop was held at The University of Chicago on April 25th, 2008 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm in South Asia Commons, Foster 103. The agenda was as follows.


William Veder (University of Chicago) “Public Records and Family Papers: The Izborniki of 1073 and 1076.”

David Prestel (Michigan State University) “St. Vladimir: Myth or Reality?”

Richard Hellie (University of Chicago) “The East Slavic Economy ca. 1300-1500.”

Cynthia M. Vakareliyska (University of Oregon) and David J. Birnbaum (University of Pittsburgh) “An On-Line Collation of Medieval Slavic Calendars of Saints.”

Priscilla Hunt (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) “Rhetoric of Holy Foolery in the Life of the Archpriest Avvakum.”

Sarah Turner (University of Waterloo, Canada) “The Placement of Personal Pronouns in 17th Century Petitions and Correspondence.”

Valentina Puchugin (Chicago) “Ilja Muromets: Past and Present”

Ann Kleimola (University of Nebraska). “Canine Culture in Rus’.”

Christian A. Raffensperger (Wittenberg), “Shared (Hi)stories: Vladimir of Rus’ and Herald Fairhair of Norway.”

Check it out at http://ceeres.blogspot.com
Symposium Celebrates Tarkovsky on Stage and Screen

On May 3, the international symposium “Performance and Mediation: At the Interstices of Opera and Film” was held at the Franke Institute for the Humanities. Organized by Robert Bird, Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and CEERES, the symposium brought together film and opera scholars to inquire into the problems that arise when performance becomes mediated in technological media and when these media are incorporated into performance. A particular focus was the “remediation” of Boris Godunov, which began life as a play and then an opera before achieving new life in the cinema. Special attention was paid to film director Andrei Tarkovsky’s 1983 production of Boris Godunov, of which two producers of the opera Irina Brown and Robert Bryan were present.

Financial support came from the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Department of Cinema and Media Studies, and the Department of Music.

The sessions were as follows:

Session: From Drama to Film
Caryl Emerson (Princeton) “Meyerhold’s Many Boris Godunovs”
Yuri Tsivian (Chicago) “Boris Godunov in Russian Film from the Beginnings to Eisenstein”
Vladimir Marchenkov (Ohio University) “Poetic Truth and Will to Power: The Artist and Modern History”
Moderator: Lina Steiner (Chicago)

Session: Tarkovsky’s Boris
Irina Brown and Robert Bryan discuss Tarkovsky’s Boris Godunov

Session: Performance and Mediation in Tarkovsky’s Cinema
Berthold Hoeckner (Chicago) “Double Projections”
Robert Bird (Chicago) “Medium and Mediation in Andrei Tarkovsky”
Moderator: Matthew Jesse Jackson (Chicago)

Session: Music, Opera, Film
David Levin (Chicago) “Bakhtin in Mycenae: Elektra at the Interstices of Opera and DVD”
Carolyn Abbate (Harvard) “From Caligari to Operetta, and Why”
Moderator: Susan Larsen (Chicago)

Workshop Investigates a Warming Siberia

The workshop “SIBERIAN THAW: Climate Change and Social Change in Siberia”, held May 9 and 10 at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, brought together researchers from a variety of disciplines—anthropology, linguistics, musicology and environmental science—to explore the interrelations between culture, language and environment in Siberia and to investigate ways for the academic community to respond to the accelerating pace of change. Working with CEERES to organize the conference was Lenore Grenoble, a linguist and Associate Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Chicago. Other support came from Norman Wait Harris Fund, and the Program on the Global Environment.

Presentations included:

Keynote Address: David Archer (Chicago) “Sea Ice, Permafrost, and Climate Change in Siberia”
William Fitzhugh (Smithsonian Museum of Natural History) “Climate and Culture Change in Siberia and Other Northern Regions: Deep-Time and Today”
Lenore Grenoble (Chicago) “The Siberian Linguistic Landscape”
Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer (Georgetown) “The Intertwined Nature of Ecological, Political and Cultural Change in the Siberian Far East”
K. David Harrison (Swarthmore) “Vanishing Knowledge Systems Among South Siberian Herders and Hunter-Gatherers”

Theodore Levin (Dartmouth) “Music and the Land”
Eduard Alekseyev (Independent Scholar) “Cataclysms in Nature and Culture: Ethnomusicological Horizons”
Nadezhda Bulatova (Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) “Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples: A Personal View”
Florian Stammier (Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge U.) “And if the tundra turns into a desert, we start herding camels, but we have only one planet to live on, so let’s save it now together”
Gary Cook (Earth Island Institute) “How can Siberians influence the decisions that are made in Moscow?: Do public interest groups really have any influence on the policy-makers and oligarchs in Russia?”

Film Screening:
Hunters Since the Beginning of Time with Director Carlos Casas, Independent filmmaker.
DOC Films Hosts Manchevski, Shadows Screening

On April 26, 2008 CEERES, in partnership with the venerable student-run DOC Film Society, hosted screenings of three films directed by the internationally renowned Macedonian-born filmmaker Milcho Manchevski: Before the Rain (1994), Dust (2001), and the Chicago premiere of the director’s latest film Shadows (2007). Manchevski, who currently teaches film directing at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Film program, was present on campus to introduce Shadows and to hold a discussion after the screening.

In Southeast Europe, Manchevski’s films are embraced as part of the greatest expressions of Balkan artistry. They secured Macedonia’s place as a cultural producer on the world map shortly after the fledgling country’s independence 16 years ago, when its legitimacy was being contested in the international political sphere. Manchevski’s films are also extremely effective in portraying the history, culture and politics of the Balkan region. His films are accessible not only to Balkan viewers but also to audiences who are not well acquainted with the region, and they provide a very good entry point in the study and discussion of the Balkans.

Like the best films, Manchevski’s achieve a quality of timeless universality. They are beautiful and thought-provoking and appeal to film lovers in the general public as social and recreational tools, independent of any historical and educational content in the scripts.

The screening of Manchevski’s new film Shadows packed the house at DOC Films Max Palevsky Cinema in Ida Noyes Hall on The University of Chicago campus. The official Macedonian entry to the 2008 Academy Awards, Shadows tells the story of a young physician who seems to have it all: a complacent middle-class life, a supportive family, a wealthy mother. After he suffers a near-fatal car crash, things begin to change, as he starts encountering shadowy figures who ask something of him. Their only message: “Return what’s not yours. Have respect.” He gradually becomes aware that it is a message from the afterlife, from tormented souls who seem to die over and over again. But why have they chosen him? The answers link the contemporary urban doctor with the stunning and often tragic legacies of centuries of diversity and upheavals in the Balkans.

The event was made possible by support from The University of Chicago Arts Council, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Cinema and Media Studies. Thanks to this support, CEERES was able to make these screenings free to the public.

World Beyond the Headlines Tackles Legacy of the ICTY, War Crimes

A panel discussion on the impact of the closing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at the Hague was convened at The University of Chicago on March 6. Invited panelists represented unique moments in the process of justice-seeking and reporting: M. Cherif Bassiouni, a distinguished International Law professor at DePaul University in Chicago, and original member of the UN Security Council’s Commission to Investigate War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia; Judge Shireen Avis Fisher, an International (US) judge sitting in the war crimes chamber of the national court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, now handling new cases as well as cases transferred from the Hague; and Gordana Igric, a journalist who began her career in Belgrade in 1981, covered the wars in the Balkans, and founded the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network.

As the closing of the ICTY approaches in 2010, the panel confronted the question of what would be the effect on justice and accountability in the countries of the Former Yugoslavia. Panelists discussed the initial process that established the Tribunal, often fraught with apathy, bureaucracy, and mistrust; the transference of cases back to national courts; and the judicial and social will of the Yugoslav countries to continue investigating war crimes.

The discussion was part of World Beyond the Headlines, a regular series which focuses on contemporary international affairs (http://internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/wbh.shtml), sponsored by International House, and the Center for International Studies. Partners in planning the panel were Amnesty International’s Program on International Justice and Accountability, CEERES, and the Human Rights Program.

The event was recorded for free distribution on the internet by UChicago’s CHIAMOS program, and will be posted to this website, http://chiasmos.uchicago.edu/.

Session 1a: Introductory Lecture
Victor Shnirelman (Russian Institute of Ethnology and Archaeology) “Archaeology and Politics in Eurasia”

Session 1b: Archaeology and Political Life
David Anthony (Hartwick College) “persistent Frontiers and the Interpretation of Ethnic Borders”

Bike Yazioglu (Chicago) “Modern Cosmologies of Ancient Civilisations: How The Anatolian Mother-Goddess Has Come To Imobilise Turkey’s Citizens”

Gwen Bennett (Washington U.) “Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Xinjiang, China”

Adam Smith (Chicago) “Archaeological Rhetorics, Public Assemblages, and the Making of Yerevanitsi”

Müge Dutrusu & Mert Catalbas (Bilkent U.) “Politics, Geography and Power in the Past and Present: Rethinking Urartu by Evaluating Eastern Anatolia in Longue Duree”

Session 1c: Deadly Politics
Laura Popova & Eileen Murphy (Arizona State & Queen’s University Belfast) “The Resting Place of Charismatic Leaders or Communal Cemetery? The Kurgan Burials at Spiridonovka (Samara) in Context”

Maureen Marshall (Chicago) “In Life and In Death: Towards a Bioarchaeology of Dynamic Societies”

Mikhail Lunev (West Caucasian Institute of Research for Natural and Cultural Heritage) Burials With Weapons in the North-West Caucasus, 4th-3rd centuries B.C.

Eileen Murphy (Queen’s University Belfast) “A Biocultural Study of Population Change at Iron Age Aymyrlyg, Tuva, South Siberia”

Rick Zhang & Dong WEI (Research Centre for Chinese Frontier Archeology of Jilin University) “Did Elites Eat Better?: Implications From Patterned Dental Abrasion and Illness Among Khitans”

Session 2a: The Production of Power
Elizabeth Baker Brite (UCLA) The Production of Wall Paintings at the Site of Kazakhli-yatkan, Uzbekistan

Michelle Negus Cleary (Sydney) “The Power and Prestige of Fortress Architecture in Ancient Chorasmia”

Hu LIN (Chicago) “Living With Ancestors: The Spatial Structure of Ceramic Consumption at a Town in Pasture”

Alan Greene (Chicago) “Where Pottery and Politics Meet: Material Production and Complex Political Life in the Late Bronze Age South Caucasus”

Session 2b: Relations of Authority
Jessie Birket Rees (Melbourne) “Power and Presence: Expressions of Authority in Middle Bronze to Iron Age Central Transcaucasia”

Jorge Rolland et al. (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas) “Mining During the Late Bronze Age in Eurasia: Communal Labor or Proto-Tributary Exploitation?”

Matthew Rifkin (Towson) “Reconsidering the Origins and Socio-Economic Grounds for Development of Eastern, Central, and Northern European Corded Ware Cultures Through Spatial Analysis”

Dina Zardaryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia) “Variability of Ceramic Assemblages as a Reflection of Complex Social Processes: A New Perspective from the Chalcolithic Site Areni-1”

Session 2c: The Instruments of Power
Fiona Kidd (Sydney) “Mural Art and the Communication of Power in Ancient Chorasmia”

Lori Khatchadourian (Michigan) “An Archaeology of Power and Authority in the Achaemenid Empire: A Case Study From the Armenian Highlands, ca. 600-300 B.C.”

Kathryn Linduff & Jianhua YANG (Jilin University) “Ritualization of Eurasian Weapons in Early Chinese Funerary Contexts”

Anja Hellmuth (Freie Universität Berlin) Horse, Arrow and Bow – Instruments of Power in the Scythian Age

Xin WU (The Metropolitan Museum of Art) “Violence and Power in Central Asian History of Sixth to Fourth Centuries B.C.”

Session 2d: Constructing Materialities
David Peterson (Chicago) “Forging Networks of Authority: Early Metal Production in the Middle Volga and the Caucasus”

Peter Northover (Oxford) “Bronze Production Without Workshops”

MaryFran Heinsch (Chicago) “Forming Conclusions from Forming Techniques: Some Observations on Technical Variability and Kura-Araxes Wares”

Bryan Hanks et al. (Pitt) “A Multidisciplinary Approach to Middle Bronze Sintashta Community Organization and Social Status”

Lloyd Weeks (Nottingham) “Metal Production and Exchange in Bronze Age Southeast Arabia: Regional Integration and Disintegration in the Face of Growing “Global” Interaction”

Session 2e: Keynote Lecture
Victor Buchli (University College of London) “Trifles, Hegemony and Other Small Things”

Session 3a: The Nature of Authority
Kate Franklin (Chicago) “Repopulating Polygons: Localizing Power in Movement through Spatial Analysis for the Early Medieval South Caucasus”

Belinda Monahan (Chicago) “Beastly Goods: Elite Power and Pastoral Control in the Late Bronze Age South Caucasus”

Irina Shingiray (Boston U.) “Ethos, Materiality, and Paradigms of Political Action in the Communities of the Western Caspian Region During the Early Islamic Period”

Nikolay Kradin (Institute of History, Archaeology, and Ethnography, Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) “Pastoralists and Townspeople: Nomadic Liao Dynasty in Northern China and Mongolia”

Marcella Frangipane (Università di Roma La Sapienza) “Primary Economy and Labor Control Versus Prestige Goods and Defense Ruling: Two Models of Power Structuring at the Rise of Hierarchical Societies”

Tiffany Earley & Lauren Ristvet (Georgia State) “Agricultural Subsistence Strategies and Local Administration at the Kura-Araxes Sites of Kültepe II and Mäza, Naxçivan, Azerbaijan”

Session 3b: Landscapes of Power
Philip Kohl (Wellesley) “Homelands in the Present and Past: Political Implications of a Dangerous Concept”


Arianna Zischow (Freie Universität Berlin) “Prehistoric Fortifications in Hunter-Gatherer Societies of the West Siberian Taiga and Their Implications for the Social and Political Development in Northernmost Eurasia”

Joshua Wright (Harvard) “Landscapes of Communication in Prehistoric Inner Asia”

Claudia Chang (Sweet Briar College) “Settlements versus Elite Burials during the Iron Age in Southeastern Kazakhstan”

Rouollah Yousefizoshk & Morteza Hessari (Islamic Azad University) “Predictive Modeling Implementation for Analyses of Settlement Patterns of an Early Agricultural Society in Atrek River Basin, Northeastern Iran”

Session 3c: Concluding Lecture
Joanna Sofair (University of Southampton) “From Ripples to Revolutions”
ROKSONAKI Celebrates Nauryz with Residency @ Chicago

The Kazakh musical ensemble Roksonaki was in residence at Chicago March 27-April 2, 2008, during Nauryz, the period of the Kazakh folk celebration of the vernal equinox. Roksonaki features three musicians skilled in traditional instrumentation as well as contemporary composition: Ruslan Kara, Yerlan Sabitov, and Galymzhan Sekeyev. They toured the U.S. this spring in the company of Dr. Dina Amirova, Folklorist and Dr. Helen Faller, Anthropologist, under the auspices of the Central Asian Cultural Exchange, with collaboration from the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the US.

CEERES was able to host several special events featuring Roksonaki:

- Interview with Roksonaki and preview of their music on WHKP-FM
- Workshop/demonstration at Bret Harte School
- Free, public Concert at Ida Noyes Hall
- Workshop/demonstration at the U of C Laboratory Schools
- Concert at Northeastern Illinois U.


Lale Yalçin-Heckmann (Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology) on “Land, Territory and Property in War: Examples from The Caucasus and the Middle East”, Feb. 18.


Patrice Dabrowski (Harvard), on “Polish Pustynia: Or, How the Carpathian Wilderness Became the Proving Ground for the Modern Polish Nation.” March 5.

CORPUS Methods in Linguistics and Language Pedagogy (CMLLP-2008), March 26-30.


“Beyond Putin: What’s Changed in Russia?” at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, with Jack F. Matlock, Jr. (Former US Amb to the USSR), Celeste A. Wallander (Georgetown), Timothy J. Colton (Harvard), and John W. Slocum (MacArthur Foundation), April 29.


GOLOSA, The University of Chicago Russian Choir presents a Concert of Sacred and Secular Folk Songs, May 21.


From left: Galymzhan Sekeyev, Ruslan Kara, and Yerlan Sabitov. Photo by Helen Faller.

Other Recent Activities


Russian Poetry Reading by Aleksandr Skidan, Red Shifting, Jan. 30.

Concert: Zolotoi Plyos, Russian Folk Trio, Feb. 3.


Steven Mansbach (Maryland): “Another History of Modern Art”, Feb. 8.

CEERES News
Spring 2008
Council on Advanced Studies Workshops 2007-08

CEERES regularly sponsors talks with the Council on Advanced Studies, graduate research workshops in the humanities and social sciences. The aim of these workshops is to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area in an effort to create scholarly dialogue and to foster exchange of ideas. Here is a selection of recent CEERES-related talks:


**Susan Gal, Andreas Glaeser, Tara Zahra, Jonathan Larson** (Miami University): Roundtable discussion on current directions in Europeanist ethnography and social research (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Amy Garey** (Chicago): “Soviet Reflections: Music, Nostalgia, and Personhood among (Post-) Soviet Immigrants” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Hripsime Haroutunian** (Chicago): “Some Aspects of the Story of Martyrdom of Hripsimeh and Her Companions in Agatangeghos’s History” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Erica Lehrer** (Concordia University): “Remembering the Other: Jewish Poland as ‘conciliatory heritage’ ” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Lauren Ristvet** (Georgia State University, History): “Rejecting Complexity: Communalism and Conservatism in the Early Bronze Age Caucasus and Northern Mesopotamia.” (Interdisciplinary Archeology Workshop)

**Ken Roh** (Chicago), “Headquarters for the Old, Foreign, and Jewish: Rethinking the Varga Controversy and the End of the Institute of World Economy and World Politics, 1941-1953.” (Russian Studies Workshop)

**Oscar Sanchez** (Chicago), “Pulling a Standing Donkey. The Domestic Political Economy of Foreign Economic Relations” (Russian Studies Workshop)

**Olga Sezneva** (Chicago Society of Fellows): “We Have Never Been German: Place, Memory and Identity in Koenigsberg/Kaliningrad” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Andrew Sloy** (Chicago): “The Radicalization of Jewish Minsk” (Russian Studies Workshop)

**Kabir Tambar** (Chicago): “The Aesthetics of Intimacy in the Call to Prayer: Alevism and Sectarian Difference in Turkey” (Politics, Communication and Society Workshop)

**Julia Vaingurt** (University of Illinois at Chicago): “Alternative Technologies of the Russian Avant-Garde: Writing Automata, Organic Constructions, Dysfunctional Machines” (Russian Studies Workshop)

**Jason Banks** (Chicago): “Byzantine Financing: A Reconsideration of Pronoia Grants, 1280-1340”

**Christina Manarici** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee): “Enough of This. Tell Me That: Alliance and Ambiguity in Early Medieval Armenia” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Asa Eger** (Chicago): “Christian Highlands and Lowland Muslims? Settlement and Interaction on the Byzantine-Islamic Frontier.” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Jas Elsner** (Oxford University): “Three Late Roman Boxes.” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Anthony Kaldellis** (Ohio State University): “The Parthenon in Byzantium: Tourists and Pilgrims in Byzantine Greece.” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Hisa Kusab** (Chicago): “Panoplia Syndrome and Comnenian Orthodoxy.” (Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium)

**Melissa Bilal** (Chicago): “A Cry for Justice: Five Armenian Feminist Writers from the Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey (1862-1933)” (Middle East History & Theory)

**Rebecca Manley** (Queen’s University): “To the Tashkent Station: Evacuation and Survival in the Soviet Union at War.” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)

**Diana Minyte** (UIUC): “Everyday Environmentalism: The Practice, Politics and Nature of Subsidiary Farming in Stalin’s Lithuania.” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)

**Steven Wheatcroft** (University of Melbourne): “Agency and Terror: Evdokhimov and Mass Killing in Stalin’s Great Terror.” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)

**Pieter Judson** (Swarthmore): “Was Austria-Hungary an Empire?” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)

**Holly Case** (Cornell): “Beyond Bilateral: Ties Between Allies of Nazi Germany in East-Central and Southeastern Europe during World War II” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)


**Christoph Gumb** (Humboldt-University Berlin): “The Fortress: Changing Representations of Power and the Presence of Violence, Warsaw 1905/06.” (Russian and East European Studies Workshop)

**Surguei Oushakine** (Princeton): “Repatriating Capitalism: Money, Motherland, and Global Connections.” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop and Russian Studies Workshop)

**Esra Ozyurek** (UC-San Diego): “German Muslims and Turkish Christians: Cultural Racism, Fears of Religious Conversion, and National Security in the New Europe” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Elissa Helms** (Central European University): “Women’s Activism and Representations of Victimhood in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Circulation and Resonance.” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Jakob Rigi** (Cornell): “The Coercive State and the Spectacle of Law in Russia: The use of legal schemes for expropriation of middle and small businesses.” (Anthropology of Europe Workshop)

**Katie Johnson** (Chicago): “Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Melan: Excavations in Southern Albania.” (Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop and Islamic Art and Artifact Workshop)

For a list of all CAS workshops and upcoming lectures, please visit: http://cas.uchicago.edu/
**Victor Friedman** (Slavic, Linguistics, CEERES Director) published:


Lectures:


“Code Compartmentalization in Romani: Turkish Conjugation and the Matrix Question.” *LSA Annual meeting*, Chicago, IL, 3-6 January 2008.


**Leonid Gavrilov** (Research Scientist, Center on Demography and Economics of Aging) was quoted extensively in the article “The Way We Age Now” by Atul Gawande, *The New Yorker*, April 20 2007, p. 52.

**Richard Hellie** (History) was profiled in:


Paper Presentations:

“The Neurobiology of Violence” for Martin Luther King Day at The University of Chicago.

“The Late Medieval Russian Economy, 1240-1500,” was presented at the Eleventh Norman I. Ingham Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop.

“Jewish Emigration and the Russian Economy,” was presented at Robert Fogel’s GSB/Economics Human Capital Workshop.

**Angelina Ilieva** (Slavic) presented:


“Shayna Plaut” (Human Rights) was interviewed on Chicago Public Radio’s “Worldview” discussing “Roma Rights in Macedonia.” http://www.wbez.org/content.aspx?audioID=17713

**Bozena Shallcross** (Slavic) published:


Reviews:

*Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw Generation’s Life and Death in Marxism, 1918-1968.* By Marci Shore. For *Canadian Slavonic Papers.*

Faculty News Continued...


Malyonne Sternstein (Slavic) published Czecs in Chicagoland, Arcadia, 2008.

William Benton Whisenhunt (CEERES Associate Member, Prof at College of DuPage) co-edited Russian and Soviet History: From the Time of Troubles to the Collapse of the Soviet Union, Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

Student & Alumni News


Rachel Adelstien (PhD student, Ethnomusicology) will study Yiddish in Vilnius.

Brinton Ahlin (Anthropology, BA ’09) received the F Champion Ward International Travel Research Grant, Summer 2008, for his project “Migrant Remittances and the Cultural Production of Value in Tajikistan”, for travel to Tajikistan.

Anastasia Barron (International Studies and Comp Lit, ’10) received a Foreign Language Acquisition Grant to study Russian in Tver and St. Petersburg.

<table>
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<th>2008 Summer FLAS Awards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Dombrowski (Slavic) Albanian</td>
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<td>Tanya Skubiak (Slavic) Ukranian</td>
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<td>Natalie Belsky (History) Yiddish</td>
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<td>Owen Kohl (Anthropology) BCS</td>
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<td>Louisa McClintock (Sociology) Polish</td>
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<td>Andrew Tompkins (History) Russian</td>
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Joshua Baxter (BA, Slavic) completed his BA Honors thesis: “Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Concept of Connection”

Andjelka Gina Bulatovic (PhD, Slavic) defended her dissertation: “Modality, Futurity and Temporal Dependence: The Semantics of the Serbian Perfective Nonpast and Future 2”

Andrew Dombrowski (PhD student, Slavic) received an ACLS Summer Language Study grant to study Albanian at the ASU practicum in Tirana.

Irina Kogel (BA/MA, Slavic) completed her Honors thesis: “On the Eve of a Portrait: Reconsidering the Influence of Turgenev’s On the Eve on James’s The Portrait of a Lady”. She is the 2008 recipient of the George V. Bobrinskoy Award from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Natalia Iwona Ostrowski (History, BA ’09) was awarded Third Year International Travel Research Fellowship, and Philip E. Montag Research Fellowship in History for her project “Polish and Portuguese Humanism: The travel of ideas in early 16th century Europe,” and travel to both Poland and Portugal, and a Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Scholarship for study at Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

Eric Prendergast (Linguistics, BA ’08) completed his BA Honors Thesis: “Notice! The pragmatic basis for Balkan object reduplication in Albanian, Macedonian, and Bulgarian.” (advisor Victor Friedman)

Christopher Ross, (BA Slavic) completed his BA Honors thesis: “The Super(fluous) Man: The Post-Romantic Heroism in Stendhal’s The Red and the Black and Lermontov’s A Hero of Our Time”

Adrienne Seely (Cinema and Media Studies) is the 2008 recipient of the Prochazka Award from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

John Sylak (Linguistics, BA ’08) completed his BA Thesis: “Lak verbal morphology.” (advisor Victor Friedman)


Alina Wyman (Slavic) defended her dissertation “The Task of Active Empathy: Scheler, Bakhtin and Dostoevsky”

Student Publication

Leptir Mašna

the literary magazine of students in Balkan studies

2006/2007 volume

The Founder and Editor-in-Chief is Nada Petkovic, Lecturer in South Slavic Languages. The essays are taken from students in language courses as well as students from courses on Balkan literature and folklore. The submission process has always been very open, as the goal is to encourage all forms of written expression in and about the study of languages, literatures and cultures. The current issue collects works from 2006/2007, and is dedicated to Angelina Ilieva, Lecturer in South Slavic Literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The entire 132 page volume can be downloaded from the web at http://humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/slavic/leptirmašna.html.
Areshian Collection Donated to the Oriental Institute

By Kati Proctor, UChicago ’09

When Gregory Areshian, Research Associate at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, gave a paper at CEERES’ major Spring 2007 conference Caucasus: Disciplines and Directions, we did not know that he was considering donating his distinguished collection of almost 1,500 books to the Oriental Institute at The University of Chicago.

Gregory E. Areshian received his Ph.D. in Archaeology from the Saint-Petersburg Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He has participated in several archaeological field projects in the Caucasus and on the northern coast of the Black Sea and directed the excavations at the settlements of Mokhrablur (Early Bronze Age) and Shamiram (Early Iron Age and Hellenistic Period) in Armenia, as well as excavating several cemeteries belonging to the Middle Bronze Age pastoralist population. He is the author of more than 120 publications mostly concerning Caucasian and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology and also archaeological theory. During the second half of 1970s and 1980s Dr. Areshian served as Professor of Archaeology at the University of Yerevan (Armenia) and as Associate Director of the Institute of Archaeology of Armenia. In 1993 he served as Visiting Professor at UCLA, and subsequently, at the University of Wisconsin, as well as The University of Chicago. The paper he presented at Caucasus is entitled: “Conflicting Images: Ancient Texts and Archaeological Evidence Versus the Nationalistic Histories of Caucasia and their Cosmopolitan Critics.”

As a student in the fifth grade, Gregory Areshian started collecting the books that would become the Areshian collection, recently donated in part to the Oriental Institute. For over 30 years he collected books from many different places, ordering some, and discovering others in antique bookstores. One of the reasons this collection is so important, says Areshian, is because until the 1980s, there weren’t many exchanges of books between the USSR and the West. The collection contains many books, mainly in Russian or Armenian, about archaeology and languages in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The portion of books he donated to the Oriental Institute was only half of Professor Areshian’s book collection, the rest of which were a large collection of books in Turkish and Western languages which he donated to the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Archaeology in Armenia.

Professor Areshian points out a few books as being special in this collection. One specifically is an edition of the History of Egypt, a two volume work by James Breasted, republished in Russian in St. Petersburg in 1915. Almost no copies of this exist in the United States today. He says that he acquired this book when he was only 11, from relatives who were high school teachers in Moscow. There are also many books in the collection which were published before 1931, which give a good perspective of learning and studying the Near East in Russia.

Why did Professor Areshian give the collection to the Oriental Institute? One reason was after moving to the US permanently he found an excellent working environment at The University of Chicago when he taught here as part of the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Anthropology departments. Also, the Oriental Institute’s non-circulating collection ensures that this significant collection will be appropriately preserved. Areshian credits Director of the Oriental Institute Gil Stein, and Adam T. Smith, Associate Professor of Anthropology, with actively cultivating the relationship.

Library News

Connect to new databases through the Database Finder located on the Library’s web page: http://www1.lib.uchicago.edu/e/index.php. Some new databases which may be of interest include “Postwar Europe: Refugees, Exile and Resettlement, 1945-1950.” This online archive delivers essential primary sources for the study and understanding of the challenges facing the European peoples in the aftermath of World War II. “AAASS NewsNet Digital Archive” of NewsNet, the monthly Slavic Studies newsmagazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) which has been published since 1961 (and including the predecessor title, AAASS Newsletter) . “Ethnic News Watch,” which is a full-text database of newspapers, magazines and journals of the ethnic, minority and native press, and contains a number of East European/ Eurasian titles.


Questions or comments? Please contact June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies: jpf3@uchicago.edu.

Exhibits

View the current exhibit Images of Prayer, Politics and Everyday Life from the Harry and Branka Sondheim Jewish Heritage Collection now on display in the main gallery of the Special Collections Research Center (March 10 – July 6, 2008).

View the current exhibit The Spirit of the Orient and Judaism now on display in the Special Collections Research Center’s Rosenberger Library of Judaica Gallery (October 2007 – June 2008).
Tale of a Czech Hero and Chicago

By June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago Library

An exhibit entitled TOMÁŠ GAR-RIGUE MASARYK AND CHICAGO opened on the second floor of the The Joseph Regenstein Library.

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was born in Hodonín, Moravia, in 1850, studied philosophy in Leipzig and Vienna, becoming an illustrious and controversial professor at Charles University in Prague. The years leading up to World War I were filled with intense activity as he simultaneously pursued both a political and scholarly career, engaged in writing, editing and publishing, lecturing at home and abroad, as well as serving in parliament and being actively involved in many time-consuming social controversies.

This melding of the academic, social, cultural, religious and political was to continue throughout Masaryk’s life, so that even the briefest summary of his achievements takes on mythic proportions, followed by an endless list of descriptors needed to reflect his many interests and concerns—he was a philosopher, thinker and critic, an educator and statesman and even “a cultural force”.

As well as being called an academic iconoclast, he has been described as a champion of democracy, a political dissenter, a friend of the Slovaks, a foe of anti-Semitism, a religious heretic, a defender of women’s rights, an arch-critic of Austro-Hungarian foreign policy, and an advocate of Czech independence. Certainly, as the first president of the new country of Czechoslovakia (1918-1935), the title of President-Liberator [President-Osvoboditel] will always be at the top of any such list.

Among his many trips abroad, visits to Chicago in 1902, 1907 and 1918 were important in cementing the very strong and affectionate ties between Chicago’s large Czech-American and Slovak-American populations with Czechoslovakia and all that it would face in the 90 years since its creation as an independent state. Among those bonds are those that link Professor Masaryk to The University of Chicago, where, in the summer of 1902, he presented a series of 13 lectures on Czech Literature, History and Culture. Included in this exhibit are several letters of Masaryk, the University’s first President, William Rainey Harper, and Charles Crane, a guiding force in bringing Masaryk to campus. The University’s Masaryk Club, founded in 1947, continued to honor Masaryk in name and deed, by promulgating that combination of cultural, social and political activity which so distinguished his life.

Throughout the years, the wider Chicago community, admirers from every imaginable background, have also participated in events that have honored Masaryk’s life and ideas, including the commissioning of the Masaryk Memorial, sculpted by Albin Polasek and dedicated in 1955, which stands at the far east end of the Midway Plaisance, in the midst of The University of Chicago campus. The exhibit will run through August 2008.

On May 13, 2008, Hon. Madeleine K. Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, delivered the Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk Lecture on Democracy to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Chicago’s contribution to an Independent Czechoslovakia.

Two Exhibits @ the Reg

UPCOMING: Russian Science Fiction and Fantasy

By Sandra Levy
Associate Slavic Librarian

Popular Fiction, the stuff we read, including genres like Science Fiction and Fantasy, is in our own language. Other language and national groups have their own development of popular literatures. This exhibit explores some of the long history of Russian fantasy and science fiction, some of which has become popular here as well.

Multifaceted authors Osip Senkovsky and Prince Odoevski of the early 19th century used fantasy as one of their literary outlets. In the early 20th century, science began to be an important element in fiction, leading to the genre we know today as science fiction.

Alexander Bogdanov, a Russian revolutionary, used science fiction to create his “utopia” in Red Star, written in 1908. In the Soviet period, this literary genre sometimes took on political dimensions as a way of writing about topics not possible in a repressed society. It was also used as pro-Soviet propaganda and as a method of indoctrination for the young. And some of it was just good fun.

The Strugatsky brothers brought Soviet science fiction to a wide audience outside of the Soviet Union. Since the end of the Soviet period, science fiction is one of several popular fiction genres that has exploded onto the scene.

View the exhibit Russian Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Second Floor Reading Room of Regenstein Library beginning August 2008.
The University of Chicago is hosting a Summer Teacher Institute on Global Climate Change from June 23-25, 2008, on the Hyde Park campus. This three-day conference will combine curriculum workshops and lectures by experts to give participants the tools to address international perspectives on climate change in the classroom.

Monday, June 23: Climate Change and its Effects on the Biological and Physical Environment
Tuesday, June 24: Economic and Social Issues of Climate Change
Wednesday, June 25: Climate Change’s Impact on Policy and National Security

Registration: $100
Single-day Registration: $50

To register or for more information please visit http://internationalstudies.uchicago.edu/summerinstitutes/2008/