



Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage

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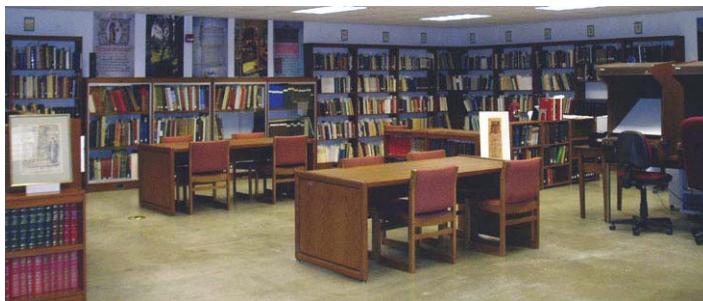
The Ohio State
University

THE HILANDAR RESEARCH LIBRARY
THE RESOURCE CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL SLAVIC STUDIES

Columbus
Ohio

RCMSS/HRL Settles in “Temporary Home” *Library Renovations Begin*

RCMSS/HRL moved to the Library’s new “swing space” on Ackerman Road mid-September 2006. In what has been described as the largest move in the University’s history, Main Library faculty and staff were relocated to interim facilities as part of the William Oxley Thompson Library’s three-year reconstruction and renovation project. Hallett Movers of Sum-mit, Illinois, moved more than one million books and numerous collections of microforms and maps to temporary locations at Sullivant Hall (1813 N. High Street on central campus) and 600 Ackerman Road. Accelerated Moving & Storage, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, handled the transfer of office equipment and furniture.



RCMSS/HRL in its new location, 6065 Ackerman Library

Many of the Library’s services, collections, subject specialist librarians and staff can be found at the new Ackerman Library. In addition to RCMSS/HRL, Ackerman now houses the general collections (“ACK Stacks”) of books, maps, microforms, government documents, East Asian Studies, East European and Slavic Studies, Jewish Studies, Middle East Studies, Black Studies, Women’s Studies, and many other collections. The behind-the-scenes units in Ackerman include Technical, Preservation, Collection Maintenance, and Administrative Services. The “Rare Books and Manuscripts” collection has been moved to the Book Depository (2700 Kenny Road). New study spaces are available at Sullivant Library, the Science and Engineering Library, the Ohio Union and the former Long’s Bookstore. Free bus service to the Ackerman Library and the Book Depository is available daily.

Closing the Thompson Library allows the \$107 million renovation to be completed safely and in the shortest time possible. When it reopens in the fall of 2009, the Thompson Library’s unique architectural features will be restored to their original grandeur. For more information on the library renovation project visit <<http://library.osu.edu/sites/renovation/news.php>>.

6TH INTERNATIONAL
HILANDAR CONFERENCE
PLANNING UNDERWAY

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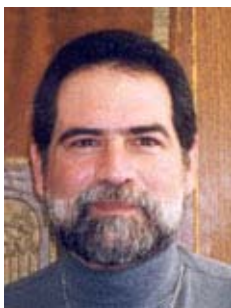
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Director's Desk

Dr. Predrag Matejic



The expected move to our new space finally happened early this fall. We eagerly await our old and new friends at our new address: 6065 Ackerman Library, located at 610 Ackerman Road.

Our email addresses, telephone and fax numbers have remained the same. For those of you who communicate with us by letter, you may continue to use the old address. Packages, however, must be sent to the address listed in the masthead.

The first visiting scholar to use HRL materials at the new location was **William R. Veder** of Chicago, who continued his research of texts found in Saratov (SGU) manuscript #45. **Sarah Turner**, a recent Oxford graduate and visiting assistant professor of Russian Linguistics at the University of Chicago, dropped by for a brief tour of the HRL after the 4th OSU Graduate Colloquium in Slavic Linguistics in early November.

I should note that **Iryna Dabravolskaia** of Belarus*, who was scheduled to spend several months with us, was not able to take advantage of her research opportunity in the HRL.

Shortly before the move, **Daniel E. Collins**, Chair of the OSU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (DSEELL), and I taught the Medieval Slavic Summer Institute, where we welcomed 10 graduate students from the U.S. and Spain, who were divided up into three groups, each of which was assigned one of our original manuscripts to describe (see page 8). Additionally, **David J. Birnbaum**, Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures (University of Pittsburgh), and historian **Jennifer B. Spock** (Eastern Kentucky University) were kind enough to give specialized lectures to the participants. Dr. Spock also presented a public evening lecture: *Constructing a Cloister – Solovki Monastery as a Regional Artifact: Integrating Sources and Recreating Community, 1460-1645*. Appropriately enhanced with her slides and images of medieval Slavic texts, the lecture was well attended, sparking both numerous questions as well as positive comments from the audience.

Ivan Biliarsky, from the Institute of History of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, joined us for a week after the MSSJ to examine some of the Wallachian-Moldavian and Romanian manuscripts in our microform holdings. The last research visit to the HRL/RCMSS before the move, by **Father Nicolai Buga** and **Nicolae Roddy**, is described on page 5.

Just after the unpacking, **M.A. Johnson**, HRL assistant curator, and I presented papers at the first medieval Slavic conference ever held in Spain. The conference was wonderfully organized and executed by **Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa Núñez**, **Julia Mendoza Tuñón**, and **Susana Torres Prieto-Hay** of the Complutense University of Madrid. Medieval Slavic studies in Spain may be relatively new, but they clearly show tremendous promise in the quality of their personnel and their scholarly endeavors.

Alex Rabinovich made another generous donation to the Hilandar Research Library: an original Slavic manuscript (*Sinodik*) of 60 leaves dating to 1725. Our own collection of original manuscripts and early printed books has now grown to over 30, including an item donated last year by Mr. Rabinovich and earlier gifts from the **V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic**, **Esther N. Clarke**, **Olga Karpov**, **Edward Kasinec**, and others, as well as selected purchases made in 1994 and later.

We are also excited to report the acquisition of a substantial portion of the library and sketches of the famous Russian Old Believer iconographer, **Pimen Sofronov**. Discussions held with **George McCloskey** and the Library Committee of the **St. Nicholas Old Orthodox Church** of Millville, New Jersey, have concluded with the partial purchase and partial donation of over 600 volumes, hundreds of sketches and slides, as well as an original icon and a portrait of Pimen Sofronov, all of which will constitute the "Pimen Sofronov Collection" of the HRL.

We congratulate **Charles E. Gribble**, DSEELL professor, on the occasion of his 70th birthday! Dr. Gribble was recently honored for his contributions to Slavic studies by the OSU College of Humanities. Congratulations as well to **Brian D. Joseph**, professor of Linguistics and the DSEELL, who has been named a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science!

Over the summer, it came time to say farewell to our colleague, friend, and long-time Graduate Research Associate (GRA), **Nataša Kaurin-Karača**, and to her husband, Igor. Congratulations to **Igor Karača** on his academic appointment in Music at Oklahoma State University! We wish them both the greatest of success. We also thank Nataša for all her hard work, sincere commitment, and the overall joy that she showed to the RCMSS/HRL and the many researchers who have visited us over the past five years. Yet, as we say good-bye to Nataša, we welcome **Elizabeth Pellows** as our most recent GRA. Beth, a first-year graduate student, comes to us with an especially strong background in art history.

It is with genuine sadness that we report the death of **Nicholas G. Howe**. Nick, a leading scholar of Old English Literature, had been the Director of the OSU Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) for several years before leaving to teach at UCLA. He was a good friend to the RCMSS/HRL and will be remembered always for his many contributions and genuine warmth. CMRS dedicated their October 2006 newsletter to Nick Howe <<http://cmrs.osu.edu/nn/>>.

Finally, I am grateful to **Alex Machaskee**, a long-standing Benefactor to the Hilandar Research Library, for sharing news of Hilandar Monastery in this issue. Alex, who recently made a brief pilgrimage to Hilandar, was able to give us a first-hand update on the restoration and renovation of the monastery following the devastating fire of 4 March 2004. We are encouraged by his words and wish the monastery and the workers Godspeed!

CYRILLIC MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE

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International Symposium on Medieval Slavic Studies Held in Madrid, Spain

The Faculty of Philology at the Complutense University of Madrid hosted an *International Seminar: New Perspectives for Research in Medieval Slavonic Studies*, 19-21 October 2006. Organizers **Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa Núñez**, **Julia Mendoza Tuñón**, and **Susana Torres Prieto-Hay**



Susana Torres Prieto-Hay deftly handled the details of the conference organization.

carefully crafted an intimate, yet comprehensive symposium of eighteen presentations that addressed East, West, and South Slavonic topics on literature, linguistics, palaeography, and textology. New perspectives were presented on both general topics and specific texts, on both new resources and the innovative use of old resources; old methodologies were elaborated upon, and new technology was explored. The conference was highly successful and the participants all look forward to future medieval Slavonic seminars in Spain.

Jos Schaeken shed new light on the *Kiev Folio*; **Enrique Gutiérrez Rubio** analyzed pre-Christian elements in *Dalimil's Chronicle*; **Inés García de la Puente** and **Salustio Alvarado Socastro** each sought parallels to specific episodes from

the Russian chronicle *Povest' vremennykh let* ('Tale of Bygone Years') in other non-Slavic traditions; **Dr. Mendoza** examined the mythological cycle of the atypical hero in the *bylina* tradition, while **Dr. Torres** discussed political ideology in Slavonic heroic literature. **Dr. Álvarez-Pedrosa** surveyed medieval Polabian, Latin and Slavic contact in the Middle Ages; and linguists were well represented by **Tania Laleva Dimitrova's** second look at the third palatalization and by **Iván Igartua Ugarte**, who investigated semantic agreement in Old Russian. **Patricia González Almarcha** compared East and South Slavonic translations of Menander's aphorisms with the Greek from a cultural and religious perspective.

The presentations on new technology intrigued and delighted the audience: **Alexei Gippius** updated research on the Novgorod birchbark documents (*gramoty*) and gave a demonstration of a website (www.gramoty.ru) devoted to the documents, which will include images and search capabilities; **David J. Birnbaum**, who attended the seminar as part of the RCMSS/TRL contingent, exhibited the benefits and new developments of the computer-assisted processing of medieval Slavic manuscripts. **Predrag Matejic** outlined new developments and technology in the use of watermarks and their study.

Several papers touched on various aspects in which biblical sources are used in medieval Slavic texts and literature: **Marcello Garzaniti** discussed the need for examining biblical citations found in literature in the context of their occurrence in the liturgy; **Enrique Santos Marinas** revealed biblical motifs and quotations in East Slavonic hymnography; **Donald Ostrowski** spoke of techniques of biblical exegesis in relation to the *Povest' vremennykh let*; **M. A. Johnson** used marginalia in several Old Testament lectionaries to construct a preliminary typology of inscriptions; and **Liudmilla Navtanovich** explored the issue of Hebrew translations into Old Russian.

Following the official close of the seminar, the participants attended a farewell luncheon near El Pardo Palace, northwest of Madrid, each vowing to return to the city some day for the gracious hospitality and invigorating scholarly exchanges.



Hosts Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa Núñez and Julia Mendoza Tuñón give the international participants a tour of the historic city of Toledo.



Tiziana Francucci and Marcello Garzaniti pause to admire the architecture of Toledo.



Scholarly discussions continued long into the night after the official conference panels had ended. Left to right: Jos Schaeken, Susana Torres Prieto-Hay, Alexei Gippius, David J. Birnbaum, and Don Ostrowski.



MSSI reunion photo: Inés García de la Puente (2003), Enrique Santos Marinas (2001), Predrag Matejic, Enrique "Dativus" Gutiérrez Rubio (2003), and Patricia González Almarcha (2006).



In mid-June Davina Lunsford and Lisa Wallace of Accelerated Moving & Storage, Inc. (Columbus), began tagging HRL furniture and equipment to be moved to Ackerman Library.

After the end of MSSI 2006, the HRL staff began packing up Main Library 225 and 227, home to the HRL/RCMSS since 1984.



End of September: Debbie Musser of Hallett Movers (Summit, Illinois) transfers HRL books to wheeled bookcases.



OSU student Ben Burrell shrink-wraps the mobile bookcases to prevent damage to the books during transport.

THE MOVE!



Sterling Williams of Continental Office Environments (Columbus) takes apart the oak bookcases in 227 Main.



Jason Thompson (OSU Office of Information Technology) disconnects the HRL computers.



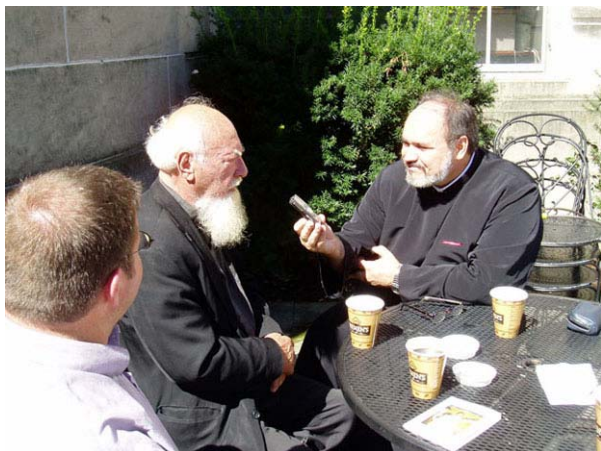
Todd McCoy of Accelerated Moving & Storage, Inc., loads up the HRL boxes and furniture to be moved to Ackerman Library.



October: GRA Beth Pellows and Predrag Matejic begin decorating the new HRL/RCMSS location in 6065 Ackerman Library.

RCMSS/HRL NEWS NOTES:

Father Nicolai Buga has the distinction of being the last research scholar to work in the RCMSS/HRL before the move to our temporary facilities at Ackerman Road. He arrived August 15th for four days of research on the origins of books,



Fr. Nicolai Buga (right) interviews Fr. Mateja Mateja (middle) while Prof. Nicolae Roddy (left) looks on.

specifically, early printing activity in Orthodox nations. His particular focus is the Serbian Monk Makarije of Cetinje, Crna Gora, who, in addition to books published earlier in Cetinje, published three works in Târgoviște, Wallachia, between 1508–1512. (They are the first books ever printed on Romanian soil!) Although certain Romanian historians believe that Makarije became the Metropolitan of Wallachia in 1512, there is strong evidence that, after leaving the Romanian lands, he went on to become hegumen at Hilandar Monastery until his death in 1533.

Father Nicolai was joined during the first two days of his visit by long-time friend and colleague **Nicolae Roddy**, assistant professor of Old Testament and board member of the Bethsaida Excavations Project at Creighton University (Omaha, Nebraska). While here, Father Nicolai interviewed both the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic and Predrag Matejic for an article to be published in the *Observator Cultural*.

Father Nicolai Buga is a Romanian Orthodox priest teaching Church History and Patristics at the Theological Seminary in Bucharest. He also collaborates with the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) and the New

Europe College in Bucharest. In addition, he occasionally writes articles for Romanian journals such as *România Literară* and *Observator Cultural*. Father Nicolai is now writing an article on Monk Makarije for *Ortodoxia*, a Romanian theological

review currently published by the Romanian Patriarchate in Bucharest. The article will also be included in the *Dicționarul Enciclopedic al Bisericii Universale* (“The Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Christian Church”), a planned three-volume work for which Father Buga is the chief editor. Father Nicolai has just recently been appointed the parish priest of the Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and plans to enroll in

a PhD program at The Ohio State University. He intends to investigate further the relationship between the Romanian ruling princes and the Holy Mount.

RCMSS GRA Relocates to “the Other OSU”

by Nataša Kaurin-Karača

This past summer my husband Igor and I moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, after Igor accepted a tenure-track position at Oklahoma State University, teaching music theory and composition. We were both very excited about this great opportunity, but leaving Columbus and “the other OSU” (as Oklahomans here refer to Ohio State) was not an easy task. We had developed many friendships during the six years we lived in the Buckeye State and saying “goodbye” was difficult.

We rented the smallest truck available for our two-day trip to Oklahoma, which, once it was packed, seemed like one of those 18-wheelers for coast-to-coast

transport. Initially, I was worried about driving such a “giant” for 13 hours, but I soon felt so natural on the road that I found myself considering a change of profession.

We had heard that there was a substantial community of Bosnians in St. Louis, so our original plan was to spend the night there and treat ourselves to *ćevapi* or *pita* in a Bosnian restaurant. However, because of our very late start, we continued on and ended up sleeping in Rolla, Missouri, and eating animal crackers for dinner.

Nothing prepared us for the 110-degree heat (43°C) in Stillwater or the sound of crickets with amplifiers. Luckily, our apartment is air-conditioned and virtually sound proof! Stillwater is less than an hour away from both Oklahoma City and Tulsa so it doesn’t feel too isolated. Our new university color is orange, the mascot is “Pistol Pete,” and the cheer here is “Go Pokes!”



Nataša with her new car christened “Zmajček” (“little dragon”)

The faculty at the School of Music has been very welcoming. Igor is already teaching three courses and has received commissions to write for the orchestra, wind ensemble, and soloists. I am enjoying my free time: reading, walking, and being the piano accompanist for the Concert Chorale. I think we are going to like it here.

Still, I miss Columbus and my good friends. I know that the Hilandar Research Library will continue on its successful path without me, but I will always carry it in my heart, spread its message, and consider Pasha, Helene and Predrag my family. “Go Bucks” will always be my battle cry!

continued on page 10

INTRODUCING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE



Alexander Angelov is a doctoral student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is interested in Christianity and its development in postclassical Europe, both in the East and the West. As an undergraduate, Alexander presented papers on the psychology of religion, the behavioral effects of religion at the individual and communal levels, as well as decision-making patterns of groups presented with alternatives. He is attracted to the topic of Byzantine missionary activities, the ideological absorption in new localities, and the spread of Orthodoxy. Alexander is preparing a set of Byzantine translations and is researching Byzantine conversion narratives. A native of Sofia, Bulgaria, Alexander is also interested in Balkan and Slavic history. The MSSI provided him with the opportunity to work with Slavic manuscripts, to learn paleography, and introduced him to the large collection of medieval Slavic manuscripts on microform at the Hilandar Research Library.

Quinn Anya Carey is beginning the PhD program in Slavic Linguistics at the University of Chicago. Her work focuses on the history of Russian, particularly the Old Novgorod dialect and the Birchbark Letters. A “techie” since childhood, Quinn spends much of her time working on digital projects, including Slavic fonts, scanning old Soviet books, photographs from Russian museums, and e-books. Thanks to the MSSI, she has developed an active interest in paleography, from both the point of view of a scholar, and a font designer. She is now considering manuscript analysis as a dissertation topic, and hopes to create a number of fonts based on the more unique scribal handwriting. Quinn lives in Chicago with her two cats, a laptop, and a constant supply of Mountain Dew.



Andrew Dombrowski (BA/MA University of Chicago, 2006) is currently a PhD student at the University of Chicago, where he is pursuing a dual doctorate in Slavic Languages and Literatures and in Linguistics. His major area of interest is Slavic diachronic linguistics, with a general focus on the evolution of East and South Slavic languages. Particular areas of interest include historical phonology, the Old Novgorod dialect, South Slavic historical dialectology, and linguistic contact phenomena. The MSSI provided him with a valuable opportunity to gain further, more informed access to the wealth of linguistic and other data found in the Slavic manuscript heritage, as well as providing training in the wider cultural, historical, and literary context of medieval Slavia Orthodoxa.

Patricia González Almarcha was born in New Haven, Connecticut, but did not return to the USA until attending the MSSI 2006. She studies Slavic Philology at the University Complutense in Madrid, where, as an undergraduate, she completed courses in Slavic Linguistics, Old Church Slavonic, and Indo-European Linguistics, and received scholarships from the Spanish Foreign Office to improve her knowledge of Russian and Slovak Languages and Literatures *in situ*: at the Univerzita Komenského Bratislava, Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow State Institute for International Relations, and the Pushkin Institute in Moscow. As a graduate student, Patricia works under the guidance of advisor Prof. J. A. Álvarez-Pedrosa Núñez. The Spanish Foreign Office has awarded her a 4-year scholarship to develop her dissertation topic: *Towards a Slavic linguistic archetype of the Menander Proverbs: A semantic analysis and study of the Christianization textual mechanisms*. Patricia found the MSSI a “wonderful experience” that taught her “to look at medieval Slavic texts in a completely new way.”



Robin Howard is a candidate for the Master of Science in Information Studies (MSIS) degree at the University of Texas (at Austin) School of Information, where her concentration is in Archival Enterprise. She is currently employed as a Slavic-language cataloger at the University of Texas Libraries. She has studied Russian throughout college, and is quite pleased that her academic interests are coming together into the beginnings of a career as a Slavic librarian. She is interested in the manuscripts as objects of archival value, and so valued most the lectures on paleography, although her undergraduate degree in linguistics made her greatly appreciate the readings in Church Slavonic.

MEDIEVAL SLAVIC SUMMER INSTITUTE 2006



Elinor Huntington is a first-year graduate student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UCLA. She attended the MSSSI before beginning her graduate career in the hopes that it would strengthen her skills in Old Church Slavonic and introduce her to the discipline of paleography. An unexpected result of the Institute is her increasing interest in archiving and curating collections due principally to the informative interactions she had with the HRL staff. In her graduate career, Elinor plans to compare the literatures of medieval Russia, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and Byzantium, and believes that attending the MSSSI was an important first step along that arduous path. Though she has not yet articulated her exact specialty, she hopes to be able to return to the HRL in the future, whether it be for dissertation research or, further along in her career, so that she can once again take advantage of this vastly important resource.

Yulia Mikhailova received her MA in Medieval Russian history from Moscow State University. She is now a PhD student at the University of New Mexico majoring in medieval Western history with a minor in Russian history. She is interested in comparing political institutions of the medieval West and pre-Mongolian Russia. Her other interests include traditional peasant culture, its relationship to Christianity and to the official state ideology, as well as its effect on “high” culture (such as Russian classical literature of the 19th century) and political mentality. According to Ms. Mikhailova, there are few resources for Slavic studies in New Mexico, so she was “thrilled” to learn about the MSSSI. The reality by far exceeded her expectations. “I was inspired by the general atmosphere of creativity and enthusiasm experienced during MSSSI. The program was very intensive, and I was surprised how much it is possible to learn in just four weeks!”



Julia Papke received her BA in linguistics at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is currently a fourth-year doctoral student in the OSU Department of Linguistics. Her major field of study is historical linguistics, particularly ancient Indo-European languages, with a strong interest in language change. Her participation in the MSSSI courses of *Practical Slavic Paleography* and *Readings in Church Slavonic* forms a natural complement to her previous studies in Sanskrit, Old Irish, Latin, Greek, and Greek epigraphy. Julia is particularly interested in the history of preverbal elements in Indo-European languages and notes, “I began my research in Sanskrit, but the Slavic branch exhibits phenomena of considerable interest with regard to preverbs. I need a better understanding of their behavior in Slavic, and it is always best for a linguist to work as close to the texts as possible.”

Stephen Smith is a third-year history student at the University of Michigan. He studied under Chester Dunning at Texas A&M University and currently works with Valerie Kivelson at UM. His primary research interests lie in Muscovite history and the History of Religion. Stephen found the MSSSI “an incredible experience” and believes that it helped him to shape his research questions for his dissertation. He is interested in using miracle tales and hagiography, as well as official ecclesiastical and governmental inquiries into the cult of saints and the veracity of miracle-working icons and relics, in his research of the everyday piety of the Russian Orthodox faithful. Stephen concludes: “I am forever in the debt of the Hilandar staff for their expertise and for reminding me why I love medieval Russia so much.”



Boris A. Todorov graduated from the History Department at the St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, in Bulgaria. Since 2001, he has been a PhD student in Medieval History at UCLA. The working title of Boris’ dissertation is “Friends or Enemies of the Romans: Ambiguities of the Political Discourse in Medieval Bulgaria,” which is under the supervision of Prof. Patrick J. Geary. Boris studies how medieval Bulgarians made sense of their place in the political, cultural and historical context of the Roman-Christian space. His project reconstructs the “Bulgarian” voice in the existing evidence from the ninth to fourteenth century in original works of South Slavic authors, in translations of Greek works and, through extrapolation, in Byzantine narratives of Bulgarian history. While at the MSSSI, he consulted microfilm copies of several manuscripts of Serbian and Bulgarian recension containing translations of Byzantine universal chronicles.

Photo Journal Medieval Slavic Summer Institute 2006

Photos by M.A. Johnson



Participants on the First Day of the MSSSI



Certificates and Refreshments at the Closing Ceremony



Working in Groups



Elinor, Patrícia and Julia



Professor Jenn Spock's Practicum



MSSSI Bonding



4th of July Picnic



Quinn, Robin and Stephen



Andrew, Alex and Yulia

Recent Bibliography



In volumes 3, 7, 11, 13, 15 and 16 of CMH we published selected bibliographies of theses, dissertations, books and articles made possible and/or enhanced by the primary and secondary source materials, especially manuscripts on microform, of the HRL or through the support of the RCMSS. Below are some publications issued since December 2004.

THESES & DISSERTATIONS

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News Notes, continued from page 5

RCMSS/HRL Welcome New GRA

The RCMSS and the HRL are pleased to welcome **Elizabeth Pellows** as the new Graduate Research Associate for fall 2006. Beth was born in New Orleans, but moved with her family to Texas when she was fourteen. She attended the Univer-

sity of Texas at Arlington, earning a BA in art history in 2005. During a study abroad trip to Paris her senior year, she decided to focus on 19th-century French



GRA Beth Pellows

art in graduate school and is now working towards an MA here at OSU. Beth's expertise will be particularly helpful as we process and make more accessible not only the recently acquired “Steven Enich Slide Collection,” but also other slide collections including our own slides taken at Hilandar in the 1970s.

Center for Greek Studies Thrives in Granada, Spain



Matilde Casas Olea, MSSI 1999 and professor of Slavic philology at the University of Granada, gives a tour of the Center.

The Center for Byzantine, Modern Greek and Cypriot Studies in Granada, Spain, is under the direction of **Moschos Morfakidis Filactós**, a professor of Byzantine Philology at the University of Granada. In addition to its many works promoting its primary mission of researching various aspects of Greek studies, the Center has issued several publications of interest to Slavists such as *De*

viaje por el Monte Athos: Catálogo; Fuentes bizantinas sobre los eslavos: desde el comienzo de su expansión hasta la cristianización; and Nestor-Iskander's *Relato sobre la toma de Constantinopla*.

For further information about the Center and its activities, please see its website: <www.cebnch.com>.

GIFTS IN KIND



We would also like to thank the researchers, visitors to the HRL, our RCMSS affiliates, and others who have donated important scholarly materials on topics in medieval Slavic studies to the HRL since our last newsletter. They are as follows:

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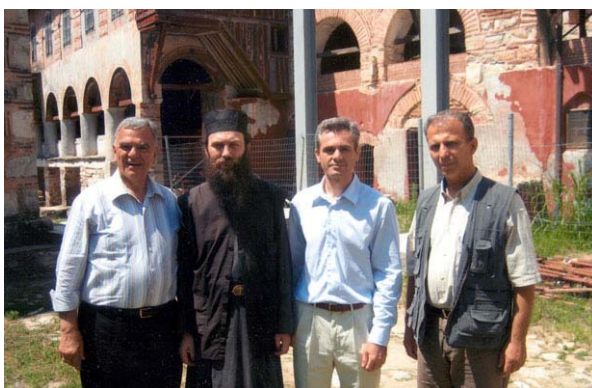
A Recent Visit to Hilandar Monastery on Mt. Athos

by Alex Machaskee

There is nothing quite like a visit to Mt. Athos for a few days to nourish your soul with prayers, reflections and the solitude of being away from the clamor of modern civilization.

On Sunday, July 9, 2006, Goran Debelnogich, the Resettlement Services Coordinator of the International Institute of Akron, Ohio, and I set out for Hilandar Monastery on Mt. Athos via Newark, New Jersey – Frankfurt, Germany – and Thessaloniki, Greece. Arriving in Thessaloniki Monday afternoon, we drove our rental car to the port of Ouranopolis and the next morning headed for Mt. Athos and Hilandar Monastery by boat.

It was a joy to see that work is continuing to restore this venerable 800 plus year-old citadel of Serbian religion after the devastating fire that burned down nearly 50 percent of the monastery several years ago. I will never forget the words of one of the monks who witnessed the fire over several days and said, "Even the stones were crying" at the partial loss of this Serbian treasure.



Alex Machaskee, Father Metodije, Goran Debelnogich, and General Borislav Grozdić at Hilandar Monastery, Mount Athos

Goran and I attended the 5pm evening liturgy followed by dinner with the monks. Then we had the good fortune to attend the special vigil for SS. Peter and Paul, according to the old calendar, July 11. No one should ever complain about being at an Eastern Orthodox Christian Church service for two hours: the vigil that Goran and I attended started at 9 pm and lasted till 3 am! After three hours of sleep we were back in church for the morning liturgy at 7 am.

We had the opportunity to take many pictures of the reconstruction of the monastery and drink in the beauty of its surroundings for the next two days. Father Metodije welcomed us as spiritual brothers and expressed his gratitude for the \$20,000.00 we raised for the monastery's restoration with a benefit concert by the popular musical group, *Legende*, last October.

Mirko Kovačević, the primary architect of the restoration work, projected recently that the cost of reconstruction will be 15-20 million euros and that the restoration will take six to seven years. When the work is completed, the monastery will look as it did before the fire.

Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica recently visited Hilandar with Metropolitan Amfilohije, poet Matija Bećković, the prime minister's advisor Vladeta Janković, and two government ministers: Dragan Jocić (Interior) and Velimir Ilić (Capital Investment). This was Prime Minister Koštunica's fourth Hilandar visit. He confirmed that Serbia will continue to give, as promised, one million euros annually for the monastery's reconstruction. The government of Serbia decided after the fire to contribute one million euros annually for nine years after its initial one million-euro contribution. With the intercession of St. Sava, who founded Hilandar Monastery, we pray that the restoration will continue safely, satisfactorily, and in a manner pleasing to God.

Editor's Note: Alex Macheskee is the retired publisher of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and now heads Alex Machaskee & Associates, LLC.

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ACK STACKS



The “horizontal stack tower” of Ackerman Library includes monographs that were previously housed in the 11-story tower of the William Oxley Thompson Memorial “Main” Library on the Oval of OSU’s central campus.

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