Library Renovations To Affect HRL/RCMSS
Services to Continue As Usual

The renovation of the William Oxley Thompson Memorial (“Main”) Library will affect the Hilandar Research Library (HRL) and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS) for the next several years and well into the future. Our service to the community of medieval Slavic scholars, researchers, and students, however, will proceed with minimal disruption.

In summer 2005, the HRL and RCMSS are scheduled to move from their current location on the second floor of the OSU Main Library to temporary quarters at 650 Ackerman Road, approximately 3 miles from the OSU main campus. The majority of the other offices and reading rooms of the Main Library will also be housed in the “ABB” building. HRL and RCMSS will occupy a secure location on the second floor of the ABB Ackerman Road building of approximately the same size as the two rooms we now have in the Main Library. We are grateful to the Administration of the OSU Libraries for accommodating HRL’s special needs, which include on-site teaching. It is our intention to continue our various activities and services with only a brief interruption while packing and unpacking take place. The moving process is currently scheduled to take place next summer. We will remain in the ABB building for approximately three years. We look forward to providing our new address, as well as additional details, in our next issue.

HRL/RCMSS AND THE FUTURE

Upon our return (circa 2008), the HRL and RCMSS will become part of a new, expanded special collections’ complex partially occupying the first two floors of the Main Library. This complex will include space for HRL and RCMSS and three other special collections of the OSU Libraries (OSUL): Rare Books and Manuscripts, the William Charvat Collection of American Fiction (second largest such collection in North America), and the “Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee” Theatre Research Institute Library. The prominent location of a common special collections reading room and permanent exhibit areas will benefit future users of these four OSUL special collections. Other OSUL special collections will continue to be housed in their current locations in other OSU library buildings.

Regrettably, due to the necessary preparations and timing of the move, the 2005 Medieval Slavic Summer Institute has been cancelled.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

continued on Page 7
Director’s Desk

While meetings to plan the moves for the next four years have taken time over the past months, our regular activities have continued. We have again been fortunate to host several scholars, including Jennifer Spock (Eastern Kentucky Univ.), David Goldfrank (Georgetown Univ.), Robert Romanchuk (Florida State Univ. in Tallahassee), and Irina Barclay (Appalachian State Univ.). In addition, a brief visit was made in May by John V. A. Fine, Jr., the third speaker in our inaugural 2003-2004 Byzantino-Slavic Lecture Series. Professor Fine was accompanied by two of his graduate students, Ian Mladjov and Dimitrios Krallis, from the Univ. of Michigan. William Veder and Emilia Guergova of Chicago, as well as Svetlana Kuijumdzhieva of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, also made brief visits.


Earlier this year, my father, the Very Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic, and I accepted the invitation of the Serbian Heritage Women’s Society of Windsor, Canada, to address a fund-raising event organized to assist in the reconstruction of Hilandar Monastery on Mount Athos. We were asked to discuss the tragedy of the monastery’s March 4th fire and its impact on Eastern Orthodoxy and world culture, as well as to give an account of our own preservation activities at the HRL. The fire and its aftermath were also the subject of a conversation in September between me and the Bishop of Ziča. Bishop Hrisostom, former librarian at Hilandar Monastery, made clear that it will be years before the monastery is repaired and restored.

My September trip to Serbia, primarily Belgrade, was intended to show our continued willingness to cooperate and collaborate on scholarly activities related to Hilandar Monastery and the preservation of the Cyrillic manuscript heritage. As such, numerous conversations were held with administrators of the Serbian National Library, including its new director, Sreten Ugrićić. Later that month, I was pleased to welcome a delegation from the National Library in Columbus. While still in Serbia, I also spoke with Milan Jakšić, director of the Archives in Pančevo, and Slobodan Mileušić, Curator, Museum of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Prior to my trip to Serbia, I attended a conference in Zheravna, Bulgaria, dedicated to “Mount Athos Minor.” Both M.A. Johnson and I presented papers and, at the invitation of the conference organizers, made a joint presentation on the history and activities of the HRL and RCMS. We saw numerous friends from our 5th International Hilandar Conference in Raška, Serbia (2002).

In October, I was privileged to be one of twelve speakers at the Third Annual Colloquium of Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary (Jordanville, NY): The Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Russian History and Culture. There, in addition to touring the beautiful complex of the monastery and seminary, I was able to present new information on a text of the Life of St. Sergius found in Hilandar manuscript #485. Again, I was happy to see still more colleagues from our 5th International Hilandar Conference. Just before the Jordanville conference, I spent a pleasant day in discussions with Edward Kasinec, Curator, Slavic and Baltic Division, New York Public Library.

For those who may wish to help us and the OSU Libraries in funding our renovation campaign, please see the back page of this issue.
Shortly after being named Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES), I joined the RCMSS OSU Advisory Board. I came to The Ohio State University four years ago and, as a professor in Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, I was immediately struck by the richness of the university’s infrastructure for Slavic Studies. In addition to an excellent library, a very active and collegial Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, and a vibrant Slavic Center, Ohio State offers something that no other school with any type of Slavic program has – namely, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and the Hilandar Research Library.

I am not a medievalist by training, so I have a rather romantic attitude towards the Hilandar collection. I remain surprised by the fact that, in the middle of the American Midwest at a state university, there is an institution dedicated to the preservation and cultivation of the core of the Cyrillic cultural heritage. Not only its manuscript collection – unique as it is – but also the place itself, the staff and the general atmosphere of great respect and professionalism evoke an instant connection to the distant world of monks, monasteries, and the mysteries of the medieval world. I am very proud of the fact that our Slavic Studies at Ohio State have that real and intensive link to Slavic culture, and I make sure that every visitor to campus, especially those who come to us from Eastern Europe, has the opportunity to visit the HRL and to be surprised by the Slavic cultural heritage as it is cultivated and preserved at The Ohio State University.

In those moments, I always think of Leon Twarog, a person of incredible vision and determination, who established not only the OSU Slavic Department, the Slavic Center, and the Slavic Library collection, but also had the foresight and persistence to find administrative support for the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic’s first official visit to Hilandar Monastery. That visit was the beginning of an amazing project, which was the forerunner by many years of other microfilming initiatives aimed at the preservation of medieval manuscripts in Russia and Southeastern and Eastern Europe. In a way, RCMSS for me represents almost the successful combination of American ingenuity with a deep respect and understanding of the spiritual and historical value of the medieval core of Slavic civilization.

While I appreciate the HRL, my own research activities tend toward the more modern period. Having grown up in post-war Poland, I have developed great interest in the roots of Soviet culture and its transformations in Poland. I earned a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Michigan and have taught at the University of Southern California and the University of Florida. Several of my first research projects dealt with early Soviet avant-garde literature – poetry, prose and drama – that offered initial models for the Soviet culture in the 1920s. The LEF movement, under Mayakovsky’s leadership, for example, provided an especially interesting case of avant-garde art and literature promoted as the prototype of Soviet culture. An equally interesting issue for me was the reception of Soviet art and literature from the 1920s in Western Europe – including the ideological and artistic impact of the Soviet avant-garde on Western art.

On the Polish side, I have written about Slawomir Mrozek, a playwright and short story writer, who best personified the Polish response to the traditions of Socialist Realism and became later known as the “father of the Socialist Absurd.” My book on Mrozek was the first complete presentation of the development of this author from socialist realist journalist to émigré dissident playwright. Among the more absurd scenes associated with Mrozek, I recall my visit with him on his ranch under a Mexican volcano, when I tried to convince him and his wife that his return to Krakow would be good both for him and for the Polish literary scene. A few weeks after my visit, Mrozek indeed announced his decision to settle in Krakow – with or without my influence.

More recently, I edited a volume of essays on the postwar Polish literary migration to the United States. I have also worked on the image of America in recent Polish literature. Whenever I have a chance to return to the topic of Russian culture, though, I work on my ongoing project, a book on Larisa Reisner, a prose writer of the 1920s and a “celebrity” of the early Soviet period. This spring I intend to spend some time in Moscow archives in order to complete my collection of documents on Reisner.

In terms of research, I most enjoy my work on Mrozek. His works are directly related to my Polish past and provide a vehicle for understanding a period that I personally experienced. Also, this project puts me in contact with colleagues at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and allows me to work with one of the leading publishers in Poland.

But beyond research, I must confess that I really enjoy the administrative work of the CSEES, one of several government-funded international centers at OSU. Being its director allows me to interact with Slavic faculty and students at OSU and in the state of Ohio. It also gives me insight into the U.S. government’s perspective of Slavic Studies. And it daily provides me with an opportunity to become involved in interesting projects – conferences, lectures, meetings – that are extremely diverse, ranging from Central Asian agriculture to Yiddish film. It is a rare pleasure and privilege to be engaged in such a broad range of activities in the Slavic field and to have the opportunity to contribute to Slavic Studies by administering a National Resource Center of the U. S. Title VI Program.
The conference Mons Athos Minor, organized by the University of Sofia “St. Clement of Ohrid” Department of Cyrillo-Methodian Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria, on 2-5 September 2004, took place in the museum village of Zheravna, which is located in the Sliven region of central-eastern Bulgaria. Iskra Khristova-Shomova, head of the Cyrillo-Methodian faculty, and her colleague, Margaret Dimitrova chose an appropriate and extremely picturesque setting for their international meeting. “Mons Athos Minor” – Malkata Sveta Gora in Bulgarian – was the name given to large monastic centers that were usually surrounded by several smaller monasteries. Such was the area of Kotel, Sliven, and Zheravna in Bulgaria’s late Middle Ages and Early National Revival periods. The conference was enthusiastically supported by the local community leaders and officials, well aware of their region’s rich cultural heritage.

The conference was held in honor of Professor and Dean Donka Petkanova, the founder and first chair of the Faculty of Cyrillo-Methodian Studies at Sofia University. Two other highly respected academicians from the Sliven region were also acknowledged with a panel dedicated to each of them: the session on “Kotel,” including presentations on the Kotel scriptorium, was in honor of its native, Krasimir Stanchev (Rome), while the “Malkata Sveta Gora” session, featuring papers on Fruska gora (Serbia), Bachkovo monastery (located south of Plovdiv, Bulgaria), and monasteries of the southwest and the Sliven-Kotel areas, was dedicated to Ivan Dobrev, professor of Bulgarian linguistics at Sofia University. One of the highlights of the conference was the day that Professor Petkanova, a proud native of Zheravna, personally conducted a walking tour of her beloved village. The walking tour concluded with a visit to her home in Zheravna, where her family had lived for more than a century.

The conference itself was well organized, integrating the individual papers into over a dozen thematically linked sessions that offered thought-provoking topics and lively debate. The international participants from eight different countries, in particular, were impressed by the hospitality and abundant, cultural history of Zheravna.

Predrag Matejic and M. A. Johnson were asked to give a separate one-hour presentation on the history and current work of RCMSS and the HRL. Several conference participants interjected positive remarks about the HRL/RCMSS based on their own personal experiences using the OSU resources. An outcome of the presentation, in addition to an increase in requests for materials and research assistance from a number of the scholars, was a unanimous resolution of support and gratitude by conference participants toward the staff, supporters, and university for the work of the HRL and RCMSS.
HRL/RCMSS NEWS NOTES:

Introducing the HRL/RCMSS Intern

The HRL/RCMSS was contacted earlier this quarter about participating in a mentoring program designed to expose and educate senior high school students to possible future careers. After meeting with student Anna Grothaus, Dr. Predrag Matejic agreed to oversee her project. Anna’s account follows:

My name is Anna Grothaus and I am a student intern in the Hilandar Research Library. As part of my mentorship program at Olentangy High School, I am supposed to observe and identify careers that might be of interest to me. I am an 18-year old high school senior and plan on attending The Ohio State University in the fall of 2005. I would like to major in Medieval and Renaissance Studies and minor in Art History or Latin. I enjoy History very much, especially that of Western Europe and Northern Europe spanning from 1000 A.D. - 1600 A.D. After meeting with Dr. Matejic, I was given the opportunity to intern in the HRL. I am getting a good overall view of what curatorial, archival and professional work would be like. I absolutely love it so far and can definitely see myself doing this for many, many years to come. Dr. Matejic is supervising my project, which involves organizing over 150 photographs of Bulgarians and American missionaries in Bulgaria during the 19th century. I am learning that you have to love this work in order to complete it. This project may not be thrilling for most, but I enjoy the work and the sense of accomplishment and learning the project provides. Eastern Europe was not my first choice of study, but I am glad I found Hilandar and I am very thankful that the HRL agreed to sponsor this internship for me. After leaving in December, I will be taking with me a greater understanding and appreciation of Slavic history and culture. Hilandar has been a great resource and has provided useful guidance to me to begin working towards my goals.

Bulgarian Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

My name is Nina Voutova and I am the Deputy Director of the “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” National Library in Sofia, Bulgaria. As a research associate, my special field of interest is the Slavic manuscript heritage with a concentration on the subject of paper and the analysis of watermarks in paper. My research project, Evidence of Watermarks in 14th- and 15th-century Slavic and Byzantine Manuscripts, was selected for a Fulbright Scholarship last autumn. I arrived in September 2004 to begin five months of research on my project in the Hilandar Research Library. In October, I was joined by my daughter, Petya, a high school senior, who took this opportunity to become acquainted with American culture.

It is a well known scholarly fact that, for a number of objective historical reasons, the great majority of manuscripts lacks any written indication of the time of their creation. Watermark evidence can largely solve this important problem since these marks can provide a reliable basis for the dating of the paper used in numerous manuscripts.

Studying 14th- and 15th-century Slavic and Byzantine manuscripts (on paper) and working in the field of watermark studies (“fili-granology”) for over two decades, I have done my best to amass sufficient empirical evidence that naturally allows me to come to certain conclusions regarding the literary tradition in the Balkans from this early period. Thus, a comparative analysis of watermarks found in Slavic and Byzantine manuscripts copied in the period of the initial appearance of paper as a writing material in the Balkans in both the 14th and 15th centuries – when use of the new material was finally established on a mass scale – prompted me to propose my research topic. This project is well suited for research in the HRL – the world’s largest repository of medieval Slavic manuscripts on microforms, which features material from over 100 collections found in 23 countries. The HRL also boasts an exceptionally valuable collection of watermark tracings traced by the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic and identified and processed by Predrag Matejic, Director of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and Curator of the Hilandar Research Library.

I would like to express my respectful and sincere gratitude to Professor Matejic for the opportunity to work in the Hilandar Research Library – the best place for the implementation of the proposed project, for his valuable advice, for his kindness and for his support. I am also grateful for the help and guidance of M. A. Johnson, assistant curator, and to Helene Senecal, center coordinator, as well as to Nataša Kaurin-Karača, RCMSS graduate research associate. All this, the exceptionally abundant information and resources stored in the HRL and the cordial attention of my colleagues surrounding me, make me believe that my Fulbright experience will be highly rewarding both professionally and personally.
HRL NEWS NOTES, continued

Serbian Librarians Tour Hilandar Research Library

As part of a U.S. Department of State “International Visitor Program,” four Information and Resource Management and Library Service librarians from the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade spent an afternoon at the OSU Main Library familiarizing themselves with the organization, operations, and preservation and access activities of the HRL/RCMSS. The visitors included Biljana Kosanović, head of the Scientific Information and Reference Works, Vesna Injac-Malbaša, director for International Relations and Library Counselor, Tanja Tasic, Cataloger and Catalog Editor, and Milorad Vučković-Braco, Bibliographer and Virtual Library Counselor.

Remembering Stojan Vujičić and Microfilming in Szentendre, Hungary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the HRL microfilming expedition to Szentendre, Hungary, where, in the space of three weeks, 250 Cyrillic and other manuscripts and printed books of the Serbian Orthodox Church Museum and Ecclesiastical Library in Hungary (Budai görög szerb egha´zmegyei könyvta'r) were microfilmed in order to be preserved and made available at OSU. We take this moment to once again acknowledge and express our gratitude to Academician Stojan Vujičić and to his wife, Marietta, without whom this important task could not have been accomplished. Stojan and Marietta made the time spent in Hungary so memorable and thus, we remember and honor them.

Slavic Medieval Journal Polata Knigopisnaia Finds New Home in OSUL Cyberspace

Discussions have concluded and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the OSU Libraries and Polata Knigopisnaia, an international journal for medieval Slavic studies, which was first issued in 1978. With these formalities resolved, Dr. William R. Veder, editor-in-chief and co-founder (with Mario Capaldo) of the journal, has constituted a new Editorial Board, whose members include Cristiano Diddi (University of Salerno, Italy), HRL Assistant Curator M.A. Johnson, and Robert Romanchuk (Florida State University). Dr. Romanchuk is a medievalist, whose forthcoming book, Monks and Masters, examines the history of reading and the development of academic culture in late medieval Russia. Cristiano Diddi is the author of the 2001 publication Pater- rik rimskii: dialogi Grigoriia Velikogo v drevneslavianskom perevode.

Materials for Volume 33 are now in the process of being edited and will be forthcoming in electronic form as part of the HRL/RCMSS website. Future volumes of the journal will be available in electronic form only. In addition, back issues will be mounted on the Internet and made accessible to all. The journal will be offered free-of-charge. Specific information on access will be forthcoming.

We are excited that the first electronic journal of the OSU Libraries will be Polata Knigopisnaia, the highly respected “information bulletin devoted to the study of early Slavic books, texts and literatures,” previously published in the Netherlands.

“Raška Proceedings” to Appear in Two Volumes

Work is nearly complete on the first volume of the Selected Proceedings of the 5th International Hilandar Conference: Love of Learning and Devotion to God in Orthodox Monasteries (Raška, 2002). The decision to publish the proceedings in two volumes was encouraged by the OSU Advisory Board to RCMSS, and discussed in detail with the Raška organizers. The text soon will be sent to Dr. Miro- ljub Joković, to be published in Raška with the financial support of RCMSS. The volume of nearly 400 pages represents approximately one-half of all the materials to be published and comprises twenty-four papers from the first six panel sessions of the Raška conference: the opening plenary session, “Manuscript Studies,” “Learning in Monasteries,” “Epigraphy,” “Monastic Centers and Culture,” and “Saints as National Symbols.” (See CMH 12, pages 10-13, for the full conference program.) We look forward to the publication of volume two before the end of 2005.

Call for Papers at The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio

Midwest Slavic Conference 3-5 March 2005

The Midwest Slavic Association, OSU Slavic Center and Office of International Affairs are sponsoring the 2005 Midwest Slavic Conference at the Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center on campus.

The conference will open with a keynote address and reception on March 3rd, Thursday evening, followed by two days
of academic and business-related panels. Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers addressing all disciplines related to Slavic histories, political science, literatures, linguistics, sociology, economics, and other fields.

Please email a one-paragraph abstract and brief CV to <csees@osu.edu> by 31 January 2005. Persons proposing papers must be willing to be scheduled either Friday or Saturday.

2nd Conference of the Southeast European Studies Association (SEESA), 28-30 April 2005

The SEESA organizing committee is now accepting proposals for papers that treat some aspect of the Southeast European region, including the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Greece, and Turkey. All disciplines are welcome, including anthropology, cultural studies, education, history, language, literature, linguistics, sociology, etc. Papers addressing issues that cross national and disciplinary boundaries are particularly welcome.

Individuals must submit paper proposals (a title and one-page abstract), together with name, address, phone and e-mail of author(s) by 15 January 2005.

Please address all correspondence to Professors Daniel E. Collins and Brian D. Joseph, OSU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (DSEELL). Send titles, abstracts and contact information by fax to 614-688-3107, or electronically (pastied into an e-mail message) to Dr. Collins <collins.232@osu.edu> and/or Dr. Joseph <joseph.1 @osu.edu>.

New Addresses for OSU Slavic Department and Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

This December, the DSEELL, formerly housed in the Dieter Cunz Hall of Foreign Languages (1841 Millikin Road), relocated to Hagerty Hall on the Oval near High Street together with the language and literature departments of East Asian, Germanic, Near Eastern, French and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese; the Foreign Language Center, Humanities Information Systems, and the Department of Comparative Studies. The Slavic Department’s new address is:

Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures
400 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1340
phone: (614) 292-6733
deph: (614) 688-3107
email: slavicdept@osu.edu

Hagerty Hall has been extensively renovated and now includes, in addition to the academic units listed above, a World Media and Culture Center with two “hyper-development studios,” classrooms, computer labs, and a 250-seat auditorium.

The RCMSS-affiliated Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS), which also occupied offices in Cunz Hall, will move to the third floor of Dulles Hall as of 1 January 2005. It will be sharing space with the OSU Center for Folklore Studies. The new address is:

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
308 Dulles Hall
230 West 17th Avenue
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1311
phone: (614) 292-7495
deph: (614) 292-1599
email: cmrs@osu.edu

Library Renovations, continued from Page 1

While the future will bring changes, including some intended shared use of space and other resources, maintaining the individual identity of each of the four special collections is a high priority of the OSU Libraries administration and the Special Collections curators. Our medieval Slavic researchers and scholars-in-residence will see relatively little change. On the other hand, the improved security and environmental conditions, the greater exposure to a larger potential audience, the enhanced research and teaching facilities, and the immediate access to the special collections’ cataloging unit in the as-yet-unnamed special collections complex are eagerly awaited by the library and the general university community.

HRL Journal

In this feature, Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage asks researchers who have used the Hilandar Research Library in the past year, in person or by mail, to describe their experiences and work.

Historical Toponymy of the Tver Region

BY IRINA Y. BARCLAY

Irina Y. Barclay, assistant professor of Russian at Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina), spent two weeks in June at the HRL/RCMSS. Dr. Barclay received her MA and Ph.D. degrees at Tver State University (Russia). Her master’s thesis analyzed ancient Slavic property documents, while her doctorate examined the use of Russian official discourse during the 17th century.

Dr. Barclay’s professional interests include aspects of the historical development of Russian vocabulary from the 15th-19th centuries in the Tver Region. On this subject, she has published over forty articles, abstracts, and the books: The Journal of Tver, Russia’s Merchants from the 18th-19th Centuries, and Official Written Discourses of the Tver Region in the 17th-18th Centuries.

Visiting the HRL, Professor Barclay said, “was a unique experience as the library has an outstanding collection of Slavic manuscripts that present an interesting window to Slavic culture for students and researchers. For me, the Slavic manuscripts reveal the individual identity of each of the four special collections is a high priority of the OSU Libraries administration and the Special Collections curators. Our medieval Slavic researchers and scholars-in-residence will see relatively little change. On the other hand, the improved security and environmental conditions, the greater exposure to a larger potential audience, the enhanced research and teaching facilities, and the immediate access to the special collections’ cataloging unit in the as-yet-unnamed special collections complex are eagerly awaited by the library and the general university community.”
MSSI Alumni Update: Where Are They Now?

1999

Bojan Belić
I do not know whether I have any achievements that are worth mentioning in the newsletter. It is simply that I keep working on my dissertation and teaching at OSU during the year and at the University of Pittsburgh in the summers. Nothing exciting, I guess!

Georgi R. Parpulov

Doug Rogers

Susmita Sundaram
I defended my dissertation, Land of Thought: India as Image and Metaphor in Konstantin Bal’mont’s Oeuvre, graduating from OSU in Summer 2004. I am currently working as Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

2001

Alexander Kyrychenko
I have entered a Ph.D. New Testament program at Emory University in Georgia this year. It is difficult to tell at this stage on what I will be writing my dissertation. Probably a topic connected to Pauline studies.

Monica M. White
I recently submitted my dissertation – needless to say, it’s a huge relief and I’m very pleased. Finishing it over the past couple of months has meant that I’ve been a bit of a slouch about correspondence, so please forgive me! Submitted the dissertation September 30th, started a research fellowship at Clare College on the 1st of October. New research topic: Dragon-slaying Legends of the Medieval Orthodox World.

2003

Kevin M. Bray
I graduated in November, having finished my MA in Russian and East European Studies at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto. I based my MA major paper on SZEN.GRA.52, the Grabovac Letopis’, working first from an HRL copy and then with the original in Hungary. My greatest news, though, is that I recently became a very proud uncle.

Keith Culbertson
I’m finishing here at Ohio State and plan to look for work and/or to continue with a Ph.D. program overseas. First, I want to travel around the United States for a few weeks or months to visit places I have always wanted to see. I truly could end up just about anywhere, and plan to stay abroad for a long time, so I thought I should see more of the places and people I will leave behind.
2003

Inés García de la Puente

After MSSI 2003, Inés took advantage of her trip to Columbus to spend an additional five months to conduct research at the HRL/RCMSS. Afterwards, she returned to Spain and then in April 2004 left for Berlin, where she spent six months on further research and writing her Ph.D. She’s currently in Paris enjoying the city and doing research in its numerous libraries. The last couple of years have been a “wonderful opportunity” for her to familiarize herself with various research methodologies in her field in different countries, to widen the perspectives of her work, and to get in touch with experts on the Povest’ Vremennykh Let and in the field of Indo-European studies.

John Hill

Well let’s see, I went to the MAM (Medieval Assoc. of the Midwest) conference in Michigan and gave a talk on my skomorokhi. It was fun. The medievalists of the Midwest are a wild bunch … we even went on the rocks boat ride (Lake Superior). I gave a talk in Columbus last spring at the comparative drama conference on an Ostrovskii play (Komik XVII ogo stoletiia). The paper will be published in the comp drama rag Text and Presentation. What else …? I won a year-long Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship, so now I’m taking first-year Polish. Easy. (After Old Church Slavonic what could be hard?) Lydia started kindergarten … guess that’s not really news, eh?

Kat Tancock

I finished my coursework and presented a paper at the Balkan Conference in April at “Ole Miss” (Oxford, Mississippi). The title of my paper was something very long-winded: “Language Variation and Standardization: The Third-Person Singular Perfect Auxiliary in Central South Slavic.” That’s about it. Now I’m studying for my comprehensive exams or “comps” (sort of). I was just in Zagreb studying Croatian this past June and July, and yes, I went to Split (with my boyfriend), where OSU Fulbrighter to Croatia, Andrea Sims (MSSI 2001), showed us around and found us accommodations – it was nice to see her.

Editor’s note: Ivelina Tchizmarova’s photos from the Balkan Conference <http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/depts/balkan/conference/image/Balkan.html> include Kat, Bojan, Tania D. Ivanova, Brian Joseph (OSU Linguistics), and many other familiar faces from the pages of the CMH.

1999-2003

Enrique Santos Marinas

Enrique Santos Marinas (MSSI 2001) successfully defended his dissertation, which deals with the borrowings and calques in three semantic domains of the vocabulary of the Gospels in Old Church Slavonic: “Natural elements and substances,” “Plants,” and “Artifacts.” Enrique (far right) was joined in the celebration of his defense by (from left) Enrique Gutiérrez Rubio (MSSI 2003), Matilde Casas Olea (MSSI 1999), his advisor Juan Antonio Álvarez Pedrosa Núñez, and colleague Susana Torres.

Matilde Casas Olea

This past summer, Matilde Casas Olea (MSSI 1999) received a research grant to study at the U. of Cambridge, England, where she was able to renew her friendship with her co-panelist from the 2002 Raška Hilandar Conference, Anne-Laurence Caudano. Matilde also had the opportunity to meet Monica White (MSSI 2001) and to work with Simon Franklin, Cambridge professor of medieval Slavic history (see CMH 14, page 4).

The Next Generation!

Congratulations to Vessela Valiavitcharska-Marcum (MSSI 1999) and husband David on the birth of their daughter, Anna Elena Marcum – one week after Vessela defended her dissertation proposal Rhetoric and Poetry in Byzantine Homiletics. We’ll make sure to reserve a place for Anna Elena in MSSI 2028!
## Recent Bibliography

In volumes 3, 7, 11, 13 and 15 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 and/or enhanced by the primary and secondary publications issued since May 2004.

### THESES & DISSERTATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caudano, Anne-Laurence</td>
<td>'Let There Be Lights in the Firmament of Heaven': Cosmological Depictions in Early Rus (Tenth to Thirteenth Century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dykstra, Tom E.</td>
<td>“Josephism” Reconsidered: The Monks of the Iosifo-Volokolamsk Monastery, 1479-1607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parpulov, Georgi M.</td>
<td>Toward a History of Byzantine Psalters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pileva, Stefka</td>
<td>An Important Witness to Old Slavonic Monastic Miscellanies: Krka 4 (1346)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santos Marinhas, Enrique</td>
<td>Los mecanismos de adaptación de préstamos y formación de calcos nominales en la traducción de los evangelios en antiguo eslavó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Monica M.</td>
<td>Military Saints in Byzantium and Rus, 900-1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ARTICLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimitrova, Margaret</td>
<td>“Vütsürkovlenieto: Svidetelstva ot iuzhnoславянски рукописи.” Civitas Divino-Humana: In Honorem Annomur LX Georgii Bakalov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrychenko, Alexander</td>
<td>A Late Witness to the Early Text of the Old Slavic Acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikolov, Angel</td>
<td>“A Useful Tale about the Latin’s: An Old Bulgarian Translation of a Lost Byzantine Anti-Latin Text of the End of the 11th-Early 12th Century”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeyev, Aleksandr</td>
<td>“Rukopisnaia traditsiia ‘Dionisieva Margarita.’” Slavica Orthodoxa: Eizk i kultura: Shornik v chest na prof. dfn Rumiana Pavlova</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MONOGRAPHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bojović, Dragiša</td>
<td>Sveti Jefrem Sirin i srpska crkvena književnost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casas Olea, Matilde</td>
<td>Néstor Iskander Relato Sobre La Toma De Constanti-nopla: Estudio preliminario, traducción y notas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitrova, Margaret, and Adelina Angushcheva-Tikhanov</td>
<td>“Peta Khilendaraska konferentsiia po paleoslavistika, Rashka, 2001 [sic].” Balkanistikischen forum kn. 1-2-3: 184-197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitrova, Margaret</td>
<td>“Knizhnye vzaimo-otnosheniia mezhdu Sviatoi goroi i Tyr-novo v svete tekstovoi traditsii Triod-nogo sinaksaria.” Prevodite prez XIV stoletie na Balkanite: Dokladi ot mezhdunarodnata konferentsiia, Sofia, 26-28 iuni 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuiumdzhiyeva, Svetlana</td>
<td>“Remodeling the Oktoechos: Purpose and Meaning (Based on Materials from the 12th to the 15th Centuries)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temchin, Sergey Iur’evich</td>
<td>“Serbskii stolpnyj apraks Ravyli (ok. 1353 g.): pro-iskhozhdenie, osobennosti iazyka, struktura.” Slavistica Vilnensis 2003/Kalbotyra 52(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temchin, Sergey Iur’evich</td>
<td>“Tservkovoslavianskii Nedel’nyi oktoikh kak funktsional’na raznovidnost’ Obshechei minei.” Slavistica Vilnensis 2003/Kalbotyra 52(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taseva, Lora</td>
<td>Knizhnye vzaimo-otnosheniia mezhdu Sviatoi goroi i Tyr-novo v svete tekstovoi traditsii Triod-nogo sinaksaria.” Prevodite prez XIV stoletie na Balkanite: Dokladi ot mezhdunarodnata konferentsiia, Sofia, 26-28 iuni 2003</td>
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</tbody>
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