With great sorrow we announce the death of Professor Leon I. Twarog, whose battle with cancer ended on 24 October 2005. Considered one of the founders of the Hilandar Research Library (HRL), Dr. Twarog had a lengthy and distinguished career at The Ohio State University. He was the founder and longtime chair (1962-1972, 1978-1984) of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (DSEELL), and the founder and first director (1965-1987) of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

During his tenure, Dr. Twarog held several administrative positions in the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Humanities and within the Office of Academic Affairs. He served as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1963-1964), Associate Dean of Faculties for International Programs (1966-1970), and Acting Dean of the College of Humanities (1977-1978). He directed numerous programs and exchanges and was awarded over 30 grants involving the study and teaching of Slavic languages. Dr. Twarog served on several national and state committees and was the recipient of countless awards and honors.

Through his creative guidance, administrative skills, teaching, curriculum development, and scholarship, Dr. Twarog has left an indelible mark on The Ohio State University and the field of Slavic and East European studies in the United States. He will be greatly missed.

Leon Twarog was also the chair of the OSU Advisory Committee to the Hilandar Research Project (1970-1984). Under his leadership, this Project would become an established part of the university. His crucial role is summarized in documentation housed in the University Archives:

A letter from Hilandar Monastery arrived in late 1969 describing conditions there and asking for help in preserving its heritage. Dr. Twarog immediately recognized the potential benefit that microfilming the Slavic manuscripts in Hilandar Monastery presented. Holding several key positions in the OSU administration, he was able to quickly find necessary funding for the first exploratory trip. After viewing pictures and hearing a report from the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic, he immediately set about writing grant proposals and mustering University interest in the Project. It is a testimony to his skill that photographic expeditions were immediately mounted in 1970 and 1971. His planning, energy and devotion to the Hilandar Project insured a positive beginning and a lasting endowment. Dr. Twarog’s tireless efforts on behalf of the HRL/RCMSS in raising awareness of their resources led to the initial International Hilandar Conference (Columbus, 1981) and subsequent international conferences in Bulgaria (1986) and Yugoslavia (1989)...

He is truly a founder of what is now known as the Hilandar Research Library and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies.

Dr. Twarog often stated that he considered the “Hilandar Project” a tremendous success – unique in the world and a source of pride to the University.

© University Archives

† Leon I. Twarog, 1919-2005
It is with profound sadness that I report on the passing of Leon I. Twarog, professor emeritus of Slavic.

When Dr. Twarog arrived at The Ohio State University in 1961, there was nothing of a Slavic program on campus except for a few hundred books in the library. By the time he retired in 1987, he had established virtually everything having to do with Slavic and East European studies at our university, as well as several other important initiatives at OSU. The library collection he encouraged and supported, often using his personal funds, now has over one million volumes of Slavic and East European material.

I believe he was especially fond of the HRL and RCMSS. Certainly, without his strong advocacy and brilliant administrative capabilities, they could never have come to exist. To the very end he continued to supply his encouragement, advice, and ideas. Dr. Twarog will be greatly missed and his past achievements and generosity remembered with great respect. May his memory be eternal.

Also making generous gestures, Mrs. Biljana Djelevich has donated her extensive personal library to Ohio State. While an appropriate portion of her collection will become part of the reference sources in the HRL, the majority of this material will form the “Biljana and Jakša Djelevich Serbian Library,” which will constitute a reference collection associated with the OSU Main Library Slavic and East European Reading Room. Also of great interest is the donation of the private archive of her husband, Jakša Djelevich. Mr. Djelevich served as First Adjutant to General Draško Mihailović, leader of the Royalist Chetnik Movement that fought the Axis occupation and actions in Yugoslavia during WWII. This invaluable archive will be a new important historical resource, made accessible through Mrs. Djelevich’s generosity.

We are also very grateful to Mr. Alex Rabinovich of New York who has generously donated an original Slavic manuscript to the HRL.

The next MSSI will be held in the summer of 2006. While there is still some uncertainty as to the exact time of our impending move to temporary quarters for the duration of the Library Renovation, all agree that it is important to hold the next MSSI without further delay.

Recently, RCMSS supported a small conference in honor of Virginia Brown, Senior Fellow of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (University of Toronto). Dr. Brown is the world’s leading paleographer and expert on the Benevian manuscript, and a colleague and friend to RCMSS of long standing.

RCMSS and especially the OSU Slavic Center also sponsored the first conference of the recently-formed Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (ASEC). We were delighted to see many former researchers as well as former participants in the MSSI take part in this inaugural conference, which we hope will be the first of many.

The delegation of Spanish medieval Slavicists to the ASEC conference was led by Professor Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa (University of Madrid), who also gave a presentation. It is essentially due to his support and encouragement that Spanish colleagues have been able to attend and enhance the three previous MSSI. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss other cooperative efforts between RCMSS and medieval Slavic scholarship in Spain.

I am delighted to announce that the Very Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic was recently honored by the Ministry of the Diaspora (Serbia and Montenegro) for his cultural contributions, and especially his poetry and prose. In a ceremony at the Union of Serbian Writers in Belgrade, he received the Arsenije Carnejević Award.* We took this occasion to send to Miroljub Joković and Milojko Milićević camera-ready copy of the first volume of the Selected Proceedings of the 5th International Hilandar Conference, which is expected to be published early next year.

Also expected shortly is an updated DVD version of our slide-tape presentation of the history of the HRL/RCMSS. We have revised the text and included other images and music with the patient assistance of Paul Kotheimer and Scott Sprague of OSU Humanities Information Systems. Eventually, the DVD will be available in over 20 languages thanks to the cooperation of numerous native speakers.

We congratulate Bojan Belić (MSSI 1999) and Tania Ivanova-Sullivan (Graduate Research Associate, 2000-2001), each of whom defended their dissertations and received a PhD in Slavic Linguistics.

There is also more sad news. Just as we were readying this issue of CMHM, we received word that Dr. Slobodan Mileusnić, Curator of the Serbian Orthodox Church Museum in Belgrade, had passed away. A scholar of note, he had attended the fourth and fifth international Hilandar conferences, and spent time as a researcher in the HRL. May his memory be eternal.

*Arsenije Carnejević, Patriarch of Serbia, is probably best known for leading tens of thousands of Serbs to Hungary in 1690. This Diaspora was to have a lasting impact on both Serbian and Hungarian history. In 1984 at the Serbian Orthodox Church Ecclesiastical and Art Museum in Szentendre, Hungary, we were able to microfilm many Serbian manuscripts, a legacy of this and other Serbian migrations to Hungary during the Ottoman period.
The Hilandar Research Library, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University will host a four-week intensive Summer Institute for qualified graduate students in Columbus, Ohio, 25 June – 22 July 2006. The Medieval Slavic Summer Institute (MSSI) will offer: Practical Slavic Paleography (Slavic 870) and Readings in Church Slavonic (Slavic 812). All lectures will be in English.

Manuscript material on microform from the Hilandar Research Library’s extensive holdings forms a large part of the lectures and exercises. Participants will also have the opportunity to work with original manuscripts and to conduct their own individualized research in the library. Also planned is a program of lectures on related topics and other activities.

Applicants must be graduate students with a BA degree and with a reading knowledge of Cyrillic and of at least one Slavic language. Preference will be given to applicants with a reading knowledge of Old Church Slavonic or some other pre-modern Slavic language.

The Hilandar Research Library, the largest repository of medieval Slavic Cyrillic texts on microform in the world, includes holdings from over 100 monastic, private, museum, and library collections of twenty-one countries. There are over 5,000 Cyrillic manuscripts on microform in the HRL (more than a million pages), as well as over 700 early printed Cyrillic books from prior to 1800 on microform (more than half a million pages). The holdings range from the eleventh to twentieth centuries, with a particularly strong collection of manuscripts from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. About half of the manuscripts are East Slavic, with much of the remainder South Slavic in provenience.

For further information about the HRL/RCMSS, visit our website at <http://cmrs.osu.edu/rcmss>, where there are also located back issues of the HRL/RCMSS newsletter, Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage, with accounts of MSSI 1999 (issue 6), MSSI 2001 (issue 10), and MSSI 2003 (issue 14). The OSU Slavic Department website address is <http://slavic.osu.edu/>.

For further information on eligibility, credit, housing, financial aid, and to obtain an application to the MSSI, please contact the HRL/RCMSS:

Hilandar Research Library
Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies
227 OSU Main Library
1858 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1286
Telephone: (614) 292-0634
FAX: (614) 292-7859
Email: <hilandar@osu.edu>

Deadline for receipt of application: 1 March 2006
Scholarly Quest Inspires Allegorical Tale

By Susana Torres Prieto-Hay

Editor’s Note 1: Shortly after receiving her degree of Doctor Europeus from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid on a topic of heroic journeys in Russian byliny or “folk epics,” Dr. Torres received a two-month Research Stipend at the HRL to investigate written heroic literature in Slavonic and its political dimensions. When asked to write of her experience at the RCMSS/HRL, Susana produced a modern byline with herself as the protagonist, who leaves her home and her springer spaniel “Kitty,” and with the RCMSS staff – Helene, Predrag, Pasha, and Nataša – as mythical archetypes, guiding her on her voyage of discovery in an unknown land.

One day, they told her she was ready. She had passed all the challenges and was told it was time to start her Quest. To her question of “How am I going to do it?” – their only answer was that she had been sufficiently trained and that the time was propitious for her to begin her journey.

Low-spirited for having to leave her black and white steed, her loyal stallion, she departed to the Far Away land, to the Realm of Wisdom where her Quest was to start. The Far Away land was famous – feared by some, admired by others; she didn’t know what to expect. The trip was long and tiring and more than once she felt the urge to turn back. When she finally arrived in that remote land, the first signs were favourable. A much-needed Sorceress, bearing the name of a legendary queen, was awaiting her. Everything had been prepared for her arrival and she could enjoy a well-deserved rest. She had to be ready for the following day, when she would enter the Realm of Wisdom where her Quest was to be pursued.

She had long heard of the wonders that awaited her at the end of her trip, of the legendary Lord of the Realm, who had helped others before her on their quests, and from whom she could expect clemency. She felt badly equipped and ignorant of the secrets of the Realm. She was aware of the dangers of the Quest. She knew she might fail, others had before her, others had simply given up. Soon, however, her fears were to vanish. As she entered the Realm of Wisdom she was in awe. Justifiably, those preceding her had told her much about the wonders marvels she could expect. Hundreds of books lay everywhere, all of them to guide her on her Quest.

However, where to start? She tried to remember everything she had learnt before, all the ideas that her masters had patiently tried to put into her head for years. Out of the blue, a helpful lady offered her services, the Guardian of Knowledge asked: “What do you need?” She heard herself saying: “I don’t know.” Probably the wrong reply. Would she be expelled from the Realm of Wisdom? The Guardian was patient: “Tell me what you want to know and I will show you what we have.”

“I have come to learn more about the deeds of the Great Alexander of Macedon, the great warrior and king.” Before she could stop, she found herself babbling about the deeds of other heroes, of the mighty Ilya Muromets and the wise Dobrinya Nikitich, of brave St. George and the accursed dragon, of magicians and volkhvy (‘soothsayers’). The Guardian listened. Before she could finish, piles of books were lying in front of her, microfilms from Bulgaria, from Serbia, from Russia were produced as if by magic: “This should get you started.” Her mind swirled, she didn’t completely understand the words of the Guardian. She feared interrupting the Guardian and asking ridiculous-sounding questions. “Ask as many questions as you want,” the Guardian said. Right, she had to concentrate; she had not made this long trip to return empty-handed, she had to finish her Quest.

The first day was passing by and she had not seen yet the Lord of the Realm. Finally he arrived, a magnanimous Lord matching all the descriptions of him she had heard back home, and who immediately offered her the worthy help and guidance that she so badly needed. He reminded her of some of her previous masters; she knew she could trust him.

The first days passed by, the Sorceress and the Guardian taking care of her, the Lord teaching her the secrets of the Realm of Wisdom, and beyond. Just when she thought her Quest could not get much better than this, a young Maiden came to her aid. The Maiden had arrived years before from a land famous for its music and its rhapsodes. She remembered having read about them in many books, and, sure enough, the Maiden was a musician as well. Hamming to herself, the Maiden was always busy attending to the needs of the Realm. The Maiden tried to teach her the language of her land, and the music. The Maiden guided her in her daily life, when she had to abandon the Realm of Wisdom every evening at dusk.

She had heard the legend that the Guardian of Knowledge never left the Realm of Wisdom, that she lived there, but that was obviously pure fantasy, like that dim-witted story of Excalibur she had read when she was a child. Well, she knew now, for the Guardian would sometimes walk her to the house the Sorceress had arranged for her.

People really like to make up stories!!

Editor’s Note 2: Dr. Torres is also interested in the tradition of the Alexander romance, and is now working on an edition of an 18th-century Hilandar manuscript of the Alexandriada. While in Columbus, she researched paganism of Kievan Rus’, specifically the volkhvy, and the translations of St. John Chrysostom into Slavonic.
Spain’s Slavic Program Develops Strong Ties to RCMSS/HRL

By Juan Antonio Álvarez-Pedrosa
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

I became involved with Slavonic Philology in 1999 after I was appointed Reader in Indo-European Linguistics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The Professor of Indo-European Linguistics, Julia Mendoza had – for many years – the complex responsibility of coordinating graduate studies of Slavonic Philology, which at that time was still a novelty at the Spanish university [Editor’s note: During the rule of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Slavic Studies were not encouraged]. Thus, we both taught Indo-European Linguistics specifically for Slavonic Philology students. This is why, a few years later, I was entrusted with teaching Old Church Slavonic. These were particularly brilliant classes of students, as it was later shown, although I might have acted myself with the natural enthusiasm of a beginner.

My ability to teach Old Church Slavonic rested mainly upon two pillars: my own academic background as a specialist in Indo-European studies on the one hand and, in Hellenic studies, on the other hand. However, I soon discovered that the canon of Old Slavonic and Medieval Slavic Literature offered wider possibilities of research. At the same time, while I was looking on the Internet for additional resources to offer my students in order to compensate for the terrible deficiency of bibliographical material regarding Palaeoslavic studies in Spanish libraries, I found by chance the webpage of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies and the Hilandar Research Library and I added it to my “favourites.”

In 1998, a student from the University of Granada contacted me to supervise her doctoral dissertation. Initially, Matilde Casas Olea started work on a strictly linguistic topic, the development of pure nominal sentences from Indo-European to East Slavonic, which became her postgraduate paper. However, coincidently, two events occurred that would change everything: first, I encouraged her to apply for a stipend to participate in the Medieval Slavic Summer Institute (MSSI) at the HRL/RCMSS, and second, a copy came into my hands of an Old Slavonic manuscript belonging to the University of Granada. Both facts changed the scope and path of Matilde’s re-search; in the end, her dissertation consisted of a diplomatic edition of the Codex Slavicus Granatensis.

Matilde’s experience at the MSSI 1999 was so good that I did not hesitate to encourage Enrique Santos Marinas and Inés Cotarelo, two excellent students of Slavonic Philology of my second course of Old Church Slavonic, to apply for the same stipend. Thanks to MSSI 2001 and his subsequent four-month research stay at the HRL, Enrique Santos Marinas made extraordinary progress in his dissertation, which focused on borrowings and calques in the translation of the Gospels into canonical Old Church Slavonic.

In the MSSI of 2003, two more students, Inés García de la Puente and Enrique Gutiérrez Rubio, attended courses at the HRL. Inés is about to defend her dissertation on the Indo-European inheritance of the Povest’ vremennykh let (‘The Tale of Bygone Years’). Enrique Gutiérrez Rubio will soon do the same with a dissertation consisting of a diachronic survey of the grammatical dative case in Czech.

Recently, Susana Torres Prieto-Hay, whose dissertation on Russian byliny was supervised by Julia Mendoza, has enjoyed a brief research stay at the HRL; Inés García de la Puente returned for a second visit. In each of the cases, the stays of our students in Columbus has meant two things: 1. Unlimited access to specialised bibliography impossible to obtain in Spain, and 2. unlimited access to the specialised knowledge (i.e., the “human” resources of the HRL/RCMSS) of the best way to carry out research studies in Medieval Slavonic. Therefore, none of the dissertations that have been defended (Matilde’s, Enrique’s, and soon Inés’) could have been carried out at all without their research at the HRL. And therefore, I am immensely grateful for the generosity of both the HRL and the people associated with it: Predrag, Dan, Pasha, Helene – thank you!
HRL NEWS NOTES:

In August 2005 Tania Ivanova-Sullivan successfully defended her dissertation on Lexical Variation in the Slavonic Thekara Texts: Semantic and Pragmatic Factors In Medieval Translation Praxis. Her study was based largely on Slavic manuscripts available on microfilm from the Hilandar Monastery collection at the HRL.

Inés worked closely with the RCMSS/HRL staff to maximize her time here. She was able to examine books that are not available in her country. During this visit, Inés met several times with Ljiljana Djurasković, a former colleague of the MSSI 2003. Both she and Ljiljana, under the guidance of Predrag Matejic, returned to the study of one of the HRL manuscripts assigned to them during the Institute. Inés is now back in Madrid preparing for the defense of her PhD and planning future academic challenges.

Inés García de la Puente, Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain, presented a paper entitled “The Indo-European Heritage in the PVL (Povest’ vremennykh let/Tale of Bygone Years)” at the ASEC Conference held in Columbus, Ohio, 21-22 October. She also took advantage of the opportunity to schedule a two-week research visit to RCMSS and the HRL before the ASEC conference. Inés had submitted her PhD a few weeks before arriving in Columbus, thus allowing her to peruse the collections without any deadline pressures or without the need to focus on an immediate goal. She stated that this type of pressure-free research was very new to her and she found it to be a rewarding experience.

Tsvetelin Stepanov, of St. Kliment Ohridski University in Sofia, Bulgaria, conducted research in the HRL from 17 April – 30 May 2005. The purpose of his visit was to research various manuscripts of the Balkan Peninsula and Russian lands that date to the 11th–15th centuries, in which are described apocalyptic visions about the end of the world among the Bulgarians. He analyzed the texts to determine how the ideology regarding the fate of a “Chosen People” may have shaped the behavior and mentality of some of the unknown scribes in the Bulgarian lands between the 11th and 13th centuries. Dr. Stepanov also looked for connections between St. Michael the Archangel and the influence of this saint in the Balkans during the 9th–14th centuries. He was particularly interested in the custom of naming the rulers in the region “Michael” and compared this practice to a similar custom in Western Europe.

22 August 2005, Bojan Belić successfully defended his dissertation entitled Complement Verb Variation in Present-Day Serbian, under the mentorship of Professor Brian Joseph (OSU Linguistics and the Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics). In his dissertation, Dr. Belić proposed a formal account of a well documented phenomenon of variation of infinitival and da+present complements in Serbian. He is currently employed as a lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Emilija (Amelia) Tulevski visited the Ohio State University in mid-October to gather research materials needed for the completion of her forthcoming manuscripts. She is currently writing on topics in mainstream secular psychology as viewed from an Eastern Orthodox perspective. Corresponding initially with the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic, she contacted the Resource Center and spent two days in the HRL working toward her newest publications, while also gaining valuable exposure to the authentic, early Christian roots of her Serbian and Macedonian heritage. Ms. Tulevski has completed her master’s degree and some doctoral coursework in the social sciences, and will be completing her PhD in the near future. She is active in the Serbian Orthodox community in her Cleveland, Ohio home, as well as her former and future home in Los Angeles and Orange County, California.
Mr. Alex Rabinovich, rare book dealer of New York, has generously donated a late 17th-century Slavic manuscript representing a Chronograph to the HRL. This particular Chronograph, a historical manuscript, contains 22 brief entries regarding different noble families among the East Slavs. The manuscript, which is copied in a typical cursive script, will be useful in a number of ways, and, in particular, for teaching paleography. Cursive is the script used for a large number of Eastern Slavic manuscripts and documents of the 16th to 18th centuries. We are extremely fortunate to be able to add this manuscript to a small, but growing, number of original Slavic manuscripts in our HRL collection.

Djelevich “Serbian Library” Donated to OSU Libraries

Mrs. Biljana Djelevich of Indiana has generously donated her personal library of approximately 5,000 items to the OSU Libraries. This library, which concerns Serbian culture in particular, will form a distinct part of the Slavic and East European Reading Room collection, a large reference collection housed in the Main Library of The Ohio State University.

Another portion of this library contains texts typically used in Serbian Orthodox liturgical practice. These books will be located as part of the Hilandar Research Library’s reference collection.

Interest in South Slavic culture has grown considerably at our university. The gift of the “Biljana and Jakša Djelevich Serbian Library” will help educate current and future students at Ohio State. The transfer of the library took place in early December 2005.
Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture Takes Flight

By Jennifer Spock

A strong scholarly venue devoted to the exchange of information and ideas relating to the breadth of Eastern Christian culture can be difficult to find. Yet, at the first biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, Inc. (ASEC) a lively, wide-ranging, and impressive group of eight panels allowed scholars to interact on topics as diverse as Indo-European influences in East Slavic religious transmission, and on conversion in a Pittsburgh parish. ASEC’s first conference, held 21-22 October, was born with generous help from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies based at The Ohio State University along with the university’s Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, the Hilandar Research Library, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, and the Department of History at Eastern Kentucky University. Many individuals worked to help ASEC discard the remainder of its egg shell and become a full-fledged scholarly organization, formally incorporated, and a proud convener of an outstanding conference.

ASEC was fortunate to have Warren Treadgold as its first keynote speaker. Professor Treadgold gave a public talk, “The Formation of a Byzantine Identity,” which pulled together threads from Byzantine history to show its connection with many cultures and its influence on the spread of Eastern Christian groups. Although the conference this year happened to have an emphasis on Russian history, ASEC exists to provide scholars working in all periods, fields, and regions of Eastern Christian history and culture with a venue at which to share research, resources, and ideas. This inaugural ASEC conference had an excellent panel of Spanish scholars working on the culture of ancient Eastern Slavs and a panel that explored Russian Orthodox relations with Greece, Old Believers, and Catholic groups from the 18th–20th centuries. A third panel explored Orthodox Christianity in the 20th century, while another looked at textual problems in early Rus’. The other four panels dealt with women’s cloisters in the imperial centuries, the spiritual influence of Bulgakov and Soloviev, issues of practice in early modern Russia, and transformations of practice.

ASEC hopes that the next conference will begin to attract scholars of not only the Slavic world, but of other regions where forms of Eastern Christianity developed. Scholars of Byzantium, East Slavic, South Slavic, Caucasian, and other Eastern Christian regions know that their subjects of study have ties each to the other, but rarely do we have an opportunity to engage in discussion unless we join half a dozen or more organizations and attend far-flung conferences. We have much to learn from one another, and much that we can bring to the way that the history of religion and religious studies are taught in the United States today.

A list of the distinguished panelists may be seen at the ASEC website (see below) and it is indeed an impressive list. The energy of the conference was positive, and most participants attended most of the panels, which resulted in two intense, but rewarding days of discovery and discussion. Disparate panels and paper proposals were accepted from the US, Canada, and Europe, yet the conference somehow acquired the cohesive atmosphere of a focused workshop. We hope that we have created a new tradition of high-quality, collegial gatherings where useful and invigorating scholarship will expand the research, exposure, and cooperation of scholars working in Eastern Christian history and culture.

Editor’s Note: Jennifer Spock is an Associate Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, Kentucky). She serves as Treasurer of ASEC, Inc. For further information please visit: <http://hudce7.harvard.edu/~ostrowski/asec/>
HRL Assistant Curator and Family Forced to Flee Hurricane Katrina

By M.A. Johnson

It’s not often that I am in New Orleans in August any more—it’s the hottest time of the year there and spending Christmas holidays with my family typically serves as my annual vacation. However, the Society of American Archivists was having its annual conference there August 17-21 and I had suggested to Amy McCrory (Cartoon Research Library) that she stay with me and my parents while she attended the conference. After the departure of the last of HRL’s long-term researchers in a three-year stretch of constant visitors, home seemed like a good place for a much needed break. Amy and I strolled through the French Quarter, ate Creole and Cajun cuisine, and rode the streetcar. I described to Amy my New Orleans: a city of discrete neighborhoods where that 30-minute streetcar ride Downtown from my parents’ University area house is considered a major expedition. In light of the events that followed, I will be forever grateful for that last tour of my home as I knew it.

The following week, Hurricane Katrina was tracked heading directly towards the Gulf Coast. Hurricane season is just a part of life in this area. Several warnings are issued each year: we dutifully fill the bathtub with water and perhaps tape some of the windows, check our supply of flashlights and batteries—and then wait. There had not been a direct hit to the city since Hurricane Betsy in 1964.

At first, we were fairly certain nothing would happen, but when Katrina was upgraded to a Category 3 storm, my sister Bee got on the phone and located a moderately priced hotel where we could all ride out the storm. The closest hotel with available rooms was in Hope, Arkansas—445 miles (716 km) away! Bee, her husband Nige, and young son Charlie came the next morning, Sunday, to collect me, my parents and their dog Vern. We left at 8 a.m. with a minimum amount of luggage in plastic bags, expecting to return in a day or two. The normally seven-hour drive to Hope took twelve hours. We spent the next day sightseeing, trying to turn this forced evacuation into an adventure for a five-year-old boy. Tuesday, we watched in horror with the rest of the world as the levees were breached and the nightmare began for our fellow New Orleanians, abandoned and alone without food, water, shelter, and any means of communication. It took several days for it to sink in that we would not be able to return home, and several more days for me to remember that, unlike the other evacuees, I still had a job and a place to live.

Eventually, my family decided to relocate to Ohio until it was safe for them to return to New Orleans. At this point, we had no idea of whether there was anything left to return to. I made several phone calls to my library co-workers to ask for their help in this relocation process. My first call was, of course, to Helene Senecal, whose job it is to locate housing and look after the HRL researchers. Fellow New Orleanian Linda Talmadge and her husband Bob Kalal offered to house all six of us until more permanent “temporary” housing could be found. Karen Diaz, also of New Orleans, and her husband Jose Diaz took the lead in coordinating the outpouring of donations. I would like to express my special thanks to all the university and library personnel who called and offered their homes, bedding, household items, toys, and assistance.

After several stops along our cross-country journey, we finally reached Columbus on September 10th. The following day, Helene escorted the folks to four different rental properties and they were able to settle on one that same night. They moved in a week later. The house on Beaumont Road is comfortable, dry, and was completely furnished in less than a week. Their new landlord agreed to a special, short-term lease to accommodate my family’s situation; several library co-workers enlisted the help of their church and political groups to gather the required items to quickly turn a house into a “home.” The local American Red Cross was an efficient helping hand during the first confusing days. Franklin County Family Services did an amazing job of providing information and much-needed assistance. Charlie started kindergarten (again) at Indian Springs Elementary where Amy McCrory and her husband Vince have their children, Demetri and Louise, enrolled. Amy, Linda and Karen are all close neighbors.

My family and I have been amazed and gratified at the concern and support shown us. The HRL received many, many calls from university personnel asking what they could do … what else did my family need. Offers of assistance also continued on page 11
In Memoriam: A Tribute To
Leon I. Twarog

Leon Twarog is responsible for virtually all aspects of a thriving Slavic and East European studies program at The Ohio State University. He helped establish, locate funding, and place on a path of success, every major academic unit involving Slavic studies at this university. He also profoundly affected the people who now share the responsibility for the continuing relevance and success of these programs. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude and honor. Recently, colleagues and associates of Dr. Twarog took a few moments to remember fondly the man who was a mentor to many.

Predrag Matejic, RCMSS Director and Curator of the HRL: As someone who is directly involved with all the major academic units representing Slavic and East European studies that Dr. Twarog established at OSU, I cannot but feel awe at the man’s vision and energy. Every day, the very tangible results of his commitment to education and scholarship are seen in the people, the programs, and even the books that he brought to this campus. Yet, his vision stretched further, far beyond the bounds of this campus, and he made dramatic progress in furthering long-distance learning, well before that concept became accepted and popularized. Even when he became emeritus, he never stopped working, never stopped thinking about what more could be done, never stopped doing what he could to help.

He was also a great teacher. I learned to be a better administrator (though not as good) from him. I understood how passion to one’s commitments, when coupled with a willingness to think creatively, could bring about desired results. I learned the importance of finding dedicated co-workers, and the benefits of listening to them.

Dr. Twarog had the habit of visiting the HRL from time to time. He wished to hear about our activities and progress, often adding his careful suggestions for possible improvement. He was elated and proud of the successes, and shared our frustration at any temporary setbacks. He cared. Ultimately, maybe that is what I will remember best about him: he cared, and because he did, he made a difference.

The V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic, Professor Emeritus, Slavic Department, and first Director of RCMSS: Dr. Leon Twarog must be thanked for founding and developing the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, his invaluable contribution to the Center of Slavic Studies, the enrichment of the library section related to Slavic studies, and especially his contribution to the foundation, maintenance, and development of the HRL and RCMSS. As a true visionary, he knew what would put The Ohio State University on the world map.

William J. Studer, former Director of University Libraries: Leon Twarog was one of the first faculty members to introduce himself to me after I assumed the Director of Libraries’ position on 1 February 1977; and I clearly recall that it was more than a courtesy visit because he used the occasion to underscore how important library collections and services were to the quality of the Slavic and East European studies program and how much in need of better support the library component was. I then saw Leon quite regularly as he, in his inimitable way, argued with all of his formidable powers of persuasion to seek my alliance—especially as a collaborator in establishing the Hilandar Research Library as an integrated special collection within University Libraries.

Leon Twarog was a man of dedication and persistence, possessed of a quintessential missionary zeal for his causes. He epitomized how much one man with his conviction and qualities could accomplish. I will remember him always with great respect and admiration—as the founding influence behind the Slavic and East European studies program, as founder of its supporting library collections through buying trips, as the force behind the creation of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, as a dogged fundraiser, and as the essential, persevering force in bringing the Hilandar Research Library to fruition (certainly now one of our crown jewels).

Leon was a true visionary and a superb academic lobbyist. I think we shall not see his like again.

Irene I. Delic, Professor of Russian Literature and former director of the OSU Slavic Center: I owe a great personal debt of gratitude to Professor Leon Twarog. It was after a conversation with him, in connection with interviews at Ohio State’s Slavic and East European Department that I understood that this department was going to be the spiritual home of my choice, which it now has been for eighteen years. Thank you, Leon!
Tribute, continued from page 10

Every Slavist and East Europeanist at and from The Ohio State University knows the incredible but true stories of Leon’s history of innumerable foundations—of the Department, the Center, the Library (virtually), TAMBSPI (Teacher-Assisted, Mastery-Based, Self-Paced Instruction)—but it was not until 2001, when I was the co-editor (together with Professor Mateja Matejic) of A Festschrift for Leon Twarog (Working Papers in Slavic Studies, vol. 1) that I realized the full scope and impact of Leon’s activities. He certainly never created any “personality cult” around him, so knowing the entire range of his activities could only be the result of such circumstances as the Interview conducted by Charlotte Remenyik. He never advertised himself—just went on with the next task in a long series of brave, imaginative, admirable and invariably successful under-takings.

It is as an indefatigable mover and shaker, as a generous colleague, mentor and host (at Kitty’s lovely parties), and as an unsurpassable role model that Leon will stay with me in my memories of him. He truly always forgot himself—he had too much to do to remember putting himself forward. It was causes he was interested in, not himself.

Undoubtedly Leon Twarog belongs to the great and legendary figures not only of Ohio State’s Slavistics and East European studies, but also of the nation’s Slavic departments and centers. I feel privileged to have known him, to have had the opportunity to observe him in public action and private domesticity, to learn from him in innumerable ways. Thank you again, Leon.

David Robinson, Professor Emeritus, Slavic Department: Leon had a vision for Slavic and East European studies at Ohio State, and he stuck to it. His powers of persuasion, whether gentle or forceful, moved mountains. Many of us in the field would not be here without his efforts.

Leon Ignace Twarog, is survived by his wife, Katherine “Kitty” Foster Jorgensen Twarog; children, Stanley (Susan), Rebekah (Allen), Jill (Dan), Wendy, William, Sophia (Alberto); grandchildren, Skye, Pamela, Julia, Susanna, Anya, Stephanie, Stanley, Elliot, Kevin, Christina, Chase, Giovanni; three brothers and three sisters and their families in New England. Preceded in death by Jaimie. A Memorial Service will be scheduled for May of 2006.

Contributions in support of the OSU Slavic Department may be made to The Ohio State University for the Leon I. Twarog Memorial Fund, c/o Margo Wolanin, Director of Development, College of Humanities The Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Ave., Suite 020, Columbus, Oh 43201, (614) 292-3487.

Contributions To The Hilandar Endowment Fund

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New Carlisle, Indiana

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In Memory of Leon I. Twarog

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Catherine E. Vrugitz
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Powell, Ohio
In Honor of the V. Rev. Mateja Matejic and
In Memory of Jerry Vrugitz

Katrina, continued from page 9 came from HRL/RCMSS friends and colleagues in Bulgaria, England, Serbia and Monte-negro. I was overworn when I received a card from Bulgaria signed by Svetlina Nikolova and all of the participants of the Cyrillo-Methodian Research Center’s 2005 conference. Predrag and I had planned to attend, but cancelled because of Katrina.

Fortunately, my parents’ home was in the 20% of New Orleans that did not flood and it suffered minimal damage. Bee, Nige and Charlie lost everything when four feet of water flooded their one-story Creole cottage. They will all return to New Orleans on December 16th to live together in my parent’s house. My sister in New York and I will fly down to spend Christmas there with them and my two brothers and sister-in-law, who have remained in the New Orleans area since Katrina. Bee and Nige still have their jobs, and in January Charlie will return to his school where he had had only a week of kindergarten before we had to evacuate.

When people ask about evacuating, I tell them that the most important thing to take with them is their address book with current phone numbers and email addresses so that they can track down their family and friends, who will wind up dispersed throughout the country. My family’s address book now holds a number of names from their “Columbus” neighborhood, which comprises not only the Beaumont Road area, but also the HRL and RCMSS, the Main Library and the university. The streetcar may not reach this far north, but it will be an easy and, no doubt, frequent trip back here for my family from New Orleans.
Arsenije Carnojević Award presented to the Very Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic by the Ministry of the Diaspora (Serbia and Montenegro) -see page 2 for details-