



Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage

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The Ohio State
University

THE HILANDAR RESEARCH LIBRARY
THE RESOURCE CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL SLAVIC STUDIES

Columbus
Ohio

Historic Visit of Archimandrite Metodije – Father Abbot of Hilandar Monastery

On 27 December 2010, Archimandrite **Metodije**, Father Abbot of Hilandar Monastery on the Holy Mount, Greece, made a visit to the Hilandar Research Library, that “idea and seed” fostered by the monastery that, in truth, found fruitful soil here at The Ohio State University. Remarkably, the Abbot’s visit came almost forty-one years to the day that my father, the V. Rev. Dr. **Mateja Matejic**, first set out for Mount Athos and Hilandar Monastery.

manuscripts, and through this work, the potential for preservation and the creation of wider access to their cultural heritage. Ultimately, the elders’ letter and invitation led to the establishment of both the Hilandar Research Library and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies at OSU. This could not have been accomplished without my father’s efforts, as well as the vision and support of **Leon I. Twarog** and **William J. Studer**, among others at Ohio State. It also needed the commitment of many Serbian-American and other donors, as well as the continuing support of the University.

Abbot Metodije was accompanied by Heirodeacon **Arsenije**, also of Hilandar Monastery and Mr. **Milivoj Randjić**, CEO of the “Foundation of The Holy Monastery Hilandar” in Belgrade, Serbia. They were driven to Columbus through the kindness of V. Rev. **Milorad Lončar**, the Diocesan Secretary of the “Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gračanica and Midwestern America.”

This was the first trip to the United States by an Abbot of Hilandar Monastery. Of necessity, the trip was brief, and the itinerary was limited. We were, thus, especially honored that he wished to visit us.

Among the Abbot’s other purposes while in America was, first of all, bringing from the Holy Mount a commissioned new original icon, a copy of Hilandar Monastery’s most famous icon – the *Tricherousa*

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Distinguished guests Father Abbot, Fr. Lončar and Mr. Randjić view HRL materials

Photo by Helene Senecal



Abbot Metodije, Father Matejic and Predrag Matejic view HRL exhibit

My father began his journey to the Holy Mount at the end of 1969. This came in response to a letter and invitation from the administrators/elders (*epítropes*) of the monastery and its pro-abbot, Fr. Nikanor. Now, decades later, he was welcoming the Abbot to Ohio State. It is at our University that the hopes of the monastery elders expressed in their letter were realized: microfilming of Hilandar Slavic

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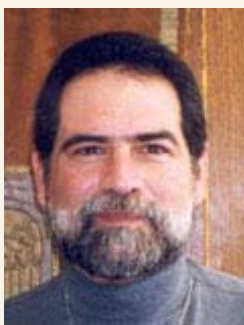
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Photo by Helene Senecal

Director's Desk

Dr. Predrag Matejic

The phone call from my father in late December and the news he related came as a shock. Metodije, Abbot of Hilandar



Monastery was visiting this country and wished to see the "Hilandar Room" in Columbus. My father had just been called by the V. Rev. Milorad Lončar, who was to drive them here.

As wonderful as this news was, this meant that the

visit would come at a time when there were so very few people on campus. And, although we did not yet know this, it would be on the day that a malfunctioning camera sensor would make the recording of this historic event challenging.

Our guests arrived from Cleveland, where they had been present and participated in the Sunday liturgy at the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava, the parish of Fr. **Živojin Jakovljević** (who, coincidentally, had just recently defended his dissertation on Hilandar Slavic manuscript 280 at OSU). From there, they would visit us before again turning west.

This visit would be an undreamt of opportunity to show the Abbot and other guests how we at Ohio State preserve and make accessible to students and scholars the monastery's 800-year-old manuscript and related cultural heritage. We could show and explain how this heritage is an integral part, the origin and "heart" of what has become our collection of thousands of Slavic Cyrillic (and other) manuscripts on microform.

We were able to show them how the microfilms are now kept in "cold storage," as well as the highly secure stacks, where our 10,000 reference volumes are located. They saw our offices, and the wonderful, spacious Reading Room with its "Hilandar" corner of ready-reference materials. They also saw the special rooms for microforms, other audio-visual materials, seminars and teaching, all of which were located within that secure Reading Room.

This was not what they had expected to see. The isolated, self-contained, cozy but crowded and tucked-away-in-a-corner Hilandar Research Library that previous researchers and visitors to the HRL may have described to them was not there to be seen.

But, they came to understand that the obvious *presence* of this Hilandar Research Library was enhanced and improved. This HRL and the culture and scholarship it preserves and makes accessible was more visible, more secure. Now, in the renovated Thompson Library, this "Hilandar Room" was better positioned within the OSU Libraries and the University, better prepared to continue and promote its mission and address the scholarly needs of the future.

We spent several hours with our visitors, showing them more of Thompson Library and answering their various questions. Their visit of only a few hours concluded with a brief visit to St. Stevan of Dečani Serbian Orthodox Church in Columbus, where a lenten luncheon was organized by its priest, Fr. **Isak Kisin**.

The HRL often benefits from donations of books and even partial libraries by scholars, collectors, and supporters. In this issue, we acknowledge the generous donation of **Ann Salimbene** from the library of her late husband, **Michael W. Curran**, former Professor of History and Dean at OSU.

The list of gift-in-kind donors in this newsletter includes several scholars who used our resources in their research and who, in turn, donated the publications resulting from this research. It is uplifting to see that the "seed" that led to the HRL continues to flourish and the many ways in which these materials contribute to scholarship. During this visit, we showed Abbot Metodije and Hierodeacon Arsenije many offprints of articles we had received from scholars who utilized Hilandar manuscripts on microfilm in their research. We were preparing to send these offprints to Hilandar Monastery, in accordance with the original agreements and understandings between Hilandar Monastery and The Ohio State University.

Several readers complimented the "Ivan the Terrible" article in our last issue. I should note that the dates for the St. Lazar fresco in the Archangel Cathedral are corrected to 1564/1565 in the *online* version. Also, for more on Anastasia's embroidered curtain, **Isolde Thyret** (Kent State University) has published a recent study of the Hilandar *katapetasma* with her analysis of its role in Russian-Serbian relations under Ivan: "The Katapetasma of 1555 and the Image of the Orthodox Ruler in the Early Reign of Ivan IV," in *The New Muscovite Cultural History. A Collection in Honor of Daniel B. Rowland*, ed. Valerie Kivelson, (Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 2009), 43-62.

In conclusion, we had cause to once more remember the foresight of the elders of Hilandar Monastery: the fire this year on April 5/6 at St. Pantelimon Monastery on Mount Athos was, fortunately, relatively small. Throughout history, all the monasteries on the Holy Mount have suffered fires, often devastating in scope. In the past, little could be done. Now, thankfully, better communication, equipment, and planning provide the possibility to greatly reduce potential destruction and damage.

CYRILLIC MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE

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New Associate Director for Special Collections

Lisa R. Carter has been appointed as the new Associate Director for Special Collections and Area Studies. She began her duties on 1 April 2011, coming to Ohio State from the North Carolina State University Libraries, where she was Head of the Special Collections Research Center. In that capacity, Lisa provided leadership, administration and strategic direction for their Libraries' special collections program, including university archives, manuscripts, rare books, digital programs and research services.

Recently, the OSU Libraries had an opportunity to restructure their organization. As the new Associate Director for both the ten special collections and area studies, Lisa will manage the special collections and area studies operations, services and resources of the Libraries, and enhance and promote the unique research opportunities that these collections offer to OSU faculty, students and staff, as well as to scholars and other researchers around the globe.

In addition to the Hilandar Research Library, the ten current Special Collections consist of the Byrd Polar Archives, Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, William Charvat Collection of American Fiction, Historic Costume and Textiles Collection, Medical Heritage Center, Ohio Congressional Archives, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute, and University Archives. Lisa's division will also include the distinctive international area studies collections for Chinese and Korean, East European and Slavic, Japanese, Jewish, Latin American, and Middle Eastern studies.

Here only a few weeks, Lisa continues to show the same enthusiasm and drive with which she arrived. We welcome her, and we look forward to a shared future of continued success.



*Lisa Carter, Associate Director
for Special Collections and
Area Studies*

Photo courtesy of University Libraries

“Historic Visit,” continued from page 1



*HRL Assistant Curator Lyubomira Gribble
points to images of Hilandar Monastery*

(Trojeručica = “Three-Handed”) Mother of God – to New Gračanica, as well as visits to Serbian Orthodox churches in Schererville, Indiana, Cleveland, Ohio, and elsewhere.

He had also expressed a desire to Fr. Lončar to visit what, in his own words, the monks still call the “Hilandar Room” (the name by which the HRL was officially known from December 1978 to 1984). We were greatly honored to be able to spend some time with him and delighted to be able to show all the guests how we pre-

serve the microfilms of the manuscripts of Hilandar Monastery, our vast reference collection, and to discuss the preservation, academic promotion and support of the culture related to the Hilandar Monastery and Mount Athos, and the Byzantino-Slavic culture of which Hilandar and its manuscripts are such an integral part.

While this was the first visit of an abbot of Hilandar Monastery to the United States, it was the third visit by Hilandar monks to OSU and “Hilandar in America,” as our special collection is often characterized. **Father Mitrofan**, Elder of the monastery, made two prior visits (1978 and 1998). For the first, he was present at the dedication of the “Hilandar Room” on December 2. At that time, he presented an icon of St. Sava commissioned by the Monastery as their gift to the “Hilandar Room.” It is this icon that has now become a symbol of the Hilandar Research Library: visitors to the renovated Thompson Library see a large copy of this icon as part of the description of the HRL and RCMSS.

Twenty years later, in August, Father Mitrofan again traveled here to attend the Third International Hilandar Conference,

held in honor of the 800th anniversary of the founding of Hilandar Monastery in 1198. The events then also marked the 20th anniversary of the Hilandar Research Library and acknowledged its founders.

Editor's Note: Archimandrite Metodije (Marković) was elected as Abbot of Hilandar Monastery on April 18, 2010, upon the passing at age 87 of Abbot **Mojsije (Žarković)**, on March 21 of that year. Prior to this, Fr. Metodije had been appointed to lead efforts for the renovation of Hilandar Monastery following the devastating fire there in March of 2004.



*Fr. Lončar, Heirodeacon Arsenije, Father
Abbot and Mr. Randjić view
recent acquisitions*

Photo by Helene Senecal

Photo by Helene Senecal

RCMSS & HRL News Notes:

Former MSSI Student Appointed to Faculty Position

Susana Torres Prieto, a participant of the 2008 MSSI, has been recently appointed as Associate Professor in **Old Church Slavonic** and Greek at the Facultad de Literatura Cristiana y Clásica 'San Justino' (Madrid). Apart from teaching these languages in the department, Susana has now become a member of two international research projects. Within the framework of AELAC (Association pour l'étude de la littérature apocryphe chrétienne), she is preparing the bilingual edition of the Slavic *Acta Pilati*. This will be the first of a series in a new collection, *Apocrypha Slavica* (*ApSlav*), that, under her direction, will aim at bringing new and updated bilingual editions of the most relevant apocryphal texts for Slavic and non-Slavic scholars.



Photo courtesy of S. Torres Prieto

After publishing a number of chapters on Slavic heroic poetry – “Arthurian Literature in the Slavic Realm,” *The Arthur of the North: The Arthurian Legend in the Norse and Rus’ Realms*, M. Kalinke (ed.), University of Wales Press, 2011; “Slavic Epic: Past Tales and Present Myths,” in *Epic and History*, K. Raaflaub and D. Konstan (eds), Blackwell, Malden (Mass.) and Oxford, 2009; and “Found in Translation? Heroic Imported Models in Slavonic,” in *Medieval Slavic Studies: New Perspectives for Research*, J. A. Álvarez-Pedrosa, and S. Torres Prieto, (eds.), Institut d’études slaves, 2009 – Susana is preparing a series of articles on various aspects

of the Alexander Romance in Slavic within the framework of the project *La création d’un mythe d’Alexandre le Grand dans les littératures européennes (XIe siècle - début XVIe siècle)*. The project is directed by Catherine Gaullier-Bougassas and will appear shortly in the series *Alexander redivivus* (Brepols) together with a new edition of the Slavic text.

“Physiologus” Website Mounted

Dr. **Ana Stoykova** of the Institute of Literature of the Bulgarian Academy of sciences has mounted a new high-speed website, “The Slavic Physiologus of the Byzantine Recension: Electronic Text Edition and Comparative Study.” The *Physiologus* was a very popular medieval theological work. Its oldest redaction appeared in Greek, probably in the 2nd century. It represented 50 chapters that described beasts, plants and stones, often mythological in origin. Due to its fantastic images of animals, both real and mythological, this type of manuscript is often referred to as a “beastuary.”

Dr. Stoykova’s site contains a useful introduction about the origin and history of the *Physiologus* and its Slavic translations, a short description of manuscripts containing texts of the *Physiologus*, and a detailed survey of all copies dating from the second half of the 14th to the early 19th century. All copies and chapters about the beasts and birds are given as original medieval South Slavic texts, as well as in English and Modern Bulgarian translation.

The selection of 50 illuminations from Latin manuscripts in the website section *Gallery* illustrates the properties of the beasts and birds. These images are quite colorful and often delightful to view.

Dr. Stoykova’s website is of potential interest to a wide range of students and scholars of the Middle Ages as well as to individuals who enjoy learning more about medieval culture in general. The website is at <http://physiologus.proab.info/>.

Margarita Mazo Recently Honored

Recently, the School of Music of The Ohio State University, together with Ohio State’s Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, hosted a special event, “Crossing Boundaries: A Symposium and Concert in Honor of **Margarita Mazo**,” celebrating one of the United States’ foremost experts on both the art and folk music of her native Russia and the founder of the University’s program in ethnomusicology.



Margarita Mazo’s books and photographs displayed in the Music/Dance Library

Photo courtesy of School of Music

The symposium, held at the Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center, was organized into three sessions: Russian Opera, Music, Mind and Body, and Russian Art Music in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries. A Saturday afternoon concert featured works by composers Sophia Gubaidulina, Alfred Schnittke, Dmitri Shostakovich and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich performed by OSU students and faculty, with guest artist Alexander Ivashkin.

The concert ended with a performance by *Rusalka*, the Russian chorus at Ohio State, and then a reception and banquet.

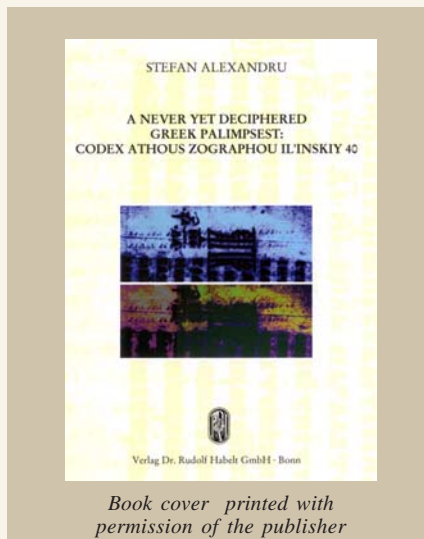
Among her achievements, Margarita Mazo is the founder of OSU’s unique program in cognitive ethno-musicology. She has also created a new interdisciplinary Study Abroad program on Russian Opera and Identity Today.

Margarita Mazo has been an active member of the OSU Advisory Board to the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies for several years. We congratulate her and wish her “Many Years”!

“News Notes,” continued from page 4

Modern Technology Reveals Dramatic Discovery

A visiting researcher in the Department of Greek and Latin, Dr. **Stefan Alexandru** (University of Heidelberg, Germany), has made a **dramatic discovery** using different microfilms, including one of ours. A hitherto undeciphered palimpsest with Byzantine texts, some of which relate to the circa 342 Church Council in Serdica (present-day Sofia, Bulgaria) was revealed. Among the resources he used was a 1975 microfilm of a manuscript in Zograf Monastery on Mount Athos, Greece. The few Zograf manuscripts on microfilm available in the HRL were filmed by the V. Rev. Dr. Mateja Matejic.



The palimpsest, in what is now a Zograf Slavic manuscript, was known to exist, but the actual texts had not been deciphered and made accessible to scholars. The *Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation* very generously supported the sophisticated technology and related development that made it possible to reveal much of the underlying textual layer of the manuscript, even when using microfilms. Otherwise, the underlying text was essentially not visible to the naked eye, even with study of the original manuscript.

The discovery by Dr. Stefan Alexandru has been presented at the University of

Cologne, Germany and other academic institutions, and publication related to this discovery are forthcoming. Among these, the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies has provided a partial subvention to the publisher, Dr. Rudolf Habelt Verlag GmbH, Bonn, Germany, to facilitate the publication of this discovery, research, and related images as a monograph in color. The book will be available prior to the 22nd International World Congress of Byzantine Studies, which is, *remarkably and coincidentally*, to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, this August 22-27.

For the past two years, Dr. Alexandru has frequently used the resources of the OSU Libraries, especially those of the HRL and of Rare Books & Manuscripts. He will soon leave Ohio State to accept an invitation from Harvard. We wish him continued scholarly success.

MSSI Update

We have been planning and preparing for this summer's MSSI, to be held from June 27-July 22. Of the several inquiries and applications, ultimately, ten highly qualified candidates will attend. Five participants are from Ohio State, with the others from the University of Michigan, Brown University, University of Arizona and the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. We are again fortunate that **Jenn Spock** (Eastern Kentucky University) and **David Birnbaum** (University of Pittsburgh) have agreed to deliver guest lectures for the MSSI. Their respective lectures, on practical cursive paleography and several new, groundbreaking applications of "computer-assisted analysis" of medieval Slavic texts, are popular among participants. Planning for additional guest lectures and special events is still in progress.

Raška Conference Update

M. A. ("Pasha") Johnson has graciously agreed to complete the editing of Volume II of the *Raška Proceedings...* of the 5th International Hilandar Conference. We expect the volume to be prepared for publication by the end of this year and we look forward to announcing additional details in our next newsletter.

Graduate Associate Teaching Awards Announced

Spencer Robinson, graduate student in Slavic languages and a participant in the 2008 MSSI, received the Graduate Associate Teaching Award (GATA), the highest recognition at Ohio State of exceptional teaching provided by graduate students. From the approximately 3,000 graduate teaching associates who teach classes at Ohio State each year, 10 are honored as GATA winners by the Graduate School. Each winner receives a \$1,500 award. Congratulations to Spencer on this distinguished honor!



Photo by Helene Senecal

Request from Russian Urals

Heiromonk Iov is a Russian monk pursuing a doctorate degree. He has requested and received copies of certain texts found in Hilandar Slavic manuscripts that relate to his dissertation topic: the disciples of St. Paisii Velichkovskii. Father Iov is also a monk in St. Kosma Blazhenny Verkhoturskii Monastery, located almost 200 miles north of Ekaterinburg in what is traditionally an especially significant spiritual center of the Urals. This monastery, established in the early 18th century, follows the stricter tradition associated with Mount Athos and is closed to women.

Remarkably, he heard of the Hilandar Research Library and its resources when sharing a mini-bus with **Stella Rock** (MSSI 1999), who was herself on her way to a six-week stay at the convent of Novo-Tikhvin (Ekaterinburg), where she has been conducting her continuing research on contemporary pilgrimage. For more information on her research, see her brief article on Novo-Tikhvin, its historic role in Russia, its re-opening in 1994 with 25 nuns, and subsequent remarkable re-building and growth in *History Today* 59/2 (2009): 4-5.

Expanding Cultural Ties



Photo courtesy of Patricia González Almarcha

Participants of the First Transcaucasian Spanish as Concorde Language Colloquium include Ángel Conde Muñoz, first row far left, and Patricia González Almarcha, first row far right

Patricia González Almarcha, a 2006 MSSSI participant, recently defended her dissertation “Reception of Proverbs Attributed to Menander in the Slavic Medieval Cultural Milieu” (University Complutense in Madrid). She is now expanding her earlier research to work on and better understand the Azerbaijani and Georgian cultures, while she continues to apply her academic and practical knowledge of Slavic languages and cultures. Together with **Ángel Conde Muñoz**, professor of Lan-

guages at Azerbaijan University, she has recently helped organize the *First Transcaucasian Spanish as Concorde Language Colloquium*, which was held 18–20 March 2011 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Colloquium was initiated, organized and promoted by Spanish AECID lecturers at Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku and at Ilia Chavchavadze University in Tbilisi.

Georgian and Azerbaijani students were given the task of presenting topics on their respective cultures in Spanish to Caucasian and Hispanic-speaking audiences.

The conference was also an opportunity to allow students to share their interest in studying the Spanish language and to elaborate on the fact that their cultures have existed in proximity and often under the influence of some Slavic language.

There were fifty-seven papers presented at the conference. Among the various topics, there were papers on the Georgian and Azeri languages, Tbilisi or Baku histories, dances, contemporary cinema, music, painting, history of education in Georgia or Azerbaijan, the arts, as well as the Orthodox religion and sacred places,

geography, politics, and medieval literature. For example, Georgia has long been a bridge among neighboring cultures, disciplines, and religions: between Christian and Hellenistic Byzantium, Orthodoxy and Western Christianity, between European humanisms. In addition to preserved old Slavic copies, the Georgian National Manuscripts Institute has many Georgian translations from original works which otherwise would have been lost (mainly from Greek).

Editor’s note: We were delighted to learn of Patricia’s desire to expand and complement the experience and academic training in part facilitated by her earlier experience of the 2006 MSSSI, conferences of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture held at Ohio State, and her experience at Ohio State in general. We look forward to learning more about this. This experience may provide her with a different perspective and greater opportunities for involvement, understanding, and appreciation of the diverse history and culture of Eastern Christianity, integrally associated with the Caucuses and their cultures.

Photo courtesy of Patricia González Almarcha



Attendees listen to a paper on Georgian folk dancing presented by Tamar Tsintsadze

Michael W. Curran Collection Donated to HRL

Recently, the last of the materials from the private library of former OSU Professor of History and Dean, **Michael W. Curran**, were reviewed and accepted by the Hilandar Research Library. The gift, consisting of almost 500 volumes from this collection, was donated by his widow, **Ann M. Salimbene**, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School at Ohio State. The patient process of several months to search lists kindly provided by her for items needed by the Hilandar Research Library and other collections of the OSU Libraries concluded on May 12 with a special event, organized by director of Library Development, **Gay Jackson**, and hosted by the OSU Friends of the Libraries and Library Development.

many of these volumes, was its head, **Morag E. Boyd**.

WorldCat® is now the world's largest online catalog, with the holdings of 72,000 libraries in the US and elsewhere. More than a billion records are presently found there. Therefore, when we hold an item that is unique, that is, not found in WorldCat®, it is quite remarkable. A number of the items in the Michael W. Curran collection, including several volumes that will be added to the Hilandar Research Library, were quite rare. Others were unique.

Among the unique items was the 1881 St. Petersburg Russian edition of the *Service and Akathist for St. Alexander Nevsky*, which will be added to the HRL collection.

We were also surprised by the Russian 1779 [third edition] of the *Decrees of Empress Catherine II from June 28, 1862, through 1763*. Her son, Emperor Paul I, finding one of these decrees ("Obstoiatel' noi Manifest") objectionable, ordered that all copies of this edition have removed pages 13-20. As a result, this particular edition is listed as quite rare in Russian publications of catalogs of rare books. When

our OSU record was created by **Nataliya Chrisman** of the Special Collections Cata-



Photo by Helene Senecal

Carol Diedrichs, Ann Salimbene, Predrag Matejic and Slavic and East European Studies graduate student Christopher Fort

logging Department, it would be the first copy in the billion records of WorldCat®.

In addition to the Hilandar Research Library, other volumes from this collection will be cataloged for Rare Books, Fine Arts, Music, Slavic and East European, and even the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum. These books, which represent only a portion of the rich personal library Michael Curran collected over 40 years, will be a permanent, living contribution to the libraries and university he supported for decades. Arriving in 1964, the first Professor of Russian History at OSU, he was a pioneer in developing several academic and administrative units at Ohio State. He was integral to the success and growth now enjoyed not only by the "Slavic" collection of the OSU Libraries, but by all the Slavic and East European programs at our University.

Editor's Note: Michael W. Curran was a graduate student of Dr. **Michael Boro Petrovich** of the University of Wisconsin (Department of History). In 1965, when he defended his dissertation, it was only one of 40 "Slavic" dissertations defended that year in the US.

Photo by Helene Senecal



Ann Salimbene discusses the joys and challenges of reviewing the collection of books for donation

Guests in attendance included relatives, former colleagues, and other faculty members from the departments of History, Philosophy, and Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, the Slavic Center, as well as **Sebastian D. G. Knowles**, Associate Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Development and Associate Dean, Humanities Administration. From the OSU Libraries, several colleagues were able to honor and celebrate this gift. Among them were **Carol P. Diedrichs**, Director of Libraries, **Lisa R. Carter**, Associate Director for Special Collection and Area Studies, and **Karla L. Streib**, Associate Director for Collections, Technical Services & Scholarly Communication. Representing the Special Collection Cataloging Department, which has already cataloged



Photo by Helene Senecal

Seated in the foreground: Dr. James Scanlon and wife Marilyn, and Dr. Carole Rogel

Russian Pilgrim in Alaska: Part II In Search of America's Holy Land

By Daria Safronova

The first part of my adventure (see *CMH* 28) ended with the arrival of this Russian pilgrim on Kodiak Island, Alaska. Father John Dunlop, Dean of St. Herman Orthodox Seminary (Alaskan Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), kindly agreed to give me shelter in a seminary dorm until weather permitted travel to nearby Spruce Island (part



Father John and Daria

of the Kodiak Archipelago) to venerate the original site of St. Herman's humble abode. For three days it stormed and no boat could dare cross the channel. I began to fear for my soul, for, as local legend had it, only the pure of heart could visit St. Herman. Perplexed, I took long walks along the shore and marina, picked up delicious salmon berries growing along Kodiak's few roads, and visited the island's four (!) museums. Evenings, I translated the 1827 journal of the Russian priest, Ivan Veniaminov, canonized in 1977 as St. Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of North America. This remarkable man established schools for both Russian and native Alaskan children, translated parts of the Bible into several local languages, made scientific observations, and built churches. The more I worked at the seminary's library, the more I was drawn to the history here. But, wasn't my dissertation on Scythianism, a Russian literary movement? Wasn't I just a literature person? How can one change one's life so profoundly? I needed a sign! And so I again prayed to St. Herman.



View of Kodiak, first capital of Alaska, from the Fred Zharoff Bridge

Monk's Lagoon (Spruce Island)

The very next day the wind calmed enough to get to the Monk's Lagoon. After rocking heavily all the way to the lagoon, the boat finally reached the black volcanic sand. Icons on the trunks of the majestic Sitka spruces marked the path to St. Herman and Sergius (of Valaam) Chapel, erected in 1977 over what once was the *barabara* (earthen dugout) where the saint lived. Thick, emerald moss dulled the singing of birds and the sound of waves. The legacy of the simple-hearted monk who came to Alaska from Valaam in 1794 as part of the Russian Orthodox Mission to the North American continent, was felt everywhere – the spring with healing water, the Meeting of the Lord Chapel that marks the original site of the orphanage for the native children, the Kaluga Chapel built by Abba Gerasim – a Russian monk who continued St. Herman's feats in the frozen desert in the twentieth century – and the unfinished monastery began by the St. Herman of the Alaskan brotherhood. This was the most beautiful place I had ever found – everything breathed of God's beauty, peace, and solitude.



Icon of St. Herman on a spruce tree

St. Nilus Skete (Nelson Island)



The guest house at St. Nilus Skete

I was then taken to St. Nilus Skete (Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church), a community of nuns located on Nelson Island, just off Spruce Island. It is run by four nuns – Mothers Nina, Neila, Seraphima, and Sister Julia, who live the simple life of early Christians. Their days are filled with labor and ceaseless prayer. The lack of electricity and running water helps them concentrate on their inner lives. The nuns retreat to their *cells* after vespers and gather for matins at 4 a.m. Their church cycle continues uninterrupted, no matter the weather. And, every day, the angelic voices of the nuns fill St. Nilus Chapel.

St. Archangel Michael's Skete (Spruce Island)

The nuns' brother community, St. Archangel Michael's Skete, is located across the strait on Spruce Island. Sometimes, Father Andrew collects the nuns in the skete's skiff to participate in the Divine Liturgy together. The three red-headed monks (Fathers Andrew, Adrian, and Martirius) inspire awe as they navigate the stormy passage with their beards flowing in the wind. The Brothers are famous for their carpentry, wood-carving, and dome-building. Mostly, they provide their own food by salmon fishing (for the nuns' *skete*, as well), growing vegetables and picking mushrooms and berries. Simplicity and Christian love for one's neighbor are the major governing principles of this community.

Continued on page 9



Father Andrew, Daria and Mother Nina

Pilgrimage, continued from page 8

St. Innocent’s Academy (Kodiak Island)



Vespers at Fort Abercrombie during the visit of Metropolitan Joseph (Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese in the USA, Australia, and New Zealand)

My pilgrimage took a different turn when I was called to teach Russian literature and language to another Christian community on the Island – St. Innocent Academy for Troubled Youth (Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada, and Australia). Under the spiritual guidance of Father Paisius (strict but loving!) and motherly care of Matushka Mary (the gentlest spirit and best cook in the world!) and the organizational supervision of Anna Ivanovna (the Academy’s secretary, who kindly gives shelter in her wonderful house to all lost pilgrims) the souls of these, often troubled, boys and girls, seem to undergo miraculous transformation – they soon transform into teams of dedicated do-gooders that serve the whole community of Kodiak, especially the elderly and the disabled. Their presence on the



Father Paisius introduces St. Innocent’s folklore band to guests from a cruise ship

island is marked by, literally, a hand-made monument – a Christian Tea-House “Monk’s Rock” that the boys and girls run themselves. These young people also turned out to be exceptional, “dream” students. Never before have I encountered such interest to anything Russian. And never before have I felt as good to be a teacher. Their dedication called for three-fold dedication in return, their curiosity demanded deep knowledge of the subject, and their sincere faith humbled my spirit.

Kodiak College (Kodiak Island)



St. Herman Orthodox Seminary

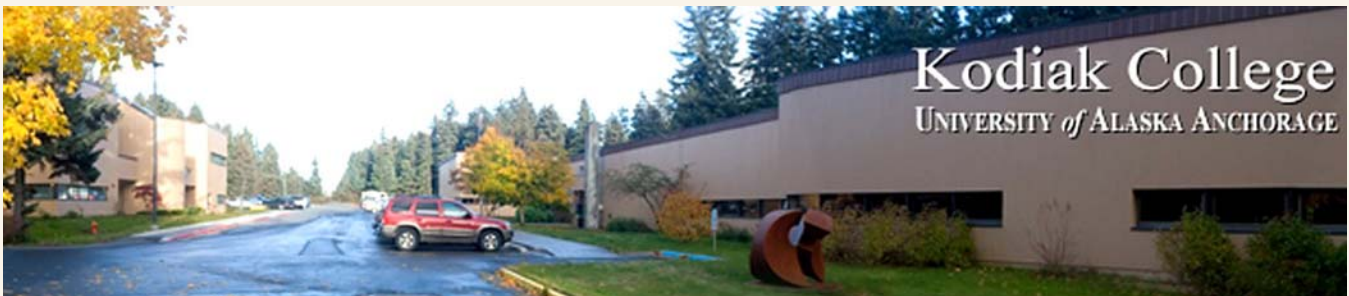
I had not planned my pilgrimage – I simply arrived on Kodiak Island and entrusted myself to St. Herman. For the next three weeks, I wore borrowed clothes, while eating and sleeping through the charity of others. Yet, throughout this time, I felt that I fit into this reality better than I had fit into any reality before – my soul felt complete in the company of these kind and spiritual people who cared more for others than for themselves. My spirit embraced the simplicity of their lives; my intellect thrived at the opportunity to do what I could do best – teach. I knew where I wanted to be for the next chapter of my life – Kodiak. How many more signs did I need? I was already blessed with more than enough.



Students from St. Innocent Academy with Henk de Velde on board the world-traveling Dutch trimaran Juniper

Two months later my fate was sealed – my OSU advisers allowed me to change my dissertation topic to “The Revival of Eastern Orthodox Christianity on Kodiak Island, Alaska.” I wrote to the Director of Kodiak College and asked whether I could teach there and learned they needed an instructor of Russian! I asked Father John whether I could teach at the seminary and organize

its archive – and he was happy to welcome me! Father Paisius put it simply: “Daria, Alaska needs you and we need you, too!” The ultimate truth dawned on me – “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find.” And so here I am – a happy pilgrim ready to embark on a new journey this September thanks, in part, to a one-way airline ticket provided by the Slavic Department. Some do not believe in miracles or they think that “providence” is just a word. What can I say? – I just smile because I know otherwise.

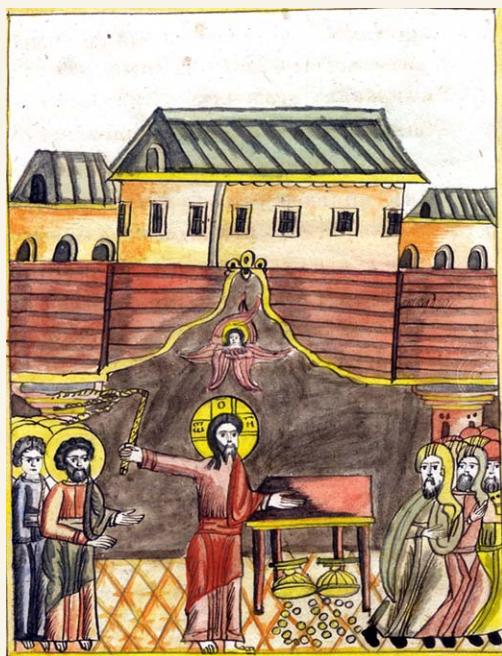


Photos by Daria Safronova

Photo from the official webpage of Kodiak College

Recent Acquisitions to the HRL Collections

Recently, the Hilandar Research Library purchased a set of seven illuminated Slavic manuscript leaves, four of which are shown below. They will be researched, dated, and described, possibly as soon as our upcoming Medieval Slavic Summer Institute.



The Moneychangers in the Temple



The Last Supper



The Crucifixion



Harrowing of Hell

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*Recently we were saddened to
learn of the passing of two life-long
friends. Both were also supporters
of the Hilandar Research Library
and the Resource Center for Medi-
eval Slavic Studies, whether through
their gifts-in-kind, or monetary do-
nations, or both.*

May their memories be eternal!

† **Borivoje (Bora) M.
Karapandzhich**

† **Bill Topolski**

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