
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

THE ASSOCIATION

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies has been awarded a \$150,000 grant by the Ford Foundation for a three-year period for support of an expanded program to strengthen communication and cooperation among scholars in Slavic and East European studies. The new award supplements an earlier grant of \$90,000, which was primarily used for restructuring the Association's administration and the publication program. The new grant provides continuing but decreasing support for administrative operations and includes \$15,000 for support of the *American Bibliography of Russian and East European Studies*. The bulk of the award is to be used for research and development relating to Soviet studies.

The Association has published a new edition of *Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: A Guide to Financial Aid, Exchanges, Language and Travel Programs*. This volume, compiled at the Russian Institute, Columbia University, and edited by Constance A. Bezer, has been revised to include new programs and current information about existing ones. *Russian and Soviet Studies: A Handbook*, also prepared at Columbia's Russian Institute, has recently been published by the AAASS. Prepared for graduate students at Columbia and edited by Constance A. Bezer, the handbook brings together information useful to students and scholars, including orientation information on Russian area studies, listings of major collections in libraries and archives and of research and study centers in the United States and abroad, and guides to services of particular use to Slavists.

The third new publication from AAASS is a reader made up of articles selected from the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press*. Compiled by Jan S. Adams, George J. Demko, and Warren W. Eason of the Ohio State University, *The USSR Today: A Soviet View* is intended for use in high school and college classes. Selections were made from articles appearing in the *Current Digest* over the most recent two-year period, and the book will be updated regularly to provide a fresh and timely approach to current issues.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The University of Kansas has announced that former students, colleagues, and friends of Oswald P. Backus III who wish to honor his memory may do so by contributing to the newly established Oswald Backus Memorial Fund, The Endowment Association, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

The Department of Drama at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, will produce Zygmunt Krasiński's masterpiece of Polish drama, *The Un-Divine Comedy* (1835). The play has never before been produced in the United States or in English. The text was translated by Gordon M. Wickstrom, who will direct the production in the Green Room Theatre on November 2, 1973.

Edinboro State College, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, has announced two new programs in the Department of Foreign Languages. The college will now offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities with emphasis on Russian. In addition to courses in Russian language and literature, the program will include courses in the history, geography, and politics of the USSR. A new interdisciplinary foreign language and area study specialization has also been announced, and will allow students to pursue a specialization in Soviet Union Studies. For additional information contact Dr. Julius M. Blum, Head, Department of Foreign Languages, Edinboro State College, Edinboro, Pennsylvania 16412.

The Institute for the Study of the USSR in Munich, which was forced to close after a curtailment in funds to its sponsor, the Radio Liberty Committee, has negotiated an agreement for the transfer of its entire library collection. The library, some 80,000 volumes on the Soviet Union, will go to the Federal Institute for Eastern and International Studies in Cologne, Germany.

CONFERENCES

December 1-2, 1972: Conference on "Soviet Foreign Policy in the Seventies" sponsored by the Stanford Center for

- Russian and East European Studies, Stanford, California. Contact: Jan F. Triska, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305.
- December 27–29, 1972:* Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Regency Hyatt House, Atlanta, Georgia.
- December 27–29, 1972:* American Philological Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts.
- December 27–29, 1972:* The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Annual Meeting, Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, New York. Contact: Joe Malik, Jr., Department of Russian, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.
- December 27–29, 1972:* Annual Meeting of the National Council of *Dobro Slovo* in conjunction with the AATSEEL meeting, Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, New York. Contact: Sanford Couch, LL-C405, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85281.
- December 27–30, 1972:* The Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Foreign Language Sections, Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York, New York.
- December 27–30, 1972:* The American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- December 27–30, 1972:* Annual Convention of the American Historical Association, Rivergate Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: American Historical Association, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.
- December 28–30, 1972:* American Catholic Historical Association Annual Meeting, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- December 28–30, 1972:* Meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Associations, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.
- April 18–21, 1973:* American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies meeting jointly with the Northeastern Slavic Conference, Roosevelt Hotel, New York, New York. Program: Michael Cherniavsky, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213. Local Arrangements: Paul Trensky, Department of Russian, Fordham University, New York, New York 10458.
- April 18–21, 1973:* First scholarly meeting of the American Association for South Slavic Studies, Roosevelt Hotel, New York, New York.
- April 26–28, 1973:* Rocky Mountain Association for Slavic Studies Annual Meeting, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Program: Betty M. Unterberger, Department of History, Texas A and M University, College Station, Texas 77843.
- April 26–28, 1973:* Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, St. Paul Hilton Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact: Anthony Gradisnik, Milwaukee Public Schools, P.O. Drawer 10K, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.
- May 3–6, 1973:* Bulgarian Studies Group Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: Thomas Butler, Slavic Department, Van Hise 720, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

August 21–28, 1973: Seventh International Congress of Slavists, Warsaw, Poland.

August 25–28, 1973: Romanian Studies Conference, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.

August 1973: Second International Conference of Russian Language and Literature Teachers, Sofia, Bulgaria.

August or September 1973: Colloquium on "The Slavic Peoples and Their Neighbors: Mutual Influences," sponsored by the International Commission for Slavic Studies, Cracow, Poland.

Summer 1973: Fourth Congress for Slavic History and Philology, Salzburg, Austria and Regensburg (or Passau), West Germany.

September 1–8, 1973: Ninth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

Summer 1973: Fourth Symposium of the International Academy of History of Medicine, Vienna, Austria.

September 5–7, 1974: The International Slavic Conference sponsored by the

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the Canadian Association of Slavists, the British Universities Association of Slavists, and the British National Association for Soviet and East European Studies, at the School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, Canada.

APPOINTMENTS AND STAFF CHANGES

State University of New York College at Buffalo: Julius P. Slavenas promoted to associate professor of history.

University of California, Los Angeles: Andrzej Korbonski, formerly program officer for European and international affairs, the Ford Foundation, returns to the Department of Political Science as professor.

Columbia University: Charles Gati of Union College appointed visiting associate professor of political science.

Duke University: Vladimir Treml promoted to professor; John Vernon promoted to professor; and E. Roy Weintraub promoted to associate professor in the Department of Economics. Warren Lerner promoted to professor of history; Michael I. Pavlov promoted to associate professor of Russian in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The Ford Foundation: Ivo Lederer, professor of history, Stanford University, appointed program officer for European and international affairs.

University of Georgia: Victor S. Mama-

tey, research professor of history, appointed acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kent State University: Herman K. Doswald of Fresno State College appointed chairman of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages.

University of Maryland, College Park: George P. Majeska of the State University of New York at Buffalo appointed assistant professor of history.

University of Michigan: Joseph Brodsky, noted Soviet poet, appointed visiting professor and poet in residence in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Henryk Skolimowski, University of Southern California, appointed professor of humanities, College of Engineering, to lecture on the social and philosophic implications of technology; William Zimmerman to succeed Alfred G. Meyer as director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies.

Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, New Jersey: William M. Batkay appointed instructor of political science.

North Carolina State University, Raleigh: Mary F. Wheeler promoted to associate professor of history; Joseph P. Mastro promoted to assistant professor of politics.

Princeton University: Ellen B. Chances promoted to assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures.

Union College: Robert Sharlet appointed chairman of the Department of Political Science.

FIRST SOVIET-AMERICAN HISTORICAL COLLOQUIUM

The first Soviet-American historical colloquium—on the model of meetings held biannually between Soviet and French and English and Finnish scholars—took place in Moscow October 11–13, 1972. It was the outcome of lengthy negotiations between the late Academician Guber and Academician Zhukov on the one hand and Dr. Paul Ward, secretary of the American Historical Association, on the other. The two subjects treated at the colloquium were "Towns in Eighteenth-Century America and Russia" and "Enlightenment in the American Colonies and in Russia." With respect to the second topic, the Russians focused on Lomonosov, comparing and contrasting him to Benjamin Franklin, while the American side handled the topic in a broader, more general way.

Three American papers had been prepared and sent ahead for translation and distribution. They were Bernard Bailyn, "Towns in Eighteenth-Century America," Jacob M. Price, "Dynamics of the Social Composition of the Eight Largest American Towns at the End of the Eighteenth-Century," and Henry May, "The Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century America." (I give descriptive titles rather than

the formal ones.) On the Soviet side were papers by Ryndziunsky, "Gorodoobrazovanie v Rossii 18-go veka," and Beliavsky, "Lomonosov i Franklin—dva prosvetitelia." The American delegation consisted (in addition to the three authors of papers) of Paul Ward, John T. Alexander of the University of Kansas, and Marc Raeff of Columbia University. The function of the latter two was to offer comments on the two Soviet papers referred to above.

The meetings took place in the Dom Uchenykh on Kropotkinskaia Ulitsa and were quite friendly. It is true that the Soviet format of delivering prepared comments from the rostrum did inhibit a genuinely spontaneous discussion that would have been particularly desirable. In addition, it was unfortunate that most of the active commentators did not attend both sessions, but only came to the session directly related to the topic. Also, some of the comments, while interesting in themselves from a factual point of view (e.g., Fedorova on Russian settlements in Alaska and America, and Druzhinina on the colonization of south Russia) were not very significant contributions to the discussion of the principal theme. The papers and comments on the Soviet side varied greatly in quality. Professor Ryndziunsky's paper was quite informative. It, and even more so his oral comments, showed quite clearly the serious desire and effort of our Soviet colleagues to embark on a more sophisticated and serious study of social history. They are aware of the deficiency in Russian historiography in this respect. Of course, as long as they approach the problem primarily in terms of categories of modes of production, rather than social and economic functions, they will not innovate very much. It would seem from the discussion that they are willing to take that extra step, but perhaps are not quite sure how to do it. In this respect the American papers provided them with interesting models and patterns which some of them appeared eager to latch onto. Of course, the great ignorance of American history made serious discussion of the brilliant papers of Bailyn and Price rather difficult, and the Soviets substituted extrapolations from orthodox Soviet-Marxist doctrine for documentation. In so doing they at times widened the scope of their remarks to cover such irrelevant issues (to the topic) as Indian expropriations and Black slaves, which could have only a political purpose. Equally unnecessary and distracting was the frequent reiteration of the assertion that such meetings contribute to international understanding and promote peace, which may or may not be true.

The debates, as could have been predicted, did not develop very far, largely because of the polite restraint exercised by the Americans, who did not want to be dragged into real polemic. Perhaps that was not wise; it might have been more beneficial to confront our Soviet colleagues with hard facts and documentation so that they could not escape into ideological commonplaces.

Are such meetings useful? From the American point of view (besides the interest that a first trip to the Soviet Union represents for the participants) the strictly professional and intellectual gain was relatively minor (although Bailyn and May also gave lectures at the University of Moscow, where they had more lively discussion with interested and better-informed students). Of course, it is always important to realize precisely what Russian historiography is like. From the Soviet point of view I should imagine that the main benefit was exposure to lively presentations of new facts and approaches, to witness another style of academic behavior and discussion—the greater liveliness and broader range of interests and information that our colleagues displayed in comparison to the stilted and narrow Soviet performances. Obviously, personal contacts involving future

exchanges of literature and information were also a very useful by-product of the meeting.

It should be said that the Russians endeavored to provide the meeting and its American participants with as much comfort as possible. If the organization was a bit loose, the material side was very nicely taken care of—as a matter of fact on a scale of lavishness (by Soviet standards) that would not be easy to match in the United States without great expenditures. But it would be worth while if the colloquia were put on a really permanent basis. Much will depend also on the themes selected for discussion and the kind of persons that can be found for participation. Most important in the immediate future is to have such topics that would lead the Soviets to feel the need for sending people who are in fact their best scholars.

MARC RAEFF
Columbia University

VERA MICHELES DEAN, 1903–1972

American specialists on Russia could be counted on the fingers of one hand when Vera Micheles Dean established her reputation in the early 1930s. She was one of the first, and she had an additional claim to uniqueness: she was a woman. Her scholarship first appeared during her editorship of Foreign Policy Association bulletins and pamphlets, but she went on to publish widely. Together with Professor Samuel N. Harper of the University of Chicago, she appeared on platforms urging recognition of the USSR when few thought it desirable, and for that she was accused by many of being a leftist. In fact, she was a Russian nationalist, born in St. Petersburg on March 29, 1903, tutored at home in Russian history and in the major European languages under the demanding eye of a father who represented American firms in Russia, and fleeing her homeland with her family only when it became evident that the Bolshevik revolution had no room for the bourgeoisie. As a nationalist she wanted respect for the greatness of the people of whom she felt a part, even though she became thoroughly Americanized from the moment she came to America and entered Radcliffe College, from which she graduated *summa cum laude* in 1925. A year later she had won her M.A. at Yale University, and soon thereafter had her Ph.D.

Vera Dean's position was that the Russians, whatever their government, were to play a major part in history, and Americans must understand their origins, their centuries-old experiences, their economic needs, and their temperament. For her the Russians were no enigma: they could be understood if a scholar did his homework.

She died on October 10, 1972, one year after retirement as professor of international development in the Graduate School of Public Administration at New York University. Previously she had been a visiting professor at Smith College and the University of Rochester. She had seven honorary degrees and the Legion of Honor. Her reputation extended to India, which she studied in her middle years and which inspired her books *The Nature of the Non-Western World* (1957, 1966), *New Patterns of Democracy in India* (1959, 1969), *The United States and the New Nations* (1964), and *The UN Today* (1965).

JOHN N. HAZARD
Columbia University

MERLE FAINSDOD, 1907-1972

Merle Fainsod, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor, whose sudden death occurred on February 11, 1972, had been for nearly thirty years at the very center of Soviet studies at Harvard University. He was born on May 2, 1907, at McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, and attended Washington University, from which he received the B.A. degree in 1928 and the M.A. in 1930. He came to Harvard in 1930 and never left. He completed his studies toward the doctorate in the incredibly short time of two years. His doctoral dissertation, revised as *International Socialism and the World War*, came out in 1935. Fainsod spent his first postdoctoral year as a Sheldon Traveling Fellow in the Soviet Union, and it was at this time that he developed an abiding interest in contemporary Russian affairs. On his return to Harvard as an instructor in 1933, he began to lecture in survey courses on Soviet topics, and, in addition, to teach on government regulation and Soviet planning. His expertise in these subjects led to his appointment during World War II to administrative positions at the Office of Price Administration. *Government and the American Economy* (1941), which he coauthored with Lincoln Gordon, also reflected these interests.

After the war, when Harvard decided on a major expansion of Russian studies, Fainsod immediately assumed a commanding role in research and teaching on the Soviet Union. He was one of the founders of the Russian Research Center and its third director. He offered an immensely popular and influential course, Government 115, "Dictatorship and the Government and Politics of the Soviet Union," which over the years enrolled thousands of students. Out of his seminar emerged numerous specialists on Soviet government who presently occupy leading positions at universities and in the government. The quintessence of his researches and lecture courses was published in 1953 as *How Russia Is Ruled*, a book which at once acquired the status of a standard work. A revision came out in 1963. Fainsod was about to begin work on a third revised edition, in which he intended to deal at length with Soviet literature, when he was struck down by death. Among his other studies, mention must be made of *Smolensk Under Soviet Rule* (1958), a case study of Communist administration based on primary sources captured by the Germans in Russia during the war.

Fainsod rarely failed to respond to requests for his services, whether they came from his university or from the profession at large. His administrative posts were too numerous to enumerate. Among them was the presidency of the Political Science Association, chairmanship of a committee appointed by President Pusey to recommend changes in the Harvard administrative structure (the so-called Fainsod Committee), and directorship of the Harvard University Library. The latter post, which he assumed in 1964, did not involve him in the day-to-day operations of the library, although it forced him to spend much time raising money for its support. The position rather required him to coordinate the various units of the enormous system, consisting of several dozen large and small collections which make up the University Library at Harvard. The job, which he performed with quiet efficiency and was about to relinquish when he died, undoubtedly sapped much of his strength. He was a quiet, modest, almost retiring man, on whose help and sage counsel one could always rely. His premature death is a great loss to the profession.

RICHARD PIPES
Harvard University