LENDING LIBRARY: Impending Changes

Spring 2008 will see a change in lending library procedures. Both the online borrowing system and the in-person system will be affected. While details are still being worked out, the following change has already been implemented. When people drop by the CREECA office to borrow lending library materials, they will be asked to fill out and sign a document listing their name, UW-ID number, local phone and address, and the titles and serial numbers of materials borrowed. The due date for the materials will clearly be stated on the document, as will a notice to the effect that late returns will incur a late fee.
Letter From The Director

Dear friends of CREECA,

Fall 2007 was certainly an exciting time for our Center, and spring 2008 has not seen any let up in our activities. Our Thursday lecture series got off to a great start in September 2007 with William Taubman’s presentation “Nikita Khrushchev: The Man and His Era,” which filled the auditorium at the Pyle Center. We have since had a diverse line-up of speakers, from both within and outside the UW, from a wide range scholarly disciplines and also non-academic settings, who work on different countries. While variety is a major strength of our series, one common feature of all the lectures has been their high quality. I know our speakers have been impressed by the turnout and the excellence of questions and comments. I encourage all those who can to make the Thursday lectures a regular part of your weekly schedule. But if you happen to miss one – or if you want to listen to it again – note that you can obtain podcasts of all the lectures from the CREECA Web site, where you can also find the schedule for the rest of this year’s lectures.

In addition to our Thursday lecture series, CREECA has been pursuing an active program of cultural events, working with campus partners such as the Slavic Department, the Wisconsin Union Theater, and Cinematheque to promote music and film from our world regions. In November we co-sponsored a breathtaking concert by the Kalman Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band (from Budapest). Our Spring concerts include performances by Zolotoj Plyos (Russia), Shoghaken (Armenia), and Roksonaki (Kazakhstan). We have also supported film festivals featuring Russian science fiction as well as recent works from Poland and Romania. Our biggest outreach event of the year, “Russia Day,” is coming up on April 8, when we expect about 200 high school juniors and seniors from around the state to come to campus to learn about the rich history and cultures of Russia. The topic for this year’s Teacher Conference in June will be: “Islam in Russia and the Newly Independent States.”

Within the CREECA office, our most exciting news is the birth of Mary Elizabeth Tishler on November 3, 2007: congratulations to Jennifer and her husband Bill!! We are, of course, delighted to have Jennifer back in the office as of February 1. I would like to express my gratitude to Nancy Heingartner for taking on many of Jennifer’s duties during her maternity leave, on top of the considerable challenge of learning the ropes as our new outreach coordinator. Let me also acknowledge the efforts of our other staff members, Jean Hennessey (financial specialist), Matthew Maus (office coordinator), and Drago Momcilovic (events coordinator). It has been wonderful to work with such an effective and lively team. Finally, we wish the best to Scott Resnick, who has left our webmaster position to pursue other opportunities. Matthew and Drago will be taking over the management of our Web site.

I hope that all of you have a productive Spring semester and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.
Romanian Film Festival (continued from page 1)

give audiences a “short history” of Romanian filmmaking that spans the decades and includes several contemporary masterpieces.

Featured in this year’s festival is Lucian Pintilie’s innovative film, *The Reenactment (Reconstituirea)*, which has served as one of the main reference points for filmmakers who debuted in Romania after 1989. This film begins with a fight between two teenagers, who, in order to keep their record clean, must reenact their quarrel in an educational film as a form of community service. Pintilie’s film was banned shortly after its release in 1968 and was shown again only after the fall of communism in 1990.

*The Great Communist Bank Robbery (Marele jaf comunist)* by Alexandru Solomon is a 2004 documentary that investigates the theft of 1.6 million lei from the Romanian National Bank in 1959. Six people were arrested, all of whom were Jewish Communist party members, who then agreed to reenact the robbery for a documentary made in 1960, called *The Reconstitution*, in an attempt to garner clemency from the authorities. “These people were so desperate that their choice was to make such a spectacular event happen as a way of expressing their protest against the system. That’s also exactly as the system took it, as a blow against the regime,” said Solomon in an interview for the BBC in 2004.

One of the newest films to be shown, *The Rest is Silence (Restul e tacere)* by Nae Caranfil, tells the story of a 19-year-old son of a famous Romanian actor who, despite his father’s wishes, ventures into the crazy world of filmmaking and joins forces with an eccentric patron who wreaks havoc on his project and life. The film, which is based on a true story, gives audiences a rich and entertaining perspective on the creation of the oldest feature-length film recorded in Romania, *The Romanian War of Independence*, made in 1912. In a recent interview for the “Romania Libera” daily, Nae Caranfil stated: “In *The Rest is Silence* the spectacle of creation is the film’s essence and what we routinely call ‘the magic of cinema’ becomes the action’s engine. […] I simply tell the story of Grig and Leon, two crazy adventurers for whom the cinema has not yet become the seventh art. It was ‘just’ a grand show.”

Romanian Film Festival (continued from page 3)

Cristian Nemescu’s first and last feature-length film, 2007’s *California Dreamin’ (Endless)*, “is a complex, dark comedy of near-Shakespearean proportions” as Alissa Simon writes in Variety. It tells the story of a railway station chief from a small Romanian town who stops a NATO train transporting military equipment to Kosovo without proper documentation. The incident causes a series of events and triggers new relationships during the short stay of the American soldiers who are supervising the transport. The film attests to the unique talents of a young director whose life was cut short in a 2006 car crash that also claimed the life of young sound director Andrei Toncu.

Other contemporary classics include the 2007 film *Exam (Examen)* by Titus Muntean, in which two film students investigate the case of a man wrongly convicted for a crime he did not commit and recently released after many years in jail. The sensitive subject of collaborating with the secret police during communism, and how it affected people’s lives, is the center of the plot in *American Fiancées (Logodnicii din America)* by Nicolae Margineanu. And Radu Muntean’s *The Paper Will Be Blue (Hartia va fi albastra)* spans a single day during the Revolution of 1989, during which a soldier decides to disobey his superior and join the revolutionaries in their struggle to defend the main television station.

In addition to the feature-length presentations, the film festival includes two selections of short films by well-known Romanian directors, all of whom were recipients of international awards and praised by film critics will also be an important part of the festival’s program for this year.

Organized by CREECA and the Romanian Cultural Institute, with the support of the National Film Centre, Bucharest and the UW Student Organization From Romania, the film festival will take place March 7–9, 2008, at MMoCA’s lecture hall, 227 State St. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

Shoghaken Wows Madison Audiences

As part of its 22-city North American Tour, the Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble brought its unique sound to Madison February 19–20, 2008 for a vibrant program of outreach activities and performances. Founded in 1991, the group uses only traditional Armenian instruments. Its musicians and singers are known throughout Armenia, the former Soviet Union, and Europe for their unique

Continued on next page
interpretation of Armenian folk and 
ashoughagan (troubadour) music. Building 
on their partnership in the Madison World 
Music Festival, which has become a 
favorite fall event, CREECA worked with 
the Wisconsin Union Theater World Stage 
Series and the Village Dance House to 
bring Shoghaken to Madison.

Thanks to funding from the Dane 
County Cultural Affairs Commission, the 
members of Shoghaken presented 
Armenia’s rich musical heritage to several 
area schools. On February 19, the musi-
cians braved the sub-zero temperatures to 
play an early-morning concert at Cesar 
Chavez Elementary School. Close to 300 
pupils, teachers, and guests were present for the spectacle. A retired school teacher in the audience 
summed up the morning as follows: “The musicians had a varied performance and the M.C. was very 
engaging with the five- to 10-year-old audience. The pieces were oftentimes fun, i.e. a birdsong, drum solo. What an accomplished group!” That afternoon, Shoghaken played at East High School to an 
audience of close to 200. Father Yeprem Kelegian, an Armenian Apostolic priest in attendance, praised 
the group: “From the moment they began to play, I understood that the musicians were among the best of 
the best which Armenia can offer.” Father Kelegian was particularly touched by the students’ response to 
the performance. “The presentation weaved in not only music, but also the history of Armenia itself. So, 
within fifty minutes…(the students) walked away with some solid facts of a long, ancient, and complicated 
national history and, in a way, joined part of their humanity with another part of the world.” The final 
school concert took place on February 20 at the Wingra School for 120 enthusiastic attendees. In all their 
school concerts, Shoghaken did a masterful job of tailoring the show to the audience. Ancient, unfamiliar 
instruments were introduced. Students learned a few words of Armenian. This concert, as had its two 
predecessors, culminated in a group of students being taught a traditional Armenian circle dance that had 
the audience clapping along in time.

The highlight of the residency was a public concert on the evening of February 20, 2008, held in 
the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. An enthusiastic crowd of 200 turned out to experience this rare 
music from the villages of historic Armenia.

CREECA would like to thank its partners on this project: the Wisconsin Union Theater, the 
Madison World Music Festival, the Village Dance House, and WORT Community Radio. This program 
was supported by funds from the Anonymous Fund of the College of Letters & Science, the Wisconsin 
Arts Board, and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission.
CREECA Faculty Focus: Kemal H. Karpat

Over his long and distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kemal H. Karpat, professor emeritus of History and Turkish and Middle East Studies, has been a leading researcher, teacher, and speaker on Ottoman history, society, and culture, and its relation to Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. Since his retirement in December 2002, Professor Karpat has continued an active program of research on issues relating to Turkish politics, history, and culture.

Over the past year, Professor Karpat has given opening talks at the International Conference on Migration at Isik University in Istanbul and at another international conference commemorating the 350th anniversary of the death of Turkish historian and thinker Katip Celebi (known in the West as Haji Kalifa). He has also spoken to Turkish and English-language daily newspapers like Star and Zaman about the current political situation in Turkey and the Middle East, and was interviewed by leading Turkish journalist Nese Duzel for the article “Secularism and the Relations between the State and Religion in the Ottoman State and Republican Turkey,” which appeared in the daily newspaper Radikal and attracted national attention.

In addition, Professor Karpat contributed an article, “From Ottoman Cultural and Religious Diversity to Turkish National Identity and Uniformity” for the book Tolerance and Coexistence in the Ottoman Empire, which he is also editing with Yetkin Yildirim. The book, forthcoming from the University of Texas Press, will be based on proceedings from the March 2007 conference “Exploring Models for Peace by Re-Exploring the Past: Diversity in the Ottoman Empire.” Professor Karpat has also contributed the article “An Islamist Turkish Party’s Path to Democracy and Modernity” for the forthcoming Palgrave collection The Sacred in Twentieth-Century Politics: Essays in Honour of Stanley G. Payne, edited by Robert Mallett, John Tortorice and Roger Griffin, as well as the article “Nationalisms in the Ottoman Empire” for the Encyclopedia of the Ottoman Empire in December 2007. Finally, Professor Karpat promoted the publication of and wrote the introduction to a Turkish translation of Khronica Budai (Megillah Oven), originally published in 1982 by Itzak Shulhof. Shulhof’s manuscript chronicles the massacre of his fellow Jews by Austrian troops after they conquered Buda (Budapest) in 1686.

For his contributions to history, Professor Karpat was awarded the Ismail Gaspirali Award in May 2007 at a nationally televised ceremony organized by the TOBB Economy and Technology University in Turkey.

News from Faculty

Deniz Balgamis, a faculty associate in the History Department, taught a course on Islam, Reform and Revolution in Central Asia in the spring and fall 2007 semesters. She also contributed an entry on Kazakhstan for the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2008.

Historian Milan L. Hauner, an honorary fellow with the Department of History at UW-Madison, recently edited several unpublished manuscripts of the former Czechoslovak president Edvard Beneš and...
Album Mania at the Library of Congress

Sometimes graduate academic research can lead to exciting professional opportunities. This was certainly the case for Heather S. Sonntag, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia at UW-Madison, whose research on early visual representations of Russian conquest in Central Asia led to a prestigious summer internship with the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

As part of her research for her master’s thesis, Sonntag visited the Library of Congress in September 2004 to examine three books of the multi-volume Түркестанскій Албом (Turkestan Album), a collection of rare photo albums that the library had acquired in 1934. Containing over 1,200 photographs, maps, watercolor drawings and architectural plans that were exhibited between the 1850s and 1870s to acquaint Russians and Westerners with the region and culture, the Turkestan Album represents one of the most significant and under-examined cultural artifacts chronicling 19th century-Russian imperialism.

The opportunity to work with such important source material inspired Sonntag to collaborate with the Library of Congress the following summer as a volunteer intern on its Digital Archive Project. She spent five weeks going through each volume of the album and catalogued and translated Russian texts and captions, including the foreword, into English. She presented her research for the Library of Congress and the Central Eurasia Studies Society in 2005 and the National Centre of Photography in St. Petersburg in 2007. She also delivered an hour-long public lecture in conjunction with an introductory course on Central Asia, and collaborated with an art student to create a poster featuring images from the album for TRANS: A Visual Culture Conference.


News from Graduate Students and Alumni

Mark Lawrence Schrad received his Ph.D. in Political Science in summer 2007 and is now a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Schrad’s dissertation, “The Prohibition Option: Transnational Temperance and Policymaking in Russia, Sweden & the US,” examined early twentieth-century alcohol policy in a comparative perspective. Mark has taught courses in international law and comparative politics, and he is currently developing a course in Soviet and post-Soviet foreign policy.

CREECA M.A. student David Dettmann attended the Central Eurasian Studies Society conference at the University of Washington-Seattle, where he gave a presentation entitled “Developing

Continued on next page
Graduate Student News (continued from page 7)

Advanced-Level Cross-Language Interactive Listening Modules for Turkic Languages.” His presentation was based on his work on the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series (CAILS) at the University of Wisconsin’s Language Institute. The goal of CAILS is to create twenty online lessons for advanced-level listening comprehension in Kazak and Uzbek. David discussed his project team’s process of creative collaboration and the various challenges they faced in lesson planning and design, and included an exposition of one of their Kazak lessons.

Kathleen Scollins, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, received the J. T. Shaw Prize for the best graduate student paper presented at the Wisconsin AATSEEL conference for her presentation, “‘Kako sdelan Akakij: Letter as Hero in Shinel.’” The Jury would also like to congratulate Slavic grad student Molly Thomasy for organizing the conference and commend Slavic grad student Lisa Woodson for her paper, “Learning How to Sing in a Strange Land: Disillusionment and the Re-Mapping of Memory in Gaito Gazdanov’s Vecher u Kler.”

Congratulations to two December 2007 graduates who earned undergraduate certificates in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS): history major Alex Champion and Shane Vandenberg, a triple major in history, economics, and international studies. Alex plans to work full time and then pursue graduate studies in library science. Shane is relocating to the Washington, D.C. area, where he will apply to graduate programs in either history or public policy.

We extend our congratulations to Anne Lance, who received her master’s degree in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) in August 2007.

Faculty and Off-Campus News (continued from page 6)

reconstructed President Beneš’ wartime memoirs. Hauner consulted several foreign and domestic archives and private collections in order to re-assemble Beneš’ various texts.

Hauner also gathered together and annotated documents that not been used or made available until now, and wrote a critical introduction for each volume describing the process of reconstructing the memoirs and explaining why Beneš thought it would be in Czechoslovakia’s best interest to “link its future with the westward advance of the Soviet Union.” Edvard Beneš’ Memoirs: The Days of Munich (vol. 1), War and Resistance (vol. 2), and Documents (vol. 3) represents the first critical edition of the controversial statesman’s reconstructed multi-volume war memoirs from 1938-1945.

CREECA is gearing up for a spring full of exciting outreach opportunities! Please check the calendar on our website (www.creeca.wisc.edu) for details. You are also welcome to contact Nancy Heingartner, CREECA’s Outreach Coordinator at (608) 265-6298 or at outreach@creeca.wisc.edu.

Friday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Professors Scott Gehlbach and Robert Kaiser will team up for a presentation on the Russian presidential election. This event is part of the Global Hot Spots lecture series put on by the Wisconsin Alumni Association and the International Institute.
Outreach News

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9
FRUA, Friends of Russian and Ukrainian Adoptions, will hold its annual Heritage Camp this year at the American Club in Kohler, WI, March 7-9. CREECA is delighted to be able to help out again with this fun and educational event.

March 7-9, CREECA is proudly co-sponsoring a Romanian film festival. All films will be shown at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. All films will be shown with English subtitles and there is no admission fee.

Monday-Wednesday, March 24-26
A unique Kazakh ensemble, Roksonaki, will be in residence on campus from March 24-26. They will make presentations on the music and culture of Kazakhstan at several local schools. On March 26 at 7 p.m. they will give a free concert in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Financial support for this event is provided by the Kemper K. Knapp Fund.

Tuesday, April 8 from 8:30-12:30
CREECA will present its largest high school outreach event of the year, “Russia Day,” to be held in Great Hall of the Memorial Union. This year we will invite over 200 high school juniors and seniors from around the state to come to campus to learn about the rich history and cultures of Russia.

Wednesday-Sunday, April 23-27
Renowned Czech composer, author, and educator, Ales Brezina, will be in residence on campus. Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Music. For more information, please contact Justin Krawitz (krawitz@wisc.edu).

Late June
Attention Teachers! Once again CREECA will be holding its annual teacher workshop June 25-27, 2008. This year’s topic is “Islam in Russia and the Newly Independent States” and will explore the rich history and current issues surrounding this major world religion in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Featuring presentations and panel discussions from faculty experts, opportunities to share and network with fellow educators, and plenty of standards-based resources for the classroom, this workshop also allows participants who complete all the requirements to earn one graduate credit! Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education, grants are available to defray housing and travel costs for qualified participants. For more information, please contact Nancy Heingartner.

Happy News!

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, at 1:52 a.m. CREECA associate director, Jennifer Tishler, and husband, Bill, welcomed Mary Elizabeth Tishler into their family. Our warmest congratulations go out to Jennifer, Bill, and big brother James on this happy occasion.
THE SOUNDS OF CREECA: Recent Concerts

Kálmán Balogh and the Gypsy Cimbalom Band

On November 11th, 2007, CREECA, together with the Village Dance House and the Wisconsin Union Theater, co-hosted a performance by Kálmán Balogh and the Gypsy Cimbalom Band at Music Hall. Hailing from Budapest, Hungary, this group consists of Kálmán Balogh, band leader and cimbalom (hammered dulcimer) virtuoso, Péter Bede on saxophone, Mihály György on guitar, Frankie Lato on violin, Ferenc Kovács on trumpet and violin and Csaba Novák on double bass. The ensemble presented an eclectic mix of cultural influences in their music, seamlessly combining aspects of Romani folk music from the Carpathian Basin and the Balkans with elements of Latin music, flamenco, swing, ragtime, jazz, and klezmer.

Zolotoj Plyos

Colorful folk ensemble Zolotoj Plyos played to a full house in Morphy Hall on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. The trio, which formed in 1994, consists of world-famous professional Russian folk musicians who graduated from the Higher Music School in Saratov, a city located on the banks of the Volga River in Russia. Their performance at Morphy Hall, which was organized by the Slavic Department Graduate Student organization, was lively and entertaining, and featured an array of traditional folk and instrumental songs. They performed in traditional costumes and incorporated several authentic folk instruments into their show, including the balalaika, the garmoshka, and the treshchotki. The group has won numerous prizes in various folk music festivals in Russia, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, and has even performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Our thanks go out to them and to the CREECA community who welcomed them, as well as the Associated Students of Madison, the Wisconsin Experience Grant, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. Kudos to Slavic graduate student Molly Thomasy, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing Zolotoj Plyos to Madison.

CREECA Podcasts
Since Spring 2007, many of our lectures are now available through Podcasts. For many iPod users, our lectures will automatically upload

http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/resources/
Spring Events Schedule

**Thurs, March 6, 2008**
“Dmitry Shostakovich and Azerbaijani Music”
Aida Huseynova, Indiana University
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Fri - Sun, March 7-9, 2008**
Romanian Film Festival
Madison Museum of Contemporary Art

**Sat, March 8, 2008**
BRICS Conference: “Emerging Powers in the Global System”
8:30-5:30 p.m. VandeBerg Auditorium, 121 Pyle

**Thurs, March 13, 2008**
“The Treasures of Sarmatian Nobility”
Anatoly Symonenko, Princeton University
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Wed, March 26, 2008**
Concert: Roksonaki Kazakh Ensemble
7 p.m. Great Hall, Memorial Union

**Thurs, March 27, 2008**
“Foreign Fries and Local Lettuce: Paradoxes of Fast Food Supply Strategies in Russia”
Danielle Berman, UW-Madison
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Thurs, April 3, 2008**
“Increasing Vulnerability: The Homeless, Alcohol, and Mortality in Russia”
William Pridemore, Indiana University
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Thurs, April 4, 2008**
How Russia Really Works: Informal Practices in Putin’s Russia

Alena Ledeneva, University College London
12 p.m. 336 Ingraham Hall

**Thurs, April 8, 2008**
Russia Day
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Great Hall, Memorial Union

**Thurs, April 17, 2008**
“Cross-Cultural Communication: Examples from Kazakh, Russian, and American English”
Maral Nurtazina, UW-Madison
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Thurs, April 24, 2008**
“The Mongol Empire and Alcohol”
Thomas Allsen, College of New Jersey
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

**Thurs, May 1, 2008**
Cartography is a Many Splendid Thing: Ethnographic Maps and the Ethne of Macedonia, 1842-1912
Ipek Yosmaoglu, UW-Madison
4 p.m. 206 Ingraham Hall

We welcome suggestions from our faculty and students for speakers in the Thursday CREECA lecture series. Please send recommendations for the 2008-09 lecture series to Jennifer Tishler (assocdir@creeca.wisc.edu).

CREECA is a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center. It was established in 1993 to unite the efforts of two longstanding University programs—Russian and East European Studies and Central Asian Studies. CREECA consists of roughly 100 members including many nationally and internationally known experts in their fields.
Contributions to the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia are always appreciated. If you wish to join in supporting CREECA, please send your contribution to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation
U.S. Bank Lockbox
P.O. Box 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Please indicate that it is intended for CREECA. For more information about making a gift to CREECA, please contact Betsy Liotus at the UW Foundation by e-mail (betsy.liotus@uwfoundation.wisc.edu) or at (608) 265-9955.