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The Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Library Collections at the University of California-Berkeley

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### Author

Pendse, Liladhar Ramchandra

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Liladhar R. Pendse,  
Librarian for East European and Eurasian Studies,  
Librarian for Latin American Studies  
University of California-Berkeley,  
Berkeley, California, USA  
Email: [lpense@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:lpense@library.berkeley.edu)

## The Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Library Collections at the University of California-Berkeley

**Abstract:** The University of California (UC), Berkeley Library's Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies collection has evolved over the past hundred years in response to major historical events and processes. The October Revolution and the Cold War both brought about a meteoric rise in attention to the field, while the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 have further stimulated collection development. This article highlights the people and collecting practices that have shaped the collection today, focusing on the history, languages, and literature departments. Slavic and East European Studies faculty have been instrumental in shaping the collection development priorities since the inception of instruction in the field. The article also acknowledges the role of the political sciences department in stimulating collection development during the Cold War.

**Keywords:** Slavic Studies, Area Studies, Collection development, UC Berkeley Library, Academic Libraries Collections

## Introduction

The University of California (UC), Berkeley Library's Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies collection took shape following two major historical events or processes, namely the October Revolution and the Cold War that followed WWII, both of which brought about a meteoric rise in attention to the field. The fall of the Soviet Union in December of 1991 did not cause interest in the region to wither away but only to lie dormant for a season, until the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, which catapulted Russia and Ukraine into the spotlight again. These recent events have given impetus to review the trajectory of collection development over the past hundred years.

This article highlights the people and collecting practices that continue to shape the collection today, focusing on the history, languages, and literature departments. Slavic and East European Studies faculty have been instrumental in shaping the collection development priorities since the inception of instruction in the field. The article also acknowledges the role of the political sciences department in stimulating collection development during the Cold War that followed World War II. One cannot decouple the evolution of Slavic collections at UC Berkeley (UCB) from the growth of the discipline of Slavic Studies on campus. The narrative of the Area Studies project that underlies the evolution of Slavic and East European Studies collections is complicated and imperfect, often overlooking the role played by individuals in the project. This article briefly describes the work of a host of "actors" involved in a multi-decade-long consorted effort to build the library collection into what it is today<sup>1</sup>.

There have been several articles that trace the origins and the development of Slavic Studies in the United States. In his article *Slavonic Studies in the United States, 1918–1938*, Arthur Prudden Coleman (1897–1974) provides a logical explanation for the rise and spread of Slavonic studies in the United States<sup>2</sup>. He argues that the "revolutionary consequences" of World War I (WWI)

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1 Like most narratives, this article suffers from lacunae, in this case, the lack of space. The author acknowledges the contributions of many faculty and library professionals who contributed to building these collections with profound enthusiasm.

2 M.J. Mikoś, *Polish Language and Literature at Columbia University in New York: Early History (1915–1948)*, "The Polish Review" 2016, vol. 61, no. 3, pp. 99–107: <https://doi.org/10.5406/polishreview.61.3.0099>, [accessed 14.02.2024]. Mikoś writes, "In June 1925, Arthur Coleman defended his Columbia Ph.D. dissertation on Humor in the Russian Comedy from Catherine to Gogol, and in 1928 began to teach courses on Polish language and literature." The early interests of Coleman in Slavic Studies were a function of his exposure to the farmworkers of Slavic descent on his father's apple farm according to Mikoś, p. 104. Coleman is credited for playing a pivotal role in the formation of American Association of the Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL).

“fertilized” the study of Slavonic culture in American colleges<sup>3</sup>. It seems like the globalization that followed at the end of WWI, The War itself, and later its aftermath of Relief Administration Peace Commissions and the like, caused a great many young men whose lives might otherwise have remained insularly American to be drawn into the very vortex of the convulsions that agitated the Slav world from 1914 to 1924. He alludes to the increased immigration of the Slavs to the United States in the aftermath of the war as another reason that can be seen as a factor that led to the gradual beginning of Slavic studies instruction. Coleman mentions senior Russian scholars—immigrants who joined academia in the United States, given their academic preparation and stature.

A former History professor at UCB, Robert J. Kerner (1887–1956) explains, in his 1924 article, the rise of the field of Slavic Studies in the United States as follows:

To train the youth of America to comprehend the foundations at least, of some of these problems is a vital necessity. For America to have scholars whose lives are devoted to this field is for her to have a national resource of the greatest value. The vast opportunities and duties which await Americans of the next generation, such as the participation in the reconstruction of Russia and Eastern Europe, the development of China and the Far East, and the maintenance of America’s position in the affairs, in the trade and industry of the world, all these can be fostered by the further development of Slavonic studies<sup>4</sup>.

Archibald Cary Coolidge (1866–1928), a former head of the American Legation in St. Petersburg and professor of history and director of the Harvard University Library, is considered the founder of Slavic Studies in the U.S. for convincing Harvard University to offer a class in Russian language (Flier, 1996)<sup>5</sup>. Leo Wiener (1862–1939) and Frank Alfred Golder (1877–1929) were among the first generation of American scholars in Slavic Studies, with Wiener being hired to teach Russian and other Slavic languages at Harvard in 1896. He taught there until his retirement in 1930. One of Wiener’s students, George Rapall Noyes (1873–1952), established Slavic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley in 1901.

Frank Alfred Golder can be credited for single-handedly building the extensive Russian and early Soviet collections at Hoover<sup>6</sup>. He was born in Odessa

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3 A.P. Coleman, *Slavonic Studies in the United States, 1918–1938*, “The Slavonic and East European Review” 1939, vol. 17, no. 50, pp. 372–388.

4 R.J. Kerner, *Slavonic Studies in America*, “The Slavonic Review” 1924, vol. 3, no. 8, pp. 243–58: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4201853> [accessed 02.04.2024].

5 M.S. Flier, *100 years of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard: an exhibition of books and artifacts, November–December 1996*: <https://slavic.fas.harvard.edu/sites/hwpi.harvard.edu/files/slavic/files/10yearsbrochure.pdf?m=1395340761>, [accessed 01.02.2023].

6 F.A. Golder, T. Emmons, and B.M. Patenaude, *War, Revolution, and Peace in Russia: the Passages of Frank Golder, 1914–1927*, Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, Stanford 1992.

(Odesa) to a Russian-Jewish family in 1877 and emigrated to the United States in 1880. Harold Fisher described Golder's educational and teaching journey in Golder's obituary<sup>7</sup>. Golder can be considered one of the pioneers of Slavic Studies librarianship<sup>8</sup>. He was hired at Stanford University as the curator to help build the Hoover War Library that was started by professor E.D. Adams, and worked there until he died in 1929<sup>9</sup>.

The collection related to Eastern European Studies at the neighboring institution to Hoover, the UCB, is described in a two-page chapter of a report *University of California: Asiatic and Slavic studies on the Berkeley campus, 1896–1947*<sup>10</sup>. It maps the history of the first fifty years of Slavic Studies at the university:

For Balkan history, the library ranks as one of the best. There are documents, monographs, and scientific articles. There is a strong collection in Polish and in Czechoslovakian history, particularly of materials relating to Masaryk and his coworkers, in the Laurin Collection. In the Czech language and literature, there is a good basic collection, and the library has the statutes and law reports of this country. The Russian history collection (this includes Siberian history) is equally good, and includes many monographs, treatises, and source materials. There are files of Russian newspapers and legal documents, including the proceedings of the Duma for the period ending with Kerensky's fall. These last are part of the important Miliukov collection, which also contains Russian regional histories, reports on archaeology, and representation in old Slavic literature. Professor Alexander Kaun's Library was purchased recently; his particular interest is the history of the Soviet Russian novel. The Boehtlingk collection of Russian technological journals, monographs, and patents, covers petroleum engineering from the chemical, geological, and production angles<sup>11</sup>.

The Report, however, fails to note any specific quantitative data or to even name the curators of the Slavic collections. Furthermore, the early Slavic collection development was faculty-driven. I could not find evidence before the early 1960s that a professional librarian was solely responsible for Slavic and Eastern European Studies collection development within the UCB Library.

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7 H.H. Fisher, *Frank Alfred Golder, 1877–1929*, "The Journal of Modern History" 1929, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 253–255: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1872008> [accessed 01.02.2024].

8 P. Duignan, *The Library of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace Part I. Origin and Growth*, "Library History" 2001, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 3–20: <https://doi.org/10.1179/lib.2001.17.1.3> [accessed 01.02.2024].

9 R.J. Kerner, F.A. Golder, "The Slavonic and East European Review" 1929, vol. 8, no. 22 pp. 203–204: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4202374> [accessed 01.02.2024].

10 *University of California: Asiatic and Slavic Studies on the Berkeley Campus 1896–1947*, University of California Press, Berkeley 1947. In the forward to the report the President of the University of California-Berkeley Robert G. Sproul notes that the University of California's 75th anniversary was in 1943 but due to the World War II, the report was released in 1947. For the purpose of this article, it will be referred to as "the Report."

11 *University of California: Asiatic and Slavic*, pp. 19–20.

## Slavic and East European Studies Instruction at the University of California, Berkeley Beginnings (1901–1943)

In his 1944 article, *Slavic Languages at the University of California*, professor George Rapall Noyes<sup>12</sup> (see Phot. 1) mentions that the study of Slavic languages started at Berkeley in 1901 when he was invited by President Benjamin Ide Wheeler to join the University<sup>13</sup>. Wheeler was born in Randolph, Massachusetts, in 1854. He graduated from Brown University in 1875 and from the University of Heidelberg in 1885. He taught at Brown University, Harvard University, and Cornell University before becoming President of the University of California, a position he held from 1899 to 1919. He was a scholar of Greek and comparative philology, and he was also a strong advocate for academic freedom and free speech. During his presidency, the University of California experienced a period of tremendous growth, both in terms of its size and its reputation. He also expanded the powers of the president, gaining the power to appoint all faculty. Wheeler retired from the presidency of the University of California in 1919. He died in Vienna, Austria, in 1927<sup>14</sup>.

According to professor Noyes, president Wheeler's reason for establishing the study of Slavic Languages at UC Berkeley was simple. Wheeler thought there would be a development of relations between California and the Russian Empire. Noyes reminisces:

He certainly was not slave to numbers. In 1901–1902 I taught Elementary Russian to a class of five students in each term, Second-year Russian to a single student in each term, and Bohemian to a single student in the second term. So, for the two terms the total registration in the courses in Slavic languages amounted to thirteen. It rose to fourteen in 1902–1903; then it slumped, twice being only five, but clambered up to fifteen in 1912–1913; it did not grow out of its teens until 1915–1916 when the bracing stimulant of the First World War raised it to twenty-eight<sup>15</sup>.

One vital source that provides information about the classes and faculty in the early years of Slavic Studies at Berkeley is the series of course catalogs named *Announcement of courses of instruction primarily for students in the*

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12 *University of California: In Memoriam-George Rapall Noyes*, University of California History Digital Archive. The Regents of the University of California. October 20, 2006: [https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives\\_exhibits/in\\_memoriam/catalog/noyes\\_george\\_rapall.html](https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives_exhibits/in_memoriam/catalog/noyes_george_rapall.html) [accessed 03.02.2024].

13 G.R. Noyes, *Slavic Languages at the University of California*, "The Slavonic and East European Review" 1944, vol. 22, no. 60, pp. 53–60. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4511353> [accessed 03.02.2024].

14 B.I. Wheeler, edited by M.E. Deutsch, *The Abundant Life*. University of California Press, Berkeley 1926.

15 G.R. Noyes, *Slavic...*, pp. 53–54.

*departments at Berkeley for the academic year*<sup>16</sup>. The Courses of Instruction for 1909 lists George R. Noyes as the assistant professor in Slavic Languages. At that point, Slavic Languages were part of the Department of Instruction. The catalog for 1918/19 lists three faculty members that were associated with Slavic Languages and Literatures, namely George R. Noyes, Ph.D., associate professor of Slavic Languages, Alexander S. Kaun<sup>17</sup>, (see Phot. 2), an assistant in Russian, and Milutin Krunich, assistant in Serbo-Croatian<sup>18</sup>. The lower division courses offered then were Elementary Russian and Polish, which were taught by Noyes, who utilized P. Boyer and N. Speranski's *Russian Reader*<sup>19</sup>. For Polish, Baluta's *Practical Handbook of the Polish Language*<sup>20</sup> was used. Elementary Serbo-Croatian was taught by Milutin Krunich, who used *Petrovitch's Servian Conversation-Grammar*<sup>21</sup>. Alexander Kaun, an assistant in Russian, taught a course in Elementary Bohemian and made use of K. Jonas' *Bohemian Made Easy. A practical Bohemian course for English-speaking people*<sup>22</sup> and V. Benes' *Česká čítanka*<sup>23</sup>. Kaun also led a Russian conversation class, which was not open to students entering the University from schools in the Russian Republic.

There were free elective courses in Russian literature. "Russian Novelists and Dramatists of the Nineteenth Century" was taught by Noyes with a focus on Tolstoy, Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Ostrovsky, and others. Kaun offered a class titled "Recent Russian Literature", which focused on Russian literature after Tolstoy, i.e., Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, Vladimir Galaktionovich Korolenko, Dmitry Sergeyeovich Merezhkovsky, Maksim Gorky, Leonid Nikolaievich Andreyev, and others. Professor Noyes also taught a course titled "A Brief Account of the Literature and Folklore of Poland, Bohemia, and Serbia" [sic.]<sup>24</sup> and course no. 160, dedicated to the life and work of Leo Tolstoy and Polish Romanticism. All classes were three hours in duration and met three

16 *Announcement of Courses of Instruction Primarily for Students in the Departments at Berkeley for the Academic Year 1909*, University of California Press, Berkeley 1919.

17 *University of California: In Memoriam-Alexander Kaun*. October 9, 2006: [https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives\\_exhibits/in\\_memoriam/catalog/kaun\\_alexander.html](https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives_exhibits/in_memoriam/catalog/kaun_alexander.html) [accessed 02.02.2024].

18 *Announcement of Courses of Instruction Primarily for Students in the Departments at Berkeley for the Academic Year: 1909/10–1915/16*, University of California Press, Berkeley 1915.

19 P. Boyer, N. Speranski, *Russian Reader*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1906.

20 J.F. Baluta, *Practical Handbook of the Polish Language*, Polish Book Importing Co., New York 1915.

21 V.M. Petrovitch, *Servian Conversation-Grammar*, David Nutt, London 1914.

22 K. Jonas, *Bohemian Made Easy. A practical Bohemian course for English-speaking people*, Racine, Wisconsin 1890.

23 V. Benes, *Česká čítanka*, [V Praze : Pěči Sboru zástupců České svobodomyšlné školy v New Yorku], 1912.

24 *Announcement of Courses of Instruction Primarily for Students in the Departments at Berkeley for the Academic Year: 1909/10–1915/16*. California: University of California Press, 1915.

times a week. Another course, “The Political Development of Modern Russia,” was very different from the Slavic literature offerings and covered Russian history and political institutions from 1800 to the present day<sup>25</sup>. The course description states that special attention would be paid to the history of Russian Revolutionary movements since 1861. While the description of these courses might be of little interest, it set a trajectory for years for what will be taught throughout the 20th century. There were eleven upper-division courses, mainly in Russian up to the fourth year, taught by Kaun. He also taught a Second-year Bohemian course, “Reading of Truhlar, *Výbor z literatury ceske*”. Krunich taught a Second-year Serbo-Croatian, “Reading of *Boj na Kosovu* and *Hrvatsko Kolo*”.

Professor George Rapall Noyes. Source: University of California, Berkeley. University Archives. *Portraits of University of California Individuals and Groups*, UARC PIC 13 (oversize items housed as UARC PIC 1300). The Bancroft Library. Photography by L. Pendse.

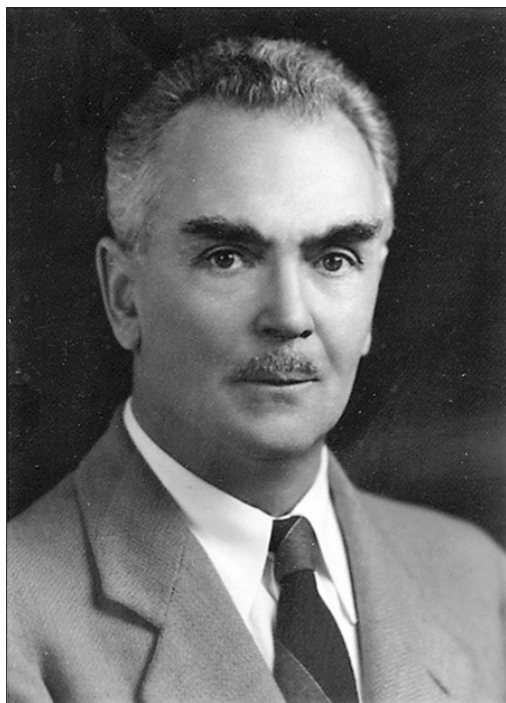


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25 G.R. Noyes, *Slavic Languages as the University of California*, “The Slavonic and East European Review” 1944, vol. 22, no. 60, p. 56: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/45113530> [accessed 02.02.2024]: “The highest figures for the years between the wars were in 1920–1921 when we had 124 registrations in our language classes and 592 in our lecture classes. The latter large figure was due to courses on Political Institutions and on Russian Commerce and Industry which we later abandoned, concentrating our efforts on language work.”



Professor Alexander Kaun. Source: University of California, Berkeley. University Archives. *Portraits of University of California Individuals and Groups*, UARC PIC 13 (oversize items housed as UARC PIC 1300). The Bancroft Library. Photography by L. Pendse.



For graduate courses, we see a few courses listed. One of which was Polish, “Reading of Mickiewicz and Other Polish Poets”. Noyes’s “Old Church Slavic” seminar used A. Leskien’s, *Handbuch der albulgarischen Sprache und Grammatik der albulgarischen sprache*<sup>26</sup>. Noyes also expounded on the study of the relations of Old Church Slavic to other Indo-European languages. For historical Russian grammar, F.I. Buslayev’s *Russkaia Khrestomatiia* (Русская хрестоматия : памятники древней русской литературы и народной словесности, с историческими, литературными и грамматическими объяснениями, с словарем и указателем : для средних учебных заведений)<sup>27</sup> was used.

Six years later, in 1924, George Z. Patrick, Ph.D. (1886–1946), a French and Russian assistant professor, joined Noyes and Kaun in the department.

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26 A. Leskien, *Handbuch der albulgarischen (altkirchenslavischen) sprache, grammatik-texte-glossar*. Ed. 6, Carl Winter, Heidelberg 1922.

27 F.I. Buslaev, *Русская хрестоматия: памятники древней русской литературы и народной словесности, с историческими, литературными и грамматическими объяснениями, с словарем и указателем : для средних учебных заведений*, Sinodal’naia tip., Moskva 1907.

Professor Patrick added E. Prokosch's *Elementary Russian Grammar*<sup>28</sup>. The Slavic Languages department seems to have also initiated classes related to Slavic history and literature, in which professor Noyes provided instructions about the Bohemian people and the South Slavs. In graduate courses, we see the addition of Lithuanian, a non-Slavic language taught by Noyes, who used Leskien's *Litauisches Lesebuch*<sup>29</sup> and O. Wiedemann's *Handbuch der litauischen Sprache : Grammatik, Texte, Wörterbuch*<sup>30</sup>. It is interesting to note that although the History Department offered several classes on the history of Europe, none were explicitly related to Eastern Europe.

So, the early Slavists at UC Berkeley were professor George Rapall Noyes, Milutin Krunich, and Alexander Kaun (Krunich and Kaun were also assistants to Noyes). Milutin Krunich, previously a lieutenant in the Serbian army taught Serbo-Croatian. Alexander Kaun joined in 1917 and lectured on Russian literature. He was also a graduate student in the department. Besides these three initial members, Noyes, in his article *Slavic Languages at the University of California*<sup>31</sup>, makes an important mention of Zdenka Buben, who spoke Bohemian at home and was working towards her teaching certificate when she joined the department as an Assistant for Bohemian. She was a Czech born in France and later became a social worker in public health in Alameda and Los Angeles counties. At the time, she was the only woman in the male-dominated world of Slavic Studies at UC Berkeley. Later, George Zinovei Patrick joined the department as an assistant professor. Professor Patrick was born in Nizhnii Novgorod and studied at the Moscow Law School and the Faculte de Droit in Paris. According to Noyes, he worked at the Imperial Russian Embassy before the revolution. Due to the Bolshevik revolution, he could not return to Russia. He joined the UCB as a professor. Patrick authored several titles in the field of Slavic Studies. Professor George Rapall Noyes retired in 1943, and one of his former students, Oleg A. Maslennikov (1907–1972) had joined the department just one year earlier as a faculty member in Slavic Languages.

In a 1920 article, *Slavonic Languages in American Universities*, published in "Higher Education Circular", Carl Hasek, the assistant professor of German and Russian at the Pennsylvania State College, provided the nationwide environmental scan of colleges and universities where Slavic Languages and Literatures were taught. From the report's first table, on page 20, it is being shown that Berkeley was one of the first universities where Slavic language-related

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28 E. Prokosch, *Elementary Russian Grammar*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1920.

29 A. Leskien, *Litauisches Lesebuch mit Grammatik und Wörterbuch*, Carl Winter, heidelberg 1919.

30 O. Wiedemann, *Handbuch der litauischen Sprache : Grammatik, Texte, Wörterbuch*, K.J. Trübner, Strassburg 1827.

31 G.R. Noyes, *Slavic...*p. 55.

courses topped the national numbers. At the University of California, 20 courses were taught, followed by Baldwin Wallace College, where 18 classes were taught. Since then, Berkeley has had a longstanding tradition of teaching Slavic languages and literatures<sup>32</sup>.

### Slavic Scholars During Post War Years, 1945–the 1980s

The end of WWII and the ensuing Cold War marked the heyday of Slavic teaching and collection development at many North American academic institutions. It was a period of unprecedented attention to everything Russian. Examining the University of California-Berkeley *General Catalog* for 1965/65 for the History and Slavic Languages and Literatures departments reveals that in History, the following classes were offered for the Upper Division: “Russia to 1689: Kievan and Muscovite Russia” and “Russia, 1689–1890: Peter the Great through Great Reforms”, both thought by Martin E. Malia (1924–2004), “Russian Intellectual History”, taught by Malia and Nicholas Valentine Riasanovsky (1923–2011), and “Russia since 1890: The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Regime”, taught by then acting assistant professor Reginald E. Zelnik (1936–2004)<sup>33</sup>.

While it is impossible to describe in detail the activities of each faculty member whose participation could have led to the development of the related library collections given their academic activities, it is essential to focus on a few of them. Substantial information about faculty members who worked at University of California-Berkeley can be found in a special issue of “California Slavic Studies” published in 1971, whose guest editors were Robert P. Hughes, Simon Karlinsky, and Vladimir Markov, all professors emerita in the University of California System<sup>34</sup>. In the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department, there were five full professors: Oleg A. Maslenikov, Czeslaw Milosz, Gleb Struve, Francis J. Whitfield, Waclaw Lednicki; one associate professor, Lawrence L. Thomas, who was the acting chair; and one assistant professor, Jadwiga Maurer; thirteen additional teaching faculty members, including Simon A. Karlinsky, acting assistant professor, and Robert P. Hughes, associate professor in Russian. Professor Czeslaw Milosz taught courses in the upper division related to Polish Literature and Dostoevsky since 1960.

In my article, I will spotlight a select group of scholars who have significantly influenced Slavic studies at UCB. One of them was Gleb Petrovich Struve (see

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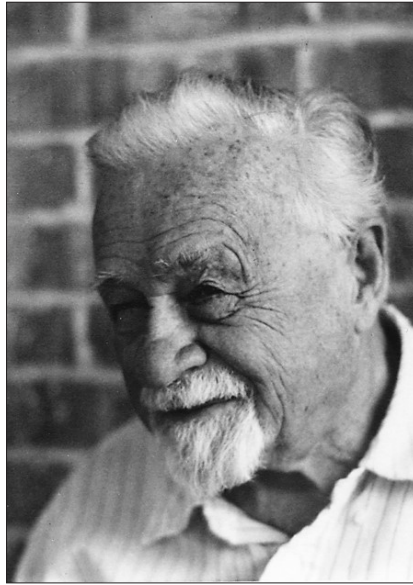
32 C.W. Hasek, *The Slavonic Languages and Literatures in American Colleges and Universities*, “Higher Education Circular” 1920, no. 1, p. 20.

33 *General Catalogue 1964/65–1965/66: Departments at Berkeley*, University of California [Press], Berkeley 1935: [https://search.library.berkeley.edu/permalink/01UCS\\_BER/iqob43/alma991002487979706532](https://search.library.berkeley.edu/permalink/01UCS_BER/iqob43/alma991002487979706532), [accessed 02.02.2023].

34 “California Slavic Studies” 1971, vol. 6, University of California Press, Berkeley.

Phot. 3), a professor at UC Berkeley from 1946 until his retirement in 1967. He was born in St. Petersburg in 1897. His father was Petr Bengardovich Struve, a political economist and historian. Struve was a poet, and his long journey from Russia to Berkeley was preceded by his teaching at University College London (UCL) from 1932 until 1946, where he replaced Russian historian and literary Dmitry Petrovich Svyatopolk-Mirsky as the head of the School of Slavonic Studies<sup>35</sup>.

Gleb Struve. September 1974. Source: George Ivask Papers.  
Amherst Center for Russian Culture. Photography by L. Pendse.



Struve provided leadership in the field of Russian literary Studies at UCB. He wrote *Russian literature under Lenin and Stalin, 1917–1953*, and several other books. One of the pivotal contributions that professor Struve should be credited with is his ability to recruit and help fellow Slavacists. For example, as the passage below shows, he was instrumental in recruiting Vladimir Fedorovich Markov as a professor at the University of California-Los Angeles. In Markov's obituary by professor Ronald Vroon had written about both faculty members:

Vladimir Fedorovich was a Russian scholar who emigrated to the United States in 1949. He worked as a field hand in California for eight months before being introduced to Gleb Struve, a professor at UC Berkeley. Struve advised Fedorovich to apply for a position at the

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<sup>35</sup> S.G. Stanton, *D.S. Mirsky: A Russian-English Life 1890–1939*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2000, p. 90.

Defense Language Institute in Monterey, where he taught for six years. During this time, he also pursued graduate studies at Berkeley and received his doctorate in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1957. His dissertation on Velimir Khlebnikov's longer poems established him as a leading authority on twentieth-century Russian modernism. After graduating, Fedorovich was invited to join the faculty at UCLA, where he worked until his retirement in 1990<sup>36</sup>.

The archive of Struve, which is located at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives, serves as another important source of information on his activities as a member of the faculty and scholar at UCB<sup>37</sup>. Struve's obituary, co-written by professors Simon Karlinsky, Olga Hughes, Robert P. Hughes, and Nicholas V. Riasanovsky, notes:

During his tenure at Berkeley, Struve directed numerous doctoral dissertations. His generosity and readiness to help his students were proverbial. Many of the dissertations he directed were later published as books. In 1971, a special edition of *California Slavic Studies* (Vol. VI) was dedicated to Gleb Struve as a *Festschrift* from his students and colleagues. That same year he was awarded an honorary LLD by the University of Toronto. The Berkeley Citation, the highest honor that the University of California can bestow on one of its communities, was awarded to Professor Struve in 1978<sup>38</sup>.

When Struve received the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in 1973, a part of the citation reads:

Pioneer in the Studies of Soviet Russian and emigre literature, you were often the first to attract attention to new or unjustly forgotten writers. During a quarter of a century as teacher and director of research, you have inspired several generations of literary scholars. The written record of your prodigious scholarship spans the full history of Russian literature and sets an example for us all. To your students, colleagues and friends who honor you as a teacher, scholar and editor, you embody a unique capacity for work, a rare degree of dedication, and a grand combination of scholarly and human integrity<sup>39</sup>.

Another faculty member, Waclaw Lednicki (1891–1967) (see Phot. 4), played a pivotal role as an administrator with a long-term vision, not only

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36 *Vladimir Fedorovich Markov – in Memoriam*, Department of Slavic, East European & Eurasian Languages & Cultures, University of California: Los Angeles n.d. <https://slavic.ucla.edu/person/vladimir-fedorovich-markov/> [accessed on 02.02.2024].

37 *Struve (Gleb) Papers*, Hoover Institution Library and Archives, Collection Number: 85018: Struve (Gleb) papers (cdlib.org), [accessed 01.02.2023].

38 S. Karlinsky, O. Hughes, R. P. Hughes, and Nicholas Riasanovsky. n.d. *Gleb Struve, Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1898–1985*. University of California: *In Memoriam*. California Digital Library: University of California: In Memoriam, 1985 (cdlib.org), [accessed 01.02.2023]

39 N.V. Riasanovsky, *Gleb Petrovich Struve, 1898–1985*. "Slavic Review" 1985, vol. 44, no. 3, p. 611: doi:10.1017/S0037677900091269 [accessed 01.02.2023].

in sustaining the Slavic Languages and Literatures department of the University of California-Berkeley in the immediate post-World War II period, but also as a well-known Polish scholar of Russian literature<sup>40</sup>.

Along with all this, he was unflagging in his own scholarly research. Approximately half of his impressively long bibliography consists of items published after his arrival in Berkeley, including his *Life and Culture of Poland* (1944), *Russia, Poland and the West* (1954), *Pushkin's Bronze Horseman; the Story of a Masterpiece* (1955), *Tolstoy Between War and Peace* (1965), and the monumental symposium, *Adam Mickiewicz in World Literature*, which he edited as an international contribution to the Mickiewicz Centenary of 1955 and which contains his authoritative study of *Adam Mickiewicz's Stay in Russia*. It is pleasant to record that the University did not fail to recognize his merits. Among the many distinctions that he received during his lifetime, including the Belgian Order of Leopold I and the Polonia Restituta, he took a special pride in the series of annual lectures established in his honor at Berkeley in 1960 and in the award of an honorary Doctor of Laws at the Berkeley Commencement of 1963<sup>41</sup>.

Wacław Lednicki. Source: John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation :  
<https://www.gf.org/fellows/waclaw-lednicki/>.



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40 F. Whitfield, P. Boodberg, and G. Struve. n.d. *Wacław Lednicki, Slavic Languages and Literatures: Berkeley*, Online Archive of California. University of California: <http://texts.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb229003hz&doc.view=frames&chunk.id=div00013&toc.depth=1&toc.id>, [accessed 24.02.2023].

41 *Wacław Lednicki, Slavic Languages and Literatures: Berkeley*, [in:] *University of California: In Memoriam*, May 1969: University of California: *In Memoriam*, May 1969 (cdlib.org), [accessed 02.02.2023].

His “The New York Times” obituary, (see Phot. 5) attests to his extraordinary role in promoting Slavic languages and literatures at the University of California<sup>42</sup>.

“The New York Times” Obituary of Lednicki. Source: *Waclaw Lednicki, Expert on Slavs: Ex-Professor at California and Harvard Dies at 76*: <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/waclaw-lednicki-expert-on-slavs/docview/118021131/se-2>.

WACLAW LEDNICKI, EXPERT ON SLAVS: Ex-Professor at California and Harvard Dies at 76  
New York Times (1925); Oct 31, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times with Index

## WACLAW LEDNICKI, EXPERT ON SLAVS

**Ex-Professor at California  
and Harvard Dies at 76**

Dr. Waclaw Lednicki, a leading scholar in Slavic literature, who was widely known as an interpreter of Slavic culture, died Sunday in Berkeley, Calif., where he lived. His age was 76.

Dr. Lednicki joined the faculty of the University of California in 1944 and for many years headed its department of Slavic languages and literatures.

His bibliography comprises 217 items, including articles, essays, and 17 books, such as “Life and Culture of Poland” (1944) and “Russia, Poland and the West” (1954).

He edited more than 20 books in Polish and English, including “Adam Mickiewicz in World Literature,” a symposium on the Polish poet, published in 1956.

In “Life and Culture of Poland,” Dr. Lednicki expressed his feelings about “Russian despotism and imperialism”:

“Poland began her conversations with God and continues them in Latin. This fact determined her history, it assigned to Poland her historic mission, it bound it to the Catholic Universe, to Western Europe, detaching it in large part, in major part, from the Slavic family and from the East of Europe. The whole thinking intellectual elite of Poland has always been against the so-called Slavophile doctrine.”

**Born in Russia**

Dr. Lednicki was born in Moscow. His father, Alexander Lednicki, a prominent lawyer and financier in Poland, had been, before the Russian Revolution, a member of the first Duma and chairman of the Commission of Liquidation of Polish Affairs in Russia.

Early in his career, Dr. Lednicki was a professor in the Universities of Cracow and Brussels. He had served in the Polish Foreign Office from 1919 to 1921.

After the outbreak of World War II he left Poland and found refuge in the United States. He was a visiting lecturer in Slavic languages at Harvard from 1940 to 1944. He also lectured at the Ecole Libre des Hautes-Etudes in New York.

Dr. Lednicki was a founder of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York in 1942.

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42 *Waclaw Lednicki, Expert on Slavs: Ex-Professor at Californian and Harvard Dies at 76*, “The New York Times” 31.10.1967: <https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/waclaw-lednicki-expert-on-slavs/docview/118021131/se-2>, [accessed 24.02.2023].

One important aspect of professor Lednicki's work was to raise public awareness of Poland during and after the conclusion of World War II. He often wrote to "The New York Times". In one of his letters titled *Poland Feels Herself Deserted*, professor Lednicki alludes to the "Soviet betrayal" of the Warsaw uprising<sup>43</sup>. He was one of the founders of the Polish Institute of Arts and sciences of America (PIASA) and his archive is held there<sup>44</sup>.

Another Pole, Czesław Miłosz (1911–2004) was a renowned Slavic Languages and Literatures professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Born on June 30, 1911, in Szetėjnie/Šateiniai, Lithuania, then part of the Russian Empire, Miłosz was raised in a family of Polish-Lithuanian nobility. He studied Polish literature and law at Stefan Batory University in Wilno (now Vilnius, Lithuania) and co-founded the Polish avant-garde literary group "Żagary" in 1931. Miłosz published his first volume of poetry in 1933 and worked as a commentator on literature for Radio Wilno and later Radio Warsaw. During World War II, he joined the literary underground in Warsaw, using the pseudonym Jan Syruć. After the war, Miłosz served in the Polish diplomatic service in New York and Washington from 1945 to 1950 before requesting political asylum in France in 1951. He published *The Captive Mind* in 1953, critically analyzing Soviet influence on intellectuals. Miłosz joined the University of California, Berkeley, in 1960 and published poetry and essays in Polish and English, including *Visions from the San Francisco Bay*<sup>45</sup>. He received numerous awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature (1980), the Neustadt International Prize for Literature (1978), and the National Medal of Arts (1989). After the fall of communism, Miłosz returned to Poland in 1993 and became a regular presence in Poland and Lithuania until his death on August 14, 2004, in Cracow, Poland. His papers are, however, located at Yale University's Archives<sup>46</sup>.

The third Pole, Jadwiga Maurer, spent only a few years at UCB. She was born in 1930 in Kielce, Poland to a Jewish family. She completed her undergraduate and graduate studies after the WWII at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, defending her doctoral dissertation on Polish linguistics in 1955. At that time, she had already met her husband Warren Maurer, who had come to Germany on a fellowship from the University of Chicago in 1953. In 1959 the

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43 W. Lednicki, *Poland feels herself deserted*, "The New York Times", 10.09.1944: <https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/poland-feels-herself-deserted/docview/106752774/se-2>, [accessed 24.02.2023].

44 *Waclaw Lednicki Papers*, PIASA, *Fonds No. 7: Waclaw Lednicki Papers – PIASA Archives* [accessed 02.02.2023].

45 D. Frick, J. Connelly, R. Hass, *Czesław Miłosz*, University of University of California Academic: [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/inmemoriam/html/czeslawmilosz.htm](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/inmemoriam/html/czeslawmilosz.htm), [accessed 09.10.2023].

46 *Czesław Miłosz Papers*, Yale University Library, GEN MSS 661: <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/11/resources/799>, [accessed 02.02.2023].



couple moved to Berkeley, California, where dr. Maurer took up a position as an assistant professor of Slavic Languages. After Berkeley, the couple taught at Indiana University for three years and then came to Lawrence in 1968. In 1970, with recommendations from Czeslaw Milosz and Jerzy Kosinski, dr. Maurer was hired in the Slavic Department at Kansas University where she taught a wide range of courses in Polish language and literature until 2001. In addition to an active scholarly profile, Professor Maurer also published numerous semi-autobiographical stories dealing with Jewish survivors of the Holocaust<sup>47</sup>.

A renowned historian of Russia and European intellectual history, Martin Malia, joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1958 and retired in 1991. He continued to write during his retirement, and his major works include *Russia under Western Eyes*, *The Soviet Tragedy*, and *Alexander Herzen and the Birth of Russian Socialism*. Malia's writings on the collapse of the Soviet Union are considered insightful and valuable. For his obituary, professor Nicholas V. Riasanvsky wrote, "Malia was an outstanding and now very popular historian, occupying a leading position in the present international discussion of the collapse of the Soviet Union and what that collapse means historically and for the future. He also was a brilliant writer in Russian and European intellectual history"<sup>48</sup>.

One of the faculty members who, along with the director of the Hoover War Library at Stanford, Frank A. Golder, devoted their lives to laying the foundation of Russian and East European Studies collections on the West Coast was Robert J. Kerner, the son of Czech immigrants and a former student of professor Coolidge<sup>49</sup>. Kerner is credited with pioneering the field of research and inquiry that focuses on looking at "Russia" from the Pacific Rim perspective. Kerner and other faculty members created the demands for primary source materials that the libraries met by purchasing books and periodicals. These, in turn, gave impetus for the academic libraries to collect, preserve and provide access to pre-Imperial and Imperial Russian books. Professor Kerner's papers are located at the Bancroft Library. George Svoboda has described in detail Robert J. Kerner's role in the creation of Czechoslovakia<sup>50</sup>.

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47 Dr. *Jadwiga Maurer: biography*, Kansas University, College of Liberal Arts and science, department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies: Jadwiga Maurer | Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies (ku.edu), [accessed 02.04.2024].

48 *Russian History Expert Martin Malia Dies at Age 80*, n.d. Newsarchive.berkeley.edu: [https://newsarchive.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/11/19\\_malia.shtml](https://newsarchive.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/11/19_malia.shtml), [accessed 16.02.2023].

49 H.F. MacNair, *Review of Northeastern Asia. A Selected Bibliography*. "The Journal of Modern History" 1940, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 408–10: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1874780>., [accessed on 02.04.2023].

50 G.J. Svoboda, *T. G. Masaryk (1850–1937): Volume 3: Statesman and Cultural Force. Essay*, [in:] *R.J. Kerner and the US Conception of Czechoslovak Independence* Palgrave Macmillan, London 1990: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-20576-9\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-20576-9_4), [accessed 02.02.2023].

Kerner's role in the development of Slavic collections at UC Berkeley Library has been highlighted in a 1966 article titled *The Berkeley Library of the University of California: Some Notes on Its Formation* that was co-authored by then University Librarian Donald Coney, who led the library for 23 years and Julian G. Michel<sup>51</sup>. Coney describes the role of professor Kerner as follows,

Another scholar in another department, Professor Robert J. Kerner of the History department is a reminder of the drama that occasionally accompanies the acquisition of notable collections. Kerner was instrumental in obtaining both the personal library of Paul Miliukov, the Russian exile and the Arne Laurin collection of the libraries, papers and scrapbooks of Tomas Masaryk and his family and of Eduard Benes (...) In 1929, Kerner learned from Frank Alfred Golder, an acquaintance of Miliukov's, that the collection was available for purchase. Taken secretly from Russia, it had been in a Stanford basement, where it had arrived in 1921 from Helsinki. Totalling about four thousand volumes, the Miliukov library was estimated by Professor Kerner to be one of the best private collections of Russian history and civilization outside Slavic Europe. At the time, its value was enhanced by the Soviet government's embargo on the export of such material.

Professor Kerner's vision of acquiring Miliukov's collection has been the subject of numerous later articles, including *Rare Books from Imperial Russia and Its Predecessor States in the UC Berkeley Library* by Liladhar Pendse<sup>52</sup>.

The émigré population and their personal libraries were the other sources that helped create unique, focused collections at academic libraries such as the one at UCB. The UC Berkeley's Russian Émigré Collections have been described by then the curator of East European Collections, Allan Urbanic, in 1993<sup>53</sup>. Besides the émigré populations, one must also take into consideration the collections of the faculty members who either sold or donated their collections to academic libraries as other factors that led to the development of specific collection strengths as traced by Patricia Polansky, a Russian Bibliographer at the University of Hawaii in 2008<sup>54</sup>. The pre-Petrine and early Imperial Russian book collections at UC Berkeley evolved along the same general trends discussed

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51 D. Coney, J.G. Michel, *The Berkeley Library of the University of California: Some Notes on Its Formation*, "Library Trends" 1966, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 294–296: The Berkeley Library of the University of California: Some Notes on Its Formation – CORE Reader, [accessed 13.09.2023].

52 L.R. Pendse, *Rare Books from Imperial Russia and Its Predecessor States in the UC Berkeley Library*, "Slavic & East European Information Resources", 2021, vol. 22, no. 3–4, pp. 287–309, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15228886.2021.2018247>, [accessed on 01.02.2023].

53 A. Urbanic, *Russian émigré literature: A Bibliography of Titles Held by the University of California, Berkeley Library*. University of California, Berkeley Slavic Specialties, Berkeley 1993.

54 P.A. Polansky, *Who Created Us? Faculty, Staff, Book Dealers, and Russian Libraries That Shaped the University of Hawaii Russian Collection*, "Slavic & East European Information Resources" 2009, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 174–225: <https://doi.org/10.1080/152288802178805> [accessed 21.02.2016].

above. However, it is important to note one important purchase already mentioned in this article: the Paul Miliukov collection in the 1930s.<sup>55</sup> Paul Miliukov (1859–1943) was a Russian historian, intellectual, and founder of the Constitutional-Democratic Party that came to be known under its abbreviated title as the Cadet Party. In 1917, he briefly served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the provisional government<sup>56</sup>. In the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution, he left for France. His personal Library – purchased by UCB Library – laid the foundation for the collection of the pre-Imperial and Imperial Russian Imprints.

The other relevant sources of information on the evolution of SEE collections and staffing at UC Berkeley Library are the digitized issues of “CU News” and “Bancroftiana”. “CU News” was the newsletter of the UC Berkeley Library. An excellent examples of this is the mention of the acquisition of *Morskoi Atlas* in Volume 12, Issue 9 from 1957<sup>57</sup> and information about hiring a professional library specialist, Miss Eleanor Rasala, as a part-time reference specialist in general reference services to support Slavic Studies<sup>58</sup>.

One of the key mentors to an entire new generation of historians specializing in Russian, Soviet, and Eastern European history, even after his retirement, was professor Riasanovsky (see Phot. 6). He began his career as a professor of history in 1951 and retired in 1997.

Eminent historian professor Yuri Slezkine reflects on the passing of professor Riasanovsky in 2011 as follows:

He was America’s most influential historian of Russia. Since 1963, most Americans who study Russian history have done so by reading his *A History of Russia* (recent editions have been co-authored with his student, Mark Steinberg). Russian intellectual history, in particular, is unimaginable without his *Russia and the West in the Teaching of the Slavophiles: A Study of Romantic Ideology* (Harvard University Press, 1952); *Nicholas I and Official Nationality in Russia, 1825–1855* (University of California Press, 1959); *A Parting of Ways: Government and the Educated Public in Russia, 1801–1855* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1976); *The Image of Peter the Great in Russian History and Thought* (Oxford University Press, 1985);

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55 W. Zalewski, D. Sedik, *The Miliukov Collection: Early Collecting of Russica in California Academic Libraries*, “Libri: International Journal Of Libraries And Information Services” 1984, vol. 34, no. 3, pp. 186–197: <https://doi.org/10.1515/libr.1984.34.1.186> [accessed 27.02.2016].

56 A. Goldenweiser, *Paul Miliukov – Historian and Statesman*, “The Russian Review” 1957, vol. 16, no. 122), pp. 3–14: <https://doi.org/10.2307/126116> [accessed 02.04.2023].

57 H. Wright, “CU News” 1957, vol. 12, no. 9, p. 2: <https://digidcoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3524?ln=en>, [accessed 02.03.2023].

58 “CU News”. Berkeley: General Library, University of California, 1945. Print. See: volume 6, no. 29, 19.07.1951, “New appointments” section: “Miss Eleanor Rasala. SLA, General Reference Service, Half-time. Miss Rasala has an A.B. degree, in sociology, from the University of Colorado. She is now studying Slavic Languages at this University. Miss Rasala was a WAVE [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service – L.P.] during World War II, and has been a cataloger and circulation assistant in the Hammond (Indiana) Public Library.”

and *Russian Identities: a Historical Survey* (Oxford University Press, 2005). He wrote on *European intellectual history beyond Russia* (*The Teaching of Charles Fourier* (University of California Press, 1969; *The Emergence of Romanticism* (Oxford University Press, 1992), and he had planned a book about “the overwhelming congruence between the Nazi ideology and the Nazi performance”. (...) Riasanovsky’s colleague and friend, Reginald Zelnik, called him “a Russian-European American”. Riasanovsky himself attributed the success of his *History of Russia* to the book’s mixed origins. “One way to state this”, he wrote, “is to emphasize that my father was linked to the main traditions of prerevolutionary Russian historiography and that I managed to adapt that historiography, and whatever else I learned, to the American and Western scene”. He was a European who grew up in China and the United States; a Russian who attended baseball games as religiously as he did the Orthodox mass; an American who, in his own words, was “certainly not Anglo-Saxon or Protestant”. He relished a good audience for his stories and enjoyed lunches with his colleagues and students (at Espresso Experience, on Bancroft Way), but he tended to avoid large groups of people and sometimes appeared lost in thought. He spent most of his time in his office, reading, and writing about history. History, he wrote in a 1988 article, represents “people’s efforts to do the command of God, and often, earn their own salvation and eternal life in the process. And if we are to speak in secular terms, the situation is even more drastic: the only possession human beings have is history”<sup>59</sup>.

Professor Riasanovsky enthusiastically supported the Library’s Slavic collection development activities.

Nicholas V. Riasanovsky. Source: University of California. Academic Senate, *In Memoriam: Nicholas V. Riasanovsky*. Photography by L. Pendse.



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59 Y. Slezkine, *In Memoriam: Nicholas v. Riasanovsky Professor of History, Emeritus UC Berkeley 1923 – 2011*. Academic Senate of the University of California. University of California, 2011: [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/inmemoriam/html/nicholasriasanovsky.html](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/inmemoriam/html/nicholasriasanovsky.html), [accessed 24.02.2023].

## Librarian-Curators (1960s–2011)

Rudolf Lednicky<sup>60</sup> served as the librarian for Slavic and East European Studies at the University of California-Berkeley from the late 60s until the arrival of Edward Kasinec in 1980. Rudolf Lednicky was a Czech scholar and one of the first professional librarians in the field of Slavic Studies who was hired specifically to curate the collections. The hiring of professional librarians in the area studies or international Studies was the function of post-World War II realities, when libraries deemed it was necessary to have a selector-liaison who not only builds the collection but also provides research consultations, as the field of Slavic Studies had acquired particular importance in light of the ensuing Cold War and the launch of Sputnik in 1957.

An October 1965 memo written by Gregory Grossman of UCB's Center for Slavic and East European Studies of UC Berkeley refers to Rudolf Lednicky. In the memo, Grossman writes:

Mr. Rudolf Lednicky of the Library is currently preparing a comprehensive manual of materials and collections in the Russian-East European and communist-study areas on the Berkeley campus. We hope to distribute copies of this manual before long. In the meantime, if you know of relatively little-known materials or collections of this kind that may escape his attention, please inform him at the earliest opportunity<sup>61</sup>.

Rudolf Lednicky and Slavic cataloger Veronica Wakeman prepared a manual that was printed in 1980, *Russian/Soviet Literature: Selected Resources at UC-B*<sup>62</sup>. The list provided bibliographic information about over eight hundred titles and subject analysis. Most of the titles in this list are Russian language titles.

R. Lednicky was one of the early union organizers at UC Berkeley. Whitson writes, "The Berkeley University Teachers Union (later renamed University Federation of Teachers), Local 1474 of the AFT, was founded in May 1963. Several librarians were among the organizing group, and one among them, Rudy Lednicky (Slavic Bibliographer), was the first Recording Secretary"<sup>63</sup>. In 1963,

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60 G. Roland, *In Memoriam: Gregory Grossman Professor of Economics, Emeritus, UC Berkeley 1921–2014*: [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/inmemoriam/html/GregoryGrossman.html](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/inmemoriam/html/GregoryGrossman.html) [accessed 09.08.2023]. Professor Gregory Grossman, a Ukrainian born American economist who escaped the Russian Revolution via Tianjin (Tienstin). After receiving his Ph.D. in 1953 from Harvard, and worked at UC Berkeley until 1992.

61 G. Grossman, Notes. Various: Student Activism, Segregation, Etc., Item 08: *Library use manual*, October 27, 1965, p. 2: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.34013636>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

62 R. Lednicky, V. Wakeman, *Russian/Soviet Literature : Selected Resources at UC-B. Berkeley*: Main Library, University of California, Berkeley 1980.

63 W. Whitson, *Librarians, LAUC-B and the AFT: the struggle for academic status at the University of California, Berkeley, 1963–1991*, University of California, Berkeley 1992, p. 4: <https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/staff/lauchhistory.pdf>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

Lednicky published *A List of Current Paperbound Books in the Slavic Field*, and later co-edited a volume on Russian police<sup>64</sup>. While Lednicky focused on building the Slavic collections, his activities were supported by catalogers like Russell Kenneth Gardner, who worked at UCB Library as the head of the Slavic Cataloging Section from 1966 through 1986<sup>65</sup>.

Yugoslav Exchange Program and Establishment of the Yugoslav Approval Plan.  
Source: Berkeley: General Library, University of California, "CU News" 1972,  
v. 27 no. 45: <https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3539?ln=en&v=pdf>.

CU NEWS Vol. 27, No. 45  
7 December 1972

YUGOSLAV ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Since August 1967 the Library has been receiving Yugoslav books and serials on the P.L.480 program through an agent of the Library of Congress in Belgrade. Recently a letter dated 29 Oct. 1972 from Jerry R. James, the Field Director of the Library of Congress in Belgrade, stated that the program will come to an end with the calendar year owing to insufficient donors. The question has now arisen as to what program shall be put into effect to take its place. This problem was discussed at a meeting on December 1 attended by J. Rosenthal, S.M. Namowitz, I. Mostecky, G. Davis, M. Murdoch, R. Lednicky and H. Wright. After discussing various possibilities it was decided to try to initiate an approval plan with Jugoslovenska Knjiga, the agency which handled the Farmington Plan for Yugoslavia which preceded the P.L.480 program.

With regard to serials it was decided to go through the list of those which had been supplied on the P.L.480 program and eliminate those which are not essential and then send the revised list of those still wanted to Jugoslovenska Knjiga. Mr. Davis and Mrs. Wright would determine what is needed for the Loan Stack and branches will be asked which serials they still want to receive. It was decided to try to get this list ready within the next month so that there will be no gap in our receipts after the serials on the P.L.480 program cease coming at the end of 1972.

Acquisition of monographs will be severely curtailed. A refined profile, based on that previously sent to the PL 480 office in Belgrade and those used for other approval plans, is under preparation by Mr. Namowitz and Mrs. Wright. Coverage under the approval plan will exclude materials for the branches, Law Library, UCSF (Medical) and UCD (Agriculture). A target expenditure allocation of \$2,000 per annum was proposed, as contrasted with the estimated value of monographs received on the P.L.480 Program of over \$4,000 during fiscal 1971/72. Stanford will be consulted about monographs which it is retaining in the interests of cooperation and coverage.

The problem of the acquisition of belles-lettres was discussed. It was decided not to acquire these materials in such degree as we had previously. No more Yugoslav belles-lettres should be received than we receive from Sweden or Czechoslovakia, for example. Jugoslovenska Knjiga will be asked to send only established authors and those who are rising in importance. Faculty members will be asked to provide us with a list of important authors so we can check on the receipts from Jugoslovenska Knjiga.

Jugoslovenska Knjiga will also be asked to type fan folds for the books sent to the Library as other approval plan dealers do and to transliterate entries for Cyrillic titles. This should be possible since the same system of transliteration is used within Yugoslavia as is used by the Library of Congress.

Receipt of newspapers will be cut sharply. Mrs. Wright will discuss with Miss Brock (Newspaper Division) which titles can be eliminated.

Exchanges were also discussed. Many valuable materials are received on exchange. It was decided to look into the question of expanding these. A list of institutions from which we receive materials will be sent to Jugoslovenska Knjiga in order to minimize duplication.

--Helen K. Wright

- 7 -

On December 7, 1972, Lednicky announced in "CU News" that the Library's Yugoslav acquisitions program, which was part of the PL 480 plan that provided Yugoslav books to US libraries, was coming to an end due to a lack of sufficient donors. Then-University Librarian Joseph Rosenthal, in consultation with the Slavic team, had decided to set up the approval plan for Yugoslav books with *Jugoslovenska Knjiga*, which handled supplying US libraries with books, first as a part of the Farmington plan and then as a part of the PL 480 program. In the image below, we see that Lednicky notes a severe curtailment

64 E.E. Smith Edward Ellis, R. Lednicky, *The Okhrana--The Russian Department of Police: a Bibliography*. Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford 1963.

65 "CU News" 1988, vol. 43, University of California, Berkeley Library Digital Collection: <https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

in the acquisition of books from Yugoslavia<sup>66</sup>. As shown below (see Phot. 7), Lednicky also mentioned that the exchanges for acquiring the Yugoslav titles will be expanded but expressed that there could be some potential duplication.

Edward Kasinec<sup>67</sup> is second in the line of professional librarians tasked with developing Slavic Collections at UC Berkeley (UCB). He was hired by then-University Librarian Joseph A. Rosenthal, who served as the University Librarian from 1979 until his retirement in 1991<sup>68</sup>. Kasinec (see Phot. 8) joined the library in 1980 and worked at UCB until 1984. During his relatively short tenure, he rejuvenated the Slavic collections through his proactive outreach. Kasinec is the son of a Rusyn family that emigrated to the United States. Ever since he can remember, Kasinec has been interested in everything Slavic. In 1971–72, Kasinec went to Moscow State University for a year-long stay and, upon his return home, joined the serials check-in department at the Lehman Library at Columbia University. In 1983, he came in contact with Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the New York Public Library (NYPL), who was being considered for the Chancellorship at the University of California system<sup>69</sup>. Dr. Gregorian later recruited Kasinec for this long and successful tenure as the head of Slavic and Baltic collections at the NYPL.

Edward Kasinec's academic and professional journey showcases a rich history of education and accomplishments. He attained an M.A. in History from Columbia University in 1968, followed by participation in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Slavic Library Institute in the summer of 1970. Edward Kasinec's pursuit of knowledge led him to the Graduate Faculty of Moscow State University from 1971 to 1972, and later to American University for Archives Administration in March 1973. Further academic achievements include acquiring a Master's in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston, in 1976, a Master's in Philosophy from Columbia University in 1979, and a Certificate in Appraisal Studies Fine and Decorative Arts from New York University in 2010. Throughout Edward Kasinec's career, he served various distinguished roles: as a Research Bibliographer, Librarian, and Archivist at Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute and College Library (1973–1979/1980); as a Librarian for Slavic Collections at the University of California, Berkeley

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66 R. Lednicky, *Yugoslav acquisition program* Edited by University of California, Berkeley. Library. *Digital Collections* 72 (45): 5–7. <https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3539?ln=en>.

67 Most of Edward Kasinec's recollections that are being summarized in this article are the result of my phone conversation with him on Saturday, 24.12.2022.

68 J.A. Rosenthal, *The Research Libraries Group: Proposals for Cooperation Among the Libraries of Columbia, Harvard, and Yale Universities and the New York Public Library, 1973: The Research Libraries Group* by Joseph A. Rosenthal | Open Library, [accessed on 02.02.2023].

69 R.D. McFadden, *Vartan Gregorian, Savior of the New York Public Library, Dies at 87*. "The New York Times" 2021, 16.04.2021: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/16/nyregion/vartan-gregorian-dead.html>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

(1980–1984); and as the Curator of Slavic and East European Collections at NYPL (1984–2009). His contributions extended to roles like Staff Advisor at NYPL’s Exhibitions and Public Programming Department (2009–2011) and Research Associate at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute from 2010 onwards. Notably, he continues his appointment as a Visiting Fellow at the Stanford’s Hoover Institution Library and Archives.

Kasinec attributes part of his success to the excellent team of colleagues at Berkeley who were genuinely interested in supporting and building the Slavic collections. Besides the support team, he emphasized the role of individual faculty members who continued supporting his work as the librarian at Berkeley, including Tatiana Naninche, Elena Balashova, Barry Jordan, and Stephen Kotkin, who worked as a student assistant in the library’s acquisitions department while pursuing his doctorate at UCB. Kasinec’s assistants included Molly Molloy and Maciej Siekierski. Besides the strong acquisitions team, the Slavic collections were supported by Jana Kovtun and Veronica Wakeman, the Serials Cataloger specializing in Slavic studies. Other colleagues included Eva Mostecky, George Svoboda, Gareth Perkins (Librarian of the Slavic Department Library).

Edward Kasinec, Source: Edward Kasinec personal papers.  
Photography by: L. Pendse.



Kasinec received the early National Endowment for Humanities and Department of Education grants to carry out a complex project for the systematic description of the unique collections of the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco. During Kasinec’s tenure at Berkeley the Masaryk Benes Collection was first cataloged. He also acquired museum duplicates that added significant value to the Slavic collections at UCB. Most of these materials were related to



Russian history and émigré periodicals. The other important aspect of Kasinec's work at UCB was his platform for doing outreach and marketing of Slavic collections to different audiences. One such activity was envisioning and curating an exhibition in collaboration with professor Nicholas Riasanovsky in October of 1981. The title of this exhibition was *Old Cyrillic and Russian books: the first Romanovs to Puškin: an exhibition in the Doe Memorial Library, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Slavic Studies Program, University of California at Berkeley, August 15-October 15, 1981*<sup>70</sup>. In 1984, Kasinec left for the New York Public Library to head its Slavic Collections and the Slavic Reading Room in the historical building on 42nd street and Fifth Avenue.

Alan Urbanic<sup>71</sup> (see Phot. 9) joined the UC Berkeley Library in 1986. Volume 40 (1985) of *CU News* includes a note about and extension of the job advertisement for the Slavic Librarian position at UCB<sup>72</sup>.

Allan Urbanic (in the middle, Chancellor Robert M. Berdahl on the left, 2001 Distinguished Librarian Norma Kobzina on the right). Source: University of California, Berkeley, Library: <https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/staff/images/dla2003d.jpg>.



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70 E. Kasinec, N. V. Riasanovsky, *Old Cyrillic and Russian Books: the First Romanovs to Puškin : an Exhibition in the ... Doe Memorial Library, on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Slavic Studies Program, University of California at Berkeley, August 15-October 15, 1981*, University of California, Berkeley 1981.

71 D.H. Kraus, H. M. Leich, *International Directory of Librarians and Library Specialists In the Slavic & East European Field*, 1996: [http://reeca.creeca.wisc.edu/online/directory/slavic\\_1.html](http://reeca.creeca.wisc.edu/online/directory/slavic_1.html), [accessed 02.04.2023].

72 W. Wenz, *Library Personnel Office Report*, University of California, Berkeley Library, "CU News" 1985, vol. 40: <https://digiColl.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3552?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

Allan earned his doctorate at Brown University, and his 1983 dissertation was titled, *In the Manners of the Times: The Russian Society Tale and British Fashionable Literature, 1820–1840*<sup>73</sup>. The dissertation was a comparative study between the British fashion novel and the society tale (*svetskaia povest'*) in Russian literature. One of the highlights of his tenure was widening the library materials exchanges with the former Socialist bloc countries. Allan was elected secretary to the Slavic and East European Studies of the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1987.

The UC Berkeley Library's newsletter, "CU News" from 1988 (see Phot. 10) includes an advertisement for a temporary Slavic bibliographic part-time position<sup>74</sup>.

Slavic bibliographic position description in "CU News". Source: University of California, Berkeley, Library. "CU News". Vol. 43. Berkeley: General Library, University of California, 1988. <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en&v=pdf>.

CU NEWS Vol. 43, No. 8  
25 February 1988

**TEMPORARY ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN POSITION AVAILABLE**

A temporary Assistant Librarian position is available currently with The Library. Applicants should apply in writing to William E. Wenz, Director for Library Personnel, Room 447 Library, University of California, Berkeley, Ca 94720. Please include with your resume the names and addresses and telephone numbers of three references who are knowledgeable about your qualifications for these positions.

Applications should be received by 11 March 1988.

For collective bargaining purposes this position is classified in the bargaining unit which is currently represented by the University Federation of Librarian University Council--AFT.

Slavic Bibliographic Position  
Assistant Librarian  
\$25,380.00 to \$32,472.00 per annum salary range\*

Duties: To survey the Berkeley Library's Slavic Collections and make an assessment of library resources in the areas of the Eastern Orthodox Church and Russian book studies. The survey will endeavor to describe collection strengths, reference tools, the periodical literature and approaches to research in these areas on the Berkeley campus, for the purposes of assistance to the academic community and for further collection development.

Requirements: MLS from an ALA accredited library school is required. Knowledge of and experience with reference materials (e.g. periodical indexes, guides to the literature, etc.) and the book trade in Slavic studies is essential. A strong command of Russian and a working knowledge of other European languages is essential. Academic library experience in the area of Slavic studies is highly desirable, as is an understanding of research methods in history, demonstrated by advanced academic study.

\*Salary quoted is a full time equivalent. This is a part-time position to be scheduled at approximately 15 hours per week maximum. Actual salary depending on qualifications of candidate selected.

**TECHNICIANS TRAINING**

During February 22 to March 7, 1988, the Library Copy Service copier/microform technicians will be off campus training for repairs on the new Panasonic copiers. There will be service during this period, however, the response time will be longer than usual. Service will be available Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday/Sunday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Your patience is much appreciated.

--Charles Jackson

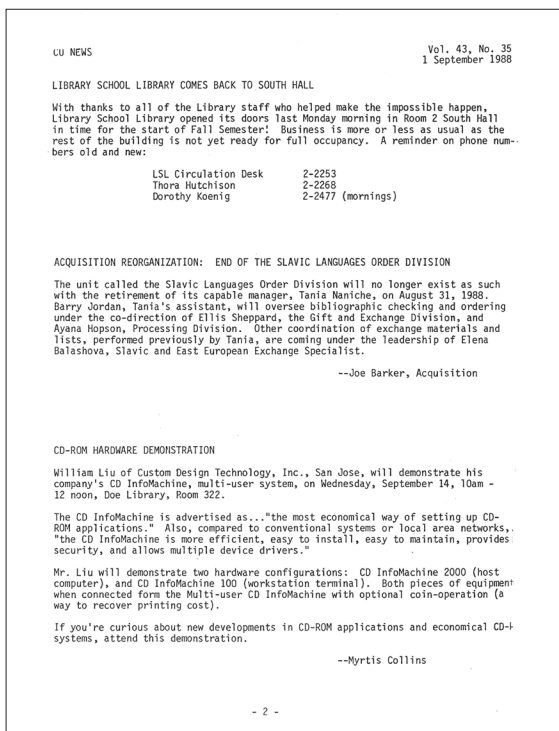
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73 A.J. Urbanic, *In the Manners of the Times: the Russian Society Tale and British Fashionable Literature, 1820–1840* [Ph.D. dissertation, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 1983: <https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/manners-times-russian-society-tale-british/docview/303128922/se-2>, [accessed 14.02.2023].

74 *Slavic Bibliographic Position*, University of California, Berkeley Library, "CU News" vol. 43, no.8, p. 4: <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

1988 was a year of retirement for some Slavic specialists. The previously mentioned Tatiana Naniche served as the head of the Slavic Order division until 1988. In the article titled, *Salute to the Future of Tatiana Naniche!* in “*CU News*”, Joe Barker writes, “Born and educated in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Tatiana Naniche came to the Bay Area in 1959 (via the Netherlands, Iran, New York, and other places), and to the Library in 1963. Over the years, Tania applied her extensive knowledge of languages, publishing practices, and cultures and her keen bibliographic judgment to just about every task performed in the Acquisition Department. She retires from heading the Slavic Languages Order Division as an LA V<sup>75</sup>. It also meant an end of the Slavic order division as a separate unit (see Phot. 11)<sup>76</sup>.

Acquisitions Reorganization: End of the Slavic Languages Order Division.  
Source: Berkeley: General Library, University of California, “*CU News*” 1988,  
vol. 43, no. 5: <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en&v=pdf>.

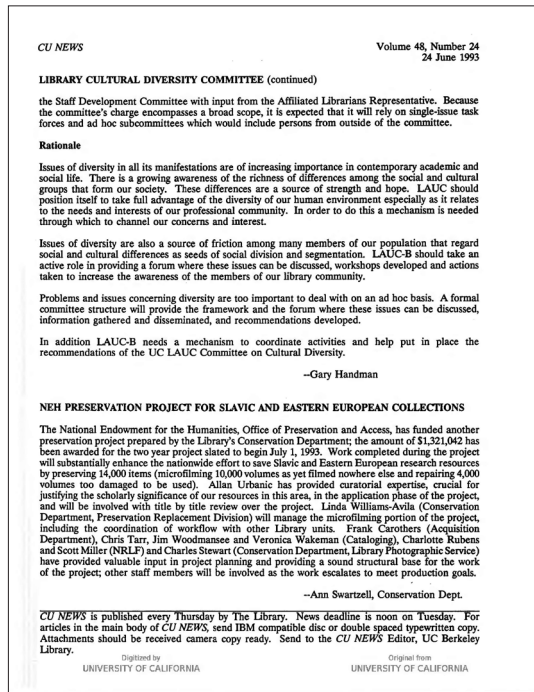


75 J. Baker, University of California, Berkeley Library, “*CU News*” 1988, vol. 43, no. 35, p. 1, <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

76 J. Barker, *Acquisition reorganization: end of the Slavic languages order division*, University of California, Berkeley Library, “*CU News*” 1988, vol. 43, no. 5, p. 2: <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

Despite the retirement, the library's Slavic exchange program was thriving, with Elena Balashova leading the program. According to Swartzell, Urbanic also provided leadership with his curatorial expertise about the scholarly value of Slavic print materials for an NEH-funded grant project (see Phot. 12)<sup>77</sup>. Urbanic also served as the head of the International Area Studies division during his tenure.

NEH grant for preservation of Slavic materials. Source: University of California, Berkeley Library, "CU News" 1988, vol. 43, no. 5, p. 2: J. Barker, *Acquisition reorganization: end of the Slavic languages order division*: <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3555?ln=en>.

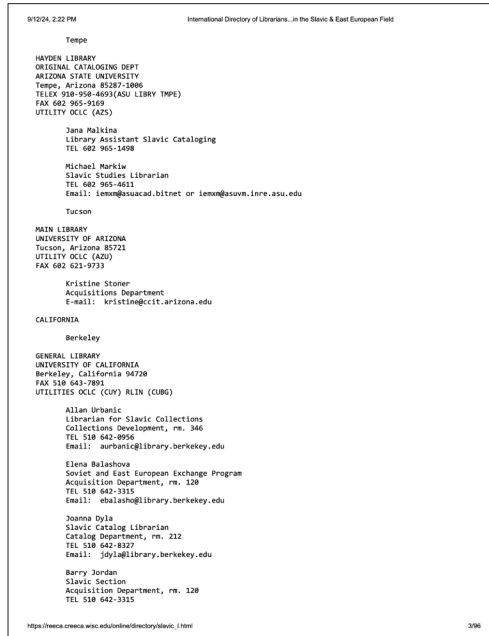


One way to gauge the importance of Slavic Studies collections is to see what support staff had helped Allan Urbanic with collection development. One good source of such information is the June 1996 edition of the directory of Slavic Librarians<sup>78</sup>. The image of Berkeley's staff listing from 1996 shows incredibly well-staffed support for Slavic collection development (see Phot. 13).

77 A. Swartzell, *NEH Preservation Project for Slavic and Eastern European Collections*, University of California, Berkeley Library, "CU News" 1993, vol. 48, no. 24, p. 8: <https://digioll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/3564?ln=en>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

78 D.H. Kraus, H.M. Leich, *International Directory of Librarians...*

Slavic and International Librarians Directory: a page for UC Berkeley Library.  
Source: *Slavic and East European Language and Linguistics: Russian, East European and Central Asia (REECA) Directory*. University of Wisconsin-Madison.



He also successfully curated the microfilming project of several hundred pages of late Soviet and post-Soviet transitional press materials. Urbanic retired from the UC Berkeley library in 2011. The Committee on Library and Information Resources of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES CLIR) awarded him the 2011 Distinguished Service Award. In the announcement, ASEEES CLIR Distinguished Service Award committee members highlighted that Allan founded the Slavlibs listserv, which still is the primary communication channel for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian librarians around the world. He maintained the listserv for almost 20 years<sup>79</sup>. Urbanic was known for his good humor and friendliness, and he had also mentored and supported newer members of the field. His impact and legacy in the field of Slavic and East European librarianship will continue to be felt for many years to come.

79 2011 ASEEES CLIR Distinguished Service Award (ASEEES): <https://www.aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes/aseees-clir-distinguished-service-award/past-winners-aseees-clir/2011>, [accessed 02.02.2023].

## Concluding Remarks

It is often said that usually, with few exceptions, the current generation's knowledge of the past generations extends back to the previous two generations. As for the knowledge about earlier generations, the discussions are usually considered irrelevant or even anecdotal. Large academic libraries and their administrators are generally not exceptions to this adage. They are rightfully and zealously busy tackling several problems simultaneously, such as budgetary adjustments, staff shortages, and aging infrastructure. The memories of the past thus become less relevant. At the same time, the efforts to enforce the "new" visions and write "new" reports about the legacy collections are paramount in searching for degrees of relevancy in the academic world. The world of Slavic librarianship is no exception to this general assumption. However, today is also defined by our understanding of the past and how we got here; amassing huge print and now so-called legacy collections represents an exciting story. The story of Slavic and East European Studies collections at the University of California, Berkeley Library is essentially the story of the people who proactively collected, curated, and preserved books from Eastern Europe and Eurasia on the Pacific Rim of the United States. This article thus focuses on some key actors without whom our understanding of the complex trajectory of collection development at UC Berkeley would remain incomplete.

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