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## Feature

### The Russo-British Chamber of Commerce: Past, Present and Future


By Trevor Barton, Executive Director, RBCC

Great Britain and Russia have a long history of trade with each other. In 1553 Richard Chancellor, whose ship had been wrecked on the banks of the River Dvina, was received by Tsar Ivan the Terrible, who granted British merchants the right to conduct tariff-free trade in Russia. The creation of the Muscovy Company in London followed in 1555. By the end of the eighteenth century the British community in St Petersburg exceeded 1,500 people, mainly merchants in the timber and grain businesses.

In 1916, warmly supported by both governments and with the approval of the King, the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce (RBCC) was created. A glorious

banquet took place in London, followed soon afterwards by the RBCC's first business breakfast at the Savoy Hotel and its first AGM in March 1917. These were, however, torrid times and the Chamber's first Bulletin, published in 1919, informed readers that: "Shortly after the commencement of 1918, trade with Russia entirely ceased, and the useful activities of this Chamber were consequently very much limited." All was not lost, however, trade began to revive some months later and the RBCC thankfully took the decision to remain in existence.

No. 145140



### Certificate of Incorporation

**I Hereby Certify,** That the


*Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in the*  
*United Kingdom for the Promotion of Commerce*  
*between the British and Russian Empires (Incorporated)*  
*(the word "Limited" being omitted by Licence of the Board of Trade)*

is this day Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 and 1913, and that the Company is Limited.

Given under my hand at London, this *Twenty third* day of *October* One  
 Thousand Nine Hundred and *Sixteen*.

Fees and Deed Stamps £ *16. 10. 0*

Stamp Duty on Capital £ \_\_\_\_\_

  
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Certificate of the founding of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, 23 October 1916 (RBCC)

Nearly a century later we are still here, the longest-established international business organisation working in Russia and still at

the centre of trade and business activities between two great countries, still encouraging and facilitating business people from each country to meet each other, to talk, to develop beneficial relationships and to do business. In the meantime the Chamber has weathered the changing political climate between the two countries, changing its name not once but twice – to the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and then back to the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce. Numerous conferences have been organised, trade missions facilitated in both directions, projects completed, toasts proposed (and therefore glasses of vodka drunk...) and, most importantly, many enduring friendships have been made.

Highlights have included the Chamber's continued work throughout World War II, including collecting money for Mrs Churchill's Red Cross Fund to help the Soviet Union; a banquet at the Connaught Hotel in 1966 to celebrate the Chamber's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, attended by the then prime minister Harold Wilson; a breakfast co-organised with the British Government in honour of Mikhail Gorbachev in 1984; opening the Moscow office in 1987 and the St Petersburg office in 2004; and also the warm and enduring relationships the RBCC has with the Russian Embassy in London, the British Embassy and Consulates in Russia, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (RF CCI) and the Russian Trade Delegation in London.



Margaret Thatcher and Ray French, former Chairman of the Chamber, at the official opening of the RBCC Moscow office in 1987 (RBCC)



A panel discussion at the 2012 Christmas Cocktails (RBCC)

The RBCC now has a thriving membership of some 400 companies. Many UK members are exporters of manufactured goods or high-tech equipment to Russia, which has been the UK's fastest-growing export market for the past two years, or providers of services both to UK exporters and to Russian companies. UK members range in size from SMEs to major industrials such as BP. Russian members include companies and individuals interested in the UK as an investment destination, very large companies in the natural resources and financial services sector, law firms and entrepreneurs from the rapidly developing Russian high-tech sector.

A substantial part of the Chamber's activity involves organising and running events for the benefit of our members and others, and we have in mind the profile of our members and current investment trends in planning these events. For example, we ran a seminar in London in December 2012 on the 'passing of the sporting baton' from the UK to Russia. As I write, Moscow is hosting the World Athletics Championships, the Sochi Winter Olympics are on the horizon and the 2018 World Cup, with football matches to be held in many Russian cities, is only a few years away. These sporting events offer a wide range of opportunities to UK companies, particularly those that provided services to the 2012 Olympics – an event that was widely admired in Russia for the professionalism of the staging, organisation, security, ticketing, etc. Our events are

designed to open UK companies' eyes to such possibilities in Russia, and also to make it clear to Russia that the UK is keen to be involved in all aspects of the country's development.

Every year the RBCC hosts a major conference in London and in Moscow, as well as other seminars, round table discussions and networking events in those cities and in St Petersburg. We recently ran our annual RBCC Business Forum in London and in October this year Moscow will host the next RBCC RussiaTalk conference – again focusing on contemporary themes relevant to business people from both countries and using an interactive format guaranteed to keep the discussion lively!



President Putin and HRH Prince Michael of Kent, RBCC Patron, meet in St Petersburg, 2001 (RBCC)

The RBCC is also determined to reach out vigorously into the regions – both in Russia and the UK. We are developing links with particular regions in Russia that offer good investment potential for UK companies and are actively engaging with local Chambers of Commerce, Trade Federations and other business organisations around the UK to encourage their members to realise the potential of trading with Russia. It is a fact that companies from mainland Europe are very active in Russia and have already snapped up some of the opportunities. However, for UK companies with high-quality products to sell and for those that are prepared to venture into cities beyond Moscow and St Petersburg, the value of the 'British Brand' will enable them to find good

markets for their products right across the country. Corporate customers in Russia are demanding and the emerging middle class are discriminating consumers, so we encourage UK exporters to approach the market strategically, to devote sufficient time to developing their business and to sell into Russia on quality, not price.

London is popular with Russians as an investment destination, particularly with regard to real estate and as one of the world's foremost capital markets, but as Russian companies adopt an increasingly broad perspective in their international dealings, the UK regions are attracting more attention, particularly those containing 'high-tech clusters'. The RBCC is determined to be part of these developments and we are engaging with the UK regions to crystallise those opportunities for our members.

The Chamber publishes a quarterly Bulletin and sends out monthly e-Newsletters from London and Moscow, plus a review of recent business developments from St Petersburg. We are pleased to distribute our e-Newsletters, which mention forthcoming events and new initiatives, to non-members. The information is also on our website at [www.rbcc.com](http://www.rbcc.com). Our ambition is, of course, to continue to increase our membership, thereby encouraging and enabling more companies and individuals to do business between our countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent has been our active and very supportive Patron for many years, and the Chamber benefits from having an experienced Board of Directors and Advisory Council. As we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016 the RBCC is confident that trade and investment between Russia and the UK are not only on an upward curve, but are diversifying in a most exciting way. We look forward to continuing to play a key role in the countries' relationship for many years to come.

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# SCRSS News

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## New SCRSS Council

Following the Society's AGM in May 2013, the membership of the SCRSS Council is as follows. *Honorary Officers:* President: Professor William Bowring. Vice-Presidents: Robert Chandler, Professor Robert Davies, Dr Kate Hudson, Dr Rachel O'Higgins, Robert Wareing. *Executive Committee:* John Riley (Chair), Philip Matthews (Vice-Chair), Charles Stewart (Vice-Chair), Ralph Gibson (Hon Secretary), Jean Turner (Hon Treasurer), Kate Clark, Fiona Wright. *Council Members:* Mel Bach, Christine Barnard, Andrew Jameson, Christine Lindey, Diana Turner.

## New Honorary Secretary

Our long-standing Secretary and, later, Hon Secretary Jean Turner stepped down at this year's AGM from the post she has occupied for almost 30 years. The Society is delighted that it will continue to benefit from Jean's experience and commitment in her new role as Hon Treasurer.



Jean Turner and Ralph Gibson at the SCRSS AGM in May 2013

Ralph Gibson has stepped into Jean's shoes as our new Hon Secretary and is himself a long-time and active member of the Society's Executive Committee. Ralph welcomes any questions, suggestions, or comments about the Society and its

activities, and thanks members for their continued support.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch

The new SCRSS Council met in July and one of its first tasks was to consider how to celebrate the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. Our autumn events programme concludes with a special event on Saturday 7 December. All members are invited along to mark the beginning of what we hope will be a fantastic year of events worthy of this milestone! The intention is to launch the programme of events covering the whole year so that members can plan accordingly. The fact that the 2014 UK-Russia Year of Culture coincides with our anniversary should give us many more opportunities to attract new members and supporters. For more details, check the SCRSS website at [www.scrss.org.uk](http://www.scrss.org.uk).

## Supporting the SCRSS

The SCRSS Council continues to explore all possible avenues to increase income for the Society, which operates on a very tight budget. Thanks to the generosity of the Society's members our ongoing Library Appeal has so far raised over £14,000. Apart from such donations, one very significant way for members to help the Society is to renew their membership promptly and to encourage others with an interest in our objectives to join the Society. If your membership renewal falls due before the end of this year, you should receive a reminder slip enclosed with this issue.

## Gift Aid

The Society recently received a very welcome financial boost with its annual Gift Aid cheque from the government. Although membership fees are not eligible for this scheme, if you make a regular or one-off donation to the Society, and you pay UK income tax, the Society can benefit from Gift Aid. Download a Gift Aid form from the SCRSS website at [www.scrss.org.uk/](http://www.scrss.org.uk/)

Documents/SCRSS\_membership\_GiftAid.pdf or contact Ralph Gibson to request a copy by post.



St Petersburg student group, hosted by the SCRSS, at the Society's office, July 2013 (John Cunningham, staff, and Jean Turner, Hon Treasurer, in the back row)

## Member Congratulations

Long-standing SCRSS member **Dr Julian Tudor Hart**, 86, received a lifetime achievement award on 1 July 2013 at the Bevan Foundation and Bevan Society's inaugural Bevan Prize for Health and Wellbeing. Jaselle Williams, great-great-niece of NHS founder Aneurin Bevan and Secretary of the Bevan Foundation, presented the award. Dr Tudor Hart carried out world-leading research while working as a GP in Glyncorrwg, south Wales – one of the most deprived regions of Britain.

In May 2013 SCRSS Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Soviet Memorial Trust Fund **Philip Matthews** was elected Mayor of Wilton. Philip was Secretary of our former Wessex branch. It was through his efforts that the branch regularly hosted the Soviet teachers group visiting the UK for the SCR's annual Russian Easter Seminar in London, among other activities meeting with previous mayors of Wilton and Salisbury's MP Robert Key.

## SCRSS Library News

See the report by SCRSS member and library volunteer Clare Weiss on page 13.

## Next Events

**Friday 13 September 7pm**

**Film: *Rasskazy* (Short Stories)**

Directed by Mikhail Segal and first shown at the 2012 Russian Film Festival, the film is a series of short stories set in a Russian publishing house. 105 mins, colour, English sub-titles. *Note: Admission to this event is free (SCRSS members and non-members), but please telephone or email the SCRSS in advance to reserve a ticket. The SCRSS receives no external funding and welcomes donations to support this event.*

**Friday 11 October 7pm**

**Lecture: Caroline Walton on her new book *Smashed in the USSR***

Born in Chapaevsk (a satellite of Samara) in 1934, Ivan Petrov spent forty years careering, stumbling, staggering and rampaging all over the vast Soviet empire. In and out of prison camps, almost always drunk, and with a marvellous gift for sending up the tragic absurdities of Soviet life, Ivan was a real-life Svejik. Ivan moved to London in the early 1990s and died in 2001. His unforgettable story was told to Caroline Walton just before his death.

**Saturday 9 November 10am–5pm**

**Event: 2<sup>nd</sup> SCRSS Russian History Seminar**

This year's seminar looks at post-1945 Soviet history. It will provide a fascinating opportunity for students and teachers to immerse themselves in different aspects of Russian culture and experience of the period. Our speakers include Professor Richard Overy, acclaimed historian and author of over twenty-five books on World War II and the European dictatorships; John Riley, writer, teacher, curator and broadcaster on film and music; and Christine Lindey, lecturer and writer on art history. Our fourth lecturer will be confirmed shortly. The seminar is aimed particularly at teachers of A-Level History and university students, but is open to everyone interested in Russian and Soviet history. Places are limited to ensure a great atmosphere in which participants can engage with the speakers on their specialist topics. To register your interest and receive the full

application pack once available, email [ruslibrary@scrss.org.uk](mailto:ruslibrary@scrss.org.uk) with the subject line 'SCRSS Russian History Seminar' or telephone and leave your details. The brochure and application form will appear on the SCRSS website by 20 September. Fee: £50.00 (SCRSS Members: £40.00). Includes lunch and tea / coffee.

### **Saturday 7 December 4–7pm Event: SCRSS Special Event**

A celebration in the run-up to Christmas to launch our programme of special events for the Society's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. Entry is free for SCRSS members, £5.00 for non-members. Further details will appear on the SCRSS website nearer the date.

*Events take place at the SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB, unless otherwise stated. Admission fees for films and lectures: £3.00 (SCRSS members), £5.00 (non-members). Admission fees for other events: as indicated above.*

## **Soviet Memorial Trust Fund News**

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### **Victory Day, 9 May 2013**

Over 400 people attended the ceremony at the Soviet War Memorial to mark the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied Victory over Fascism. The Mayor of Southwark, Cllr Althea Smith, welcomed the participants who included diplomatic representatives, veterans associations, British and Russian cultural and community organisations, as well as children from the Russian Embassy School. The Russian Ambassador, HE Alexander Yakovenko, noting the large number of UK and Russian veterans present, reminded the audience that: "It is to the veterans that we and our families owe the peaceful present, to their sacrifices and courage. Veterans did not spare their lives on the road to the victory. They defeated Nazi Germany, displaying extraordinary commitment to their nations and the core values of human civilisation." See

[www.rusemb.org.uk/article/223](http://www.rusemb.org.uk/article/223) for the full text. For photographs and audio of all the speeches, see local community news website *London SE1* at [www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/6809](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/6809).



St Petersburg student group, hosted by the SCRSS, laying flowers at the Soviet War Memorial, July 2013

The Deputy Lieutenant for Southwark, Mrs Jenny Bianco, laid the first wreath, followed by over fifty more on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence; Southwark Council; embassies of the CIS countries and the USA in London; a group of Soviet veterans who had travelled from Moscow and Murmansk especially to mark 9 May in London; the Russian Convoy Club, RAF Russia Association, and a number of other veterans groups; the SCRSS and other UK-based cultural and political organisations; and a host of Russian community and educational groups.

### **Ushakov Medal**

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the UK in June to attend the G8 summit in Northern Ireland. His visit began with the presentation of medals to veterans who took part in the Arctic Convoys. At a joint ceremony, he and Prime Minister David Cameron presented to twenty veterans the two countries' state awards: the Ushakov Medal and the Arctic Star.

He paid fulsome tribute to the veterans in a short address: "I would like to speak here about your personal courage and heroism, rather than the general grandiose goals that united us. It is hard to imagine that in the



winter and autumn, in the freezing cold with temperatures at 20–30 degrees below zero, during storms – and the waves in that part of the world ocean can reach 3, 5, 6, 7 metres – it is hard to imagine that in those conditions, convoys that were sometimes unarmed stayed the course and performed their sacred duty as allies. Russians remember you and consider you heroes. For me it is an honour and a pleasure to see you here today and present you with the Russian Ushakov Medal...”

## Next Events

**Sunday 10 November 12.15pm**

### **Event: Remembrance Sunday**

An Act of Remembrance will be held at the Soviet War Memorial. Further details will appear on the SCRSS website and those on the SMTF mailing list will receive a formal invitation in October. To receive regular information about the SMTF, please contact the Hon Secretary, SMTF, c/o 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB or email: [smtf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smtf@hotmail.co.uk).

*The Soviet War Memorial, dedicated to the 27 million Soviet men and women who lost their lives during the fight against fascism in 1941–45, is located in the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London SE1 (adjacent to the Imperial War Museum). The SCRSS is a founder member of the Soviet Memorial Trust Fund.*

## Feature

### **2018 FIFA World Cup Russia**

By Barry Martin, Chairman, The Russia House Ltd

### **Great Opportunities for British Industry and Commerce**

When Russia was appointed by FIFA to host the 2018 World Cup there were sighs and groans from England, the defeated bid country.

But British business involved in the sports industry and Russian trade were quietly happy and immediately got in touch to arrange for multi-entry visas to be endorsed into their passports!

British companies are enjoying the success of their work at the London Olympic Games. They also did very well with getting contracts from Russia for the Sochi Winter Olympics, which open in February 2014 in the seaside resort area of Sochi and the nearby mountain resort area of Krasnaya Polyana. Having pioneered the first British Trade Mission and visits to Sochi, The Russia House is now, as British industry should be, concentrating efforts on the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia.

Eleven venues in European Russia are now committed to the 2018 FIFA World Cup and all need British expertise and experience in stadia infrastructure, transport (air, road and rail networks), hospitality, training, security and medical facilities.

The eleven cities are shown on this map of European Russia (*map courtesy of FIFA's official website FIFA.com*):



A great deal of construction, refurbishment and city regeneration has to be done in at least seven of the eleven cities. We also have to be open and appreciate that the needs, security, crowd control and policing of football supporters needs a lot more attention than, perhaps, the more sophisticated audiences of a Winter Games. For instance, the city of Saransk will be hosting more foreign visitors during this tournament than it has seen in the last fifty years! Can you imagine 10,000 English

football fans looking for a pint or several and a pork pie in a city with a distinct lack of watering holes? Not to mention the city having to cope with at least two groups of fans at one time?

## The Official 'Kick-Off' Has Begun!

On the 23 July 2013 *The Stadium Requirements Handbook* was presented to the eleven host cities by Arena- 2018. Arena-2018 was founded by the Russia 2018 – Local Organising Committee in April 2012 to oversee the infrastructure development of the FIFA World Cup. On 13 June 2013 the Russian Government sanctioned the Infrastructure Programme, making its adherence law – Putin had spoken!

The Programme states: “There are 292 facilities to be built which includes 12 stadiums, 113 training sites, 62 hotels, 11 airports, communal and transport structures and equipment , power needs, IT and communication facilities.” The budget is a colossal 226.3 billion roubles (£4.5 billion) – that’s an awful lot of business.

This doesn’t include the private sector investment – restaurants, fast food outlets, bars, coffee shops, medical facilities, souvenir production and retail, security and training. And considerable amounts of consumables – food supplies, alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, medicines and general retail supplies. The world’s media must also have updated facilities.

## Visit as Many Venues as You Can Now

The time to go is now – 2018 is only five years away. The Russia House can put British companies in touch and arrange meetings with the Local Organising Committees. It can also obtain visa support and invitations, provide travel arrangements to all destinations and arrange pre-paid hotel accommodation. In addition, to gain a foothold in the World Cup market, companies should look out for and join the two following events:

### International Business Summit

Nizhny Novgorod 11–12 September 2013  
Conference theme: Infrastructure Facilities and Preparation for FIFA World Cup 2018  
Web: [www.ibs-nn.ru](http://www.ibs-nn.ru)

### UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) – Global Sports Trade Mission Russia

28 October – 1 November 2013  
Web: [www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk)

## Summary of the FIFA World Cup Venues

Four are established international sporting venues:

- **Moscow** – Capital of Russia; population 11,551,930
- **St Petersburg** – Capital of the Leningrad Oblast; population 4,848,800; 687km from Moscow
- **Kazan** – Capital of Tartarstan Republic; population 1,196,738; 825km from Moscow
- **Sochi** – Krasnodar Region venue for 2014 Winter Olympics and Formula 1 Grand Prix 2014–20; population 397,000; 1679km from Moscow

Seven need a lot more help:

- **Kaliningrad** – Capital Kaliningrad Oblast, geographically separated from Russia on Baltic Sea between Poland and Lithuania; population 450,300; 1235km from Moscow
- **Nizhny Novgorod** – Capital of Nizhny Novgorod Oblast; population 1,278,800; 425km from Moscow
- **Saransk** – Capital of the Republic of Mordovia; population 339,400; 650km from Moscow
- **Samara** – Capital of the Samara Oblast; population 1,135,000; 650km from Moscow
- **Rostov-on-Don** - Capital of the Rostov Oblast; population 1,048,000; 1109km from Moscow



- **Volgograd** – Capital of the Volgograd Region; population 1,100,000; 941km from Moscow
- **Ekaterinburg** – Capital of the Sverdlovsk Oblast; population 1,372,800; 1755km from Moscow

## Further Information

For further information on FIFA World Cup Russia 2018, visit the official website at [www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/](http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/).

For more information on The Russia House, visit [www.therussiahouse.co.uk](http://www.therussiahouse.co.uk). Or contact: The Russia House Ltd, Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HH, Telephone: 020 7403 9922, Email: [russiahouse@btinternet.com](mailto:russiahouse@btinternet.com).



## Feature

### Three Years in the Russian Book Trade

By Eleanor Townsend

The Russian book trade in the UK is an unpredictable, unusual and sometimes unyielding business. From requests for rare and antiquarian architectural books, to hosting book launches and readings for new poets, to negotiating deals over a shot of vodka at the Frankfurt Book Fair, you'll never know what's waiting for you round the corner!

I've worked in the business for the past three years at European Schoolbooks and The European Bookshop. As I now move

on, it's worth reflecting on what sets the Russian book trade apart.

Getting accustomed to cultural differences is possibly one of the biggest issues. Russians in the book industry are strong individuals and very successful. There is no shortage of publishers in Russia or books for that matter. Books are very much a national treasure: one only has to step inside St Petersburg's *Dom Knigi* to be aware of their importance. So to make the essence and full range of Russian literature available to UK citizens and the forever increasing number of Russian expatriates requires a vast and varied catalogue.

However, while many organisations aimed at establishing stronger business links between Russia and the UK pop up all the time, the book trade isn't high on the priority list. There are many difficulties for booksellers in the UK.

The main problem is the Russian postal service, which can be exasperating and exhausting. This is the most important aspect to consider when setting up links between Russian publishers and distributors. It ought to be a smooth, simple process, but sending parcels from Russia can be very complicated and stressful – from the initial administration involved in posting the package to the worry about whether it will actually arrive at its destination. One example from my experience involved a box of fifteen books ordered from Moscow which arrived one month late, having been sent via Australia!

On top of this unreliable speed comes a very high cost. It's not cheap to post books from Russia, but often slow-speed surface mail outweighs the acute costs of using airmail. Negotiating reasonable and competitive prices, with fast delivery, for the supply of Russian language learning books and literature to private and trade customers is essential.

Prices come hand in hand with competition. European Schoolbooks is the UK's leading distributor of foreign language books for trade purposes. However, for private

customers it's not easy to compete with other bookshops - with many Russians in the UK come many Russian bookshops! And along with the development of technology come online e-books and other resources. The debate over 'real books' versus e-books is endless and ultimately down to personal preference, but booksellers rely on bookaholics.

To have the edge over other booksellers, it's important for a bookshop to offer something different, to have a unique selling point and to establish strong relationships with authors, publishers, distributors, related organisations and societies, schools and universities, and – most importantly – customers. The European Bookshop has been able to offer appreciative audiences a range of interesting book launches and events for new and up-and-coming Russian authors and publishers – within an intimate, inviting and individual setting. Its Facebook and Twitter pages let customers see the personality and passion of the company and its staff. The bookshop's native European speakers also add a very unique touch.

Participation by the Russian book industry at international fairs is important to raise interest and recognition. My first encounter with the Russian book trade on a global scale was at the London Book Fair in 2010, where Russia was the Market Focus country. Earlier this year the Russian Government announced that it was investing £2.1m to promote the Russian book industry and support Russian publishers exhibiting at international fairs such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, the London Book Fair and BookExpo America. This follows a decline in the domestic and international market for Russian books. The intention is to focus this investment on the translation of Russian literature into other languages. The European Bookshop has also encouraged this aspect of the book trade, working with publishers and authors, such as Debut Prize winners, to translate Russian titles into English for those with an interest in Russian culture. However, I've heard from several sources that obtaining funding from the Russian Government hasn't been easy and

has sometimes caused more problems in the long run.

In conclusion, the Russian book trade isn't at its prime. However, with further investment and support from governmental agencies and other organisations I hope it will get the push it needs.

## Reports

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### **Architecture of Constructivism – Universal Forms in Local Socioeconomic and Cultural Contexts: Conference Report**

By Mikhail Ilchenko and Olga Zaikina,  
Yekaterinburg Academy of Contemporary Art

On 5 July 2013 the Yekaterinburg Academy of Contemporary Art, Russia, held a one-day international interdisciplinary conference with the participation of architectural historians, experts in the protection of cultural heritage, specialists in cultural studies, and political science and philosophers from Russia, Germany and Israel. The main subject of discussion was local versions of constructivism in Yekaterinburg and the Urals region, as well as world practice in the preservation of constructivist heritage.

The keynote speaker, Prof Dr hc Wolfgang Schuster (Chair of Building Construction and Architectural Design, Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany) opened the discussion with a plenary talk on practices of working with the avant-garde architectural legacy in Germany. Comparing different models of residential ensembles in Berlin, he illustrated how this architecture can become a harmonic part of the contemporary urban space. Prof Schuster emphasised that avant-garde architectural monuments needed not only preservation but, first and foremost, continuous development and search for ways of

adaptation to the changing conditions of urban life. Mikhail Gross, one of the founders of the Bauhaus Centre in Tel Aviv, focused in his talk on methods of preservation, restoration and popularisation of Tel Aviv's 'White City' Bauhaus ensemble. The controversial practice of building extra floors over the original two-storied buildings of White City initiated an intense discussion among the conference participants.

The presentation by Yulia Korensky (Brandenburg University of Technology) and Yekaterina Bakhtina (Ural State Academy of Arts and Architecture) elaborated on the interrelation of socioeconomic matrices and town planning strategies in the USSR in the 1920–30s, based on the example of the Uralmash Factory district in Yekaterinburg and the architecture of Nizhnyi Tagil.

To find new ways of understanding and interpreting Yekaterinburg's constructivist architecture, Professor Leonid Salmin (Chair of Graphic Design, Ural State Academy of Arts and Architecture) turned to allegory and symbolism in the architecture, including possible masonic signs concealed in its planning. He also noted that the inclusion of universal symbolism and mythology is especially important when contemporary interpreters of constructivist architecture, trying to elevate it to the level of eternal classical heritage, face resistance from its temporary nature, connected to the usually low-grade original material and its rootedness in a particular epoch.

Representatives of the city's Real History community also presented the results of its work over the last few years. Social activist Marina Sakharova presented a list of all Yekaterinburg's constructivist monuments, compiled by Real History, which describes the current condition of the buildings. Comparing the list to similar official documents and recalling cases of the illegal demolition of architectural monuments in Yekaterinburg, she warned of the possible catastrophic impact on constructivist architecture in Yekaterinburg connected with preparations for holding the 2018 FIFA World Cup and World EXPO2020 in the city.

She also shared methods and tactics used by Real History to look after monuments and warned of the necessity of combining academic and community efforts.

All participants agreed on the need to elaborate a complex programme of development for Yekaterinburg's constructivist heritage over the coming decades, including different ways of working with this heritage and combining the efforts of experts, the city administration and the local community.

## **Developing a Russian Language Course for Young Speakers of Other Languages**

By Dr Irina Gonchar, Associate Professor, Faculty of Philology, St Petersburg State University



Pupils from the *Children of St Petersburg* group

It is an established fact that educational services should meet social needs. The question of teaching Russian to the children of immigrants has recently become an urgent one. These children arrive with their parents and find themselves in a very difficult situation: they are children of varying ages, including, of course, school age. But they cannot fully benefit from attending Russian schools because of their lack of knowledge of Russian. They find it difficult, and so do their teachers and classmates.

I first made the acquaintance of this difficult yet likeable group while working on the voluntary project *Children of St Petersburg*.

There are no special courses, no funds, no textbooks – appropriate teaching materials for this group simply do not exist! And that's understandable. When children aged 6 or 10 or 15 appear in your class, Uzbeks, Tadjiks and Kirghiz, some of them knowing a couple of Russian words, others not one word, and yet others speaking in only head-word forms, such as **я ты не понимать** (I you not to understand) instead of **я тебя не понимаю** (I don't understand you), it's almost beyond the wit of man (or woman) to create an adequate teaching programme. Or at least I, as a university lecturer with 40 years' experience of Russian as a Foreign Language, reached a dead end.

The question arises: how? How can I bring together the needs of such a disparate group? It was at this point that the idea of an audio/video course was conceived. Not a boring one (they are children, after all) but one which should, as far as possible, include children's emotional interests. We all know Boris Grachevsky's outstanding children's variety programme *Yeralash*. So we decided to create short teaching films in the same style, short and simple, acted by children. The first pilot showings to my pupils showed that I was not mistaken – the smiles never left their faces!



*Children of St Petersburg group during filming*

One of the most difficult problems was the choice of language material – we were quite often obliged to go against accepted pedagogical norms. But we decided that methodology was not written in stone, nor enshrined in the Russian Constitution, to the extent that we could not modify it a little for important reasons. Our guiding

methodological light was not petrified theory, but the questioning eyes of our children!



*Children of St Petersburg group during filming*

We decided not to burden children with 'head-on' grammar, but to give them a chance to observe for themselves how language functioned and to come to their own linguistic conclusions.

To accompany the film script, and based on it, there are learning tasks. These take the form of a well-illustrated course book. In addition, we add simple original verse texts and original music. I have been fortunate in bringing together a dedicated creative team. The series has been filmed by P Yershov, a talented director from the Lenfilm studios who understands the teaching objectives of the project and appreciates the importance of the language content; the screenplay and the course book have been written in collaboration with N Fedotova, a Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and a talented craftsman (she is also the author of the verse and the music); the book design has been created by the professional graphic artist F Gonchar of the St Petersburg school, and the sparky young designer Yu Yermakova. The migrant children acted themselves in the films, together with Russian-speaking children. They got to know each other well during filming and played their parts with great enthusiasm. Right through the project they have all worked without pay – and it has been a huge project.

We would like to make this project available on the Internet for download free of charge – to anyone anywhere who teaches Russian

to children! Our programme is universal for all non-Russian speaking children: colleagues have shown interest from the former USSR (Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine) and from the 'far abroad' (Belgium, Hungary, Greece, Israel, Italy, Spain, USA and others). This new, modern, humanitarian project meets the challenges of our time technologically, and through its universality and tolerance.

However, the main problem turns out not to be methodology, but, as always, money. We began this project using our own funds, in the hope that it would find favour with charitable foundations – for example, well-to-do businessmen from Uzbekistan working in Russia. We now find ourselves in a difficult situation. It is possible that the Russky Mir foundation will answer our call. We have faith that our project will find funding, and that it will be free of charge and universally accessible.

*Dr Gonchar is Associate Professor and lecturer in the Department of Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language (TRFL), Faculty of Philology, St Petersburg State University. She teaches Russian language to foreign students and lectures on TRFL methodology to Russian students. Her academic interests include research into the specifics of spoken text, also the problems of teaching Russian listening comprehension to speakers of other languages. She is the author of many textbooks and academic articles.*

Translated by Andrew Jameson, MA MCIL, professional translator and editor, Email: a.jameson2@dsl.pipex.com, Tel: 01684 572466.

## **Bringing the SCRSS Art Library Collections to Life**

By Clare Weiss, SCRSS member and library volunteer

Painting, sculpture, theatre design, book illustration and decorative arts – these are just some of the genres of visual arts featured in the several thousand volumes in the SCRSS Art Library. Classical, avant-garde, romantic, modernist and socialist

realist art are among the styles represented. I couldn't have imagined that I would have the luxury of looking through every one of these books, yet this is what I have been doing as a volunteer for the past two years since retiring.



Clare Weiss at work in the SCRSS Art Library

The backbone of my work has been the listing, on computer, of the details of every volume in the Art Library. This includes transliteration from Cyrillic into Latin script of names of artists, editors, title and publisher, date, language, ISBN, subject category, binding and format, and also a description in English of the contents. I identify key search words such as historically significant names, political events, geographical locations, cultural themes or jargon. This listing process is a first step towards developing a fully accessible online catalogue and, in the meantime, provides a basic in-house search facility for SCRSS library staff and volunteers.

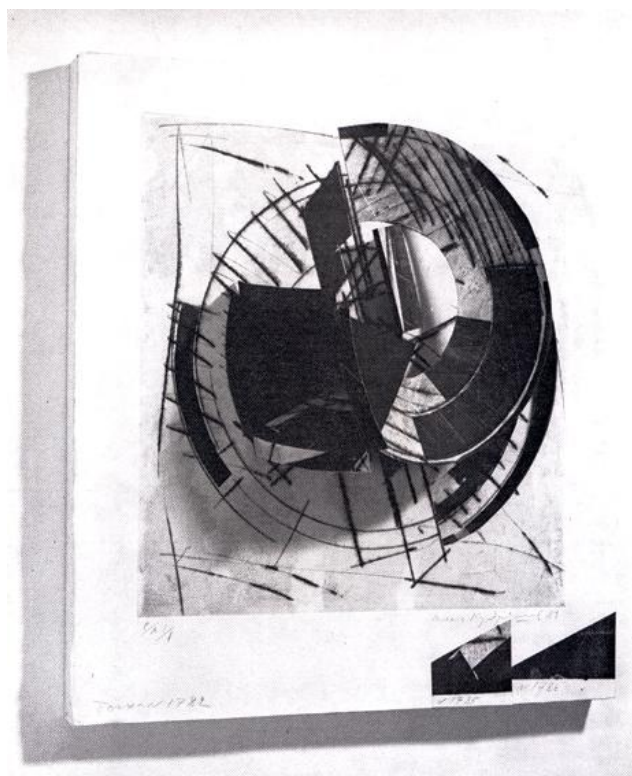
For me it has been a huge privilege to delve into these volumes, some of them donated by distinguished individual members, artists or authors. I have had the chance to update my own knowledge of Russian language and culture - originally gained at Surrey



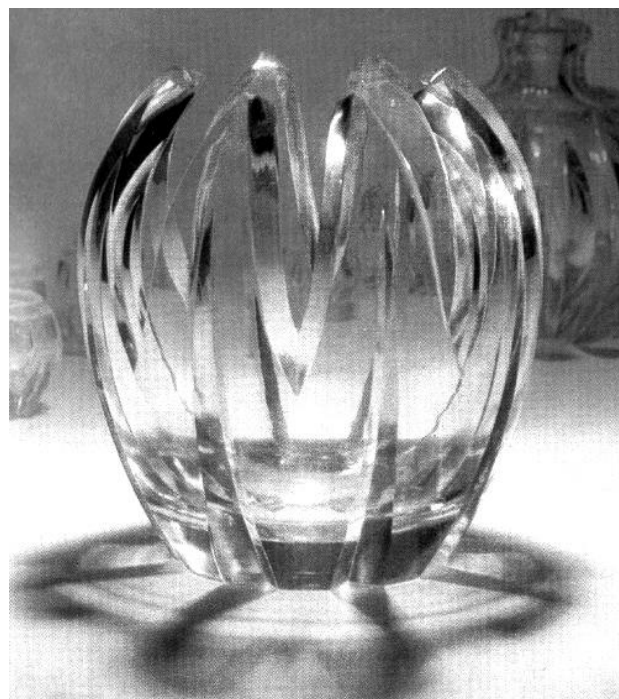
University under the late Dr (later Professor) Bert Pockney, a former SCR member. And it is an enjoyable challenge!

The majority of books are in Russian, but there are many in Ukrainian, Georgian, Armenian, Byelorussian, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Uzbek, Tartar and other languages of the former USSR. It all gets to be great fun when deciding, for instance, how to enter titles on the system where the conventional UK form of the artist's name differs from its strict transliteration from Russian – as with 'Chagall' and 'Shagall'!

In terms of categorisation, I originally approached the task by using the existing shelving locations as separate building blocks. However, there is now a comprehensive list, at present running into a total of two thousand volumes, with another thousand still to do. Further work is needed to create better cross-referencing between names, categories, genres, etc, and a much needed task is checking and validating to eliminate inconsistencies or errors.



Photograph from *Oleg Kudryashov* by Dina Kudryashova (SCRSS Library)



Photograph from *Vera Ignat'yevna Mukhina* by Raisa Abolina (SCRSS Library)

The SCRSS Art Library is a wonderful repository of extraordinarily rare items. However, despite the care taken by SCRSS staff and volunteers, this unique collection now operates at or beyond its spatial limits and some books, many of them with beautiful dust-jackets, show signs of wear and tear. New donations, some from bequests, occasionally arrive, and there comes a point when a whole shelf-load needs to be shifted along. A strategic look at the use of space is now overdue.

And now a few words about the books themselves. It is a little-appreciated fact that every one of the three thousand art books owes much to the skill and talent of the photographers who have captured and portrayed the original artwork. This is particularly the case with 3-D art and sculptures.

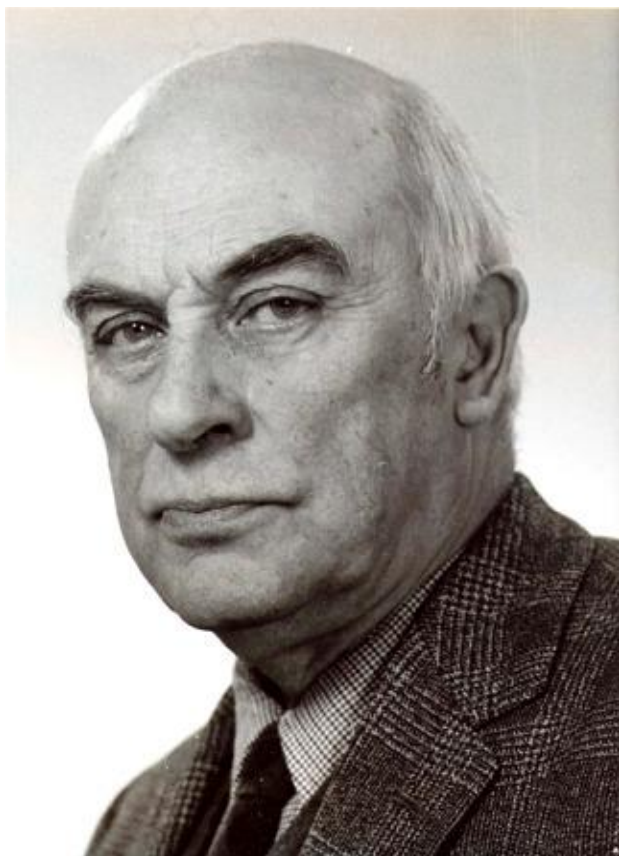
A particularly interesting example is *Oleg Kudryashov* by Dina Kudryashova. The catalogue features 3-D collages, lithographs and pastels by the eponymous artist. Published in 1990 by Soyuz Khudozhnikov SSSR (USSR Union of Artists) and the British Council, the photographs were superbly taken by British photographer John Cass.

A very different volume is the monograph *Vera Ignat'yevna Mukhina* by Raisa Abolina, published by Iskusstvo in 1954, in which the photographers have captured for posterity the sculptress's impressive and exquisite 3-Ds of bronze, plaster, marble, glass and porcelain, both monumental and miniature. Her statue *The Worker and Peasant Woman*, which first appeared in the Soviet Pavilion at the Paris Exhibition of 1937, has had an enduring association with socialism in the USSR. At the same time Mukhina created finer representations on smaller scales, a favourite of mine being her strong art deco glass Vase, shaped like a tulip, made in 1939.

These are just two examples of the books that it is my weekly privilege to examine and record, for others to more easily access in the future.

## Alan Bush Concerts in Russia 2013–2014

By Rachel O'Higgins, Hon Secretary,  
Alan Bush Music Trust



Alan Bush (courtesy of the Alan Bush Music Trust)

During his lifetime Alan Bush made several visits to the Soviet Union and sometimes conducted his own compositions there. However, he has had to wait until 2013–14 for his music to be performed in the Russian Federation.

Firstly, seven chamber concerts, entitled *Musica Britannica*, took place between January and May 2013, organised by Dr Mikhail Mischenko, Associate Professor at the St Petersburg Conservatoire and organist of the Maltese Chapel, St Petersburg. The concerts included works by York Bowen, Frederick Delius, Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as Alan Bush, and were performed on the organ or piano by Dr Mischenko, along with two colleagues, Boris Barinov (viola) and Artyom Issayev (oboe). Two concerts took place in St Petersburg and five in Belarus (in Minsk, Vitebsk and Brest); Alan Bush featured in all of them.

The concerts included three of Alan Bush's organ pieces, performed by Dr Mischenko. The first was *Three English Preludes*, Op 40, of which the first movement is based on a thirteenth-century song, the second, 'Be Merry', on a fifteenth-century carol and the last, 'Lowlands, My Lowlands', on a seventeenth-century sea shanty. Dr Mischenko also performed *Two Occasional Pieces for Organ*, Op 56, and a later work *Suite for Organ*, Op 117, commissioned by Robert Crowley in 1987. All three organ works were recorded by Robert Crowley on CD in 2000 (Pipework Records, SCS655).

Alan Bush's *Sonatina for Viola and Piano*, Op 88, was also performed, with Boris Barinov as soloist, accompanied by Dr Mischenko on the piano. This work was commissioned by The Viola Research Society for their Congress in London, June 1978. Alan Bush dedicated the work to Cecil Aronowitz, a leading viola player of his generation, and it was Cecil Aronowitz who gave the first (private) performance with Alan Bush (piano) at the Royal College of Music on 10 June 1978. The piece was given a public performance by John White (viola) and Alan Bush (piano) at the Wigmore Hall on 28 October 1979. In St

Petersburg, Artyom Issayev (oboe) and Dr Mischenko (piano) also performed *Three Northumbrian Impressions Arranged for Oboe with Piano Accompaniment*, Op 42a. This work was originally written for Northumbrian small pipes and composed after a visit by Alan Bush and his wife to Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1953. The work was first performed on the Northumbrian small pipes by Richard Butler in the Wigmore Hall in 1959. It also received broadcasts and performances in the arrangement for oboe and piano during the 1950s.

Such was the success of *Musica Britannica* that Dr Mischenko intends to include more British music in his forthcoming festival next year, January Music Nights. Dr Mischenko expressed his gratitude to the Alan Bush Music Trust for helping to fund the performance of these Alan Bush compositions in his concerts.

However, that is not all. The Alan Bush Music Trust is delighted that Alan Bush's compositions will also feature in the 2013–14 St Petersburg British Music Festivals, in October–November 2013 and October–November 2014. These are much bigger affairs and will feature compositions by Arthur Bliss, Rutland Boughton, Havergal Brian, Frank Bridge, Benjamin Britten, Edward Elgar, Gerald Finzi, John Ireland, Robin Milford, Alan Rawsthorne, William Walton and Vaughan Williams, as well as Alan Bush. Three of Alan Bush's compositions will be performed at these festivals (dates and performers to be confirmed). His *Fantasia on Soviet Themes*, Op 24, commissioned by the BBC for the 51<sup>st</sup> Season of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, will be performed in the St Petersburg State Academic Capella. Two chamber works, *Three Concert Studies for Piano, Violin and Cello*, Op 31, and *The Prison Cycle*, Op 19, written in 1939 in collaboration with Alan Rawsthorne, will be performed in the Sheremetev Palace, St Petersburg. Again, the Alan Bush Music Trust has been asked to help fund these concerts.

*British composer Alan Bush (1900–95) was a Vice-President of the SCRSS from 1968*

*until his death. In the 1950s–60s his work was widely performed in the USSR and Eastern Europe, but unjustly neglected at home in the UK. The Alan Bush Music Trust, a charity set up in 1997, promotes appreciation of the composer's work, including funding recordings and performances of his music. Rachel O'Higgins, Alan Bush's daughter, is Hon Secretary of the Trust.*

**Note:** See the Alan Bush Music Trust appeal under Listings on page 20.

Alan Bush Music Trust  
Email: [info@alanbushtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@alanbushtrust.org.uk)  
Web: [www.alanbushtrust.org.uk](http://www.alanbushtrust.org.uk)

## Book Reviews

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### **James Arthur Heard (1798–1875) and the Education of the Poor in Russia**

**By James Muckle (Bramcote Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-900405-20-1, Hbk, 170pp, col illus, biblio, index, £16.95)**

Our knowledge of informal links between Britain and Russia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries has been effectively buried by the ferocity of events in the twentieth. Yet it is a fascinating period of history in which the British played a large part. Anthony Cross's writings have opened up the subject spectacularly. James Muckle's *The Russian Language in Britain* (2008) analyses in detail the history of Russian teaching, revealing perforce the reasons Russian was needed in many different ways from 1553 onwards. In this book we learn about the remarkable life of James Heard who belongs to the elite group of those who moved to Russia, lived there and eventually became Russian citizens.

The background is the period of Alexander I's reign (1801–25), which was an enlightened one. In 1802 a Ministry of Public Education was set up, schools were divided into three tiers (*gimnazii*, district schools and

parish schools) and a Main Pedagogical Institute was set up in 1804 to train teachers for the minor schools. Because of the high illiteracy rate, interest was shown in the British 'Lancasterian' system of mutual education, which allowed large numbers to be taught at the same time. Quicker learners were appointed as monitors to teach other children in small groups, a system which allowed pupils to move on faster or slower according to their needs. Enlightened Russian nobles became keen to have such schools on their estates. It was Russia's good fortune that one such noble, Count Rumyantsev, asked the Russian Embassy in London to find a young man versed in the Lancasterian method to open a school on his estate at Gomel' (present-day Belarus).

James Heard was recommended, took a crash course in the Lancasterian method and in 1817 at the age of 19 (!), after a twenty-three-day sea voyage and three weeks in a *kibitka*, found himself in the depths of the Russian countryside ready to set up a school for serf boys. This was the start of an extraordinary career as educator in Russia.

The details of the story are far richer and more surprising than this review can relate, and James showed himself to be amazingly resilient and capable. Within three years he had a massive new school building and was famous throughout Russia as an educational innovator. His work at Gomel' ended when he returned to England to be with his sick mother. However, after her death, he was invited back to Russia in 1822 to set up a large Lancasterian school for poor Russian boys in St Petersburg, with the Tsar's blessing. This was to be a model school to train teachers and superintendents throughout the Empire. These ideas, schools and teachers, once launched, had a huge influence over education in Russia for the next thirty years.

Finally, linguists will be intrigued to know that James Heard was the author of the first serious, academic Russian grammar by an English speaker for English learners: *A Practical Grammar of the Russian Language* (1827). Heard stayed in Russia to continue

his good works, married and his descendents live there still. This book is an inspiration to us all.

**Note:** The book is available on special offer to SCRSS members @ £11.90, including p&p. Send cheques made payable to 'Bramcote Press' to: Bramcote Press, 81 Rayneham Road, Ilkeston, DE7 8RJ.

*Andrew Jameson*

## **Law Rights and Ideology in Russia: Landmarks in the Destiny of a Great Power**

**By Bill Bowring (Routledge, 2013, ISBN: 978-0-415-68346-3, Hbk, £75.00)**

By discussing landmarks in the history of Russian law from his research into the Russian legal archives, Professor Bowring aims in this book to overcome the tragedy, as he puts it, that so little of Russian legal scholarship has been translated into English.

He points out that, far from the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union and the contemporary Russian Federation ever being a space of "no law", they have been "suffused, even saturated, with law".

Going back to the time of the Mongol rule over Russia, he refers to Moscow as the spiritual centre of Christian Orthodoxy. After the fall of Byzantine Constantinople to the Turks in 1453 and the end of Mongol rule in 1480, Russia became known as the 'Third Rome'. From this grew the ideology of Messianism in which Russia's destiny was seen as pan-European and universal, "since", to quote Count Nikolai Trubetskoy, "Russia is not a nation in the ordinary sense but a whole Eurasian continent". Bowring sees this as a theme running through the Russian psyche to the present day.

The first landmark in Russian law identified by the author is the establishment of law as an academic discipline under Catherine the Great. There were strong links between Russia and Scotland in the eighteenth century and Semyon Y Desnitsky, studied at Glasgow University from 1761–7 under Adam Smith.



He became the first Russian Professor of Law at Moscow University. He was also the first to propose the separation of powers, including a permanent representative body known as the Senate to be elected every five years, the re-organisation of the judiciary, the dispersal of courts throughout Russia to render justice more accessible, the introduction of open trials, including trial by jury, and the independence of and irremovability of judges.

The next landmark in Russian law chosen by Bowring is the great social and legal reforms of Alexander II from 1861–4. The Crimean War had exposed the technological backwardness of feudal Russia and liberals were pressing for reforms. The monarch invited a group of nobles to initiate an open debate which resulted in the abolition of serfdom, financial and educational reforms, and the introduction of trial by jury. Bowring quotes Marx and Lenin as approving those reforms which led in 1878 to the acquittal of Vera Zasulich of *Land and Freedom*, accused of the attempted assassination of the governor of St Petersburg.

Bowring then jumps to the Soviet period and the introduction of a specifically Marxist examination of law during the first decades of the Soviet Union. The General Theory of Law, propagated by Yevgeny Pashukanis at the Institute of Law in the Communist Academy (in existence from 1918–36), concerned the development of socialist law within a non-capitalist society. Self-determination, which Lenin vigorously supported when the 1924 Soviet Constitution was drawn up, allowed the republics the right of secession. Another law related to national sovereignty. Both laws influenced the events that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Subsequent constitutional changes have returned to these vital questions.

A major section of the book deals with the USSR and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Vyshinsky was appointed permanent delegate to the United Nations, of which the USSR was a founder member. In December 1948 Russia abstained from voting in favour of the Declaration of Human

Rights on the grounds that it did not contain measures for the material and legislative guaranteeing of these rights; that it failed to enshrine the right of peoples to self-determination; and Articles 19 and 20, on freedom of expression and freedom of association, did not include the need to oppose fascism in the field of ideology, politics, state and social life. The USSR and Russia have always played a major part in the workings of the United Nations but strongly resisted interference in their own affairs on the grounds of national sovereignty.

After admittance to the Council of Europe in 1996, (ratified by the State Duma in February 1998), Russia has complied with many of its provisions, including a moratorium on, but not as yet the abolition of, the death penalty. However, it has resisted any interference in its own human rights laws and any attempt to form a global law system that will have priority over national legal norms. Here they have a commonality with the UK government.

Professor Bowring's articles in the Spring 2012 and Spring 2013 issues of the *SCRSS Information Digest* clarify his views on the current state of Russian law under President Putin. He has an expert knowledge of the situation regarding law and human rights there, and this book is an invaluable source of information on historic and current Russian law.

*Jean Turner*

### **An Armenian Sketchbook**

**By Vasily Grossman, translated by R & E Chandler (MacLehose Press, July 2013, ISBN: 9780857052353, Hbk, £12.00, see <http://maclehosepress.com>)**

In February 1961 three KGB officers came to Grossman's flat in Moscow and confiscated the typescript of his masterpiece *Life and Fate*. A few months later he set off for Armenia to 'translate' (i.e. convert a literal translation of an Armenian novel into good literary Russian) *Children of the Large House* by Hrachya Kochar. Having



completed this task, he wrote *An Armenian Sketchbook* about his impressions of Armenia. Robert and Elizabeth Chandler have now translated this fascinating work into clear and evocative English, with excellent footnotes, appendices and biographies to explain all of Grossman's literary and historical allusions.



Vasily Grossman (SCRSS Library)

On his trip, as well as escaping the political difficulties of Moscow, Grossman was also suffering from health problems, soon to be diagnosed as cancer of the kidneys – a disease that eventually killed him in 1965. Suffused as the book is with meditations on the meaning of life, faith, love, nationalism and (indirectly) politics, it is also full of wonderful descriptions of the people he meets and places he visits. Especially memorable are his first impressions of Yerevan, those “special... first minutes on the streets on an unfamiliar city”; his interview with Vazgen I Catholicos of the Armenian Church, who was “intelligent, educated, worldly”; and, especially, his descriptions of a peasant wedding. The speeches at the wedding are not about the newlyweds but “about good and evil, about

honourable labour, about the bitter fate of the Armenian nation”.

The Russian title of the book is *Dobro Vam* (literally ‘Good For You’), which is a translation of the Armenian greeting ‘Barev dzez’, the response given to the everyday greeting ‘Barev’. Reading *An Armenian Sketchbook*, you feel that Armenia was indeed good for Grossman, and the reader will also, therefore, gain much pleasure and insight from this book.

*Fiona Wright*

### **Short Stories (*Camel Eye; The Boy Soldier; The Monkey Girl and the Satchel*)**

**By Chingiz Aitmatov (Aitmatov Academy, London, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-9568098-7-2)**

Chingiz Aitmatov's output ranged from big adult novels to fairy tales. Whatever the genre, many tapped into his Kyrgyz heritage, drawing on local folk tales, evoking the landscape and atmosphere of the area, and portraying people's combination of gruff practicality and friendliness. This collection features three young protagonists and explores three themes common in post-war Soviet literature.

*Camel Eye* was first published in Russian in 1960 and the story of an ethnographic student sent to work on a virgin lands project allows Aitmatov to explore the relationship between the ‘intellectual’ and the ‘worker’.

In *The Boy Soldier* (1965) a young boy sees his first film and believes the hero, a soldier killed in the war, is his father: the catastrophic losses meant that absent fathers featured heavily in post-war art.

The *Monkey Girl and the Satchel* comes from a collection of fairy tales and tells of a girl who is turned into a monkey by a witch as revenge on her father, a harsh but fair judge. Of course, love and trust overcome the curse.

The translations are completely idiomatic: James Riordan's are universally praised and his rendition of *Camel Eye* is gripping and atmospheric. Rahima Abduvalieva worked on *The Boy Soldier* and *The Monkey Girl and the Satchel* in consultation with the author and must be considered definitive. This small volume is a perfect introduction to Aitmatov's work, especially for younger readers.

John Riley

## Listings

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### Appeals

#### Appeal for New All-Alan Bush CD for Release by Christmas 2013

The Alan Bush Music Trust has some exciting news. Dutton Epoch will release a new All-Bush CD by Christmas 2013. This will include three compositions:

***Symphony No 2 'The Nottingham', for Orchestra, Op 33***, in four movements: (1) Sherwood Forest; (2) Clifton Grove; (3) Castle Rock; and (4) Goose Fair. It was commissioned by the Nottingham Co-operative Society to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of Nottingham.

***Africa, Symphonic Movement for Solo Pianoforte and Orchestra, Op 73***, inspired by Alan Bush's opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

***Fantasia on Soviet Themes, Op 24***, commissioned by the BBC for the 51<sup>st</sup> Season of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts.

The CD will be recorded by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Martin Yates. The solo pianist in *Africa* will be the internationally renowned concert pianist Peter Donohoe.

Time is short. We need to raise a substantial sum to fund this new CD. Anyone who sends at least £25 will receive a copy of the

CD. Cheques should be made out to 'The Alan Bush Music Trust' and sent to Rachel O'Higgins, Hon Secretary, Alan Bush Music Trust, 7 Harding Way, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9JH. Please mark your contribution 'Gift Aid' if you wish it to be treated in a way that will enable the Trust to receive a larger sum and give you tax relief. Thank you.

## Events

### Sutton Russian Circle

Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5DA, Contact: Bob Dommett (Chairman), Tel: 01403 256593, Email: bobdommett@btconnect.com

20 September: Short talk: *Bringing a Matrioshka Fairy Tale to Life* (Jeff Temple); Illustrated lecture: *Fabergé Imperial Easter Eggs: The 22 Greatest Masterpieces* (Bob Dommett)

18 October: Short talk: *Amber – Russia's Baltic Gold* (Leslie Dommett); Illustrated lecture: *Beyond the Rite of Spring Ballet Riot* with sound and film clips (John Riley)

15 November: Short talk: A Visit to Moscow in June 2013 (Natasha Dissanayake); Illustrated lecture: *Lenin's Old Haunts in Russia and Abroad* (Angelina Olkhovskaya)

20 December: Illustrated lecture: *Chekhov and His Art* (Tanya Kinsey); Russian Winter Party

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