

A stylized map showing the geographical relationship between Scotland and Russia. The title 'The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter' is written across the map in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, 'Issue 14' and 'June 2006' are printed in a smaller, bold, black font.

The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 14 June 2006

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Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the Forum Newsletter; to submit comments on, and provide proposals for, content and for the Forum's events programme; and to correspond on issues likely to be of interest to the membership. All such contributions will be welcome at the address below. Please also advise omissions and errors; these will be rectified where possible.

Members who are willing to receive the newsletter electronically should let the editor know at the address below; hard copy will continue to be available to those who prefer it.

Forum Programme

There are no current meetings as the Society has its annual break; details of the autumn programme, including the AGM, will be despatched to members shortly.

Instead, more information about other events, particularly Edinburgh Festivals events, is included along with two excellent reviews of books of Soviet period and general interest (Lara Ryanzova- Clark and James Clapperton) and vivid news of research in a core area of interest for SRF : historic relations between Russia and Scotland (Anton Grizenko).

The promised review of 'Klop' will not now appear; however reviews of, or correspondence about, the numerous events of FSU interest coming up at Festival time, or of Shostakovich centenary events, or the astonishingly lavish provision of Russian opera and ballet shortly available in London will be welcome for future issues.

WHAT'S ON

An Islamic art exhibition, "Beyond the Palace Walls", timed to coincide with the 2006 Festival of Muslim Cultures across the UK, opens on 14 July at the Royal Museum in Edinburgh. The display showcases around 200 pieces from the State Hermitage Museum at the Winter Palace in St Petersburg, many of which have never been seen outside of Russia. The works of art come from as far afield as Egypt and China, and the pieces on show date from the eighth to the 19th centuries.

The exhibition, which costs £6 for an adult and £4 for children, runs until November 5 and is open daily from 10am to 5pm. PLEASE NOTE THE ENCLOSED ORDER FORM FOR PURCHASE OF THE ACCOMPANYING BOOK AT A SPECIAL PRICE TO MEMBERS.

<p>This newsletter is published by the Scotland-Russia Forum. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the committee or the editor.</p>

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The Edinburgh Russian Conversation Group is going from strength to strength and now has two groups:

The original group continue to meet on Saturdays at the French cafe "Le Marche Francais" at 9A West Maitland Street, near Haymarket station. The time of the meeting is usually 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A second group has started meetings on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the second floor of cafe Nero at 58 Rose Street (between Frederick St. and Hanover St.) There will be a holiday break from July 29th to September 1st.

New conversationalists welcome. Further information - contact Irina Voloshina eileen@voloshinov.freemove.co.uk

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Mazeppa, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
FESTIVAL THEATRE
Staged production sung in Russian with English supertitles
OPERA NATIONAL DE LYON
Tue 22 & Thu 24 August 7.15pm

Three Sisters, Anton Chekhov
KING'S THEATRE
Performed in English
AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE
Tue 29 August - Sat 2 September 7.00pm
Matinees Thu 31 August & Sat 2 September 1.00pm

Long Life
THE HUB
Wed 23 August - Sat 2 September
7.30pm (except Tue 29 August)
THE NEW RIGA THEATRE
An extraordinary demonstration of virtuoso acting from this Latvian company. There is no dialogue in this tender, absorbing and life affirming play, which follows one day in the lives of elderly retired people living in a communal block in Riga. In these elderly people's world, objects are endowed with a soul; they communicate with each other through the material things that have been their lifelong companions. The actors created hundreds of sketches as the basis for this work and use as props objects which belonged to real people and still carry their life story and soul.

Stravinsky Agon
EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE
Fri 18 & Sat 19 August 7.30pm Sun 20 August 4.00pm
Scottish Ballet
ORCHESTRA OF SCOTTISH OPERA
Nicholas Kok Conductor
George Balanchine Choreography

Stravinsky The Rite of Spring
USHER HALL
Wed 23 August 8.00pm
Budapest Festival Orchestra
Iván Fischer Conductor
Richard Goode Piano
Bartók Rumanian Dances
Bartók Piano Concerto No 3

Stravinsky Petrushka (1947)
USHER HALL
Fri 25 August 8.00pm
Minnesota Orchestra
Osmo Vänskä Conductor
Llyr Williams Piano
Barber First Essay
Beethoven Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor

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RUSSIAN / UKRAINIAN) FRINGE 2006

<http://www.edfringe.com> for dates, times, availability and prices. The Book Festival programme is at (<http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/>) and the Film Festival at (<http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk/>)

The Family – Semianyki

Join the craziest, funniest family you've ever seen! Children and adults alike will be enthralled, delighted and suprised as one of the world's greatest physical theatre companies turns the ancient art of clowning on its head!

venue: [Assembly @ St George's West](#)
group: [Teatr Licedei](#)
related link: <http://www.passashok.com>

MUSIC

A Cossack on the Danube

Real historical background, a romantic story, rich national humour, costumes, folk songs and dances. Enjoy the unique culture of the Ukraine.

venue: [Greenside](#)
group: [Lviv National Opera House](#)

Mazaika

Virtuoso duo, Igor (accordion/tenor) and Sarah (violin), spice up their dazzling mix of Russian songs, Gypsy fiddling, Tangos, Operatic arias, Jazz and evocative originals with a touch of comedy and drama. 'Stirring, passionate and highly entertaining' ***** Three Weeks.

venue: [C](#)
group: [Igor Outkine & Sarah Harrison](#)
related link: www.mazaika-music.com

Petra Casén - Piano

This year the Swedish born pianist gives two contrasting recitals. Aug 14: Beautifully serene and contemplative music by Bach/Hess, Schubert, Fauré and Franck. Aug 15: A dramatic all-Russian programme with music by Rachmaninov, Skryabin and Prokofiev.

venue: [St Andrew's & St George's Church](#)

group: [Petra Casén](#)

Rachmaninov - Vespers As dusk falls, listen to Rachmaninov's evocative, richly scored setting of the Evening Prayer Service of the Russian Orthodox Church. Atmospheric surroundings, generous acoustics and sonorous Russian chant, with the acclaimed Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus.

venue: [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#)

group: [SCO Chorus, conductor Mark Hindley](#)

Songs from the Russian Soul

Come discover the bright, fascinating world of traditional Russian folk music and dance. With beautiful costumes and traditional instruments we bring you a real Russian holiday atmosphere. You can also join in the fun!

venue: [Sweet ECA](#)

group: [Koleso Folk-Show Group, St Petersburg](#)

related link: www.folk-show.ru

The Spirit of Russian Music

The premiere Russian string quartet perform masterworks by Tchaikovsky and Borodin on this their second visit to Edinburgh. Superb classical music played by virtuoso musicians, separate performances of Borodin-Quartet No.2, D-Major (1881) and Tchaikovsky-Quartet No.3, Op.30, Eflat-Minor (1876).

venue: [St Mark's artSpace](#)

group: [The Tchaikovsky State String Quartet](#)

THEATRE

A Letter that Never Reached Russia

The spectacular stories of Vladimir Nabokov. Fairytale fantasies of a writer's dreams, sumptuous tales of his seductions, the claustrophobic horror of his loss. Drama, puppetry, mime and physical theatre sculpt the tangled shades of the imagination.

venue: [C cubed](#)

group: [First Theatre Productions](#)

related link: www.first-theatre.com

Crime and Punishment

Dostoevsky's masterpiece presents a classic dilemma: is it possible for a young, talented man to kill an old, disgusting pawn broker and be morally absolved? Acclaimed Russian director Victor Sobchak's production fuses physical and psychological theatre.

venue: [C central](#)

group: [Act Provocateur International](#)

www.actprovocateur.net

Ketzal

Dazzling new theatre event from multi-award winning St. Petersburg troupe. We enter the world naked and we leave it naked. In between is Life.

venue: Aurora Nova @ St Stephen's

group: www.derevo.org/

related link: www.auroranova.org

Netochka Nezvanova - Nameless Nobody

Award-winning Russian theatre's adaptation of Dostoyevsky's little-known masterpiece. Netochka tells the story of her extraordinary stepfather - a drinker, dreamer and gifted violinist, who exploited yet transformed her and destroyed her mother in his descent into insanity.

venue: [Smirnoff Baby Belly](#)

group: [Russkiye Notchi - Russian Nights](#)

No Oranges for the Accordion

A hilarious summer comedy with dreamy accordion music and Russian folk songs. Three desperate Ukrainians leave their home country for Vienna. In a pathetic tavern, they perform the 'Odessa Revue'. A nightmare... But so much fun!!!

venue: [Greyfriars Kirk House](#)

group: [WinterWind](#)

Past Half Remembered

A madcap journey through the epic sweep of Russian history. The Reds and the Whites do battle, the Germans invade, tea is served from a samovar and there is a very big wedding.

venue: [Pleasance Courtyard](#)

group: [NIE \(New International Encounter\)](#)

related link: www.nie.cz

ROSE

Martin Sherman's powerful account of one feisty Jewish woman's journey from Russia, through the Warsaw ghettos, to the Atlantic City boardwalks, the Arizona canyons and Miami Beach, receives a stunning tour de force performance from the wonderful Fiona York.

venue: [ClubWEST @ Edinburgh Theosophical Society](#)

group: [Fiona York](#)

The Government Inspector

A sleepy Russian town! A pompous mayor! Suddenly... a rumour! The Government Inspector's coming! Don't panic! Stylishly acted and inventive new physical theatre adaptation of Gogol's rich and sparkling comedy.

venue: [C](#)

group: [Greene Shoots Theatre](#)

The Trial Moscow 1905: plottings to assassinate a Duke and overthrow Tsarism. A man is murdered and two lovers torn apart in the battle to free Russia. Terrorists, spies, the secret police. One of Albert Camus's greatest works.

venue: [C cubed](#)

group: [Cambridge University ADC](#)

related link: www.cabaretofmenace.com, www.cuadc.org

OTHER

Moscow State Circus

The world famous Moscow State Circus triumphantly returns to Edinburgh, bringing a huge cast of Russia's greatest and most flexible circus performers. Packed with award-winning acts that push the boundaries of human physical ingenuity to its limits.

venue: [Meadows Theatre Big Tops](#)

group: [Moscow State Circus](#)

related link: www.moscowstatecircus.com

BOOK FESTIVAL

Tue 15/8/2006 Time: 10:15 AM

Tom Bissell & Peter Hobbs

WAKE UP TO WORDS

Venue:HIGHLAND PARK SPIEGELTENT

Appearing: Tom Bissell, Peter Hobbs

Our morning short story series continues with two unusually talented creators of compelling tales. Tom Bissell's "God Lives In St Petersburg" is a remarkable and haunting collection set in Russia and Eastern Europe; while Peter Hobbs, acclaimed for his beautiful debut novel The Short Day Dying, shows himself a master of the short form too. Free coffee and pastries.

Wed 16/8/2006 Time: 2:30 PM

Rodric Braithwaite & Catherine Merridale

HISTORY: RUSSIA

Venue:PEPPERS THEATRE

Appearing: Rodric Braithwaite, [*NOTE REVIEW IN THIS ISSUE](#)

Steven Gale, Catherine Merridale Two leading experts on Russia examine the Red Army during the years of the Second World War and the grim year of 1941 in Moscow. The fates and suffering of ordinary people and soldiers come vividly to life in these in-depth examinations, full of new insight.

Thu 17/8/2006 Time: 12:00 PM

Jon Lee Anderson & Askold Krushelnycky

NATIONS UNLIMITED

Venue:SCOTTISHPOWER STUDIO THEATRE

Appearing: Jon Lee Anderson, Askold Krushelnycky

Ukraine's Orange Revolution was a defining moment for Europe. Askold Krushelnycky provides a remarkable, personal inside account.

Fri 18/8/2006 Time: 8:30 PM

Hamid Ismailov

LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION

Venue:PEPPERS THEATRE

Appearing: Robert Chandler, Hamid Ismailov

Uzbekistan, its central Asian steppes and its little documented mixture of ethnicities, inhabit the delightfully surreal storytelling of Hamid Ismailov - who was forced to flee his homeland and was subsequently recruited by the BBC. The Railway tells of transport, and changes, coming to an isolated land. With the leading translator, Robert Chandler. In association with the British Centre for Literary Translation

Wed 23/8/2006 Time: 12:00 PM

Lesley Chamberlain & Stefan Collini

MATTERS OF THE MIND

Venue:SCOTTISHPOWER STUDIO THEATRE

Appearing: Lesley Chamberlain, Stefan Collini

How do different nations react to their intellectuals? In Lenin's Russia, they were shipped off into exile; in Britain we arguably just ignore them. Lesley Chamberlain's enthralling The Philosophy Steamer tells of the 'dangerous' thinkers thrown out of the new Soviet state. Stefan Collini studies the curious and neglected phenomenon of the British intellectual.

Further research revealed they came from the Edinburgh (Scottish) Missionary Society. Many sources, though, make sad reading, something like - In 1802 Scottish missionaries arrived at Karass in North Caucasus with permission from Tsar Alexander I “to propagate Christianity to the tribes” in the region. In this, they enjoyed little success. In 1835 Tsar Nicholas I suppressed their activities altogether...

It seems they are destined for a minor footnote in history, at best, a blip in today's information age.

Yet, the true value of their legacy is still to be discovered and this understanding has only just begun. Apparently, so many questions are waiting to be answered, errors set right and a few mysteries unravelled for the Scots in Karass and their families to occupy the rightful place they truly deserve. The time has come to celebrate their lives and heritage.

The first to mention is Reverend Henry Brunton. He died in 1813 in Karass after finishing translation of the “Tartar-Turkish” New Testament. Popular among the locals, many came to listen to him impressed with his excellent knowledge of the Arab language. Dr. Rogerson spoke of his talents “with admiration.” An exceptional linguist he also learnt Persian, Hebrew and other languages, including Susoo (during his stay in Africa), publishing several works. He was portrayed by William Glen, a fellow countryman, as “a man of most vigorous understanding, ... endowed with a singular capacity for acquiring a knowledge of dead and living languages, of a shrewd, active, enterprising turn of mind.”

Henry Brunton intended to develop a new alphabet and grammar for the Kabardinian language (Adig ethnic group). The famous scientist Julius von Klaproth found it necessary to spend a day with him discussing languages and translations, and called him “a worthy old man.” Henry Brunton also began publishing books - the first for the whole region - on a printing press which “Arabic-Tartar types rival the beauty those of the first-rate establishments in Europe,” as noted by Klaproth.

No less interesting is the extraordinary life of James Galloway, who arrived in Karass in 1805 as a missionary and... a tradesman - a weaver. In the early 1830s, he requested permission to stay as an honorary missionary. He actually did stay on and was still there in 1856 around 80 years old and a much respected man. Not surprising to anyone who knows the life of the region well, his - what today we call - communication skills won him friends and deep respect among people with so different ethnic, social, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

His family enhanced James Galloway's ties with Karass. His first wife was a Kabardinian, dearly loved by all who knew her, and who sadly died at childbirth. Three of his daughters married German pastors. As for what he called “trips” in distributing scriptures, some were more like full-blown expeditions. One such journey took him through the vast steppes onto Orenburg and Kazan, travelling by boat, horse-and-cart, on horseback and many, many miles on foot.

Karass attracted many people, including those who came to discuss religious matters. Among them was Shora Nogma, an Adig, a “noble mind”, noted for “his powerful mode of reasoning”, who knew several languages and took part in the printing activities there. One such discussion in 1822 with James Galloway and William Glen would be relevant even today as an example of an open dialogue on religion based on genuine mutual respect.

Shora Nogma was one of the locals who helped the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin with the ethnography of the region. Alexander Pushkin, without doubt, also visited Karass, a popular picnic area amongst those receiving treatment at nearby Pyatigorsk. An exciting opinion exists about Pushkin's intention to write a poem with a chapter devoted to missionaries and

that Karass played a role in this. The writer Petr Vyazemskiy advised Pushkin to write about the Karass missionaries.

Another Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov could not miss thinking about his own Scottish ancestor George Learmont and the Scottish missionaries when visiting Karass on many occasions. He also made a drawing of Karass at the foot of mt.Beshtau (see below) with the characteristic stream trickling down the centre of the colony. Moreover, he spent the last hours of his life in Karass before he fell at a duel nearby.



(Mikhail Lermontov's drawing of Karass)

At present, not much is known about many aspects of the lives of the Scottish missionaries in Karass and even less of their families. However, the hidden memory of Karass reveals to us that Henry Brunton's sister, Mr Alexander Paterson's first wife, Mr Douglas Cousin, Mr and Mrs Hardie, Mr Andrew Hay, Mrs Amelia McAlpine, Mrs Jean Fraser and Mrs Cairns were all buried there.

Any story of Karass would not be full without Mr Alexander Paterson, who came there in 1802 with Henry Brunton. Paterson ran the colony's administration after Henry Brunton died. He had to deal with the authorities and, possessing the best command of German, also with the German colonists settled nearby. Paterson is said to disappear from view in mid-1830s. Yet, I have established that he died on 9th January 1844; his son Edward, born 1817 in Karass, rose to rank of captain; one of his daughters died in 1874 – are all buried in Karass. The story continues...

Not least, Karass enjoyed the company of many other visitors including Sir Gore Ouseley (British Ambassador to Persia, 1811-1814), William Wilbraham and another Scot Sir Mackenzie Wallace (member of Imperial Russian Geographical Society, who arrived in Russia for a few months and stayed for 6 years).

Sir Wallace Mackenzie tells an amazing traveller's tale. Finding Shotlandskaya Koloniya (Scottish Colony) on his map, he was determined to visit Karass. To his utter surprise, he met Mr John Abercrombie (a well-known Edinburgh doctor) - in reality Teoona, a "Circassian Scotsman" brought up in Karass. The remarkable person spoke several languages, including "genuine Scotch", English, Russian, German, Persian as well as his own tongue, and became a printer. His story continues with travels to Shusha in Transcaucasus and to Siberia to work with the London Missionary Society.

Weel, weel, there are definitely many a story to tell about the Scots at Karass. Ay, they have left us quite some legacy in translation work, printing activities, language studies, ethnographical and geographical descriptions, written memories, Russian literature and in religious discussions... just to mention a few.

Whether Pavlik was a pioneer is another uncertainty. As Kelly shows there was no formal Pioneer organization in the village of Tavda. It is also unlikely however that the boy was murdered by the secret police (the OGPU), the claim that Iurii Druzhnikov makes in his earlier book on the Morozov's case, *Denouncer No.001* (1995). The truth might well have been that Pavel was indeed murdered by members of his own family out of resentment towards his denunciations but also it might have been a result of a squabble with his grandfather over some property, most likely a horse harness. Contrary to his mythological image, Pavlik – or Pasha as in reality he was called by people who knew him - was disliked in the village, a stinking boy with a head full of lice and who enjoyed snitching.

What I especially enjoyed in Kelly's book is her analysis of the Pavlik Morozov myth built and evolved in the Soviet Union. Maxim Gorky was possibly the founder of the cult of Pavlik when in 1933, speaking to a rally of the Komsomol, said that Morozov was "the boy who understood that a person who is a relative by blood may well be an enemy of the spirit" (Kelly, p.144). Gorky's conviction that the "little hero deserves a monument" (ibid) was the start of thousands monuments up and down the country. As the theme of father and son conflict receded from that myth, the other narrative – that of self sacrifice for the ideas of communism – took over, and blossomed.

As Kelly summarises, "the Morozov legend was created to represent Soviet society as it wanted to show itself and see itself." (p.xxxii) Truly, she demonstrates, in the drop of Pavlik Morozov's story, the whole ocean of Soviet cultural mythology. The book is extremely well researched and written in a lucid style; it is profoundly academic but also has a detective twist, which make's it such fun to read.

Lara Ryazanova-Clarke

Moscow 1941: A City and its People at War. By Rodric Braithwaite
(Profile Books, 2006, 358 pp. £20.00).

Towards the end of his impressive account of the battle of Moscow Rodric Braithwaite poses a timely question. Why had the Soviet people fought with such fortitude and tenacity when the regime they were defending had imposed such hardships upon them?

Were they inspired by patriotic fervour or simply by fear of retribution from their own side? Braithwaite states that even Stalin himself acknowledged that the Soviet people were fighting for their country and not the regime. Nevertheless, he also identifies Stalin's ruthless willpower as a crucial factor in determining the outcome of the campaign. The battle cry *Za Stalina! Za Rodinu!* (For Stalin! For the Motherland!) was no empty slogan. The author regards the Orthodox faith, the Russian landscape and heroic epics from the past as key motivators behind a burgeoning sense of patriotism. On the other hand, contemporary testimonies by veterans themselves tend to pass over these themes. They prefer to focus upon their own experiences and in doing so often express feelings of nostalgia towards the Stalinist era. Many veterans regard the deprivations they suffered during wartime as more tolerable than the indignities that many elderly Russians face today.

Through reference to various testimonies by participants Braithwaite manages to address the concerns of those who took part in the defence of Moscow. It is to his credit that he presents their experiences in a balanced and sympathetic manner. He also underlines both the strengths and failings of the Soviet regime's handling of the crisis of 1941. In doing so, he achieves the central aims behind his research. Namely, to present a reappraisal of Moscow's defence as 'the greatest battle in history'. In addition, he debunks some of

the myths surrounding the battle of Moscow as a campaign characterised by ineptitude and chaos. For example, he is careful to underline the fact that operational difficulties arose simply because so many Muscovites volunteered immediately for active service. Though the staggering mortality rate of defence volunteers remains a subject of controversy Braithwaite nevertheless admires their bravery. He also contrasts their patriotic fervour with the French appetite for surrender, and questions whether Britain's 'Dad's Army' would have passed the test of meeting the Germans in battle. Though the first part of this book covers much material which will already be familiar to seasoned readers of historical accounts of the Great Patriotic War it is presented in a highly engaging manner. Most illuminating are the subsequent references made to personal experiences and also to NKVD documents recently released which record anti-Soviet statements made by citizens during the lead up to the conflict. Nevertheless, a surprisingly small number of Muscovites were arrested for making such complaints. Individual stories also highlight the inflexibility of Soviet justice. One lathe worker was foolish enough to pick up a German pamphlet which had landed in front of the Lubyanka prison. He received a sentence of ten years for his curiosity. A tank driver whose tank was collected by a repair team was subsequently arrested for sabotage after it was assumed he had somehow mislaid it.

On the other hand Braithwaite asserts that the draconian character of Soviet rule was in fact an advantage during wartime. As the city teetered on the brink of chaos during October 1941 Stalin issued a stern decree calling for order to be restored. Braithwaite states that the situation was transformed overnight as bakeries reopened, taxis began to work again and work in the factories resumed 'an orderly rhythm'.

Though the heroic battles of Kursk and Stalingrad have tended to obscure our knowledge of the Moscow campaign through the years Braithwaite manages to refocus our attention upon this crucial early period of the war. As Catherine Merridale notes in *Ivan's War* the experiences of Ivan the rifleman remain largely unfamiliar to western readers as compared with the British Tommy or the German Fritz. Through reference to personal accounts Braithwaite has made a significant contribution in redressing this injustice. For each Briton who died in the war eighty-five Russians perished.

As Braithwaite states: 'About the order of magnitude there can be no doubt. No wonder the Russians believe that it was they who won the war'.

James Clapperton