



The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter
Issue 7 September 2004
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Forum Programme, September to December 2004

For further details of all events contact 0131 662 9149 or scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

Wednesday 27 October: Terry Wade – Using Russian Synonyms

Professor Wade of the University of Strathclyde will address the Forum on the theory, practice and use of Russian synonyms. His talk will be illustrated by examples from Russian primary sources. Professor Wade is co-author (with Nijole White) of *Using Russian Synonyms* (CUP 2004). His other books include *Prepositions in Modern Russian*, *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*, *A Russian Grammar Workbook*, *Russian Etymological Dictionary*, *The Russian Language Today* (with Larissa Ryazanova-Clarke) and *Oxford Russian Grammar and Verbs*.

7.30pm, in the Dining Room (1st floor), Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. £2 members and students, £4 non-members — including informal drinks afterwards.

Monday 8 November - Peter Langham – Business in Russia.

Peter Langham, Deputy Consul-General, Head of Trade & Investment, British Consulate-General, St Petersburg, is on a whistle-stop tour of the UK, arriving first in Edinburgh (of course!) on November 8. He has kindly offered to give a short talk on business prospects in Russia, the North-West in particular, and to answer questions. This is a great opportunity for business people considering the Russian market to discuss practical issues with someone in the field and find out what help the UK Consulate can offer. It will also interest anyone concerned with the wider question of the business climate for foreign investors in Russia.

4-5pm, Edinburgh University Management School, 7 Bristo Square, Edinburgh EH8 9AL. Open to all. No charge. Please let us know if you plan to come so that we can book an appropriate room. Jenny Carr. 0131 662 9149, Email scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

**Tuesday 23 November: Simon Franklin – Russia, Russians, Russianness
and the Enigmas of National Identity**

Simon Franklin is Professor of Slavonic Studies at the University of Cambridge. He has written on Russian history and culture of all periods, but his principal research interests are medieval. He has recently co-written *National Identity in Russian Culture* (CUP June 2004). Other recent books include *The Emergence of Rus' 750-1200* (1996) and *Writing, Society and Culture in Early Rus, c.950-1300* (2002).

7.30pm, in the Dining Room (1st floor), Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. £2 members and students, £4 non-members — including informal drinks afterwards.

Using Russian Synonyms and *National Identity in Russian Culture* will be available at 20% discount on 27 October and 23 November respectively. See below for a review of *Using Russian Synonyms*.

December: Members' Social (details to be announced).

Film circle

Coordinator: Natasha Black. There will be more news shortly.

Kruzhok

An informal discussion group. The planning meeting on 13 September attracted only three people so this group will be disbanded unless anyone would like to take it over. No shortage of excellent ideas for talks! Please contact Jenny Carr if you would like to discuss this, 0131 662 9149.

The road to Beslan

In an attempt to understand some of the background to the Beslan atrocity two events were arranged at short notice. On Friday 1 October Dr Tamara Dragadze's lecture on 'Understanding Beslan: the Caucasus Region Past and Present' and on Saturday 2 October the film *Disbelief* (Недоверие) at 11am at the Filmhouse Cinema, Lothian Road in Edinburgh, followed by a question and answer session with the director, Andrei Nekrasov.

Beslan Children Appeals

Forum members are no doubt aware that there are a number of appeals for help with the medical care for survivors of the Beslan tragedy. Some details of some are given below.

Children's Fire and Burn Trust (formerly known as Friends of Russian Children) has strong links with Russia and has a partner office based in Moscow at the Speransky Children's Hospital No 9 - Russia's main paediatric burn referral hospital. The Speransky Hospital sent an Immediate Response Burn Team to Beslan to assist with the treatment and stabilisation of injured children and the hospital's 90 bed Burns Unit was made available to receive the first victims. The Appeal is to support the hospital in its efforts to cope with the cases due to be airlifted in and provide psychotherapy support to the children and their parents both in Moscow and Beslan. 'CF&BT is one of the main coordinating charities here in the UK and if we would be most grateful to anyone who felt able to contribute either financially or in kind to support these children.' Contact: Carolyn Cripps, The Children's Fire & Burn Trust, Cayzer House, 30 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6NN. Tel: 0207 802 8464 cfbt@demon.co.uk Registered Charity No: 1082084. Cheques can be made out to the *CFBT Beslan Appeal*: Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

The Russian Red Cross has also appealed for help. You can make financial donations via the British Red Cross, by post to British Red Cross, Beslan Appeal, FREEPOST, London SW1X 7BR or by phone 0207 201 5060.

Beslan Children Appeal in Glasgow Some of the most critically ill victims have been sent to hospitals in Rostov-on-Don, which is the biggest city in the region, and is twinned with Glasgow. Lev and Julia Atlas, Directors of the Russian Cultural Centre in Glasgow are appealing for money to support the work of the medical teams in Rostov-on-Don. Donations should be sent to: The Russian Cultural Centre, 10 King Street, Merchant City, Glasgow, G1 5QZ. Cheques should be made payable to the Russian Cultural Centre (Beslan appeal). Contact numbers are: 0141 6493270 Russian Cultural Centre. Account details are: The Royal Bank of Scotland, Sort code 83 2210, Account number 00222416 Russian Cultural Centre Registered Charity SCN 028887

Russian Edinburgh

Russian Edinburgh (Russian Education and Support Centre) is a voluntary association with its main purpose to help successful integration of Russian families to life in Scotland, which aims to break down the barriers of social isolation, to build up confidence and create opportunities for skill development for the members of the Russian speaking community. Russian Edinburgh promotes social inclusion and offers an opportunity for open dialogue and exchange of information for members and anyone interested. One of our activities is the Russian School meeting on Saturdays. We work with the help and support of Edinburgh Council for Voluntary Organisations.

A 'Bazaar for Beslan' organised by Russian Edinburgh and held on Sunday 19 September, raised £500 for the Russian Cultural Centre's Beslan appeal! Many thanks also to the Edinburgh Orthodox church for allowing use of the church rooms for the bazaar.

Russian Edinburgh in association with the EVOC, the Scotland-Russia Forum and the Orthodox Church of Saint Andrew. <http://www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh/>, tel: 0131 476 6786, 0131 3116992

June 'White nights' social

The final meeting of the 2003-2004 Forum season, before activities were suspended during the summer break, was a members' only social gathering in the German church in Marchmont. The refreshments were followed by Russian songs (in Russian), with everyone's participation: non-Russian speakers were provided with a pronunciation guide so no-one was excluded!



Festival reception

In August, the Forum held a reception for performers at the Edinburgh Festivals, including Lesley Chamberlain, Vanora Bennett, Tanya Khabarova and the Mimirichi comedians (one of whom is pictured below with Martin Dewhurst). The reception took place in the basement of Pickering's Books in Buccleuch Street. A review of Lesley Chamberlain's book, *Motherland* will appear in the December Newsletter.



Slavonic Studies Day

The Russian Departments of the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and St Andrews held a joint 'Slavonic Studies Day' on Friday 3 September, at Glasgow University. It was aimed at older secondary school pupils, and was designed to give them a 'taster' of what it might be like to study Russian or another Slavonic Studies course. The session was well attended, and it is hoped that it can be repeated in the future.

Prize for essay on Semipalatinsk.

Forum members may remember the lecture by Scottish MEP Struan Stevenson on the long-term effects of atomic tests in Kazakhstan during the Soviet era on the people of Semipalatinsk. Recently his essay, entitled *Crying forever*, won a prize in a worldwide competition, *The power of purpose*, sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation which is based in Washington. The essay won second prize overall, and Struan Stevenson is donating the \$50,000 prize money to help the people whose sufferings from the atomic fallout and radiation sickness it describes.

Friends of Pskov group

Meg Luckins will talk on Kyrgystan (for those who missed her in Edinburgh on 9 September). The Perth Provost, Bob Scott, intends to be present. The meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 7 October. At approximately 9pm Julia Atlas will provide an update on the Beslan Children Appeal for the Rostov-on-Don Hospitals. Venue: Perth College, Crieff Road, Perth. Entry £5. Open to all. Contributions for Beslan Appeal welcome. Details: Svetlana Bond, Friends of Pskov, email Chrbon007@aol.com



“Мемориал” — это массовое общественное движение, возникшее в СССР в годы перестройки. В то время основной задачей этого движения было пробуждение и сохранение памяти о жестоких политических преследованиях в недавнем прошлом России.

Сегодня общество “Мемориал” — это содружество около 90 организаций в разных регионах России, Украины и Казахстана; отделения «Мемориала» действуют в Латвии и Германии.

“Мемориал” — это десятки специализированных исследовательских, правозащитных, просветительских, выставочных, библиотечных центров. Это музейные коллекции и документальные собрания, посвященные истории государственного политического террора в СССР, а также истории борьбы за свободу и право.

«Мемориал» — это ежегодно отмечаемый по всей России 30 октября День памяти жертв политических репрессий.

«Мемориал» — это памятники жертвам государственного террора в самых разных уголках бывшего СССР: от знаменитого Соловецкого камня на Лубянской площади в Москве до скромных памятных знаков в местах массовых захоронений расстрелянных.

«Мемориал» — это поиск и мемориализация могил тех, кто безымянно погиб от пули в подвалах ЧК и от каторжного труда в сотнях лагерей Гулага.

“Мемориал” — это исторические исследования на темы, еще недавно запретные для российских ученых. Это международные исследовательские проекты, в которых партнерами “Мемориала” являются всемирно известные зарубежные гуманитарные научные центры. Это программа поддержки молодых исследователей по всей России. Это борьба за свободу доступа к историческим архивам в Российской Федерации.

«Мемориал» — это десятки уникальных общественных музеев, посвященных истории политических репрессий в СССР, а также экспозиции на «мемориальные» темы в десятках государственных краеведческих музеев России. Это передвижные выставки, которые «Мемориал» демонстрирует по всему миру — от престижных выставочных залов европейских столиц до сельских школ в самых отдаленных районах Российской Федерации.

“Мемориал” — это защита социальных интересов почти 900 тысяч граждан России, признанных жертвами политических репрессий согласно специальному Закону о реабилитации, принятому в 1991 г. В разработке и совершенствовании этого закона, вернувшему гражданскую честь сотням тысяч пострадавших от террора, «Мемориал» также принимал активное участие.

“Мемориал” — это региональные объединения бывших узников политических лагерей и членов их семей, охватывающие несколько десятков тысяч прямых и косвенных жертв политического террора.

Это посильная помощь, — юридическая, медицинская, а иногда и материальная, — нуждающимся старикам, прошедшим ад советских тюрем и политлагерей.

“Мемориал” — это информация о нарушениях прав человека в Туркмении, Узбекистане, Казахстане, Киргизии, Азербайджане, Грузии, России и в других государствах, возникших на территории бывшего СССР. Информация эта высоко расценивается не только международным правозащитным сообществом, но и такими организациями, как ООН, ОБСЕ и Парламентская Ассамблея Совета Европы. Это экспедиции групп наблюдателей в “горячие точки” на территории СНГ. Это горы фактического материала, собранного в районах вооруженных конфликтов, это тщательная проверка и анализ собранных данных, это подготовка и публикация докладов о положении в Нагорном Карабахе, Таджикистане, Приднестровье, в зоне осетино-ингушского конфликта, наконец, — в Чечне.

“Мемориал” — это организация сети общественных юридических консультаций для беженцев и вынужденных переселенцев во многих регионах России. Это сбор информации о сегодняшних политзаключенных на территории бывшего СССР. Это постоянная борьба против дискриминации по этническим признакам.

“Мемориал” — это пикеты, митинги и другие публичные акции в защиту свободы и мира.

«Мемориал» — это консолидационные инициативы, связанные со становлением и развитием «третьего сектора» в России и находящие отклик у самых разных общественных организаций и движений: правозащитных, социальных, культурных, просветительных. Это — объединение независимой общественности вокруг конструктивных идей. Это широкие общественные дискуссии, семинары и круглые столы, где вырабатываются стратегические концепции развития гражданского общества на пост-советском пространстве. Это коалиции гражданских организаций и политических движений, где новые концепции превращаются в общественные проекты. Это целый ряд «переговорных площадок» с властью, где обсуждается широкий спектр самых разных проблем, от социального обеспечения и защиты прав отдельных групп населения до вопросов урегулирования ситуации в Чечне и программ народного образования. На этих переговорах «Мемориал» и его союзники настойчиво отстаивают ценности открытого, свободного, динамично развивающегося общества. Сегодня «Мемориал» стал одним из ключевых центров консолидации гражданского общества.

«Мемориал» — это широкомасштабная просветительская работа, направленная на молодежь и, прежде всего, на школьников. Это тысячи часов прочитанных лекций и проведенных занятий ежегодно, это участие сотен школьников и студентов в поисковых экспедициях, волонтерских лагерях, летних школах. Это возможность для нового поколения приобщиться к тому знанию о прошлом, о котором до сих пор мало и бегло упоминают в учебниках. Это обучение основам гражданской философии тех, кому еще предстоит стать активными гражданами. Это участие во многих программах ООН и ЮНЕСКО по внедрению концепции прав человека в школьное преподавание. Это сотни учителей — словесников, историков, правовиков, — во всех уголках России, сочувствующих делу «Мемориала», помогающих ему, активно участвующих в его проектах. Это летняя Школа прав человека в Рязани. Это Центр поддержки демократических молодежных инициатив в Перми. Это крупнейший мемориальный проект — Всероссийский конкурс исторических исследований старшеклассников «Человек в истории. Россия, XX век».

“Мемориал” — это сотни книг и брошюр, тысячи газетных и журнальных статей, радио- и телепередач, выставок, посвященных как трагедиям прошлых десятилетий, так и сегодняшним попыткам ущемления свободы и достоинства граждан России и СНГ.

И, наконец, “Мемориал” — это очень много очень разных людей: старых и совсем молодых; историков и правозащитников; либералов и не очень; атеистов, скептиков и верующих; демократов, анархистов, монархистов и людей, к политике равнодушных.

Идеологиям не дано их разъединить, потому что их объединяет не идеология. Их объединяют всего два общих принципа.

Первый — безусловное уважение к человеческой личности и признание человеческой жизни и свободы основополагающей общественной ценностью.

И второй — представление об истории как неразрывном единстве прошлого, настоящего и будущего.

Общество «Мемориал» - лауреат многих международных премий, и две наиболее престижные из них присуждены в 2004 году.

В мае 2004 «Мемориал» получил Нансеновскую премию ООН – за работу с беженцами. А в сентябре – одну из самых почетных премий для неправительственных организаций. Она называется "За достойный образ жизни", но более известна, как «альтернативная Нобелевская премия» и присуждается, как и Нобелевская, шведским парламентом. «Мемориалу» она присуждена с формулировкой: "за то, что [...] показали, что историю нужно записывать и осмысливать, а права человека нужно уважать везде, если мы хотим найти устойчивые решения вопросов наследия прошлого".

Подробнее об Обществе «Мемориал» и его проектах можно узнать на веб-сайте www.memo.ru

Александр Даниэль, (Член Правления общества «Мемориал», Член Совета Научно-исследовательского центра, Директор программы «История инакомыслия в СССР»)

Memorial: International Historical Enlightenment Charity and Human Rights Society

Memorial started as a mass public movement in the USSR at the end of the 1980s. At that time the main task was to keep in the public memory an awareness of brutal political repressions that had taken in the country's recent past. Today *Memorial* is a network of independent branches working across Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. In addition there are also *Memorial* branches in Lithuania and Germany.

There are a number of initiatives within *Memorial* connected with research, human rights, public information, and exhibitions. Another activity involves erecting monuments to remember the victims of state terror. Hundreds have been erected across the former USSR, the majority due to the enthusiasm of *Memorial* members; from the Solovetsky Stone of Mourning at the Lubyanskaya Square in Moscow to simple simple plaques at the sites of mass graves. Every year on the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Political Repressions, large crowds gather at these places to commemorate and to remember.

Memorial researchers work on subjects banned until recently and participate in international research projects in partnership with humanitarian academic centers including, the International Programme for Support of Young Researchers (in co-operation with *Heinrich Boell Stiftung*, Germany). Another priority is to overcome the problems over access to the official state archives in Russia.

The majority of *Memorial* branches run museums dedicated to the history of political repression in the USSR, as well as to the fight for freedom and human rights. In addition members also support dozens of exhibitions located in local state museums. Beside that, *Memorial* specialists create travelling exhibitions that are presented in prestigious exhibition halls as well as in the village schools in distant regions all over the Russian Federation and further afield¹.

Another *Memorial* activity is the safeguarding the social welfare of almost 900,000 Russian citizens officially recognised as victims of political repression, according to Rehabilitation Act of 1991. *Memorial* assisted with the drafting of this legislation responsible for re-establishing the

¹ Forum members might recall that in 2003 St Petersburg Memorial presented an exhibition at Sharmanka, in Glasgow. The exhibition was a part of the Sanctuary Exhibition; developed in partnership between Amnesty International and Scottish Refugee Council the exhibition focussed on human rights issues facing refugees and asylum seekers worldwide.

rights of victims of political repression to state benefits. So, as you might expect, many former political prisoners and members of their families seeking legal, medical and financial aid can be found within *Memorial's* regional associations.

Memorial human rights activists collect information on human rights violations taking place in Russia as well as in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and other former Soviet states. This research is highly regarded not only by world human-rights community including UNO, OSCE and Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe. Members have also travelled to conflict areas within the CIS including Nagorny Karabakh, Tajikistan, Transdnistria, in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone and, of course, in Chechnya to collect information about the human rights situation in these regions. *Memorial* also gathers information about political prisoners currently in custody in the territory of the former Soviet Union and organises a network of legal advice for refugees and forced migrants in many regions in Russia and fights against discrimination on the basis of the ethnic origin.

Memorial is one of the most active Russian NGO's working in the defence of freedom and peace and is also actively involved in initiatives to promote the so-called 'third sector' in Russia including efforts to consolidate and co-ordinate the work of independent organisations – (human rights, social, cultural) committed to the development of civil society in Russia.

Memorial organises educational programmes targeted at young people. Specialists deliver lecturers and workshops and young members also participate in research expeditions, volunteer camps² and summer schools. These have all proved to be brilliant opportunities for young people to learn more about the past which, if mentioned at all in their textbooks, is covered only superficially. *Memorial* participates in UNO and UNESCO programmes aiming to promote the concept of human rights within the school curriculum. Hundreds of teachers all over Russia actively support the educational projects including, for example, the Summer School of Human Rights in Ryazan and The Centre for the Support of Youth Democratic Initiatives in Perm. The largest project of this kind is 'The Person in History – Russia in the 20th century' a historical research competition for secondary school age pupils'.

Memorial brings together many different people – old and young, historians and human rights activists, liberal supporters and those "not very much so", atheists, sceptics and religious people, democrats, anarchists, monarchists and those who are indifferent to politics. It is not possible for different ideologies to separate them because it is not ideology unites them. They are united by two common principles. The first one is the absolute respect human life and freedom. The second principle is the conception of History as the common uniting thread between the past, the present and the future.

Memorial Society has been awarded with various international prizes, two of the most prestigious in 2004. In May 2004 The Nansen Committee recognised *Memorial* for their work with refugees and internal displaced persons throughout the Russian Federation. In September The Right Livelihood prize, dubbed the "alternative" to the Nobel Peace Prize, was awarded to *Memorial* along with the human rights campaigner Bianca Jagger and an Argentinian anti-nuclear activist. The prize, established in 1980, was announced in Hyderabad instead of the usual base of Sweden, to stress its focus on the developing world. *Memorial's* award in this case was 'for illustrating that history needs to be recorded and comprehended and human rights need to be respected if we intend to find stable solutions to problems concerning to the heritage of the past'.

More information about *Memorial* and its projects is available on the web-site: www.memo.ru

Alexandr Daniel,
Member of the Board of International Historical Enlightenment Charity
and Human Rights Society *Memorial*
Summary/translation: John Finn

² One such exhibition was held on the River Яйва this summer. A team of 30 young people traveled along this river which was the location of many forced re-patriations during Stalin's time. The volunteers collected oral history from many of the elderly residents who live in remote villages next to the river.

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REVIEW: *Mimirichi*

The Ukrainian group “Mimirichi” kindly gave the SRF complimentary tickets for the first few days of its run at this year’s Edinburgh Festival. In the audience for their opening show was Forum student member, Charlie Ibbett.

Mimirichi is an extremely lively and amusing show, performed by four highly talented Ukrainian performers. It consists entirely of mime, with recorded sounds playing in time to the artists’ movements, and it must be said that this was almost always done with impeccable timing. The audience is very much involved in the performance as the performers often come into the audience, take something belonging to a member of it and ‘playfully examine’ it on stage (of course, everything is returned undamaged, although perhaps not to the correct person!).

An important medium of the act is paper. When the performance opens, a huge sheet of it is hanging from the ceiling of the stage and this is gradually torn down to be used for different purposes, such as paperball fights with the audience and a mock bouquet and crown for a ‘Beauty Queen’ taken from the audience. It is good slap-stick comedy which appeals to all ages and was most definitely worth seeing.

REVIEW: Terence Wade and Nijole White. Using Russian Synonyms.

Terence Wade and Nijole White’s book is an important contribution to the list of useful teaching and learning resources for the Russian language. The book is the first dictionary of Russian synonyms targeted at English speakers and is mainly designed for Russian language learners, offering them a comprehensive and accessible account of this complex linguistic phenomenon. The dictionary will be welcomed by those aiming to improve and perfect their Russian writing style and to include a range of options in the use of Russian lexical resources in their communication. No less importantly, it will be welcomed by their teachers, as the book provides endless opportunities for

creative and entertaining language teaching. The book contains an introduction, the dictionary section, the bibliography and the index of words with frame titles.

In the introduction, the authors give a definition of the synonym, explain the use for synonyms, offer a short historical review of the dictionaries of Russian synonyms to date, deal with the question of register and relate the structure of the volume.

The dictionary proper comprises of about 950 frames covering over 4600 words. Wade and White have chosen a classic in Russian lexicography, Z.E. Alexandrova's *Словарь синонимов русского языка. Практический справочник* (10th edition. Moscow: Russkii iazyk, 1999) as guidance in their selection of frame titles and headwords. However the authors have added examples, English translations of the listed words and useful grammatical comments.

The bibliography lists the sources for the book, mainly the Russian-produced dictionaries of synonyms. What is missing, perhaps, is additional inclusions for an advanced reader or inquisitive students, of at least some theoretical linguistic publications on synonyms.

The indexes are useful and user-friendly as they list the words in Russian and in English, thus giving a reader a wide choice of entry into the dictionary as well as guidance for their search.

Wade and White showed consideration and subtlety in dealing with the problem-prone question of Russian registers. They give themselves the tricky task of giving clear instructions to the dictionary users about the included words register in full understanding that in modern Russian, the boundaries between the registers are blurred. In addition, contemporary Russian usage is marked by stylistic instability, meaning that the regimented stylistic system, reflected in the many highly respected sources for the book, is disappearing as we speak. Thirdly, the register of specific words and especially the supra-word expressions is often context-related. In the present state of the language it is very difficult to create a dictionary which will stand the test of time. However the authors have succeeded in giving a good presentation of the Russian register distribution across the chosen frames. The authors have successfully updated the list of words to include some recent contributions to the series of synonyms, such as *глобальный*, *криминал* or *регион*, and by including supra-word expression as well as single words in the frames.

Wade and White's book is thorough, comprehensive, and very useful. I hope that many generations of students will have it on their shelves, referring to it frequently.

Terence Wade and Nijole White. *Using Russian Synonyms*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. vii+ 633. £28.50 ISBN 0 521 79405 6 paperback.

Lara Ryazanova-Clarke, Head of Russian, The University of Edinburgh

REVIEW: Russian Landscape in the Age of Tolstoy National Gallery, London, June 23 - September 12 2004

The last exhibition of Russian landscape painting in the UK was held in Glasgow and London almost 30 years ago. The recent highly successful season at the National Gallery brought this long period of critical uninterest in Russian landscape painting to a deserved end. An excellent introductory film and a superb catalogue explained the artistic assumptions and intentions that gave this exhibition its intense sense of identification with places and seasons that could be nowhere but the seemingly endless land mass of Mother Russia painted by artists struggling to express the essence or the soul, of their country on canvas. There were over 70 paintings in the exhibition, representing the works of 15 artists. The range of the main artists - Ivan Shishkin, Arkhip Kuindzhi, and Isaak Levitan – was represented by 38 paintings. Among these I found myself drawn to Levitan's *The Vladimirk Road*, impressed by the technical mastery of Shishkin's *Mast-Tree Grove*, and like everyone around me marvelled at the originality and execution of Kuindzhi's *Moonlight Night on the Dniepr*. There was much else to admire in this amazing exhibition, there was hardly a painting that failed to draw in the viewer. The scale of the paintings, reflecting the wide spaces they were trying to contain, were not displayed to best advantage in the rooms assigned to the exhibition. But the decision to include as many paintings as possible was surely the right one.

It was one way of compensating for past neglect of a wonderfully distinctive and powerful artistic movement born out of rejection of past conventions.

Tania Konn-Roberts

Orthodox Community of St Nicholas

Liturgy at 11am at Laighill Loan, Dunblane on: Saturday 9 October; Sunday 17 October; Saturday 23 October, Sunday 31 October, Saturday 21 November, Saturday 11 December, Sunday 19 December.

Liturgy at 11am at the University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy, Glasgow: Saturday 6 November, Saturday 4 December.

For further information and details of other services, contact: Russian Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland (Diocese of Sourozh) - Father Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ tel. 01786-822750

Ecumenical Patriarchate (Diocese of Thyateira) - Fr Constantine Papageorghiou, Greek Cathedral of St Luke, 27 Dundonald Road, Glasgow, G12 9LL, Tel. 0141-339 7368

Orthodox Community of St Andrew, Edinburgh

Regular services: Saturday Vespers at 6.30pm, Sunday Matins at 9am and Holy Liturgy 10.30am, at the Chapel of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9NR.

For details of services elsewhere in Scotland see the community's website

<http://www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk/services.html>

or contact Archimandrite John Maitland Moir, Community of St Andrew, 23a George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LD, tel 0131 667 0372.

Other events

Films at Edinburgh University. Vadim Goloubev is arranging screenings of Russian films from the first Tuesday of October (5 October). Screenings will take place every week between 2 and 4 in the Language and Humanities Centre in the Basement of the David Hume Tower in George Square. The first film will be this year's much acclaimed blockbuster *Ночной дозор* (The Night Watch), followed by a film on the Chechen war theme called *Война* (War). Other films to be announced: the list includes the Russian Sherlock Holmes series, *Cranes Are Flying* and others.

There will be no screenings on University Holidays such as 23 October and 19 December - 10 January, 25 March - 18 April and from 25 May. All films have English subtitles.

Sharmanka children's visit: This will now be on Sunday 3 October, 12-3pm. All other details as before: Sharmanka in Glasgow (see <http://www.sharmanka.co.uk/>) have kindly invited us to bring a group of 25-30 children aged 5-12 (and parents) to a special performance of their kinetic sculptures + workshop with John Blundall. No charge. John Blundall worked with Obratsov in Moscow and also created Parker the chauffeur in the original "Thunderbirds" series! The workshop will involve making paper puppets, pop-up cards etc on a Russian theme (maybe Pushkin's fairy tales). Contact Jenny Carr: 0131 662 9149

Film: *Vodka Lemon*, 2003, PG. Friday 24 September to Thursday 7 October. Post-Soviet Armenia is the setting for this loving look at a world frozen both in time and in the snows of Caucasian winter. This is a film about a community that has little left and even less hope for the future. The story centres on four characters, the first of whom is Hamo, a destitute sixty-year-old widower, forced to sell his household possessions in order to get by. One of his sons is in Paris and photographs he sends his father indicate he is doing well, has a girlfriend, and is happy. Hamo's other son, the deadbeat Dolivan, finds solace in vodka, and lies around in a near-nihilistic stupor, although his fifteen-year-old daughter might provide a way out of his self-destruction. Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9ND, Box Office: +44 (0) 131 228 2688 Admin: +44 (0) 131 228 6382 Web: <http://www.filmhousecinema.com>

Wild Geese Scottish Tour, Just at the time that the wild geese born in Russia this summer are beginning to head for Scotland for the winter, the Wild Geese tour of Scotland is singing to

cheering audiences in evening venues and daytime schools around Scotland from Lockerbie to Strathpeffer. The tour is a collaboration between the Perm Chorus Quartet ("thrilling voices, rich arrangements, joyous singing") and Ewan McVicar ("that consummate master of yarn-spinning" *Herald*). Russian religious and classical song, Barbershop harmonies, New Scottish-Russian compositions.

The Quartet has also been singing to hundreds of enraptured children, in schools from the Howe of the Mearns to the Black Isle, from Elgin to Dirleton. Specially welcome were visits funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to schools near Tarradale House by Muir of Ord, where Scottish geologist Roderick Murchison was born, and schools around Hopeman where the Permian Red Sandstone used for the extension to the Museum of Scotland was quarried. Murchison visited the Urals in 1841, where he identified and named the rocks of the Permian Age, 140 to 185 million years ago. Forgotten at home, Murchison is so famous in Perm they plan to erect a monument to him soon: four rivers and eight mountains around the world are named after him. To come for the Wild Geese tour are visits to record with children in Glasgow's East End new songs the children have been writing with tour organiser Ewan McVicar. Details of October concerts below. Details: Ewan McVicar 01506 847935, ewanmcvicar@compuserve.com.

1 October 2.15pm Children's concert, St Peter's Episcopal Church, High Street, Linlithgow; 2 October 7.30pm St Cecilia's Laigh Hall, Niddry Street, Cowgate, Edinburgh; 3 October 3pm Dunkeld Cathedral; 3 October 8.30pm Cossachok Café, Glasgow (in aid of the Beslan Children's Appeal fund); 5 October 7.30pm Alloa Library; 6-9 October in London; 11 October 7.30pm Sangschule, St Peter's Linlithgow

Don Cossack Balalaika Ensemble (music, song, and dance) from Rostov-on-Don is visiting Glasgow as part of their twinning arrangements, from 21 October until 30 October. They will do several concerts in Glasgow, and possibly elsewhere. For details contact Marjukka Fryer. Tel: 0141 287 8545, marjukka.fryer@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

The GB-Russia Society Details from Ute Chatterjee 07866 849599, membership@gbrussia.org. <http://www.gbrussia.org>

Friday 8 October: Professor Thane Gustafson "The Russian Oil Miracle". 5.30pm, Chatham House, 10 St James Sq, SW1Y 4LE. Followed by wine reception.

Tuesday 2 November: Professor Lindsey Hughes "Peter the Great in Putin's Russia" + AGM. 5.45pm University of London Union, Malet St, London, WC1E 7HY

Monday 22 November: Geraldine Norman "The State Hermitage Museum - a museum for the world" (with slides). 6.30pm Swedenborg Hall, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2TH

Thursday 2 December: Natasha Dissanayake "Galina Ulanova - Russian Ballet Legend" (in Russian, and illustrated). 6.15pm University of London Union, Malet St, London, WC1E 7HY

Thursday 16 December: Professor Dominic Lieven "The Russian Empire and its rivals from the 16 century to the present". 6.15pm. Followed by Xmas party 8-10pm. SSEES, Senate House (North Block), Malet St, London, WC1E 7HU

Russian Weekend Lancashire College 1-3 October 2004. The tutors are Russian natives with long experience in teaching adults. Further information: Lancashire College, Southport Road, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 1NB. Tel: 01257 260909. Email: insight@ed.lancscc.gov.uk www.lancashirecollege.com

Exhibition by two Ukrainian artists: Panas Tytenko & Andriy Yalanskyi Exhibition runs 11 September - 9 October, Hanover Fine Arts, 22A Dundas Street, Edinburgh. Further information: Danusha Fine Arts, London www.danusha-fine-arts.co.uk

St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Alexander Dmitriev: Tchaikovsky *Capriccio Italien*, Chopin, Piano Concerto No 1 (soloist Igor Tchtuev) and Rachmaninov Symphony no 2. Usher Hall Edinburgh, Thursday 18 November at 7.30pm. Contact: 0131 228 1155.

Russian Spectacular. Concerts of music by Russian composers on 28 December (Royal Concert Hall Glasgow) and 29 December (Usher Hall, Edinburgh), by the Royal Scottish National

Orchestra. Glinka, Khachaturian, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky. Both concerts at 7.30pm. Further details: Glasgow: 0141 353 8000; Edinburgh 0131 228 1155.

Notices

The Russo-British Chamber of Commerce has funding to take British companies to 3 exhibitions next year, Consumexpo (household and consumer goods), Prodexpo (food and drink, packaging, food storage etc) and World Wine (speciality wine and spirit exhibition). If eligible your company could receive a grant of up to £2500. Contact: Susannah Clark, Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, 42 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1UN. Tel: 020 7403 1706 events@rbcc.co.uk
Group for young people. If you would like to meet up with other Russian/Russophile students and senior school pupils send me your name, email, address, and tel. no. I won't pass on those details to anyone other than those in the group. If anyone would like to organise/coordinate this group let me know. I would also be delighted to hear from the organisers of university Russian Societies. Jenny Carr, 0131 663 9149, scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

Russian language courses in Edinburgh for adult beginners and post-beginners (16+): City of Edinburgh Council: evening classes at Boroughmuir HS and Broughton HS (both on Tuesday evenings, 7-9pm) and a daytime class at Duncan Place, Wednesdays 2-4pm. All run for 20 weeks. £77.20, concessions available. To book or make other enquiries phone: 0131 469 3345.

Edinburgh University Open Learning: Russian language (3 levels, daytime and evening classes); Russian literature in translation; Russian history; Russian music (taught by Forum member Stuart Campbell). Details: oll@ed.ac.uk tel. 0131 650 4400 www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/cpe/brochure.html

Russian courses all over Scotland can be found on the website of LearnDirect Scotland <http://search.learndirectscotland.com/Advanced.aspx> or tel. 0808 100 9000

Jobs for Russian speakers: <http://www.russianlondon.com/recruitment/jobs/>

The Port Royal Hotel, Port Bannatyne, Isle of Bute, locally known as the Russian Tavern, has been awarded the title *Scottish Pub of the Year* by the Campaign for Real Ale, after scoring highest on criteria including quality of real ale, customer service, décor and value for money. The Port Royal Hotel is now in the final 16 of CAMRA's National Pub of the Year award

The British Georgian Society: this is to be a continuation of the original Georgian Society. Based in London, the new Society has been re-inaugurated with the full support of Nino Wardrop – the daughter of its founder. The Society will serve as an umbrella for a wide variety of Georgia related events in the UK and provide assistance for humanitarian projects in Georgia. Contact: The British Georgian Society, 4 Russell Gardens, London, W14 8EZ britishgeorgiansociety@yahoo.com

ARRC Gifts & Cards. Aid to Russia and the Republics (ARRC) seeks to improve the lives of people in need in Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union, irrespective of their faith, through charitable support of community initiatives usually led or inspired by Christians. Contact: ARRC Gifts & Cards, PO Box 6280, Basingstoke RG22 6YG; phone and fax: 01256 320275; Email: cards.gifts.rrc@care4free.net Website: <http://www.rrc.org.uk/>

Russian Outpost. New bilingual newspaper from the Sheffield Russian Cultural Centre. The editors are interested in any feedback and would also be delighted to receive contributions. Russian Outpost, 105 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 3HY. olga@berezka.org.uk Tel: 0113 262 2604.

Message from Russia Travel: We are looking for Russian speakers to assist at Edinburgh Airport on 2 and 3 November. If you are available, or know of anyone else who might be, please contact Oxana Rogvets for further details: oxana@ruvisa.co.uk, 0131 667 2303

Thornton's Bookshop: New address for all correspondence: W A & J S Meeuws (Thornton's Bookshop), Wightwick, Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5DR, Website: www.thorntonsbooks.co.uk
 Thornton's is one of the few academic bookshops offering Slavonic antiquarian books.

Scottish Parliament. The website of the Scottish Parliament includes a section in Russian: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/language/russian/index.htm>