



The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 8 December 2004

www.scotlandrussiaforum.org

scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

Forum Programme, January – March 2005

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

Celebrate Old New Year with Dinner and Music at the Cossachok Café

A Forum visit to Glasgow is being arranged for Sunday 16 January 2005. The main event will be dinner and music at the Cossachok Cafe, Merchant City. Timings are: dinner 7pm, concert 9pm. The approximate price of the 2 course dinner plus entertainment will be £19 (drinks extra). There may also be an opportunity to visit one or two places of interest in the city centre in the afternoon. A flyer is enclosed with the newsletter: please fill in the form if interested and return it as soon as possible, or contact: Ms Tania Konn Roberts, Glasgow University Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow, G12 8QE. Email: T.Konn@lib.gla.ac.uk

Thursday 20 January: Peter Dean - 'The FSU goes to market: impressions of an observer in the 1990s'

Peter Dean worked for the World Bank in many of the former Soviet Republics during the 1990s. He will present a not uncritical view of attitudes on both sides at the time, and their consequences today. 7.30 pm, Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor)

Wednesday 16 February (Annual General Meeting): Rufus Reade - Georgia

Rufus Reade has kindly invited us to 'The Nomad's Tent' for our AGM this year. After the business of the Annual General Meeting, he will relate how a few years ago the Georgian government invited him to look at their former rug industry, and examine how it might be revived. Rufus will tell the story of what then happened and what he discovered about Georgia, with his personal insights into this beautiful country and very attractive people. 7.30 pm, 'The Nomad's Tent', 21 St Leonard's Lane, Edinburgh.

Wednesday 9 March: Stephen White - 'Who is Mr Putin?'

Stephen White is Professor of International Politics at the University of Glasgow and has published widely on issues of Soviet and Russian politics. One of his particular interests is the enigma of Putin's leadership and its implications for Russia and her neighbours. 7.30 pm, English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh.

Thursday 7 April: Donald Rayfield - 'What motivated Stalin's henchmen?'

Donald Rayfield is Professor of Russian and Georgian at Queen Mary College (University of London). His research interests range from Chekhov to the literature and language of Georgia. His latest book, *Stalin and his hangmen* (Viking 2004) examines the environmental, psychological and psychiatric background to the actions of Stalin and his 'hangmen' – Beria, Ezhov and others. 7.30 pm, Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor)

Tuesday 19 April: Glasgow Event: Interview with Alexander Lazarev

We are very honoured to have as our guest the distinguished conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra as he comes to the end of his time with the orchestra. This is a joint event with Glasgow University. The interview will be followed by a reception at Glasgow University. Details to be confirmed later.

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.

Business Conference, Edinburgh

The Forum will hold a Business Conference in Edinburgh on Friday 15 April 2005. Further details: contact 0131 662 9149 or scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

NEWS

The 'Bazaar to save lives'

On Sunday 19th of September, Russian Edinburgh organised a 'Bazaar for Beslan' to raise money for the Beslan Children Appeal. The initiative was supported by the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, the Scotland-Russia Forum and the Orthodox Church of St. Andrew and many others. Although it was the first bazaar for Russian Edinburgh, the organisers managed to raise £500 in less than two hours and would like to thank everybody involved in Bazaar for Beslan for their help and generosity. Four out of eight children are out of the intensive care now while the condition of the other four is still critical. Three other children are at the Skin Burns Centre with horrendous burns, which will take at least several months to heal. If you are willing to help the child survivors at the hospital in Rostov-on-Don please send your contribution to: Beslan Children Appeal in Glasgow, The Royal Bank of Scotland: Sort code - 83 22 10; account number - 00222416; "We believe you can fly" Charity account. Russian Cultural Centre Registered Charity SCN 028887*. The Glasgow Russian Cultural Centre has now set up a website for the Beslan Children's Appeal, where you will get most of the updated information on events so far: www.russiancentre.uk.com

Russian Edinburgh: <http://www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh/>, tel: (0131) 476 6786 or 311 6992

Visit of Russian schoolchildren



A group of 10 pupils (aged 15-16 years old) and 2 teachers from Moscow City Central District schools visited Scotland from 27 October to 2 November to look at Scottish cultural traditions and the Scottish education system. The programme is a follow-up visit to a Study Tour by Head Teachers from Moscow City Central District schools in 2002 organised with support from the British Council / SDI. Highlights of the visit for the pupils included a visit to George Heriot's school, the Russian Department in the University of Edinburgh and a meeting with the Russian Consul General, Mr Vladimir Malygin.

T J Binyon, 1936-2004

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Tim Binyon in October. The Forum was delighted to invite him to speak on Pushkin last year. He attracted a large audience who enjoyed and were inspired by his accessible style as well as his obvious erudition. We are sorry that his planned work on the 'Scottish' poet Lermontov will not now be completed and would like to extend our sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Aleksei Kopylev

Aleksei Kopylev, of the Chorus Quartet of Perm, who was knocked down and seriously injured at the beginning of October, has now returned to Perm. After being unconscious for 5 weeks, he has made a good recovery so far, but will need months of rehabilitative care.

A digital recording (not originally intended for commercial release) was made of the concert given in Edinburgh, as part of the *Wild Geese* Tour, hours before the accident: it both celebrates the successful tour and contributes to the Alexei Kopylev Care Fund. The details are:

Wild Geese in Concert, 2 October 2004. A unique Russian-Scottish Event. 23 tracks of a cappella singing that unite Russian and Scottish folk song, classical song and poetry, performed by Chorus Quartet of Perm (tenor Aleksandr Rogozhkin, who creates their arrangements; bass and business manager Alexei Kopylev, baritone Oleg Nepryachin and tenor Yuri Lobachev), Christine Kydd, one of Scotland's finest traditional singers, and Scottish writer and storyteller, Ewan McVicar. Recorded in St Cecilia's Hall, Cowgate, Edinburgh. Includes three songs created for the 2002 Perm Festival of Scottish-Russian culture, Russian religious and traditional songs, Scots ballads and Burns' songs, and much more.

£8 per disc, including post and packing within the UK. Send cheques, payable to 'Alexei Kopylev Care Fund' to: Ewan McVicar, 84 High Street, Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland, EH49 7AQ.

Russian Classes for Children

Russian class for 11-14 year olds in Edinburgh

I am starting an informal Russian class in January for a small group of girls aged 11-14. Some are Girl Guides planning to visit a guide group in Odessa this summer, some are girls whose families have Belarus children to stay under the 'Chernobyl Childline' scheme. If any non-Russian speakers in the right age group would like to join us please contact me for details. AND - if any Russian young people would like to help me that would be great too! The class will probably run in a Guide building near Haymarket (Edinburgh), early evening, day to be decided soon. Contact: Jenny Carr 0131 662 9149 (or scotrussiaforum@blueyonder.co.uk).

Weekly children's classes in Russian to start in Glasgow

The Russian Orthodox community in Glasgow have announced the enrolment of children between the ages of 5 and 13 in classes, where the children will be able to learn to read and write in Russian, to learn the fundamentals of the Orthodox faith, church music, Russian history and culture, to take part in dramatic presentations, games, celebrations, to go on excursions and camping trips and to attend concerts of classical music. The Russian language and the fundamentals of the Orthodox faith form the core of the curriculum. Russian will be taught every week; the fundamentals of the Orthodox faith will be taught twice a month, alternating with other subjects.

Classes will start on 20 January 2005 and will take place every Thursday from 4- 6pm in St Luke's Greek Orthodox Cathedral (27 Dundonald Road, Glasgow G12 9LL Hyndland railway station; Hillhead underground, buses along Great Western Road). The blocks of lessons will correspond with the Scottish school terms. Charge for instruction: £8 per month. Donations welcome. Enrolment: email Svetlana Zvereva on: zvereva@rambler.ru or telephone: (0141)-956 2066.

Chernobyl Children Life Line

I welcome this opportunity to write about the work of Chernobyl Children Life Line (CCLL). The name Chernobyl, perhaps suggests our involvement is with the Ukraine, where the Chernobyl reactor is situated, but in fact our 'Chernobyl children' come from Belarus, where the 1986 reactor explosion deposited most of the contamination.

How the Charity started

CCLL is a registered charity (No. 1014274) established in 1992, in Haslemere, Surrey, by Victor Mizzi, who took on the challenge of arranging for a group of children affected by radioactive contamination to visit Haslemere for a one month respite holiday, which proved a great success and

was an inspiration to others. The charity grew rapidly and there are now approximately 140 (called Links) within the UK, including about eighteen within Scotland.

The Inverness Link, for which I am responsible, was established in 1998 and is the most northerly Link. However, my interest in the charity dates from the early 90's when I watched a documentary about a boy called Igor, who was brought to the UK for medical treatment and the fitting of artificial limbs. Igor had apparently been abandoned at an orphanage, as his parents were unable to cope with his disabilities (no right arm and severe deformities to his legs and feet) which were thought to be linked to the Chernobyl disaster.

It was not until 1998 that my family and work situation altered sufficiently to allow my wife and I to consider starting a Link and hosting children. We decided to take things slowly and 'borrowed' four children from another Link. Those children were ten years old and we are still in contact with three of them. In fact one of them, Gena, and his older brother (who we hosted in 1999) were invited to return this year. Gena is now at college and his brother Peter at university. It is very common for hosts to form strong bonds with 'their' children and also their families and many hosts travel to Belarus to visit them and experience Belarusian hospitality. It is a wonderful experience never to be forgotten.

Our Link, now the Inverness/Nairn Link, brings over 20 new children every summer and 'returns' can arrive throughout the year – quite often coming for Christmas. In fact we have four children arriving on the 22nd December. (The combined number of children brought over every year by CCLL is now over 3,000)

Within the charity's guidelines and in compliance with its policies, the Links have considerable freedom in what they offer their visiting children. With some Links, such as our own, the children meet up regularly for group activities – many of them offered through the generosity of local businesses involved in the leisure industry. Swimming always proves to be the most popular activity and with the chutes and wave pools it is an amazing experience for the children and their hosts too, who join in the fun. With considerable success, we have endeavoured to make sure all non-swimmers return to Belarus confident and capable in the water. With some Links, the children spend much of the time with their host family and meet up as a group once or twice a week - there are benefits to both ways of operating and no right or wrong way.

Each Link is responsible for its own fundraising and many hours of work are put in by the volunteers to ensure sufficient money is available for the flights, other transport costs and much more (apart from three administration staff at Haslemere, there are no paid staff within the charity). Our Link operates by first deciding how many children we wish to bring over and then having faith that we will be able to raise the cash – not the most financially astute way of operating, but it has worked very well, and no, we are not a religious organisation. However, this year we have invited a total of 65 children, which equates to at least £30,000, so faith takes on new significance!

Good food, fresh air and visits to dentist and optician

The Charity's main aim is to provide month long respite holidays with plenty of good food and fresh air, well away from the contaminated areas of Belarus, which depending on the 'expert' you wish to believe, possibly means most of the country. We also consider those children whose families are affected by the poor economic situation within Belarus: this possibly means most families, although the situation in rural areas will be particularly dire. During their stay all children receive dental check-ups and any treatment that is required, plus eye tests and glasses as necessary. It has been stated by a Belarussian cancer specialist that a month's holiday away from the contaminated areas may add up to two years to a child's life.

Comments from parents (including errors):-

"It was a super visit from all points of view. But what is most important for us is that our son has become healthier and stronger" - Nesterchuk family.

"Our daughter Olga has got unforgettable impression from her visit to Scotland. We found her fit and good-looking. Thanks to all 'warm hearts' in Great Britain! Let the lucky star always shine above your head." - Drobyshevskaya family

The Family Support Project and other projects

CCLL runs a sponsorship project: sponsors pay £15 per month by standing order and every quarter this money (in US dollars) is given to their sponsored child/family. There are no deductions for administration – the family receives the full amount, which will only vary with the £/\$ exchange rate. This project has proved a great success with 1000 children being sponsored so far. Communication between the families is encouraged and it may be possible for the sponsored child to visit their UK family. Firm bonds of friendship are often formed and in many cases the Charity can also arrange for the sponsor to visit their family.

The charity is also involved in:-

- Support of children's hospitals
- Support of foster homes
- Provision of facilities in Lapitchy village (wells, shower and laundry facilities)

Dudariki

Dudariki, a brilliant children's folk music and dance group, will arrive in Edinburgh on the 5th June. Arrangements are being made for them to audition at Redford Barracks for the Edinburgh Tattoo and if successful they will promote the Charity and the needs of its children far and wide. Their performance will be open to the residents in the area and it is also planned to have perhaps two other performances in the Edinburgh area, so if anyone has suggestions for suitable venues that will provide seating for about 200 people, then please let me know.

Dudariki consists of 23 children aged 9 to 15 and five adults, including the director, Dimitry Rovensky, who has spent his life teaching and playing music and promoting Belarusian folk culture throughout Belarus, the countries of the former Soviet Union and in the West too. Dimitry and his group also make and repair many of their musical instruments.

The group first visited the UK at the invitation of CCLL for a six week tour in 2001 and travelled from as far south as Jersey and north to Inverness where their performances proved extremely popular. They took part in our Highland Council's 'Day of Dance' where they led a workshop, as well as giving a performance that delighted all. Details of their 2005 venues in the Highlands and Edinburgh will be announced in March next year.

Our Chernobyl visitors

In late July our main group of twenty Chernobyl children will arrive for their months stay. These will all be 'first-timers' aged 10 to 13, who will be excitedly anticipating a fun filled month of activities, having been primed by school friends who have visited previously. We are always amazed at the excellent behaviour of these children. With the rare exception, they have always been excellent ambassadors for their country and I wish that some of our own children could show the same politeness and respect that is evident in these children.

We ask each host family to take two children and a month can be exhausting. There is a lot involved – not least taking the children from A to B to meet up for the various activities, but we all look forward to the next group and some of us 'adopt' our children and their families. Although it can cause a nightmare for the Link to find new hosts, it's not uncommon for a host family to decide to host 'their children' the following year and some hosts have invited the same children back a number of times. The emotional ties can be extremely strong and before you realise it, you have an extended family.

This leads on to our late August group of 'returning' children. This is a smaller group – probably eight this year, who have been invited back by their hosts. Some, having first been invited when they were ten will now be sixteen years old. When I see the involvement and commitment of our hosts and our many other supporters, it is clear that the 'giving' is not just one way. These children offer us plenty in return, as do their parents, who entrust their children's safety to us.

Beslan children's visit

On the 27th March 2005 a group of sixty children from Beslan No.1 School will arrive at Gatwick and ten of them, along with a mother and an interpreter will continue on to Scotland, staying with our Lanarkshire Link for the first two weeks and the Inverness/Nairn Link for a further

two. It is planned that these children will have a similar holiday experience to that of our Chernobyl visitors and it is hoped that strong and supportive ties will also grow between families in the North Ossetian and Scottish communities. This is rather a side-step for CCLL and not one that has been taken lightly. The charity has consulted various professionals who have advised on the planning and most importantly on meeting the needs of these children. Early in November, Marina Tuaeava, the co-ordinator from Beslan No.1 School, visited our head office and spent nine days discussing all the arrangements - flights have now been booked.

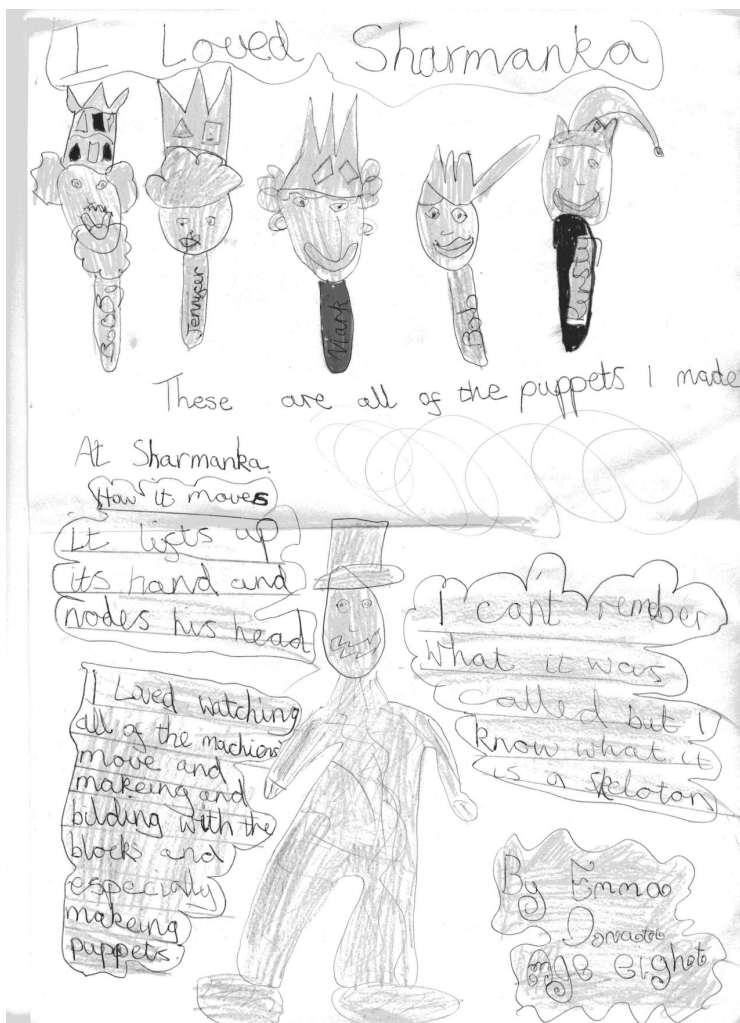
Our Need for Funding

With at least 65 children visiting in 2005, double last year's total, our attention to fundraising needs to be extremely focussed. Whilst funds are coming in and a number of fundraising events are planned, we have a very long way to go before we reach our target of £30,000. If any readers are interested in helping us raise this money, please visit our website www.chernobyl-childrens-charity.co.uk where you can find further information, plus a number of photographs showing the children enjoying their holiday. There is also a credit card payment facility. Cheque donations can be sent to:- The Chairman (Inverness/Nairn) Link, 33 Ardconnel Terrace, Inverness, IV2 3AE. Should anyone wish to discuss any issues, or would like further information relating to the Charity, the Chernobyl children, or the Beslan project, then please phone me on 01463-225583.

Dennis Hopkins, Chairman, Chernobyl Children Life Line (Inverness/Nairn)

Reviews

Sharmanka



A special performance of the kinetic sculptures at Sharmanka in Glasgow was held on Sunday 3 October, together with a puppet-making work-shop led by John Blundell. The event was aimed at children aged 5-12 and we are grateful to Emma Donati for her artistic review of the session!

Chekhov at the Roxy Art House



The Russian language double bill of Chekhov's *Медведь* (*The Bear*) and *Предложение* (*The Proposal*) at the Roxy Art House at the beginning of December was a resounding success. Audience numbers were large even on the first night – and for the second and third performances the house was almost full.

Elena Gudkova's production was a masterpiece of apparent simplicity which nevertheless showed the full variety of Chekhov's humour, characterization and linguistic range. She 'linked' the two plays by hinting that Natalia (played by Sally Henderson and Marina McLoughlan on different nights), heroine of *The Proposal*, was a daughter of a third marriage by Elena Popova (Emma Gray), heroine of *The Bear*. This gave a very effective cohesion to the programme – both plays running together with only a short break and both set in Popova's drawing room. A further link was the enigmatic and somewhat surreal presence of a mischievous authorial spirit (Miroslav Mitrovice) at the beginning of both plays.

The cast included Forum members David Crosbie and Emma Gray, students from Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities, and only one Russian-born actor (Marina McLoughlan) – but all coped admirably with the language. The plays opened with Daniel Milligan's memorable portrayal of Popova's servant Luka. His fluency gave no hint of the fact that he is only in his second year of Russian studies. Emma Gray's Popova changed before our eyes from the austere grieving widow to reveal spirited independence and finally her woman's heart. Robin Thomson, as the obtuse masculine 'Bear' was her ideal foil, struggling to come to terms with her stubbornness and unpredictability. The romantic conclusion was both touching and extremely comic.

The second play had another three excellent actors – David Crosbie's unforgettable Chubukov and his daughter Natasha (both of them) whose extreme argumentativeness had the audience in convulsions, as did the hapless but equally argumentative Lomov (Daniel Cambers) with his 'weak heart', total collapse and final amazement at the family he had somehow joined. All involved are to be congratulated on this highly professional tour de force – director Elena Gudkova, the cast, the Roxy Art Theatre who have housed, promoted and encouraged the venture, and the Baltic Trading Company who have been its financial 'angel'. Only one question remains: what will they do next?

Jenny Carr

Svetlana Zvereva, **Alexander Kastalsky: his life and music**, translated by Stuart Campbell, Ashgate (Aldershot) ISBN 0 7546 0975 8

There is no mention of Kastalsky in the current Penguin Good CD guide. But when his music does become more readily available - perhaps through Naxos? - Zvereva's book, beguilingly translated by Stuart Campbell of Glasgow University, will provide everything a listener could wish by way of analysis of his musical idiom and illumination of his very important place in Russian cultural history.

Though Kastalsky (1856-1926) was the son of a priest, his arrival at a strategic position in Orthodox church music was almost accidental. An immature composer and impecunious music teacher, he landed, in 1887, a job at Moscow's Synodal School of Church Music. Its premises were the centre of his life for his remaining four decades. He became the School's director in 1910. At the top end, as it were, of the market - represented by the Court Kapella of St Petersburg - Orthodox church music had been dominated by foreign influences: Italian Catholic, German Protestant. Latterly, it had engaged the very deep interest of major composers - Tchaikovsky, Rimsky Korsakov. But use of the 'folk church' native tradition was for these men problematic. At the Synodal School, under the direction of the medievalist and mystic nationalist Stepan Smolensky between 1889 and 1901, a combination of research in old manuscripts and living folk traditions with musical theory and the practice of an increasingly brilliant choir was the basis for a Russified 'New Direction' in church music. Kastalsky, in the fifth decade of his life, emerged as the central exemplar of this New Direction - mentor, for instance, to the momentarily gifted Rachmaninov. His works were performed to acclaim during the Synodal Choir's prestigious and successful foreign tours.

Kastalsky was a modest, quiet, kindly and humorous man. For all his increasingly obsessive devotion to Russian folk music, he was incapable of narrow nationalism. When during World War I he created a succession of versions of his vastly ambitious 'Requiem for Fallen Brothers', he attempted to introduce melodies and motifs representing all Russia's allies against Germany - an 'Anglican' movement, for instance, even passages evoking the Hindu and Buddhist music of elements in Britain's Imperial army. His studies of 'folk', indeed, took him not only deep into Russia's past, but into whatever he could learn about music in all times and places, from Ancient Egypt to the contemporary USA.

So far from merely refreshing Orthodox tradition, Kastalsky embraced experiment eagerly. He spotted Prokofiev's youthful talent and greatly admired Stravinsky, whose hard-worked masterpiece 'Les Noces' in turn owed something to Kastalsky's 'New Direction'. Kastalsky wrote a wholly secular opera, 'Klara Milich', based on a novella by Turgenev. But of course the standard procedures of the Orthodox services did exercise a conservative gravitational pull on the choral music which was his main business.

Come the October Revolution, the Synodal School as such was doomed. But Kastalsky shifted gracefully from his right, 'church', foot to his left, 'folk', leg. Lunacharsky, the Bolshevik Commissar for Education, was happy that his School should carry on as the People's Choir Academy. Sadly, before Kastalsky died, this succumbed to the pressures of the devouring, dogmatic state, which within a few years would attempt to collectivise the 'folk' themselves out of existence. Thereafter the reputation of a major innovator in Russian music was usually in eclipse until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, an astonishing mass of documentation around Kastalsky and his School has survived. Zvereva digests this with poise and verve, and also provides very detailed analysis of Kastalsky's compositions. Apparatus is excellent. After 233 pages of narrative and musical commentary, we are given ninety pages of appendices - a complete list of Kastalsky's published compositions, another of his published writings and interviews, a useful glossary of terms, excerpts from scores and an invaluable index of persons. So this book, which is a pleasure to read, is also highly instructive.

Angus Calder

Reginald Frank Christian, **Alexis Aladin: the tragedy of exile**. LEGAS: (New York, Ottawa, Toronto), 1999. ISBN: 0 921252 81 1 (paperback)

In addition to the perennial interest in the events of the late Imperial and Revolutionary period of Russian history, there has also been an increase in the attention paid to those who emigrated from the Russian Empire for political reasons at that time. Many of these people are well-known (Herzen, Bakunin, Lavrov, Plekhanov and Lenin himself, to name but a few) but there were a host of others, whose careers shed light both on the history of opposition movements of the period, and on the experience of life in emigration mainly in Great Britain. Professor Christian has written an interesting account of one of the lesser-known figures.

Alexis Fyodorovich Aladin was born in a village near Simbirsk, where his father, who was of peasant origin, worked intermittently as a land surveyor. His family were no strangers to poverty and hardship, but Alexis was able to study at the school in Simbirsk now best known for a pupil three years older than Aladin, Lenin, and where the headteacher was Kerensky's father. In spite of his humble origins, he was accepted socially by the other pupils, but his association with 'undesirable political elements' led to his expulsion shortly before he was due to complete the course. However, he still managed to enter Kazan University in 1892, though he was also expelled from there, without graduating, in 1896, and forbidden to enter any other higher education institution, probably for 'visiting workers' quarters and organising reading and discussion circles.' (p31) Some time after this Aladin was arrested, and held in solitary confinement before being sentenced to three years internal exile in the extreme north. He escaped abroad, where he led a nomadic life until (in common with many other contemporary political émigrés) he returned to Russia in the course of the revolutionary events of 1905. He was invited to represent his local constituency of Simbirsk during the elections for the First Duma, and became one of the leaders of the Trudovik or Labour Group of non-partisan peasant delegates. He was in London during the signing of the Vyborg Manifesto and remained there, apparently fearing arrest. Aladin also spent the war years 1914-1917 in emigration in England and France, but was with Kornilov in 1917, possibly sent by the British Foreign Office to provide first hand information on Kornilov's intentions. Aladin was also with the so-called White Army during the Civil War, whence he was apparently sent by Wrangel to inform European opinion in 1920.

As well as Aladin's political life, the book covers his rather chaotic personal life and his relationship with his British supporters, giving a flavour of the lifestyle common to political emigrations of the time: uncertain and impecunious. His experience can stand as an example for many, and in this highly readable and well-researched account, he is given the attention he deserves. He was a multi-faceted and ultimately tragic figure: as Professor Christian sums him up: 'Politician, lecturer, journalist, engineer, soldier – Aladin might, in different times and different circumstances, have excelled in one of many fields.' (p228)

Helen Williams

New Russian themed venue in Glasgow

STAVKA, 373-377 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Tel. 0141 333 3940.

Stavka is the latest venture of CPL Entertainment Group Ltd, a Glasgow-based company which owns a number of bar/restaurant/nightclub venues in Glasgow. As the name indicates, Stavka is a Russian-themed restaurant and bar. The decor evokes memories of Imperial and Soviet Russia. The various entertainment areas have Russian names - the high-ceilinged main hall is known (at least in the descriptive literature!) as Baltic Dvor. Tsarskaya Dacha and Na Zdorovye are the places to visit for vodka and cocktails respectively. The Imperial Room is an intimate dining space. Both drink and food reinforce the Russian experience. Cocktails include White Russian (vodka, coffee liqueur and cream), Black Russian (vodka, coffee liqueur, coca cola), Soviet Sling (Smirnov Blue, Grand Marnier, Cherry Marnier, pineapple, sugar), Rasputin (zubrovka bison grass, apple, wholegrain mustard, honey, ginger ale). Over 70 vodkas are on offer. Equal ingenuity is shown in the food menu. Lenin's breakfast is available - fried fish, chips and mushy peas! Burgers and pizzas are exotically renamed - Peter the Great and Babushka burgers, Putin and Khrushchev pizzas. On the other hand borsch, solianka, Russian sausage, meat balls and blinis are on the menu also! And there

is also music, loud music! A lively venue for the young, or should that be young at heart?

Tania Konn-Roberts

What's on

Films at Edinburgh University. Forthcoming films will follow different periods in the history of Russia. Medieval: *Andrei Rublev* (Tarkovsky, 1966). 1917 Revolution, Civil War and pre-World War 2 period: *Komissar* (Askoldov, 1967), *Moi drug Ivan Lapshin/My friend Ivan Lapshin* (German, 1986), *Utomlennye solntsem/Burnt by the sun* (Mikhalkov, 1994). World War 2 period: *Ballada o solate/Ballad of a soldier* (Chukhrai, 1959), *Idi i smotri/Come and see* (Klimov, 1985), *Kholodnoe leto 53go/The cold summer of '53* (Proshkin, 1987). The 70s and 80s: *Odinokaya zhenshchina zhelayet poznamomitsya/Lonely woman seeks lifetime companion* (Krishtotovich, 1987), *Matenkaya/Little Vera* (Pichul, 1988). Chechnya and Modern Russia: *Kavkazkii plennik/Prisoner of the mountains* (Bodrov, 1996), *Progulka/The stroll* (Uchitel, 2003). Cartoons: *Yozhik v tumane/ The hedgehog in the fog* and other cartoons (Yuri Norshtein).

The first showing will take place on Monday 16 January 2005, downstairs at 19 George Square.

Introduction to Russian Church music. Day School, Saturday 12 February 2005 10am-4.30pm.

You will be drawn in sound and vision into the colourful world of Russian Orthodox music. Pictures and recordings will illustrate the subject abundantly in a perspective embracing: theology, liturgy, history, geography, architecture and performance practice. Topics covered include: the place of music in an aesthetically rich tradition of worship; church interiors, and the location of the choir in the church; the cities and churches which were the most important musical centres; the most influential musicians; how choirs were organised. There will be an opportunity to join singers with experience of this music in singing ancient chants and polyphony from the last five centuries. Lunch will not be provided, though a room will be available for those who wish to eat their own food; eating places for all tastes, pockets and sizes of appetite abound in the neighbourhood. Tutors: Dr Svetlana Zvereva and Dr Rory Williams (Fr Alexander) Dr Zvereva is the originator of Russian Church Music in Materials and Documents (4 volumes published to date, Moscow, 1998-2004), author of *Alexander Kastalsky: His Life and Music* (Aldershot, 2003) and of many further publications about Russian church music. Dr Williams was ordained as Fr Alexander, priest of the Orthodox Community of St. Nicholas, Dunblane, at the instance of Metropolitan Antony; for many years he led a programme of research in Glasgow University on ethnicity, religion and health.

Fee £22. Concession fees are available for those on State Benefit only, Pension Credit, and the Unemployed. Further information is available from: The Information Centre, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow, St Andrew's Building, Eldon Street, Glasgow G3 6NH. Tel: 0141-330 1835 (general enquiries), enquiry@ace.gla.ac.uk

Exhibition at the Roxy Art House. *A new look at Slavonic tradition*, an exhibition of works by Russian, Ukrainian and Belaruddian contemporary artists. Daily, 3-24 December, 11-5, admissions free. The Roxy Art House, 2 Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9SU. Tel: 0871 750 0077, email: roxyinfo@lgpr.co.uk.

Concert: Russian Spectacular. Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Glasgow, Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday 28 December, and Edinburgh, Usher Hall, Wednesday 29 December. 7.30pm Glinka - *Ruslan and Liudmila Overture*, Borodin - *Polovtsian Dances*, Khachaturian - *Adagio from Spartacus*, Rimsky-Korsakov - *Dance of the Tumblers*, Mussorgsky - *Great Gate at Kiev*, Tchaikovsky- various works including Piano Concerto No.1, *1812 Overture* (with thundering cannon effects and dazzling indoor fireworks). Further details: Glasgow: 0141 353 8000, Edinburgh, 0131 228 1155.

Snow leopards in Kazakhstan. Illustrated talk by Michael Riddell who led an expedition to the Dzhungarian mountains, partly funded by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, to study the conflict between humans and snow leopards. Wednesday 5 January 2005, Edinburgh Zoo. Tickets £3, £2 Zoo members. Booking essential: 0131 314 0324.

Russian Winter Eventica, the organiser of the Russian Economic Forum, is running the first 'Russian Winter' Festival' in Trafalgar Square in London, 14-15 January 2005. Further details: 020 7510 2560, www.eventica.co.uk, email forum@eventica.co.uk

Russian State Ballet of Siberia. Performing *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty* at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. *Swan Lake*: Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 February at 7.30 pm, also Tuesday matinee at 2.30pm; *Sleeping Beauty* Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 February at 7.30pm, also Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Phone sales: 0141 240 1111; online booking: www.kings-glasgow.co.uk (both carry a booking fee).

Orthodox Community of St Nicholas Liturgy at 11am at Laighill Loan, Dunblane. Liturgy at 11am at the University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy, Glasgow: Saturday 6 November, Saturday 4 December. For full details of services and further information, 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

Events for children at the Russian Orthodox Community in Glasgow: 6 January 2005: event marking the Nativity of Our Lord. 13 January 2005: children's celebration of the New Year.

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.

Great Britain-Russia Society Spring Programme. The programme includes talks on: 'The world of Andrey Platonov'/Robert Chandler; 'The Russian Federation today – my hopes for the future'/Grigory Yavlinsky; 'Internal and foreign policy development – Yeltsin/Putin'/Dr Peter Duncan; 'Soft gold: Russia's dash for fur in the Middle Ages'/Roger Took; 'Insider's view of the BBC Russian Service and its evolution'/Syeva Novgorodsev (in Russian); 'Still a riddle wrapped in a mystery?'/Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind; 'Russian cinema and its heroes'/Professor Julian Graffy; Translating Pushkin'/Iain Sproat; 'Why did the Soviet Union collapse? 12 reasons in search of an answer'/Dr Martin McAulay. The Forum is now a corporate member of the GB-Russia Society, so members of the Forum can attend events at their members' rates, but please remember to book in advance (contact: Ms Ute Chatterjee, 43 Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, London, SW15 1EN, phone 0788 4464 461).

Notices

News for teachers from RUSLAN LTD. Downloads linked to the *Ruslan* courses are now available at www.ruslan.co.uk Passwords available from John Langran. Ruslan "Find a teacher" scheme links learners to teachers who use the *Ruslan* Russian course, via the Ruslan website: learners are given details of teachers who live closest to them. To join please contact John Langran: Ruslan Limited, 19 Highfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9HL UK. Phone / fax from 0121 449 1578 email: john@ruslan.co.uk Website: www.ruslan.co.uk

New Year in Moscow. Russia Travel is organising a trip to Moscow for the New Year, leaving on 30 December and returning on 3 January. The programme includes New Year's dinner with entertainment and a fireworks display, as well as a tour of Moscow, and further celebrations at the Kolomenskoye Estate near Moscow. Further details: Russia Travel UK Ltd, 103 St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9QY, Tel: 0131 667 2303, Fax: 0131 667 8931. email: oxana@RUvisa.co.uk. www.RUvisa.co.uk

Russian Outpost. The editors of the new bilingual newspaper from the Sheffield Russian Cultural Centre very interested in any feedback and would also be delighted to receive contributions to the newspaper in the form of either letters or articles. Send to: olga@berezka.org.uk. Tel. 0113 262 2604, Russian Outpost, 105 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 3HY.

New English language journal: *Russia Profile*. Online version at www.russiaprofile.org
Work for Russian-speakers. hotel-jobs-scotland.com, recruits Russian speakers from Eastern Europe, particularly Latvia. They might also be able to employment for Scotland-based Russian speakers (with UK/EU passport/work permit). Contact: George Chalmers, hotel-jobs-scotland.com, Unit 4, Alloa Business Centre, Whins Road, Alloa FK10 3SA. Tel: 01259 726667, Fax 01259 725566. www.hotel-jobs-scotland.com info@hotel-jobs-scotland.com

Doing business in Russia The 3rd edition of David Cant's *Russia: Market Approaches* is now available. For a full contents list, or to buy the book online: <http://www.davidcant.com> (using a Paypal account for security and to comply with UK FSA regulations). By post, send a cheque for £28 payable to Albion (Overseas) Ltd, at the following address: PO Box 117, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1WH. (Please mention that you heard of the book via the Forum).

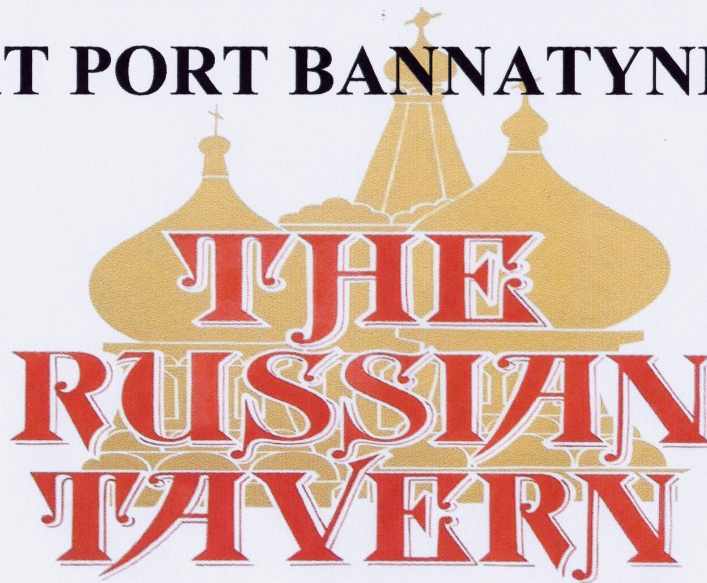
Latvian and Slovenian speakers. Wanted for interpreting jobs in Glasgow. Contact Frances, Global Language Services 0141 429 3429

Numpties. Message from Brian Lockett: 'I am thinking if explaining to Russians in my column what a numpty (also numbty, numptie) is. Can you confirm that it is Scottish in origin and what it originally meant (if different from its present meaning).' Does anyone know? Please reply to brian.lockett2@btopenworld.com

Information about companies in St Petersburg and Moscow. The www.yell.ru website has now been launched with information about companies in both St. Petersburg and Moscow, mainly in Russian: the English version is still being prepared. YPI Yellow Pages Limited, ul. Myasnitksaya d. 13 bldg 18-18a. Tel: +7 095 730 8000, fax: +7 095 730 8001. www.yell.ru

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