

SECTION II. NEWS ON ARCHIVES, HOLDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS

New Declassifications in Russian Archives, 2011.

Volume 12 (2011) of the declassification bulletin issued by Russia's Federal Archival Agency gives an overview of a multitude of declassified files in Russian state archives. The following declassifications might be of interest for studies on communism and the Soviet Union:

- *Archive of the President of the Russian Federation (AP RF)*: documents on early Soviet statistics and healthcare; the repression of geologists in 1949; Politburo documents on the industry in Magnitogorsk, Soviet spacecrafts, and the Worker-Peasant Inspection.
- *Russian State Archive on Recent History (RGANI)*: several holdings on post-War CPSU history, including Politburo documents on the temperance movement under Gorbachev.
- *Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI)*: selected holdings of the State Defense Committee (1941-1945); materials on international relations of the post-War Komsomol; selected holdings of the Komsomol's Central School; secret materials of the Institute of Social Sciences of the CC CPSU.
- *State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)*: holdings of the secretariats of several Soviet state, party and military leaders (K. Voroshilov, L. Beria, V. Malyshev, A. Protasov, A. Mikoian, M. Pervukhin, N. Bulganin, L. Kaganovich) between 1938 and 1945; diverse holdings of the Supreme Council and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR; documents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) on the suppression of the Ukrainian nationalist underground; holdings of the Extraordinary State Commission founded to estimate the damage done by German occupation, 1943-1951.
- *Russian State Military Archive (RGVA)*: diverse holdings related to Soviet military history, including numerous holdings on prisoners of war in several parts of USSR after World War 2.
- *Russian State Archive of Economy (RGAE)*: documents on the "Lend-Lease" programme during World War 2; holdings of the Ministry of Aviation Industry (1965-1975).
- *Russian State Archive of Scientific and Technical Documentation (RGANTD)*: Materials on Soviet post-War aviation and space research.

The Russian-language newsletter, including very detailed information on the declassified holdings, can be read online at <http://www.rusarchives.ru/secret/bul12/index.shtml>.

Moscow: Website Relaunch of the RGASPI & International Brigades Digital Archive

The Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow has relaunched its website. The new, Russian-language website is reachable at <http://www.rgaspi.su/> and features detailed information on the archive and its services. Probably the most important new feature is a detailed list of all *fondy* and *opisi* of the archive's holdings. Furthermore, linked to the website is a prototype of RGASPI's new

webportal for digitised documents. At <http://interbrigades.inforost.org/> one can see the archive's International Brigades collection. Only a preview version is visible yet.

“Gulag Boss”: Discussing the Memoirs of a Gulag Commander

While there are several famous literary and autobiographical accounts of Gulag prisoners, memoirs of the camp's personnel have been rather unknown – until now. “Gulag Boss”, edited and translated by Princeton sociologist Deborah Kaple, is the memoir of Fedor Mochulskii, who, as a young engineer in 1940, was commanded by the party to head the Pechorlag camp for six years. After pursuing a career as a diplomat later on, he wrote a memoir of his experience during the Perestroika years, and, not being able to get it published, gave it to Kaple who originally interviewed him in the early 1990s about his work in China (read the full story at <http://blog.oup.com/2011/03/gulag-boss/>). The memoir has been published in November 2010 by Oxford University Press. Realising that the memoir is a highly unusual and important finding for research on Stalinism, the “Russian History Blog” organised an online debate on the book. Steve Barnes, Jeff Hardy, Alan Barenberg, Lynne Viola, Wilson Bell, Golfo Alexopoulos and Deborah Kaple have used this novel platform to share their thoughts on the memoir in concise essays which can be read at <http://russianhistoryblog.org/category/blog-conversations/gulagboss/>.

„Pravda“ über DFG-Nationallizenz verfügbar

Die US-amerikanische Firma „East View Information Services“, die bereits eine Reihe von kommerziellen osteuropabezogenen Digitalisierungsprojekten durchgeführt hat, bietet seit 2010 eine nahezu kompletten digitalisierten Bestand der „Pravda“ an. Das 1912 gegründete Zentralorgan der Bolschewiki, das im ersten Jahrzehnt nach der Oktoberrevolution von Nikolaj Bucharin geleitet wurde, ist eine zentrale Quelle zur Geschichte der sowjetischen Politik und Gesellschaft. Die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft hat diese, die Jahre 1912 bis 2009 mit einigen Lücken umfassende, Digitalisierung der Tageszeitung in ihr Nationallizenzen-Programm aufgenommen, wodurch die digitale „Pravda“ nun über deutsche Hochschul- und Forschungseinrichtungen konsultiert werden kann. Der Forscher wird damit von der Notwendigkeit befreit, halbzerrissene Papierausgaben und kaum lesbare Mikrofilmkopien zu konsultieren; darüber hinaus sind viele Jahrgänge nicht nur als Scan, sondern auch als Volltext verfügbar. Weitere Informationen unter <http://www.nationallizenzen.de/angebote/nlproduct.2011-02-08.0674390264>.

Washington D.C.: ECNU – Wilson Center Cold War Studies Initiative

The Woodrow Wilson Center is pleased to announce an important new project, the ECNU-Wilson Center Cold War Studies Initiative which is a natural outgrowth of the longstanding, close relationship between the Wilson Center's flagship, the Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) and East China Normal University's (ECNU) Cold War International Studies Center. The goal of this new initiative is to further scholarly research and exchanges on the Cold War in general and on the Cold War-era history of the US-China relationship in particular, with a view towards deepening mutual understanding and cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the United States. This initiative will produce a series of path-breaking international conferences, workshops and seminars, as well as a series of

online and hardcopy publications as a result of the planned scholarly exchanges and meetings.

Source: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/inauguration-ceremony-and-reception-ecnu-wilson-center-cold-war-studies-initiative>

Egypt: State Security Archives May Be Opened

After the revolution in Egypt, the interim government made a statement that the records of the State Security service dating as far back as 1910 “could be made available,” according to an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. This could also shed new light on the Communist movement and its repression in Egypt during the interwar years. (Source: *Newsletter of the Human Rights Working Group, International Council on Archives, June 2011*).

Washington D.C.: FBI Releases SOLO File

The FBI has begun to release the contents of its SOLO file, which covers the activities of Morris and Jack Childs, members of the CPUSA who were recruited to work for the FBI in the early 1950s. The overall file itself covers the years of the SOLO operation that occurred between 1958 and 1979; the materials released to date, though, only cover 1958 to 1960.

More releases will follow. For a brief introduction to this material, see

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/byte-out-of-history-communist-agent-tells-all/byte-out-of-history-communist-agent-tells-all>. The files themselves may be found at <http://vault.fbi.gov/solo>.

Source: John Fox, <http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-HOAC&month=1108&week=a&msg=Jn%2B0ZCG4edqXVHPmQeKOMA>

Riazanov Library Project: US Radical Left Periodicals Digitised

The Riazanov Library, a US-based digitisation project coordinated by Marty Goodman, has scanned a number of periodicals from the radical Left (mostly Trotskyite, but also early Left Socialist and some mainstream communist) from interwar as well as postwar years. They are made available online by the Marxists Internet Archive, representing a rich source on the history of the American radical Left. Many scans were done with the help of the Holt Labor Library at San Francisco. More and more periodicals are in the process of being digitised, and the project is searching for more particular titles in this field (see <http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/research/riazanov.htm>).

The following periodicals (many with indices and introductory articles) are online as full PDF scans until now:

Pre-WW2

periodical	years digitised	URL
Class Struggle, The	1917-1919	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/class-struggle/

Communist, The	1919-1921	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/thecommunist/
Industrial Organizer	1941	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/industrialorganizer/
Labor Action	1936-1937	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/laboraction-ca/
Labor Defender	1926-1927	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/labordefender/
Militant, The (later: New Militant, Socialist Appeal)	1928-1940	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/themilitant/
New Review, The	1913-1916	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/newreview/
Northwest Organizer	1941	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/northwestorganizer/
Ohio Socialist	1918-1919	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/ohio-socialist/
Revolutionary Age, The	1918-1919	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/revolutionaryage/
Southern Worker	1930-1937	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/southernworker/
Toiler, The	1919-1921	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/thetoiler/
Western Worker	1932-1933	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/westernworker/
Workers' World, The	1919	http://www.marxists.org/history/usa/pubs/workersworld/

Post-WW2

Campus Spartacist	1965-1971	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/campus-sl/
G.I. Voice	1969-1970	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/GIvoice/
Revolutionary Communist Youth Newsletter	1971-1973	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/rcyn/
Revolutionary Marxist Caucus Newsletter	1970	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/rmcn/
Women and Revolution	1971-1972	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/w&r/
Workers' Action	1968-1971	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/wa/
Young Socialist	1958-1964	http://www.marxists.org/history/etol/newspape/youngsocialist/

Marxists Internet Archives: Recent Additions on British Communism

As communicated by Ted Crawford, recent additions to the Marxists Internet Archive include selected works of Dora B. Montefiore, suffragette and founding member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (<http://www.marxists.org/archive/montefiore/>), and Peter Petroff, an old Russian Social Democrat, Bolshevik diplomat and British labour activist (<http://www.marxists.org/archive/petroff/>). Furthermore, two periodicals of the British Left have been partly digitised, namely John Maclean's "Vanguard" (<http://www.marxists.org/history/international/social-democracy/vanguard.htm>) and Rajani Palme Dutt's "Labour Monthly" (http://www.marxists.org/history/international/comintern/sections/britain/periodicals/labour_monthly/).

Bloomington, IN: Polish Workers' Movement Collection at Indiana University

The Indiana University Libraries at Bloomington recently acquired a large collection of Communist periodicals and brochures from post-WW2 Poland. The collection has been part of the Library of the History of the Workers' Movement in Warsaw, founded in the late 1950s by the Central Trade Union Council and becoming unsustainable in 2005. Through the

mediation of Professor Padraic Kennedy, a substantial part of the library found a new home in Bloomington, IN. The collection features a noteworthy collection of Polish communist trade-union periodicals (20 titles) as well as various periodicals on the history of the workers' movement, numerous congress records, guidebooks, brochures and 83 monographic series. The catalogisation of the collection, which is most likely the largest of its kind outside Poland, is in progress, yet numerous titles can be already found through the library's online catalogue (<http://www.iucan.iu.edu>) by doing a keyword search on "biblioteka historii ruchu zawodowego". For any inquiries, see <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageid=1000035>. (Source: *NewsNet*, March 2011).

Vologda, Russia: Regional Communist Newspaper Digitised

The Universal Scholarly Library of the Vologda Region (*Vologodskaia oblastnaia universal'naia nauchnaia biblioteka*) in Vologda, Russia, has put online scanned copies of the regional newspaper, "Krasnyi Sever" ("The Red North"). Founded in 1917 as the herald of the local Soviet, it quickly became an organ of the Bolsheviks and continued being issued throughout the Soviet period and beyond. Albeit not being fulltext-based, featuring just scans in PDF format, the digitisation might prove a highly useful source on interwar Soviet provincial history through its vast coverage. The years 1917 to 1934, 1937 to 1939 and 1941 to 1945 are fully covered. The scanned copies can be browsed at <http://krassev.booksite.ru:8080/>.

Amsterdam: Ngo Van Papers at the IISH

In 2011, the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam acquired the papers of the French-Vietnamese Trotskyist Ngo Van (1913-2005). A metal worker born near Saigon, Ngo Van was active in the Indochinese revolutionary movement from the 1930s onwards. In 1948, he moved to Paris, where he became a prolific writer and painter. He published several books on the history of the Indochinese revolutionary movement as well as his autobiography. The papers at the IISH contain correspondence, working materials, typescripts and other documents. Access is unrestricted. Detailed information on the holdings can be found at <http://hdl.handle.net/10622/ARCH03247>. For more materials on Ngo Van, including his paintings, see <http://chatquipeche.free.fr/>.

Coventry, UK: Internet Project "Trabajadores: The Spanish Civil War Through the Eyes of Organised Labour"

The Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick (Coventry, UK) has launched a webportal presenting over 4.000 documents (more than 13.000 pages) on the involvement of the British labour movement in the Spanish Civil War. The bulk of the scanned documents originates from the UK Trade Union Congress archives, complemented by documents from other holdings and over 100 publications. Containing correspondence, minutes, visual propaganda materials, reports, leaflets and pamphlets, the digital collection constitutes an invaluable source on the history of the Spanish Civil War and international solidarity with Republican Spain. The webportal is being constantly updated with new materials and can be accessed without any restrictions at <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/scw>.

Budapest: New Sources on the 1956 Revolution at OSA

The Open Society Archives (OSA) in Budapest, Hungary, has recently acquired two collections of major importance for the history of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The first collection was donated to the OSA by Professor Gary L. Filerman, who in 1956-57 was the director of the student reception center at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey – a point of arrival for Hungarian refugees after the crushed uprising. Filerman's task was to process Hungarian refugee students and to find places and scholarships for them. His papers contain reports about the camp, interviews with refugees, correspondence with students and officials, and photos of the revolution in Budapest as well as of everyday life in the refugee camp. Details on the contents can be found at <http://osaarchivum.org/db/fa/412.htm>. The second collection acquired consists of the personal papers of Gábor Magos (1914-2000), an agricultural engineer and politician who belonged to the circle around Imre Nagy during the Hungarian Revolution. In late 1956, after having organised underground work against the Kádár regime, Magos fled to Vienna and later testified before the United Nations about the situation in Hungary. The collection was donated to the OSA by Magos' widow, Judit Gimes-Magos. An online inventory is not available yet. For general information, visit <http://osaarchivum.org>.

Washington, D.C.: Jacques Rossi Memorial Gulag Research Fund

Georgetown University has announced the creation of a research fund that will support conferences, speakers, and (under)graduate research on the history of the Gulag. The fund will be launched in spring 2013 with an international conference on Gulag history. Starting in 2013, up to \$20,000 per academic year will be available to fund Gulag-related student research on the doctoral, MA, or undergraduate level. The fund is named after Jacques Rossi, a Polish-French writer and Comintern courier who was arrested in 1937 and spent the subsequent 19 years in Soviet prisons and camps; after migrating to the West, he wrote a Gulag encyclopedia and several autobiographical works. For information about the Memorial Fund, see the complete announcement at

<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-Russia&month=1202&week=a&msg=2tPpxREViQY8xZJTN3oVPg>.

Neue Informationen zur Biographie von Voldemārs Roze

Unter dem Decknamen Peter Skoblewski war der lettischstämmige Revolutionär Voldemārs Roze maßgeblich an der Vorbereitung des gescheiterten „Deutschen Oktober“ 1923 beteiligt. Jacques Mayer (HU Berlin), der bereits vor drei Jahren einen grundlegenden, auf Archivquellen basierenden Artikel zur Biographie der mythenumwobenen Gestalt vorgelegt hatte (siehe Meldung in *INCS* (2010), Nr. 23) hat nun eine erweiterte Version publiziert. Darin findet sich unter anderem die Übersetzung einer offiziellen Auskunft des FSB über das Schicksal von Roze im Stalinschen Terror – eine, wie Mayer schreibt „möglicherweise [...] erste offizielle Auskunft über Roze“, sowie ein Anhang mit erstmals publizierten Briefen und Kassibern Rozes aus der Untersuchungshaft in Leipzig 1924-1925. Der Artikel ist online unter <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:kobv:11-100199945> abrufbar.

Potsdam-Berlin: Internet-Portalprojekt DDR-Presse

Das Portal zur DDR-Presse, ein Kooperations-Projekt des Zentrums für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF) mit der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, gefördert von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), widmet sich den DDR-Tageszeitungen als historischen Medien und macht diese als Recherche-Material durch eine vollständige Digitalisierung im Netz frei zugänglich. Dabei wird durch die umfassende Digitalisierung der Zeitungen „Neues Deutschland“, „Berliner Zeitung“ und „Neue Zeit“ in Hinblick auf die derzeitige Auseinandersetzung mit DDR-Medien eine bedeutende Präsenz der DDR-Tageszeitungen als recherchierbares Material im Internet für die Forschung bereitgestellt.

Neben der Relevanz der digitalen Erschließung von zeithistorischem Quellen-Material verlangt gleichzeitig der Umgang mit diesen eine komplexe medienhistorische Einordnung. Eine wissenschaftliche Forschungsumgebung redaktionell betreuter Beiträge wird die digitalisierten Zeitungen durch einen wachsenden Umfang an methodischen Einführungstexten begleiten, um die Spezifik der Medienstrukturen in der DDR verständlich darzulegen. Mit Betrachtungen zu den strukturellen und institutionellen Bedingungen, wie sie an den Funktionsweisen der Abteilung Agitation und Propaganda und deren Direktiven nachzuvollziehen sind, aber auch die Ausbildung der Journalisten betreffen, wird die DDR-Presse vorrangig als Handlungsspielraum der SED-Diktatur zur Diskussion gestellt.

Zudem wird die Bedeutung der gesellschaftlichen Aspekte in den Blick genommen, die die DDR-Presse als komplexes, diskursives Mediensystem (im deutsch/deutschen Diskurs) verdeutlichen und sich u.a. der Konstruktion von Medien-Öffentlichkeit in der DDR widmen. Den Bedingungen für die besondere, schwierige Lesbarkeit der Presstexte widmet sich eine Analyse der Zeitungssprache. Ebenso ist die Presse-Fotografie der DDR als wichtiger Untersuchungsbereich zu betonen, da die politische Bildsprache den besonderen inszenatorischen Charakter der DDR-Presse zum Ausdruck bringt.

(Quelle:

http://www.zzf-pdm.de/site/mid_3321/ModeID_0/EhPageID_806/741/default.aspx)