

◇ 연구자료 ◇

## Holdings of Rare Photographs and Plate Books at the Slavic & Baltic Division of The New York Public Library

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The Slavic & Baltic Division(SLV) of The New York Public Library(NYPL) is one of the largest and oldest collections of its kind in America established more than 100 years ago. It holds more than 500,000 volumes that range from 14th century illuminated manuscripts, to the latest serials in Slavic and Baltic vernacular languages, as well 20,000 microfilms and microfiche titles.<sup>1)</sup> The Division has continuously acquired valuable and unique materials from authorized dealers and donors in the United States and abroad.

Among the collections at the SLV, serial monograph titles, original photographs, and folio plate books are the most unique and rare materials. Other Divisions of NYPL also hold tremendous plate books related to Russian and East European materials. The SLV's holdings of such special materials and rare books, however, are the most prominent collections of their kind in the USA. This paper will describe these holdings, as well as current projects showcasing such materials.

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1) See Robert Davis' 『*Slavic and Baltic library resources at the New York Public Library : a first history and practical guide / by Robert H. Davis, Jr. ; with a preface by the Honorable George Frost Kennan.*』(1994), New York: New York Public Library; Los Angeles: Chas. Schlacks, Jr.

## Rare books, Prints and Illustrated Books Collections

The rare book collections of the SLV defy easy categorization, spanning from the medieval period, up to present day rarities, and in some 14 different languages (classmarked as **Slav. Reserve**).<sup>2)</sup> However, one may mention a number of broad categories of such materials. Holdings of illustrated plate books present a wide range of subjects, from the 17th century to 20th century (**QDZ+++ and other oversized books**).<sup>3)</sup> Noteworthy sub-collections include all extant coronation albums of Russian emperors from the reign of Anna(1730) through Nicholas II.<sup>4)</sup> The extensive reproductions of Russian engravings, and popular prints by D.A.Rovinskii, *Materialy dlia Russkoi ikonografii* [Materials for Russian Iconography] and *Ruskaia narodnaia kartinki* [Russian Popular Prints], respectively are valuable to researchers and very rare.<sup>5)</sup> Illuminated charters granted by Peter and Ioann wrapped in a contemporary 17th century textile with silver cord and red wax seal are another genre of rare collections of the SLV.<sup>6)</sup> Among



Fig. 1) The co-tsars Ivan V and Peter the Great from Rovinskii's *materialy dlia russkoi ikonografii*...[Materials for Russian Iconography ...] (1884-1890).

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- 2) The Division has strong holdings of materials pertaining to the Russian Orthodox Church, including manuscripts and early printed books.
  - 3) Mikhail Makhaev's suite of panoramic views of St. Petersburg are splendid. It is perhaps the only complete set in the United States.
  - 4) The Division holds all sets of Russian tsars' coronation albums with banquet manus except for Catherine I's, which held by the Helsinki University Library.
  - 5) The numbers of the Russian popular prints at the Library has been estimated over 1,200 individual images of Russian Saints, Emperors and noblemen, and traditional folk tales.
  - 6) *Charter for property granted by Peter Aleksandrovich and Ioann Aleksandrovich*

the Tsar's represented in the charter collection are Catherine II, Paul I, Nicholas I, Alexander II, and Nicholas II.

## Russian and East European Original Photographs

The SLV holds more than 150 original photo albums (containing more than 5,000 individual images) dating from the late 19th century and early 20th century. The subjects of the original photos include churches and ecclesiastical arts, views of cities, provincial towns, architecture, and

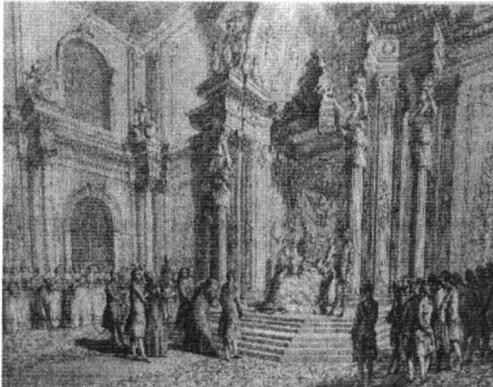


Fig. 2) Emissaries of the Ottoman Empire to Catherine the Great, *Risunki prinadlezhashchie k Opisaniiu koronovaniia imperatritsy Ekateriny II*. 1762. [Drawings that belonging to Descriptions of Coronation Album of Catherine the Great] (S.-Petersburg, 185-?).

diverse peoples of Russian Empire. The album of *Khram Khrista Spasitelia* [Cathedral of Christ the Savior],<sup>7)</sup> taken late 19th century, presents the church architecture as well as ecclesiastical arts in general that provides the imperial Russia's cultural and religious history and its impacts on the secular history. Copies of these photographs were donated to the Moscow Patriarchate

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*to the State Clerk Iuda Davydov Protasov, for deserve in War with Turkish Sultan and the Crimean Khan.*(Moscow, 1686).

7) The cathedral begun in 1837 and completed in 1883 to commemorate the defeat of Napoleon in 1812. In December 1931, the cathedral was destroyed by the order of Stalin, who had wanted to build a "Palace of Soviets" which was never built. Work on the reconstructed cathedral was completed in August 2000.

during the recent reconstruction of this monumental structure.

Views of cities and towns are another large category, and include panoramic views of large cities in Russia and Eastern Europe. The album *Vidy Peterburga* [Views of St. Petersburg], for example, shows various kinds of church architecture and historical buildings that suggest the



Fig. 3) Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow, taken 19th century. [*Khram vo imia Khrista Spasitelia v Moskvie*]. [Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow] (Moscow, 18-?).



Fig. 4) Trinity Cathedral from the [*Aleksandra Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg Aleksandro-Nevskaia lavra v S.-Peterburge.*, 1874.] [Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St. Petersburg]. (n.p. 1874).

success of Peter the Great's intention to make this city a "Window to Europe". Russian provincial cities and non-Russian cities depict provincial life and architecture.<sup>8)</sup>

There are extensive holdings of photos pertaining to the Imperial family, including views of their hunting lodge, as well as portraits. Albums dealing with the Russian army's during the campaign to Russo-Turkish War in 1787-88, and views of the Georgian Military Road are rich sources.

The photo collections of the SLV also includes some albums that display

8) Most photographs at the SLV were created with imperial patronage. For example, photographers who were sponsored by the state traveled the northern territories of Russia to take photo of spectacle views of palaces, monasteries, and peoples of Russia.

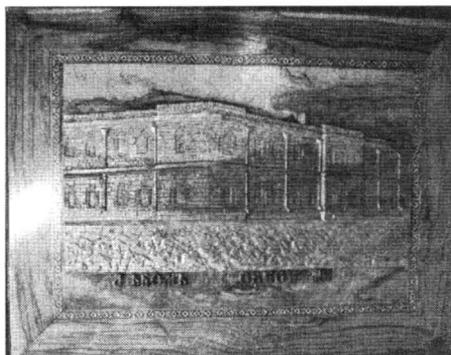


Fig.7) View of Russian compound, binding of red plush with olive wood panels, with inlaid mosaic border, *Albom Dukhovnoi Missii*. [Album of Ecclesiastical Mission]. (n.p., n.d).

pavilions and houses for exhibitions held in Russian cities, as well as the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1896. Many private companies participated in the exhibitions, displaying products. All of the exhibition albums are large-format items.

Russian Revolutionary era photos are also extensive, and include unique photos Russian revolutionists as well as members of the Provisional

Government. Albums of the Stalinist period show the extremes of the period - people worked and lived in the tension of circumstances. The albums, for instance, particularly present from idealized images of Soviet nursery school children, to shots of GULAG prisoners at work. Some albums deal with areas outside Russia; for example, Russian Orthodox churches in Poland, or Estonia, and a unique album of the Russian Orthodox compound in Jerusalem, taken on the occasion of Grand Duke Sergei's visit in the late 19th century.<sup>9)</sup>

## “Visual Treasures” Project of the NYPL

The New York Public Library has planned a five-year project “Visual Treasures” which will digitize more than 600,000 selected from various rare collections of rarities. The “Visual Treasures” project, which started

9) A picture of a Russian Orthodox convent near the Garden of Gethsemane, in which Jesus Christ walked on the eve of his Crucifixion, depicts Russia's world wide interest in its missionary.

in January, 2000 and will continue until December, 2004, features images of rare photography, historical maps, artifacts of New York City history, and



Fig. 8) Engraved view of the 1709 Battle of Poltava in which Peter the Great defeated Sweden's army, Zubov, Aleksei Fedorovich. [Collection of four prints by Aleksei Zubov in the Slavic and Baltic Division of The New York Public Library].

early film and video clips. The project focuses on visual images, rather than text, of significant research value. Selection is determined by rarity, and by popular interest. The SLV has been involved in this digital-imaging project since its inception.<sup>10)</sup>

To date over 5,000 images of original Russian and East European photographs at SLV, have been digitized. A second project is the digitization of over 10,000 images from rare plate books from SLV holdings. Subject matter of this plate books is more varied than holdings of Russian original photographs. Decorative arts (porcelain, textiles, industrial arts, etc.), ecclesiastical arts, world exploration, and ethnographic studies are among the principle subjects. Portraits and heraldry, uniforms and armor,<sup>11)</sup> satirical

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Fig. 9) Napoleon watching Moscow burn. Hand-colored frontispiece, Karl F.W. Borch. *Napoleon's erster Traum in Moskau*. St. Petersburg, 1812.

10) See "Visual Treasures" of NYPL's website, <http://digital.nypl.org/visual.htm>. This site is still under the development, with only sample of digital images available at present.

11) The SLV has extensive holdings of regimental histories, as well as works depicting uniforms and accouterments. For example, Viskovatov's 30 volumes

works, and revolutionary and propaganda arts represent other encountered subjects.

## Exhibitions in 2003

In the Fall of 2003, the SLV will present a major exhibition entitled "Isolation to Empire: Russia Engages the world, 1453-1825," presenting more than 160 rarities from the Library's collections and borrowing several items from the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg. It will take place in the Library's Gottesman and Wachenheim Exhibition Galleries, at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Over ten distinguished scholars have been involved as curators in this exhibition, selecting materials and writing essays that will present Russia's development from the medieval period through the reign of Alexander I. The Library has also planned a series of public programs and an educational website to accompany the exhibition, and expects it to travel to another venue in the USA.

Over the past century, the SLV of the NYPL has made a major contribution to the development of Russian Studies in the USA, making its rare and unique collections

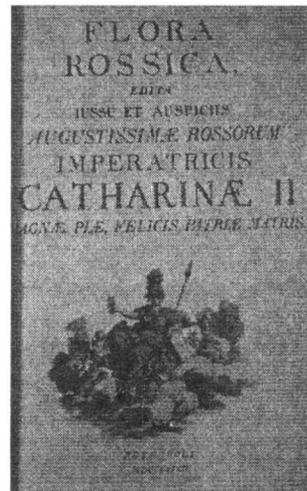


Fig. 10) With the patronage of Catherine the Great, P.S. Pallas traveled through Russia and document its flora. *Flora Rossica; seu, Stirpium Imperii rossici per Europam et Asiam indigenarum scriptiones et icones. Iussu et auspiciis Catharinæ II Augustæ edidit P. S. Pallas.* (Petropoli, 1784-88).

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illustrate how Russian uniforms and weapons evolved from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to 1<sup>st</sup> century. (Viskovatov, A. V. *Istoricheskoe opisanie odezhdy i vooruzheniia rossiiskikh voisk* [Historical descriptions of uniforms and armaments of Russian Army], (Sanktpeterburg, 1857).

available to scholars, graduate students, and the general public throughout the world. As a leading collection of Russian and East European materials in the USA, the SLV has collected, cataloged, and preserved these materials in innovative ways, with the goal of improving access to readers world wide.

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