

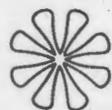
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J.J. Brine & T.Hnik

A Reader's



The Russian and
East - European
Holdings of the
University of
Birmingham, 1976



Guide



University

University of Birmingham Library Special Guide No.13

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*Russian and East European Holdings
of the University of Birmingham*

A Reader's Guide

by

J.J. Brine and T. Hnik

Edited by T. Hnik

Second Edition

1976

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Slavic

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I. PREFACE

Russian has been taught at the University of Birmingham since 1917; in 1921 a Chair of Russian was created in the Faculty of Arts. Polish was taught throughout the war years and until 1949. Today the Department of Russian Language and Literature has a staff of 9, plus two colloquial assistants. Russian language, literature and history are taught as undergraduate courses. There are also facilities for the study of Serbo-croat and for post-graduate research work.

In 1947, the Department of Economic Institutions of the USSR was set up within the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science and, in 1956, a chair was created for Professor Alexander Baykov, which he held until his death in 1963. Later that year, the Department was transformed into the Centre for Russian and East-European Studies, one of the Hayter Centres. CREES is now an interdisciplinary centre with a staff of twenty, who collaborate in teaching and research with various departments in the University. Postgraduate students of the Centre, who at present number 25, work closely with members of staff in their discipline. Undergraduate courses are also provided. There are facilities for research on Poland; CREES's plans include the development of studies on East Germany.

The work of CREES and of the Department of Russian Language and Literature relies on the University's Russian and East European materials, and the academic staff take a close interest in the development of library resources. CREES has its own library, the Alexander Baykov Library, which shares its premises in the Ashley Building. Birmingham's holdings of Russian and East

European materials began as academics' personal libraries or as small departmental collections; our holdings have grown to about 55,000 volumes and are now among the largest in Britain for the study of many aspects of Russia and the USSR. Library services are complemented by the Centre for Russian and East European Studies Information Service, which provides information to industry as well as to scholars.

We hope that this Reader's Guide will help staff and students at the University of Birmingham to use the library's resources more effectively and encourage research workers from other institutions in Britain and abroad to make use of Birmingham's Russian and East European materials.

Professor R.W. Davies
Centre for Russian and
East European Studies

Professor R.E.F. Smith
Department of Russian
Language and Literature

II. INTRODUCTION

A. GENERAL

The first edition of this guide appeared in 1972. It was prepared by Mr. P. Crowther, with the assistance of the then Librarian of the Alexander Baykov Library.

This second edition was prepared by J.J. Brine, Librarian of the Alexander Baykov Library and by T. Hnik, Assistant Librarian at the Main University Library with special responsibility for Russian and East European cataloguing. The authors wish to thank, first of all, Professor R.E.F. Smith, Department of Russian Language and Literature, and G.R. Barker, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, for many valuable comments received during all stages of preparation of the manuscript. The authors also gratefully acknowledge the help and advice given them by A. Nicholls, Acting Librarian, Birmingham University Library, M.A. Stevenson, Birmingham University Library, and B. Richter, Centre for Russian and East European Studies. The cover was designed by G.R. Barker. Thanks are also due to the typists, especially to Mrs. O. Griffin, who coped very efficiently with the intricacies of the textual arrangement.

This edition provides updated information on library resources at Birmingham, but does not give as much bibliographical information as the first edition. A separate bibliographical guide will be produced later; in the interim, it is suggested that readers make full use of existing bibliographies in the library, especially:

J. S. G. Simmons, Russian Bibliography, Libraries and Archives: A Selective List of Bibliographical References for Students of Russian History, Literature, Political, Social and Philosophical Thought, Theology and Linguistics, Twickenham, 1973.

(Russian Ref. Press, s Z 2491, and from the Alexander Baykov Library Librarian)

If readers need further assistance, they should consult the library staff.

This Reader's Guide is intended to introduce readers to the university's stocks and services, and to encourage library users to explore these resources for themselves.

B. RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN HOLDINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University's Russian and East European holdings are divided between the Main University Library and the Alexander Baykov Library in the Centre for Russian and East European Studies. There is some overlap, but, broadly speaking, the Main Library holds material in non-Slavonic languages on all aspects of Russia and East Europe, all material on earlier history, languages and literature plus most of the bibliographies and reference works. The Alexander Baykov Library holds material in Slavonic languages on the social sciences, broadly defined. Further details are given in the description of the libraries. Most of the holdings are in Russian, though Polish holdings in certain fields are strong; there is a small collection on Czechoslovakia and basic works from other countries of Eastern Europe are acquired. At present the library is expanding its holdings of East German materials, which are kept at the Main Library.