Recent and Forthcoming Activities

The Institute continues to host the Executive Secretariat of the Central Eurasian Studies Society.

From November 19-20, with support of the IU Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, the SRIFIAS hosted a visit to campus of the Honorable Elin Suleymanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States. Ambassador Suleymanov gave a standing-room only talk on current developments in his country, stressing its pivotal geo-political position in the South Caucasus and growing importance to the international commerce in oil and natural gas. Meetings with President McRobbie, Provost Lauren Robel, and administrators from the College of Arts and Sciences focused on future opportunities for the development of an IU-Azerbaijani initiative.

With the hard work of Dr. Kate Graber, we sponsored the week-long visit in early March by Nikolai Tsyrempilov, who spoke to the Central Eurasian Studies Colloquium and met with students and faculty. Dr. Tsyrempilov is a senior research fellow of the Institute of Mongolian, Tibetan, and Buddhist studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and is currently a member of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. The title of his Colloquium presentation was: “The Buriat Lamas at the Interface between Two Empires.”

From April 4-5, we hosted the conference entitled “Caucasian Connections” in cooperation with the American Research Institute for the South Caucasus.” IU presenters included doctoral student Aimee Dobbs (“The Emergence of Baku as a Socio-Cultural and Educational Center for Late-Nineteenth to Early-Twentieth Azerbaijani Intelligentsia”) and Edward J. Lazzerini (“Snoopy and the Mulla: No Laughing Matter?”).
Volga-Kama Initiative (V-KI)

For a third year, the SRIFIAS and its international partners in Russia continued to further the goals of the V-KI. Dr. Edward J. Lazzerini, Director of the SRIFIAS and Coordinator of the V-KI, spent a month in Kazan' in July 2012 collaborating with Dr. Rafiyya Gimazova to begin organizing for a “big data” project to extract demographic and social information about births, deaths, marriages, and divorces from imperial Russian metrical books maintained by local imams between 1838 and 1917. The data will be entered into a massive data base as the project moves through phases over the next ten years.

Dr. Guzel’s Ibneeva, a specialist on 18th-century imperial Russian history and a member of the faculty of Kazan’ Federal University, was the guest of the program in October 2012, when she headlined a special session of the Central European Studies Society annual conference that featured a discussion of her monograph on Catherine II’s travels about her empire.

In April 2013, Dr. Rustem Tsunchuk visited IU as the annual V-KI Visiting Scholar. Dr. Tsunchuk is a historian of late imperial Russia, specializing on the Russian Duma and its handling of ethnic issues. Dr. Tsunchuk gave two lectures and met extensively with IU faculty and students during his visit.

Dr. Mary Goetze, Emerita Professor of Music at IU, has been collaborating with a number of scholars in Kazan’ with specialities in Tatar music and culture. Funding for this project comes largely from the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, with the end result being a book published in English, Tatar, and Russian.

As we enter the fourth year of the V-KI, we hope to institutionalize the venture more fully at both international ends of our relationship. While our Russian colleagues are seeking dedicated funds both regionally and from Moscow, we at IU continue to enjoy broad campus support from Title VI centers (Russian and East European, Inner Asian and Uralic, Middle East Studies, and Islamic Studies) as well as the Sinor Research Institute.

Institute Publications

Volume 174 in the Uralic & Altaic Book Series appeared in 2012. *Chinese Scholars on Inner Asia*, edited by Luo Xin and Roger Covey, is a substantial collection of essays originally published in Chinese by scholars in the PRC. By being translated into English, these important essays will receive a much larger audience of specialists than was possible previously.

Following a hiatus of several years, the SRIFIAS is pleased to announce the revival of its *Papers on Central Eurasia (PoCE)*, formerly titled *Papers on Inner Asia*. This series will consist of scholarly papers of variable length (35 to 130 pages, single spaced), each printed and bound separately in a new format and as digital PDFs. Submissions may deal with various topics related to our vast region: history, philology, linguistics, anthropology, archaeology, contemporary issues, and more.

For the fourth consecutive year, IU’s Summer Language Workshop will offer Introductory Tatar taught by Dilyara Rashitovna Sharifullina, known to her growing number of students as Дилара туташ [Miss Dilyara]. IU is now the only American university to provide domestic instruction in Tatar, a significant Turkic language owing to the position of Tatarstan within the Russian Federation, its economic success, and its long history of progressive intellectual leadership among Central Eurasian Muslim communities.
and so forth. Works of comparative study with territories outside the boundaries of Central Eurasia are also welcome.

The first number of PoCE appeared this month. Written by British scholar, Sam van Schaik, it is entitled The Tibetan Chan Manuscripts: A Complete Descriptive Catalogue of Tibetan Chan Texts in the Dunhuang Manuscript Collections.

In addition, we are inaugurating a new publication entitled Ad Fontes: Texts on Central Eurasian Society and Culture. This will provide a vehicle for translations into English of significant, less than book-length, regionally produced texts of value to a larger audience of scholars beyond the specialists who will be able to read the originals. These texts, we hope, will also prove valuable as supplementary readings for classroom use. As with PoCE, we will price Ad Fontes modestly in paper and digital formats. Both imprints will also be peer reviewed.

Library Acquisitions

Books


A Collection of Historical Archives of Tibet. 1995. [Gift of Edward Lazzerini]


Periodicals


Archäeologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan, Bd. 44 (2012).


Encyclopaedia Iranica, Vol. XVI, Fasc. 2.


Nomadic Studies, No. 21 (2013).


Resources in Digital format

Books


**Dissertations**


Old Kazan’

Painting by Ravil Zagidullin,
National Museum of Tatarstan