



The ASEC Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new ASEC Newsletter to you. All of us on the Executive Council want to remind you that this is your organization and it exists to provide you with a forum for your individual and collaborative scholarly work. ASEC will be as strong and vital as your participation makes it. Our current officers, elected at last year's annual meeting at ASEEEES, are:

Scott Kenworthy, Vice President (Miami University, Ohio)
Eugene Clay, Secretary (Arizona State University)
Roland Clark, Treasurer (Eastern Connecticut University)

In addition, you will want to watch for emails from the following ASEC members who have graciously accepted invitations to serve in our organization and have special sets of responsibilities:

Charles Arndt, III, Newsletter Editor (Vassar College)
Jennifer Spock, Coordinator of Publications (Eastern Kentucky University)

Two Initiatives that the Executive Council and several other key members of ASEC have been developing this summer are the following: Production of a volume of essays derived from our March, 2013 conference. I have been in discussions with Jennifer Spock and David Goldfrank concerning the initial stages of soliciting contributions to it and developing a process and timetable for its publication.

Development of an ASEC website that will be separate from the organization's Facebook page and will contain information that can be shared by our membership for a better dissemination of general information, publications, course syllabi, members' c.v.'s, and other relevant announcements.

Finally, I'd like to introduce my own scholarly profile to you. I have a Ph.D. in Russian language and literature. All of my research has focused on some aspect of the essential features of Russian literature and culture (including Russian Orthodoxy). I have published three books: a scholarly translation of Vladimir Soloukhin's *Время собирать камни*, an edited collection of essays extending Mikhail Bakhtin's thought into interdisciplinary areas, and a scholarly translation of Vladimir Solovyov's religio-philosophical treatise *Философские начала цельного знания*. My current book project is a two-volume biography of Rachmaninoff, titled *Cross Rhythms of the Soul*. An additional ongoing area of my research involves the relations between the Roman Papacy and Moscow Patriarchate.

I hope to see many of you at the ASEEEES Convention in November, 2013, and look forward to working with you and for you in the coming years!

Valeria Nollan

Announcements and Requests

Call for Papers: The Sophia Institute (International Center for Orthodox Thought and Culture) is hosting its Sixth Annual Sophia Conference on the topic "Monasticism, Asceticism & Holiness in the Worlds of Eastern Orthodoxy"

Friday December 6th 2013. 9.00 am to 6.00pm. 3041 Broadway (at 121st St.) New York. NY 10027.

Papers are to be 20 minutes in duration –with a prospect of publication in the Acts of the Conference

Abstracts to: jam401@columbia.edu before Nov. 1st 2013.

This year's Academic Conference "Monasticism, Asceticism and Holiness in the Worlds of Eastern Orthodoxy" will turn its attention to the various ways the Orthodox Church over past centuries, and in recent times, has understood and realized the monastic and ascetical life. The conference will pursue the theme in relation to ancient Syrian, Byzantine, Romanian, Slavic & African, traditions of monasticism—and will also look at asceticism in its contemporary manifestations. Lectures and Short Papers will offer a range of approaches: New Testament foundations, Pa-

tristic and Byzantine theology, Monastic Art and Architecture across the ages, surviving Typika, Startsi and their traditions, & Founders and Benefactors. Scholars wishing to offer a short paper should signal their intent and send an abstract to Prof. McGuckin before November 1st to be included in the Conference Schedule.

Registration 8.00 am — 9.00 am Registration + All Lectures - Advance Payment by Check Before Nov. 6th. \$50 OR Payment on the Day (No Credit Cards) \$55
Festive Evening Banquet (6pm for 6.30pm)
Advance Reservations - Before Nov. 6th. \$30 (Few if any Evening Dinner places available on the day)
Advance Bookings (Checks only) Before Nov. 6th to : The Sophia Institute, 3041 Broadway, New York. NY 10027.
For limited availability overnight campus Hotel Accommodation — Contact : Mr. Steve Bie (mentioning the Sophia Conference by name) by an early date at: sbie@uts.columbia.edu.
General Conference queries to jam401@columbia.edu

The ASEC Annual Business Meeting at the ASEES

Convention, Boston 2013 will be held at Boston Marriot Copley Place in the Massachusettes Room on Friday, November 22, from 3:00 to 4:45 PM.

ASEES Roundtable “The Varieties of Russian Modernity: Rethinking Religion, Secularism and the Influence of Russia in the Modern World” Organizers and participants of the recent RANEPa conference (under this same title - see blurb below concerning what this conference was about) in Moscow will be discussing the conference and the current state of the project to develop the conference papers into a co-edited volume -at a roundtable at this year’s ASEES Conference, Sat Nov 23 2013, 10:00 to 11:45am, Boston Marriott Copley Place / Grand Ballroom Salon B. *The organizers would love to have as many ASEC members as possible participate in the discussion.* RANEPa (which stands for the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration) has asked Christopher Stroop to organize another international conference for spring or summer 2014, so be on the lookout for further information and a CFP.

Please Help The ASEC Facebook Page!

Chris Stroop continues to maintain the ASEC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-for-the-Study-of-Eastern-Christian-History-and-Culture-ASEC/171848576168814>), although it is unfortunately largely inactive. If the page is to continue, Stroop would encourage ASEC members to visit it and also to give him suggestions for improvements or provide pictures or content.

Recent Events of Interest

The Conference “The Varieties of Russian Modernity: Rethinking Religion, Secularism, and the Influence of Russia in the Modern World” took place from June 7-9, 2013, at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Moscow. This conference devoted to the discussion of questions concerning interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to religion, secularism and modernity brought together scholars and experts in the humanities and social sciences from the United States, Canada, Russia, and various European countries. The conference’s primary focus was on rethinking religion and secularism in the history of Imperial, Soviet and post-Soviet Russia; with respect to the Russian-Jewish experience and other religious minorities; and with respect to twentieth-century Russian emigration; in part in order to uncover new understandings of Russian influence in the modern world.

Member Activities

Alexander Angelov College of William and Mary William

1) My article, “In Search of God’s Only Emperor: Basileus in Byzantine and Modern Historiography,” is accepted for publication in the *Journal of Medieval History*. It re-evaluates the scholarly convention in the field (and beyond) that the Byzantines reserved the title only for their own rulers (the only exception being the Persian shah) and shows that they ascribed it quite freely. Numerous foreign rulers from northern Europe to Arabia received the title. This is important not only for Byzantinists interested in titular traditions, but also for scholars of Christianity who have traditionally insisted on the Byzantine basileus’ exclusive Christian sacred rights. The notion of the Byzantine monarch as “divine representative on earth” and caesaropapism are largely grounded on the assumed Byzantine exclusive claims to the title.

2) I am working on a book manuscript that investigates foreign rulers’ conversions to Byzantine Christianity from the 4th to the 9th century. To my knowledge, it is the first comparative monograph on the foreign elites’ conversions. I emphasize the Byzantine perspective and explain the multiple ways in which the Byzantine historians themselves represented the process of religious change. The results are surprising as we find that they did not seem to be as preoccupied with foreign conversions as we have previously thought. In most of the occasions, the Byzantine imperial officials were involved only passively. The narratives of the events, too, developed and changed in accordance with the particular political and cultural context of the given Byzantine historian.

Charles Arndt III Vassar College

In 2012-2013, I published a review of Scott Kenworthy’s book *The Heart of Russia: Trinity-Sergius, Monasticism, and Society After 1825* (*SEEJ*, Vol. 56, No. 4, 2012), as well as a review of the book *Brief Lives: Fyodor Dostoevsky* (Hesperus Press’ “Brief Lives” series) by Anthony Briggs (*SEEJ*, Vol. 57, No. 1, 2013). My article “Veshch’ u Dostoevskogo: Poniatii i rol’ bytovykh predmetov v sozertsanii potustoronnego mira” will appear this fall in the collection *Veshch’: Metafizika predmeta v literature, izobrazitel’nom isusstve, teatre, muzyke u kino*. Apollon Publishing Society, St. Petersburg. Currently I am working on a project examining Nikolai Leskov’s use of hagiography.

Roland Clark Eastern Connecticut State University

Roland Clark was appointed as Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Eastern Connecticut State University starting in Fall 2012. He has recently published two articles on theology and nationalism in early twentieth century Romania in *Nationalities Papers* and has a critical study of the nationalist presuppositions in Fr. Dumitru Staniloae’s early work forthcoming in *Studii teologice*. His translation of Fr. Staniloae’s *The Holy Trinity: In the Beginning there was Love* (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Press, 2012) appeared last year and he is currently working on a collaborative translation of selections from Gala Galaction’s *Journal* (1900-1957).

“Nationalist and Trinitarian Visions of the Church in the Theology of Dumitru Stănilaoe,” *Studii teologice*, (2013) Forthcoming.

“Orthodoxy and Nation-Building: Nichifor Crainic and Religious Nationalism in 1920s Romania,” *Nationalities Papers*, 40/4 (2012): 525-543.

“Nationalism and Orthodoxy: Nichifor Crainic and the Political Culture of the Extreme Right in 1930s Romania,” *Nationalities Papers*, 40/1 (2012): 107-126

Lucien Frary Rider University,

Lucien J. Frary, Rider University, co-edited with Mara Kozelsky a forthcoming volume titled *Russian-Ottoman Borderlands: The Eastern Question Reconsidered* (University of Wisconsin Press). He completed several articles: "Russian Consuls and the Greek Revolution (1821-30)," *Mediterranean Historical Review* 28.1 (June 2013), 46-65; "Russian Missions in the Orthodox East: Antonin Kapustin and His World (1817-1894)," *Russian History* 40 (February 2013): 133-51; "Health, Society, and the Family in the 20th-Century Balkans," *Balkanistica* 26 (2013): 241-54; "Modernity and Local Agency in the Ottoman Borderlands," *Balkanistica* 27 (2014): forthcoming. He also reviewed Lora A. Gerd, *Konstantinopol'skii Patriarkhat i Rossiia* 1901/1914 (Moscow: Indrik, 2012). *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* 28 (2012): forthcoming; Theophilus C. Prousis, *Lord Strangford at the Sublime Porte: The Eastern Crisis (1822)*. (Istanbul: The Isis Press, 2012). *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* 28 (2012): forthcoming; Robert O. Crummey, *Old Believers in a Changing World*. (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2011). *Ab Imperio* 3/2012: 413-20; O. E. Petrunina, *Grecheskaia natsiia i gosudarstvo v XVIII-XX vv.* (Moscow: Universitet Knizhnyi Dom, 2010). *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* 26/27 (2010/2011): 363-65; Emily Greble, *Sarajevo, 1941-1945: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Hitler's Europe*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011). *Balkanistica* 25:1 (2012): 333-35.

Currently, Lucien is completing a book project titled *Russia and the Making of Modern Greece: Orthodoxy, Nationality, and Foreign Policy*, and beginning research on two new projects: a full-length biography of Count Grigorii A. Stroganov (1770-1857), and an essay on the Russian Society of Steam Navigation and Trade (ROPiT) for the research project "Thalis: The Black Sea and Its Port Cities" financed by the Greek Ministry of Education and the European Union.

This year Lucien stepped down as the ASEC Treasurer, a position he held since 2006.

John-Paul Himka University of Alberta

"A Cinematic Churchman: Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in Oles Yanchuk's *Vladyka Andrey*," in *Iconic Turns: Nation and Religion in Eastern European Cinema since 1989*, ed. Liliya Berezhnaya and Christian Schmitt, 121-36. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2013.

"Christianity and Radical Nationalism: Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky and the Bandera Movement" in *State Secularism and Lived Religion in Soviet Russia and Ukraine*, edited by Catherine Wanner (Washington and New York: Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Oxford University Press, 2012), 93-116.

"Ukrains'ki tserkvy v pivnichnii Al'berti (Mistsevosti Hachkys, Menning, Nord Star) [Ukrainian Churches in Northern Alberta (The Localities of Hotchkiss, Manning, North Star)]" in *Zakhidnokanads'kyi zbirnyk*, pt. 6, ed. Peter Savaryn et al., *Naukove tovarystvo im. Shevchenka v Kanadi*, 45 (Edmonton and Ostroh: Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, 2012), 202-13.

Lecture: "The Divine Kaleidoscope: Ukrainian Icons on the Canadian Prairies." Taking the Gown to Town: Recent Scholarship in the Arts and Humanities: A Symposium Honouring the Educational Philanthropy of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule, University of Alberta, 6 October 2012.

Paper: "Changing Traditions: Ukrainian Church Iconography on the Canadian Prairie." Religious Studies Symposium, University of Alberta, 26 April 2012.

Lecture: "Eastern Christian Iconography: Confessionalization, 'Tradition,' and Identity." ReSET Seminar "Towards a New Cultural History of Eastern and Central Europe: Critical Issues and Reappraisals," Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Institute, Slavske, Ukraine, 17-19 July 2012.

Joshua Lollar The University of Kansas

I've just published a book in Greek patristics: *To See into the Life of Things: The Contemplation of Nature in Maximus the Confessor and His Predecessors* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013):

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503548937-1

Valeria Nollan Rhodes College

Review of: *The American YMCA and Russian Culture: The Preservation and Expansion of Orthodox Christianity, 1900-1940*. By Matthew Lee Miller. *Russian Review* (forthcoming, Oct., 2013).

Review of: *The Meaning of Life*. By S. L. Frank. Trans. Boris Jakim. *The Journal of Religion* (Univ. of Chicago), vol. 92, no. 3 (July, 2012), 446-447.

Daniel Schlafly Saint Louis University

I am completing an English translation of the definitive study of the Jesuits' survival in the Russian Empire during the suppression era for publication next year, the bicentennial of the general restoration of the Society in 1814, by St. Joseph's University Press, Marek Inglot, *La Compagnia di Gesu nell'Impero Russo (1772-1820) e la sua Parte nella Restaurazione Generale della Compagnia*.

Christopher Stroop Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)

Christopher Stroop graduated from Stanford in June 2012 with the acceptance of his doctoral dissertation "Providential Empire: Russia's Religious Intelligentsia and the First World War." He subsequently took up work as a senior lecturer at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) in Moscow, Russia. In January 2013 he published the article "Nationalist War Commentary as Russian Religious Thought: The Religious Intelligentsia's Politics of Providentialism" in *Russian Review* (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/russ.10682/abstract>). Stroop also has a forthcoming article "Thinking the Nation through Times of Trial: Russian Philosophy in War and Revolution" with the Russia's Great War and Revolution Project (<http://russiasgreatwar.org/about.shtml>), and over the last academic year has published popular social commentary on *Religion Dispatches* and *Salon.com*.