

# ASEC Newsletter

Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture

Volume III, Issue 1

Spring, 2005

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** It is pleasant to report and reflect on ASEC's progress. Those of you who attended the Boston AAASS Convention and our roundtable, *The Current State of the Study of Eastern Christianity*, were part of a resounding group of fifty seven attendees. Aside from the presentations, the lively and multi-faceted discussion that followed was profoundly indicative of the scholarly commitment to and interest in our field. Our annual meeting was held at the Convention as well and it, too, was very well attended. Many substantive issues were raised once the basic yearly business was completed.

It was at this meeting that I announced, to loud applause, our formal affiliation with AAASS. This information was relayed to us at the Convention. This link is of great importance since it puts us within our national professional association with all the attendant benefits and we are grateful to AAASS for voting us in. We will be periodically providing information regarding ASEC's activities in the *News From AAASS Affiliates* page in NewsNet.

In conjunction with Ohio State University, ASEC is sponsoring a conference titled *Religious Identity Within Eastern Christianity* (to be held at Ohio State University, Oct. 21-22, 2005). We extend our sincerest gratitude to Ohio State University for its support and effort in making this conference possible. (See Below.)

At this year's National Convention of AAASS in Salt Lake City (Nov. 3-6, 2005), ASEC will hold its annual meeting and also sponsor a roundtable titled *History, Literature, and Aesthetics in the Study of Eastern Christianity*. This session will be chaired by Professor Christine Worobec who is a member of ASEC's Board of Advisers.

May I urge you to send your annual dues to our treasurer if you have not already done so and continue to be helpful in bringing in new members.

Finally, we are in the process of incorporating. Incorporation will simplify and rationalize all financial transactions of the society.

Nickolas Lupinin, President of ASEC

**A CONFERENCE** with the theme of Religious Identities within Eastern Christianity will be held at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, on October 21-22, 2005. Proposals for complete panels are preferred (three papers, a chair, and a discussant), but individual papers are welcome and will be placed on panels with other papers of similar themes. Please send a panel and/or paper title(s), brief description of each paper (approx. 300 words), and a one-page cv for each presenter, discussant or chair to:

Russell E. Martin, Dept. of History, Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa 16172-0001

Inquiries may be addressed to Prof. Martin at [martinre@westminster.edu](mailto:martinre@westminster.edu), or to Prof. Jennifer Spock at [Jennifer.Spock@eku.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Spock@eku.edu) (Continued on page two.)

## ASEC Executive Council

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## ASEC Newsletter Address

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All relevant news and other information is welcome.

ASEC website is: <http://hudce7.harvard.edu/~ostrowski/asec/>

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(**CONFERENCE**, contd.) Registration for the conference is \$35. Participants must be members of ASEC at the time of the conference. Membership in this scholarly organization is \$10 and membership forms may be obtained by contacting Jennifer Spock at the e-mail address above, or by visiting our website at: <http://hudce7.harvard.edu/~ostrowski/asec/>

**TREASURER'S MESSAGE** ASEC has almost reached the 100-person membership mark! We have a total of 95 members from the United States, Canada, and Europe, and we hope that the October 21-22 conference in Columbus, Ohio will increase interest in the organization. We currently have close to \$1300 in the bank (thanks to some larger-than-dues donations). Soon, e-mails will be going out to anyone who joined ASEC before Sept. 2004 who has not yet paid dues for 2005. Feel free to send you 2005 dues (check made out to Jennifer Spock) to:

Jennifer Spock, Dept. of History Keith 323, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Avenue  
Richmond, KY40475

Or, you can wait for the e-mail... If you joined in September 2004 or later, I will be asking for renewed dues at the time of our conference. Please wait to send in your registration for the conference until we

send out specific registration forms by e-mail (regular mail for those who request it) later in the summer. Wishing everyone in ASEC a happy and healthy summer of travel, research, or relaxation.

Best Wishes, Jenn Spock

**ANNOUNCEMENT** from the Hilandar Research Library. Predrag Matejic, Curator, tells us that the library will move to temporary quarters, probably in late 2005 and will remain there until late 2008, while the Ohio State Library undergoes extensive renovations. The staff will do everything possible to continue providing all services, but asks for scholars' understanding for any inconvenience during this time. All persons who wish to use the resources of the library are asked to notify the library in a timely manner.

The staff still plans on having the 2005 Medieval Slavic Summer Institute within and using the resources of the Hilandar Research Library. Please contact [hilandar@osu.edu](mailto:hilandar@osu.edu) for additional information.

## News of the Profession

**The third Holy Trinity Seminary Colloquium**, dedicated to the theme of "The Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Russian History and Culture," took place in Jordanville, NY on October 22 and 23, 2004.

The Keynote Address, entitled "The Moscow Theological Academy at the Trinity-Sergius Lavra," was dedicated by His Eminence, Archbishop Evgenii of Vereia, Rector of the Moscow Theological Academy and Seminary and Chair of the Educational Committee of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The program on October 23 was divided into four sessions, each of which was followed by a question and answer session for the panelists. The first session, dedicated to the work of St. Andrei Rublev, a monk of the Lavra, included talks by Priscilla Hunt, Associate of the Five Colleges, University of Massachusetts, the Rev. Fr. Andrew Louth, Professor Patristic and Byzantine Studies in the Department of Theology at the University of Durham, and Robert Bird, Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago.

The second session, focusing on library holdings relating to the Lavra, included talks by Edward Kasinec, Curator of the Slavic and Baltic Division of the New York Public Library, Irina Vasilievna Pozdeeva, Chief Research Fellow in the Department of History and Chief of the Archeographical Library, Moscow State University, and Predrag Matejic, Director of the Hilandar Research Library at Ohio State University.

The third session, devoted to the role of St. Sergius and his Lavra in history, included talks by Daniel Rowland, Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky and Director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities, Scott Kenworthy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Miami University, and Richard Mammana of the Canterbury Project.

The fourth and final session, devoted to the memory of professors of the Moscow Theological Academy, included papers by Hieromok Evfimii (Moiseev), Director of the Moscow Theological Academy Press, and Tatiana Alexandrovna Bogdanova of the National Library in St. Petersburg.

The proceedings from the two previous Holy Trinity Seminary Colloquia, on Metropolitan Philaret and A.S. Khomiakov (the first and second volumes of the series "Readings in Russian Religious Culture," edited by Vladimir Tsurikov), are available from the Holy Trinity Monastery bookstore for the price of \$ 15.00 each plus shipping and handling. The proceedings from the most recent Holy Trinity Seminary Colloquium will be published in the near future.

*Symposion: A Journal of Russian Thought* is now under the editorship of Roy Robson, a member of ASEC. The journal has changed its focus from the analysis of Russian philosophy to religion in Russia. It hopes to concentrate on lived religious experience, which may include forays into folklore, history, literature, theology, and anthropology. The editor looks forward to a lively conversation about Russia's encounter with the divine. The journal is open to a broad range of themes, including new research, extensive literary reviews, translation of classic Russian articles, and newly found primary source material. Scholarship which may not readily fit into other periodicals is welcome. Publication may be both in Russian and English, including side-by-side translations of primary sources. The editor looks forward to publishing thematic issues, which may be articles growing out of a single conference.

Please see the *Symposion* website: [SymposionJournal.org](http://SymposionJournal.org) or write Roy Robson at: [editor@symposionjournal.org](mailto:editor@symposionjournal.org)

## Members' Activities

*Lucien Frary* (Rider U.) presented the paper "Russian Interests in 19-century Salonika" at the AAASS conference last year in Boston, and has been invited to deliver a paper entitled "The Tsar's Loyal Greeks: the Russian Diplomatic Mission to Independent Greece" at the Conference on Russia and the Mediterranean, to be hosted by the University of Athens in May 2005.

*John-Paul Himka* (U. of Alberta) published "On the Left Hand of God: 'Peoples' in Ukrainian Icons of the Last Judgement" In Janusz Duzinkiewicz, et al., eds., *State, Societies, Cultures East and West: Essays in Honor of Jaroslaw Pelenski* (New York: Ross Publishing Inc., 2004)

*Priscilla Hunt* (U. Mass) was an invited speaker at a Colloquium on "The Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Russian History and Culture" at Holy Trinity Seminary on October 22 and 23, 2004, where she delivered her paper "Andrei Rublev's Old Testament Trinity Icon in Cultural Context." She also delivered the paper "The Late Byzantine Legacy in Russia: Mystical Theology and Iconography" at the colloquium "The Legacy of Byzantium" held at the Renaissance Center of the University of Massachusetts, October 9, 2004.

*David S. Foglesong* (Rutgers U.) currently has a work in progress titled *The American Mission and the "Evil Empire": American Thinking About Liberating and Remaking Russia, 1881-2000*, book, EDC 2005. The work has been favorably evaluated for Cambridge University Press.

*Peter Brown* (Rhode Island College.) has published a chapter entitled "Bureaucratic Administration in Seventeenth-Century Russia" in *Modernization of Muscovy* (London and New York: Routledge, 2004.)

*Christine Worobec* (Northern Illinois University) has published "Miraculous Healings" in *Sacred Stories: Religion and Spirituality in Modern Russian Culture*, edited by Mark Steinberg and Heather Coleman (forthcoming from Indiana University Press, 2005) Christine writes that she is "working on a biography of St. Seraphim of Sarov for a world biography series edited by Peter Stearns as well as a long-term project on the history of Orthodox pilgrimages within the Russian Empire and from Russia to Orthodox sites abroad between 1700 and the present." During a three-week trip to Moscow, she came across "a number of publications that would be of interest to our readers," which are listed below:

Avgustin (Nikitin), arkhimandrit. Russkie palomniki u khristianskikh sviatyn' Egipta. St. Petersburg: Neva, 2003.

Bukova, Ol'ga. Zhenskie obiteli prepodobnogo Serafima Sarovskogo: Istoriia desiaty nizhegorodskikh zhenskikh monastyrei. Nizhnii Novgorod: Knigi, 2003.

Grigorovich-Barskii, V.G. Vtoroe poseshchenie sviatoi Afonskoi Gory Vasilii Grigorovicha-Barskogo im samim opisannoe. 1887 rpt. Moscow: Indrik, 2004.

Kotel'nikov, V. Pravoslavnye podvizhniki i russkaia literatura. Na puti k Optinoi. Moscow: Progress-Pleiada, 2002.

Prepodobnyi Serafim Sarovskii: Agiografiia, pochitanie, ikonografiia. Moscow: Indrik, 2004.

Rozov, A.I. Sviashchennik v dukhovnoi zhizni russkoi derevni. St. Petersburg: Aleteia, 2003.

Smilianskaia, E. B. Volshebnykh Bogokhul'niki. Eretiki: Narodnaia religioznost' I "dukhovnye prestupleniia" v Rossii XVIII v. Moscow: Indrik, 2003.

*Archimandrite Luke* is presently the acting dean of Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary and recently published an article titled "A.S. Khomiakov: Poet, Philosopher, Theologian" in the series *Readings in Russian Religious Culture*.

*Robert Bird* (U. Chicago) has a forthcoming book on Andrei Tarkovsky's film "Andrei Rublev" titled *Andrei Rublev* (London: British Film Institute, 2004. 88 pp.)

*Nina Schmit* (American Theological Library Association) will publish an essay entitled "A Transnational Religious Community Gathers around an Icon: The Return of the Tsar" in *Eastern Orthodoxy in a Global Age* (AltaMira Press, forthcoming, 2005) and has also had book reviews in *Sociology of Religion* and *Review of Religion Research*. She also organized and convened a session entitled "History and Anthropology of Religion: Orthodox Christian Case Studies" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Kansas City, Missouri on Oct. 21-24, 2004.

*Nadieszda Kizenko* (SUNY at Albany) has had two recent publications: *Ten Homilies on the Beatitudes by St. John of Kronstadt* (trans. and ed. Paris: Cornerstone Editions, 2003) and *Sviatoi nashego vremeni: o. Ioann Kronshtadtskii i russkii narod* (Moscow: Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie, 2004)

*Tom Dykstra* (U. of Washington) gave a talk at the AAASS conference in Boston, wherein he discussed A.A. Zimin's book "Krupnaia feodal'naia votchina" which analyzes the importance and history of the Volokolamskii Monastery from its founding through the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

*Jerry Pankhurst* (Wittenberg U.) has co-edited a book titled *Eastern Orthodoxy in a Global Age: Tradition Faces the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. (Victor Roudometof, Alexander Agadjanian and Jerry Pankhurst, eds. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press). Forthcoming May/June 2005. The book is composed of two parts, one titled "East European Experiences" and the other "Comparative Perspectives and Transnational Connections."

*Robert Thompson* writes to inform ASEC members about the Sergius Bulgakov Society. The Society "is an informal network and open Christian fellowship for the encouragement of study and appreciation of the life and work of Fr. Sergius Bulgakov (d. 1944)." For more information about the society, see their website for the associated discussion group and web log at <http://www.geocities.com/sbulgakovsociety>.

*Vladimir A. v. Tsurikov* (Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary) has recently had published “N.A. Tsurikov. Encounters with Tolstoi.” *Tolstoy Studies Journal*. XV. (2003) as well as “K istorii emigrantskoi publitsistiki i literatury v Varshave. Pis'ma Dmitriia Filosofova, 1930-1934.” *From the Other Shore: Russian Writers Abroad, Past and Present* 3 (2003). He was also the organizer of the three Holy Trinity Seminary Colloquia, the most recent of which was “The Trinity-Sergius Lavra in Russian History and Culture,” October, 2004.

*Jennifer J. Wynot* (Metropolitan State College of Denver) has presented several papers recently among which were “Red Monks and Nuns? Russian Orthodox Monastery Collective Farms in the Soviet Union, 1917-1928” at the Athens Institute for Education, Athens, Greece, 29-31 December, 2004 and “Monasticism in the World: Adaptation of Orthodox Monks and Nuns to the Soviet Regime, 1917-1939” at a meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, Missouri, October 23, 2004. And, as previously mentioned, her book, *Keeping the Faith: Russian Orthodox Monasticism in the Soviet Union, 1917-1939*, has been published by the Texas A&M University Press in 2004.

*David Goldfrank* (Georgetown U.) writes that he spent a week in the summer of 2004 (as in 2003) at the Hilandar Research Library at OSU working on the Slavic-language sources for his critical translation of Nil Sorsky, which Cistercian Publications will issue as a companion volume to Iosif Volotsky's Rules. Earlier in the summer he gave a presentation on Nil Sorsky's modes of employing his sources at a one-day Early Slavic symposium organized by Boris Gasparov. In October Goldfrank presented a formal paper, “Recentring Nil Sorsky,” containing his main ideas about Nil, his context, and his times, to the Washington Area Russian and East Europe History Workshop. The Workshop, now more than a year old, has been organized by Eric Lohr of American University. It meets about once a month and usually has a modern topic, but “revisionist” notions, based on the established fact of the close connections of Nil and Iosif and the central role of Nil Polev and his manuscript production, were quite well received and appreciated by the modernists. He says that such fora are excellent for sharing our work with colleagues who specialize in various periods and rarely look at religion.

*Alexis Klimoff* (Vassar College) informs us that the forthcoming double issue of the *St. Vladimir Seminary Quarterly*, scheduled to appear this spring, will be dedicated to Sergius Bulgakov and will contain an article by Klimoff titled “Georges Florovsky and the Sophiological Controversy.”

*Roy Robson* (U. of the Sciences, Philadelphia) has made no submission in this round, but the editor would like to reiterate that Robson's book, *Solovki: The Story of Russia Told Through its Most Remarkable Islands* has been published by Yale University Press in 2004.

*George Majeska* (U. of Maryland, Emeritus) writes of two published articles, “The Relics of Constantinople after 1204,” in *Byzance et les reliques du Christ* (Paris, 2004) and “The Emperor and his Church: Imperial Ritual in the Church of St. Sophia,” in *Byzantine Court Culture from 829 to 1204* (Washington, 1997). There will also be an entry under “Paul Evdokimov” in a forthcoming volume of the supplement to MERSH.