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President's Message

Eastern and Southeastern Europe

CRL collections document the turbulent history of the region in the 20th century. More than a half century of collecting at CRL, guided by specialists and bibliographers at major North American universities, has built a wealth of primary source materials for historical research. These materials range from the first complete census of the Russian empire to the coverage by the Sarajevo newspaper *Oslobodenje* of the war in the Balkans during the 1990s.

These regions were closely watched by the West during the first half of the century. This is indicated by the extensive reports and diplomatic correspondence produced by the U.S. Department of State "relating to internal affairs of" Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia from those years.

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On page 1: Front page of *Oslobodenje*, Sarajevo, April 20–27, 1995. From SEEMP collections.

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CRL has extensive holdings of these, as well as State Department papers relating to “political relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan states.”

CRL also holds many English-language transcripts of radio and short-wave radio broadcasts from the region, produced by the BBC Monitoring Service, the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, and the Federal Communications Commission. (The original audio in most cases is long lost). Summaries of press reports from Cold War Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia compiled by the British and American embassies are also available, along with the full texts of many newspapers from the region.

A CRL [topic guide to Eastern Europe](#) provides a detailed summary of these holdings and more, and CRL’s foreign newspaper database provides a country-by-country listing of the newspapers held.

In this issue James Simon describes the work of the Slavic and Eastern European Microform Project, whose members continue to identify and acquire source materials that are essential for historical and social science research in the region. Because of the region’s modern history of conflict, SEEMP’s role has been of vital importance to North American scholars.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.

Slavic and East European Microform Project

James Simon

Director of International Resources



Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his family, *Szabadsag*, June 29, 1914. Ferdinand's assassination on June 28, 1914 precipitated the outbreak of World War I. From CRL's U.S. ethnic newspaper collection.

The Slavic and East European Microform Project (SEEMP), formed in 1996, is the “youngest” of CRL’s Area Studies Microform Projects (AMPs). The need for a Slavic and East European project was discussed in a number of venues in prior years. However, it was not until 1995 that a Steering Committee was formed to serve as a forum for discussion on the need for preservation activities in Slavic and East European Studies and how these needs might be met by the formation of a microform project. Would such a cooperative project be advantageous? What should be its focus? Which institutions, if any, are willing to commit to such a project? What kind of structure would work best?

The Steering Committee members were from institutions that belonged to one or more of the other existing microform projects at CRL and were already familiar with the basic concepts and operations. However, unlike the other AMPs that were formed through independent entities that chose to align with CRL, this project turned to CRL to assist in the formation and development from the outset. CRL’s staff assisted in advising the committee, including help in the development of the draft bylaws, based on earlier proposed versions and examples from the other AMPs.

As discussions progressed, agreement on basic purposes and structures emerged. The general mission statement was

developed as follows: “the purpose of the Slavic and East European Microform Project (SEEMP) is to acquire microform copies of unique, scarce, rare and/or unusually bulky and expensive research material pertaining to the field of Slavic and East European studies; and to preserve deteriorating printed and manuscript materials of scholarly value.”

Defining the region of focus was a surprisingly challenging task, as the region continued to define itself through the mid-1990s and the post-communist era. The committee decided to be as inclusive as possible, and included the countries of Eastern and Central Europe (Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine), Russia, the Transcaucasian countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), and the Central Asian countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

The Steering Committee issued a formal invitation to membership in January 1996, asking institutions for a commitment to join by April 1, 1996. Invoices went out at the beginning of CRL’s fiscal year, July 1. Initial membership fees to join were set (and remain to date) at \$600.



Nadia Comaneci, *Sciteia*, Bucharest, July 22, 1976. From CRL collections.

The structure of SEEMP membership was similar to that of the other AMPs, organized on the principle of institutional membership with a committee of the whole and an executive committee to carry out project business between annual meetings. Member institutions are entitled to vote on all questions before the committee; borrow all project materials; purchase positive copies of SEEMP-funded negative microforms at member prices; and propose suitable titles for original filming or purchase from commercial sources.

The first meeting of SEEMP took place at the 1996 annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Boston on November 17, 1996. At the meeting, the committee discussed the kinds of proposals that would be of value to the group, the merits of original filming versus purchasing existing sets, and collaborating with commercial filmmakers to produce new sets from materials held in the region. A number of ideas surfaced that later became full projects of the group. These projects included:

- Newspapers of the October Revolution: a collection of individual

issues from Moscow, St. Petersburg (Petrograd/Leningrad), and other regions published during the years 1917–1918, held by the Library of Congress.

- Newspapers of the former Yugoslavia: a set of titles including *Vijenac*, *Nasa Borba*, and *Hrvatsko Slovo*, covering the period 1990–1994. A later title, *Oslobodenje*, was added and continues to be filmed at present.
- University of Toronto, John Luczkiw Collection of publications by Ukrainian “Displaced Persons” and Political Refugees, 1945–1954.

These projects, among others, represent the variety and scope of the efforts SEEMP sought to undertake.

The committee over time has focused a good deal of attention on acquiring and filming regional newspapers, both contemporary and historical material. Over a series of proposals, SEEMP engaged East View Information Services to acquire permission, and collect and

preserve more than 20 regional newspapers from Russia covering the period 1991 to the present. These regional newspapers are not commonly collected nor commercially microfilmed elsewhere, but represent important local perspectives on national affairs as well as news of local events largely absent in national press in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The titles cover cities and districts (oblasts) from all over Russia, including the Far East, Caucasus and Caspian Sea regions, and the Urals.

In a related project, SEEMP has filmed a wide array of titles that represent right-wing extremist views in Russian politics and society. The papers, covering roughly the years 1990–1999, were collected by the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, among others. The papers represent a variety

Sarajevo women, *Smail Tihic's Sarajevo: a Guide*, ca. 1970. From CRL collections.



Oslobodenje

Oslobodenje, Sarajevo's largest newspaper, declared at the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina that it would not miss a single day of publication. When its headquarters was bombarded and destroyed in April 1992, the newspaper continued to publish from a nearby bomb shelter. It is the longest running newspaper in Bosnia and the only one to operate continuously during the war.

Oslobodenje ("Liberation") was founded on August 30, 1943 as an anti-Nazi newspaper. The title was published in territories liberated by the communist partisan movement of Josip Broz Tito. Enjoying the relative freedom of Yugoslav's press in the 1950s, the title expressed an "independent" viewpoint (as much as could be expected of a newspaper in a communist state). Following Tito's death in 1980, the newspaper moved even further from Communist party viewpoints, embracing pan-nationalism over any particular nationalist viewpoint. In 1992, under the cloud of ethnic strife, *Oslobodenje* aligned itself with the Bosnian government in opposing the Serb campaign. The damaged newspaper tower is preserved as a memorial to the civil war.

CRL subscribed to this title on microfilm and holds a complete run from 1962–1986. The Slavic and East European Microform Project took up the task of identifying and acquiring issues from the war years. Through cooperation with Norman Ross, SEEMP filmed the [weekly edition](#) (published in Sarajevo and Ljubljana, Slovenia) for 1994–1995.

SEEMP members also identified a distributor in Sarajevo that possessed filmed copies of the daily version of *Oslobodenje* from the war years and beyond. SEEMP successfully acquired 1992–1995 and various scattered holdings thereafter from 1996–2003. Acquisition of archival-quality film from the region continues to be somewhat problematic, and SEEMP is investigating ways of improving its holdings of this important title.

of views from the well-known Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) of Vladimir Zhirinovski to lesser known groups, all of whom present views out of the mainstream of Russian politics. Russian nationalist organs in the Baltic countries, Belarus, and Ukraine are included along with newspapers from many regions in the Russian Federation. The newspapers represent monarchist, nationalist, fascist, and conservative Orthodox sentiments. Many also represent a strong anti-Semitic undercurrent in Russian politics and society.

Only a decade old, SEEMP has amassed an impressive collection of materials for consultation. SEEMP is considering how to expand its activities to the other broad regions, including South Slavic regions and Central Asia. SEEMP is also considering how to incorporate digital projects into its workflow. From the outset, SEEMP agreed that digital projects could be included as part of its activities. This principle was included in the founding documents and in the guide to submitting proposals, available on the [SEEMP project Web site](#). ❖

A Note on Human Rights Archives

Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.

President



Editorial cartoon, *Oslobodenje*, Sarajevo, February 26, 1995. From SEEMP collections.

The advent of digital technologies and the Internet have coincided with—and even facilitated—the growth of a global human rights movement. During the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Kosovo, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and others have publicized, documented, and sought to prevent ethnic and political violence against civilians in these regions.

These groups have been able to bring digital technology to bear on their efforts to call attention to the abuses in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia. One such group is the Human Rights Documentation and Information Systems International, or HURIDOCs. An international cooperative of information technology and archive specialists based in Versoix, Switzerland, HURIDOCs is a “global capacity-building network of organizations that use documentation techniques, monitoring methods, information management systems, and available technologies in the defense of human rights and the prevention of abuses.” (See www.huridocs.org/). HURIDOCs develops standards and provides training in information management, and tools and techniques for monitoring and documenting violations of economic, social, and cultural rights.

Benetech, a U.S.-based non-profit, creates technology solutions intended to “profoundly transform and improve the

lives of others.” (See: www.benetech.org/). Benetech products and services, like Martus software and the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG), use technology and scientific methods from demography, epidemiology, and statistics to support compilation, analysis, and presentation of data on mass violence and atrocities. Benetech’s work provided invaluable evidence against Slobodan Milošević before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

These organizations and technologies are generating important historical data and evidence that some day may, and should, reside in libraries or archival repositories. It is useful to be aware of them today, so that provisions can be made to enable that evidence to persist. ❖

Serbian Attacks Reported in Bihac Region

AU0905085894 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 May 94

[Report by Mirza Sadikovic]

[Text] The artillery attacks by the joint aggressor on the Bihac region continued last night and this morning. Karadzic's fascists sporadically shelled the outskirts of Bihac, and the lines of defense on the Grmusko-Srbljanski plateau and Grabez, where they used anti-aircraft weapons and heavy machineguns. Several howitzer shells landed on [name indistinct] Jezero, and Gornji (?Srbljak). The chetniks were also active in the Buzim and (?Bosanska Krupa) region. Members of the Kladusa traitor paramilitary army have not been quiet either. Early this morning, they shelled the Trzac area, Svilaja, and Pecigrad in the Cazin commune, and Todorovo. They (?have not) tried infantry attacks.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service,
Daily report, East Europe, May 9, 1994.
From CRL collections.

Some CRL Resources Related to Eastern and Southeastern Europe

Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Daily report, East Europe

CRL holdings: June 1, 1987–Dec. 29, 1995

Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Daily report, Eastern Europe

CRL holdings: 1974–May 25, 1987

“Inquiry documents”: special reports and studies, 1917–1919. NARA - M1107

Records of the Department of State relating to internal affairs of the Balkan states, 1910–1939 [microform]: decimal file 870
NARA - M1447

Records of the Department of State relating to internal affairs of the Balkan states, 1940–1944 [microform]: decimal file 870
NARA - M1220

Records of the Department of State relating to political relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan states, 1930–1939
NARA - T1245

Records of the Department of State relating to political relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan states, 1940–1944
NARA - T1246

Western books. The Middle East from the rise of Islam.

Among the more than 3,000 titles in this set are numerous books related to the Balkan region. From memoirs, historical studies, and travel literature, they chronicle the countries, the peoples, and the changing political environment in this area.

CRL also holds numerous newspapers from Southeastern Europe, highlighted below:

Bashkimi (Tirana, Albania)

CRL holdings: 1956–

Novi list (Rijeka, Croatia)

CRL holdings: Jan. 4, 1962–1970

Bayram gazetesi (Istanbul, Turkey)

CRL holdings: July 7, 1951–May 25, 1955

Nova Makedonija (Skopje, Macedonia)

CRL holdings: 1962–Dec. 17, 1974; 1995–

Cumhuriyet (Istanbul, Turkey) [Daily]

CRL holdings: May 7–Nov. 7, 1924; Nov. 11, 1933–
Oct. 12, 1955; 1956–

Oslobodenje (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

CRL holdings: Dec. 31, 1961–Jan. 1/2, 1987; Jan. 6/13,
1994–Jan. 25, 1996

Curentul (Bucharest, Romania)

CRL holdings: April 16, 1939–1942

Scinteia (Bucharest, Romania)

CRL holdings: 1956–Dec. 20, 1989

Delo (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

CRL holdings: 1962–1987; 1993–

Svijet (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

CRL holdings: Jan. 12–Dec. 1962

Her gun (Istanbul, Turkey)

CRL holdings: 1949–Aug. 1955

Tribina (Skopje, Macedonia)

CRL holdings: Sept. 27–Dec. 20, 1967; Jan. 24–Mar. 27,
May–Dec. 19, 1968; 1970–1972

Hrvatski narod (Zagreb, Croatia)

CRL holdings: Oct. 1941–Feb. 1, 1945

Universul (Bucharest, Romania)

CRL holdings: 1938–Nov. 1949

Kathemerine (Athens, Greece)

CRL holdings: 1956–April 20, 1967; Sept. 15, 1974–

Vjesnik Socijalistickog saveza radnog naroda Hrvatske
(Zagreb, Croatia)

CRL holdings: Jan. 3, 1962–Dec. 31, 1985/Jan. 1/2,
1986

Levant herald (Istanbul, Turkey) [Daily]

CRL holdings: Jan. 3, 1873–May 30, 1878



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