



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER



February Events Review

The first event at the Dashkova Centre on 7th February was a public lecture presented by Professor Alexander Etkind of the University of Cambridge, in conjunction with the Russian research seminar. His lecture, "Russia's Internal Colonization: Where History and Literature Converge" was based on his recent book, *Internal Colonization: Russia's Imperial Experience*, which seeks to apply postcolonial theory to the Russian case in a discussion that adopts historical and cultural approaches. The large audience enjoyed a lively debate following the lecture.



Professor Alexander Etkind at the Dashkova Centre

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Koroleva

Become a friend of the
Dashkova Centre!

On 21st of February, the Centre held the 2013 Honorary Dashkova Lecture, given by Professor Evgeny Dobrenko, head of Russian and Slavonic Studies at the Sheffield University. The Centre also welcomed undergraduate and taught postgraduate students to the lecture as part of the University's Innovative Learning Week. Professor Dobrenko's lecture, "The Art of Hatred: The Limits of Humanity and Violence in Soviet Wartime Culture" drew upon his long-term interests in Soviet visual culture, examining the ways in which the new ideological context of WWII changed poster, painting and film.



College Registrar Frank Gribben introduces Professor Dobrenko

Welcoming our new Centre Manager

The Centre is pleased to welcome our new Centre Manager and Research Fellow, Dr Vera Zvereva. Dr Zvereva was previously at the Department of History and Theory of Culture, Russian State University of the Humanities in Moscow. She also worked as a researcher on the project *Web Wars: Digital Diasporas and the Language of Memory in Russia and Ukraine*, based at the University of Bergen. Many thanks also go to Dr Ekaterina Popova, who has occupied this post on a cover basis until now.

March Events

This month, the Dashkova Centre's activities will take a decidedly literary turn, with a series of events in association with Academia Rossica under the title SLOVO: The Russian Word in Scotland running between 13th and 15th of March. It will feature an academic symposium, evenings of readings and discussions with the writers and broadcasters Dmitry Bykov, Marina Koroleva and Elena Fanailova and a screening of the film 'Short Stories' with Q&A session with the director and writer Mikhail Segal.

SLOVO: The Russian Word in Scotland

SLOVO is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES), University of Glasgow. CRCEES is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the British Academy.



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Wednesday 13th March

An Evening with the Writer Dmitry Bykov. Presented by Svetlana Adjoubei, Director of Academia Rossica

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: McEwan Hall Reception Room, Bristo Square (entrance through doorway no. 2 in the Medical Quad)

Tickets: £5 (University of Edinburgh students are admitted free with a student card)
<http://tinyurl.com/eveningbykov>

In English and Russian with English translation.

Dmitry Bykov has published nine novels, several collections of short stories, three volumes of essays, eight collections of poetry and biographies of Pasternak and Bulat Okudzhava. In addition to his extensive literary work, he regularly works as a journalist, writing essays, articles and reviews for leading Russian publications.

Thursday 14th March

International Symposium

The Writer as a “Language Laboratory”: Experiment, Reflection and Construction of Social Meaning

Time: 9:00am – 5:45pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Speakers:

Roman Leibov (Tartu University); Lara Ryazanova-Clarke (Edinburgh University); Mikhail Epstein (Durham and Emory Universities); Tine Roesen (Aarhus University); Maxim Krongauz (Russian State Humanitarian University); Rose France (Edinburgh University)

Writers’ Round Table (Moderated by Svetlana Adjoubei, Director of Academia Rossica):

Dmitry Bykov; Elena Fanailova; Mikhail Segal; Marina Koroleva

The symposium will bring together scholars of literary and socio-cultural linguistics, Russian writers and promoters of linguistic culture. The objective is to discuss the role of the contemporary public literary figure as a living ‘linguistic laboratory’, with a specific focus on the writer being an agent of linguistic culture who, in particular, manufactures and calibrates social and political values in language.

For full details of the programme and for registration information, see
<http://tinyurl.com/dashkovacurrentresearch>

Enquiries: dashkova.centre@ed.ac.uk

Thursday 14th March

Film Screening: Short Stories (*Rasskazy*)

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Venue: LHC Screening Room 1.01 (first floor), 14 Buccleuch Place

Tickets: £5 - <http://tinyurl.com/segalshortstories>

The screening will be accompanied by a discussion with the scriptwriter and director. Russian with English subtitles.

Friday 15th March

An Evening with Elena Fanailova and Marina Koroleva. Hosted by Dr Billy Kay and Prof. Roman Leibov.

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Playfair Library, Old College, South Bridge

Tickets: £5 (University of Edinburgh students are admitted free with a student card)
<http://tinyurl.com/fanialovakoroleva>

In English and Russian with English translation.

Elena Fanailova is a poet and journalist. After training and working as a doctor, she moved to Moscow to Radio Liberty where she worked for seventeen years. She has published poetry and literary reviews in a variety of journals, and has won a number of literary prizes.

Marina Koroleva is a writer, scholar and journalist. In addition to working as Deputy Chief Editor of the *Ekho Moskvy* radio station, she has written a play, “Poplar” (*Topol*) and a novel, “Concerto Grosso” (*Vereshchagin*).

Dr Billy Kay is a writer, broadcaster and expert on the Scots language. As well as his radio broadcasts, he has written and extensively on Scots and is a member of the Cross Party Group on the Scots Language at the Scottish Parliament. His latest book is *The Scottish World*.

Professor Roman Leibov is a *docent* in the department of Russian Literature at Tartu University. In addition to literature, his research interests concern the language and culture of the Russian Internet. He was a pioneer not only of the blogging service *Livejournal* among Russian-speakers but also of Internet based fiction.



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