PACIFIC RIM LIBRARIANSHIP:
Collectors of Russian Materials on the Far East

During a research trip to California in the spring of 2002, my thoughts turned to Russian librarianship in the Pacific rim. This is the broadly defined region that encompasses not only the Russian Far East, but China, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, and Alaska, along with the American West coast states of Washington, Oregon, and California. A list of libraries that have collections on the Far East; and librarians, bibliographers, and bibliophiles who have collected these materials, was made. This geographical designation includes not only the regions of Kamchatka, Magadan, Sakhalin, the Maritime Province, Khabarovsk and the Amur, but also Japan, and the area of China known as Manchuria, especially during the period when Imperial Russia held a railroad concession known as the Chinese Eastern Railway [Kitaisko-Vostochnaia zheleznaia doroga, KVzhd]. It is interesting to look at the Far East in the larger context as there was a lot of contact and interaction for centuries, the first Russians having reached China in the 17th century. An earlier version of this article was translated into Russian for the Vladivostok library journal Vlast' knigi. (1)

The following brief survey will introduce readers to a few of the people responsible for adding collections of materials to libraries that deal with the Far East. This is only a preliminary list. Librarians and collectors who lived and worked in the Russian Far East for the most part are omitted. (2) Such prominent people as Fedor Fedorovich Busse, Zotik Nikolaevich Matveev, and others are well-known in their own country. The focus is on Westerners and Russian émigrés.

In the following biographies the reader will get a sense of the inter-connectedness of not only the geographical parts of the region, but how people moved around, and how their collecting touches on many themes important to the history and understanding of the region. It is interesting to note that there is only one librarian in the group.

Robert Joseph Kerner (1887-1956)

The complex and controversial Kerner was Professor of History at the University of California Berkeley [UCB] from 1928 until his death. His view of looking at Russian history from a Pacific perspective is often referred to as the "Berkeley" or "Kerner" School. He was the founder of the Northeast Asian Seminar and editor of the 1939 Northeastern Asia: a Selected Bibliography (2 v. UC Press). He taught many prominent historians in the Russian field--Dorothy Atkinson, Basil Dmytryshyn, Raymond H. Fisher, Richard Pierce, George Lantzeff, Hugh Graham, Wayne Vucinich, Alton Donnelly, and so on. Kerner taught at the University of Hawaii during the 1935 summer session.
Present-day librarians at Berkeley do not have a clear history for the early years of their Slavic collections. The Pavel Miliukov library came to UCB in 1929 and Kerner was very enthusiastic about this. Whether Kerner was the main selector for books while he was there, is not known. After his death, Mrs. Kerner donated her husband's library to UCB in 1957. It contained more than 1,000 books, 200 brochures, microfilm, and over 1,000 periodicals, and 600 unbound volumes. Part of this collection deals with Russian eastward expansion to the Pacific. Kerner's Russian-American Company materials went to the Bancroft Library. (3)

There was at least one predecessor to Kerner. In the Berkeley stacks there are some wonderful leather-bound pre-revolution items in the DK750's (Siberian/Far East history) with the bookplate: Horace Carpentier. This turns out to be Horace Walpole Carpentier (1824-1918), a lawyer, who graduated from Columbia University and arrived in California in 1850. He was instrumental in incorporating the city of Oakland, had himself made mayor; was involved in a lot of land deals, and was a stockholder in the Central Pacific Railroad Co. Around 1910 he moved back to his native state of New York. According to library records, Carpentier gave $100,000 to the university in 1918 and this was assigned to the library for the purchase of books relating to Asiatic civilization. Who actually purchased the Russian items is a mystery. (4)

Klaus Mehnert (1906-1984)

Mehnert was a Moscow-born German trained in Russian history, who studied American history at Berkeley, and had met Kerner. While an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Hawaii [UH] from 1937 to 1941, he taught courses on Russia in Asia, and wrote a booklet on The Russians in Hawaii. During World War II he lived in Shanghai and edited a journal called The XXth Century. (5) Later he was an advisor on Soviet and Chinese affairs to Chancellors Konrad Adenauer in the 1950s and Helmut Schmidt during the 1970s.

Mehnert added the first books in English and Russian to the UH Library dealing with general topics of history about Russia and the Soviet Union, as well as, those with a specific focus on Siberia and the Far East. He brought with him the Kerner interest in looking at Russian history from a Pacific viewpoint. When he died, he left a modest sum of money to the Russian collection. A portion of this gift made it possible to support the Russian State Library's publication of a catalog which describes the special collection of Russian materials printed in China and Japan, some which were purchased with the Mehnert funds. (6)

Klaus was a very engaging personality, tanned and enthusiastic with sparkling blue eyes. During the 1970s and 80s he taught several times at UH, usually in the summer sessions. He was very helpful in suggesting materials to add to the Russian collection.
Remembering his years in Hawaii, Mehnert in his autobiography (7) calls his UH successors John White and John Stephan his “son and grandson.”

At the same time, he was a controversial figure. A cloud of whether he was a Nazi sympathizer still hangs in the air. Mehnert’s life was the focus of the last Russia in Asia seminar that John Stephan gave before his retirement.

Anatolii IAkovlevich Gutman (pseud. Gan, 1873-after 1933)

Gutman was a journalist and publisher. He left Moscow in July of 1918 and took part in various workers' uprisings. He moved around frequently writing stories for different newspapers; he was in Sarapul, Ufa, Ekaterinburg, Omsk, and Vladivostok. (8) In February 1920 he left for Japan, where he was editor of the paper Delo Rossii at the time of the Nikolaevsk-na-Amur disaster. He was able to interview some of the survivors and had access to the findings of a commission that conducted an investigation in the summer of 1920, which included verbatim testimonies from fifty seven survivors, thirty three of whom appear in the book's appendix.(9) Given all of Gutman’s activities, it is a pity that more is not known about his life.

In 1931 Gutman begins corresponding with Ralph Lutz at the Hoover War Library. His letters are from Berlin Germany, and bear the title Dr. Jur., so he must have obtained a doctorate of law. A letter of July 1931 contains a list of documents he is offering for sale that include a) official correspondence between governments, diplomats, commanders of armies and detachments; b) official governmental acts; c) various kinds of notes, memoirs, newspapers, journals. "My task as a participant and analyst of the civil war in this particular case, is to give to your library a complete collection of documentary material to study the history of the civil war...I would offer to give a complete outline and commentary to the documents." (10) Sometime later he writes to Elena Varneck (see below) : "I enclose two lists of documents, correspondence and publications relating to the history of the civil war on the territories from the Volga to the Pacific. On the basis of these materials some of which I collected here [in Berlin], and others during my twelve-years round the world travels over the Far East, United States and Europe" (11), Gutman asks Elena to report this to Mr. Fisher and hopes to finally have a decision on whether they will be purchased. The lengthy attachment lists about 150 items, many of which were used in The Testimony of Kolchak book. Files on how much was paid for collections at the Hoover are closed. (12)

Constantine Mikhailovich Hotimsky (1915-1990)

Hotimsky was born in Tomsk. His father was an army officer who joined the Whites and was killed during battle. His widow Raisa fled to China with her two children
Constantine and Lydia. They settled in Tientsin where Costya graduated in 1932. He worked as a bookkeeper, then fled to Shanghai during the Japanese occupation of Manchuria. Finally, he emigrated to Australia in 1939 where he worked as a clerk and bookkeeper. During World War II he served in the military, and also married Stella Repina in 1943. At the age of 45 he began his academic career thanks to Dr. Andrew Osborn, then head of the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney. Costya had gotten to know him in various second-hand bookstores that they both frequented. Osborn wanted to develop a Russian collection and he asked Costya to do this. When Osborn left after three and a half years, Hotimsky resigned. He next found work at the University of Melbourne with a dual appointment in the Baillieu Library and in the Department of Russian Language and Literature. Costya built up a very rich collection of Russian materials at the Baillieu...the largest in Australia. Osborn was able to lure Costya to his new School of Library and Information Sciences in London, Ontario (Canada) in 1967. Together they developed an excellent library science collection. In 1968 during a visit to Canberra, Hotimsky established a Russian Emigré Archive at Australian National University. He completed an MA thesis in 1969, and was promoted to full professor in 1970. He was invited to lecture at various American and Canadian universities on bibliography, the book trade, Russian explorers, and book censorship. He returned to Sydney in 1980 when he retired. (13)

A voracious bibliophile, my first meeting at his home in London (Canada) lasted for three days in October of 1978. The entire basement of the house was filled with book stacks. Costya would constantly leap up, grab a book, recall how he obtained it, and provide the further history of why it was important to know about it. When he retired he sent me a partial list of 9,000 items which he wanted to sell. The fifty seven page list was divided into twelve subject sections. In the end the collection was sold to the University of Sydney. Unfortunately, to this day these materials are still unprocessed. He was very active in his retirement belonging to many organizations. He became interested in Russian materials printed in China and located about 100 issues of Rubezh that he sent to UH Hamilton Library for the cost of postage. After he died, the materials he still had at home went to the Baillieu Library. These also are unprocessed.

Known to many of his colleagues as Tim, I knew him as Costya. He was a tall handsome Russian gentleman. His English was excellent; he also knew French. He was most generous with his time and expertise. He was a pioneer in the Slavic library field, and was the father of work on Russians in Australia and the Pacific.

Mikhail Semenovich Tiunin (1865-after 1945)

An agronomist by training, after graduating in 1882 from the Petrovksaia zemledei'cheskaia i lesaia akademiia in Moscow, he returned to his birthplace of Sarapul where he became an official of the District Council and a notary in 1912. He next was director of the Kytmanov Museum in Eniseisk in 1917. By April of 1923 he
lived in Harbin, and was made head of the Otdel mestnoi pechati Obshchestva izuchenia Man'chzhurskogo kraia [OIMK] from 1923 to 1928. He was an assistant librarian from 1925 to 1930, and full librarian from 1931 to 1934 at the Tsentral'naia biblioteka KVzhd. He was arrested and deported to the Soviet Union after 1945, and undoubtedly was repressed. (14)

The OIMK Library, the second largest library in Harbin founded in 1922, was reported as having in the local press section (newspapers, periodicals) 11,332 items, and in the library 6,018 volumes. (15) We may clearly see Tiunin's influence in the library's growth, since by 1934 there were 12,733 volumes in the library and 18,811 items in the Otdel mestnoi pechati. (16)

The first place among Russian collections was the TSentral'naia biblioteka KVzhd. It is curious that there seems to be no history of when the library was founded. In Bakich's bibliography on Harbin, she notes two items (#447: Biblioteka Kharbinkogo zheleznozhe sobrania. Katalog, 1908-1937; and #592 TSentral'naia biblioteki KVzhd, 1926-1930). (17) This would indicate that the library was around from the early days of the railroad. One source during the Japanese occupation of Manchuria is a catalog of this former library. It lists 5,000 books in 1938. This figure does not take into account the number of volumes, issues of periodicals, number of newspapers and so on that libraries usually count. (18)

While Tiunin wrote several bibliographical articles, his most important publications are Ukazatel' periodicheskikh i povremennykh izdanii, vykhodivshikh v Kharbine na russkom i drugikh evropeiskikh iazykakh po 1 Ianvaria 1927 g. (Kharbin: Izd-vo OIMKa, 1927. 47 p.) and Ukazatel' periodicheskoi pechati g. Kharbina, vykhodivshei na russkom i russkom i drugikh evropeiskikh iazykakh. Izdaniia vyshedshie s 1 Ianvaria 1927 g. po 31 dekabria 1935 g. (Kharbin: Izd. Ekon. biuro Kharbin. upr. goz. zh.d., 1936. 83 p.) Even if Tiunin was not a trained librarian, one is struck by the professionalism of these two very important bibliographies.

The publisher points out in the 1936 edition, not only the long time it took to compile this list of periodicals, but the even more difficult task of actually collecting the materials. The first edition with 305 titles was relative easy, since Tiunin used the official registration files of the Otdel mestnoi pechati OIMKa. But the second list of 918 items took ten years and is greatly expanded in the types of materials listed. Not only are there journals and newspapers, but calendars, handbooks, one day newspapers and journals, and so on. The information given for each title listed is meticulously detailed.

Tiunin's valuable contribution to our knowledge of periodical publications from Harbin, the center of the Russian emigration in Manchuria, is acknowledged by the Canadian
Pavel Vasil'evich Shkurkin (1868-1943)

A very talented Orientalist, Pavel was born in Kharkov guberniia and died in Seattle, Washington (USA). When he finished the Aleksandrovskoe voennoe uchilishche in 1888, he served in the Far East. In 1903 he graduated from the Vladivostok Vostochnyi institut at the top of his class. Here he studied Chinese and Manchurian languages, and took a leave of absence from his studies to participate on active duty in the quelling of the Boxer Rebellion. After graduating, he worked for the Vladivostok police force. He took part in and was wounded during the Russo-Japanese War. He was very knowledgeable about both regional and local geography. In 1909 he was a translator for the staff of the Priamur Military District in Khabarovsk. After he arrived in Harbin in 1913, he became a translator and teacher for the KVsZh and taught Chinese in several schools. In 1928 he emigrated to America, bringing his library and archive with him, and settled in Seattle.

The Imperial Russian government awarded him several medals for outstanding service and bravery. From the Chinese government he received the Order of the Double Dragon of the 2d degree (with sapphires) for his furthering the understanding among Europeans of the Chinese people and their culture, and another Double Dragon (with corals) for helping to stop the Boxer Rebellion. After the Russo-Japanese war he taught Russian language and history to the Chinese in Girin (Manchuria). At some point he also was awarded the 5th rank in the Chinese civil service. During this time, he was photographed wearing a medallion that the Chinese government would award for placing first in the Hanlin Academy Palace Examinations.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Shkurkin, the grandson of Pavel now curates what has to be one of the premiere private Far East archive and library collections in the world. One may get an idea of this collection from the guide prepared by Dr. Olga Bakich. From the medals awarded Pavel, to an extensive collection of glass slides, to unpublished diaries, to a library containing well over 1,500 items, to paintings done by Pavel Vasil'evich's son (Vladimir Pavlovich), the holdings are extremely rich. In addition there are materials from Petr Petrovich Lapiken (1907-1983), a translator of Chinese poetry, a Manchurian chess champion, and literary figure, who emigrated through Shanghai to San Francisco in 1941. Also, there is a an extensive annotated photographic collection of Harbin from Nicholas Petrovich Lapiken (1905-1994).

Vladimir Shkurkin is a very generous curator and these materials are open to any qualified and interested researcher. You may even be served pelmeni while working!
Valerian Lada-Mocarski (1898-1971)

Born in Russia, the son of a Czarist general who had escaped from his homeland on the eve of the Russian Revolution, Valerian was a banker by profession. He received a masters degree from Columbia University Library School in 1954. (24)

His wife Laura Klots (known as Polly) was born in Scranton (Pennsylvania) to a family of prosperous Russian silk manufacturers from New York. She was educated in boarding schools in DC and Paris. It was in Paris in 1919 that she met Valerian (Valla), the brother of her schoolmate. After their marriage in 1924, Valerian began to develop his notable collection of rare Russian books. His interests were encouraged and supported by Polly, who was a bookbinder. When Valerian was sent to Berlin to work for the US government and later as an international banker, Polly pursued her interests. They lived in England, and for many years traveled throughout Europe. During this period Valerian acquired not only books, but maps. (25)

After collecting for more than twenty years, the result was a bibliography published for the 100th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska. This wonderfully illustrated reference is devoted primarily to first editions of books on Alaska published before 1868. (26) It is important not only for understanding the history of the Russian American Company, but equally as important for the study of early Russian voyages in the Pacific (including Hawaii). This work is a model for anyone interested in the description of rare books. Ninety percent of all the books listed are either in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, or in the author's own personal collection before he died. One obituary also says part of the collection is in the Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 1960 Polly and Valla retired to New Haven to be near Yale and its libraries. He was an adviser to the Russian book collections at Yale University and member of many social organizations. Among numerous fellowships now offered by the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is The Valerian Lada-Mocarski Fellowship. (27)

Elena Alekseevna Varneck (1890-1976)

Born in Kiev Elena graduated from Smolnyi institut in St. Petersburg. In addition to Russian she was fluent in English, French, German, and used several other languages for research and translation—Spanish, Italian, Polish, and Czech. She was asked to work for the Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky at the Russian Embassy in Washington DC where B. A. Bakhmetev was Ambassador. (28) To begin her new job she had to travel by train from Petrograd to Vladivostok and then by boat to Japan and America. It was too dangerous to sail across the Atlantic. When she tells her family she's going to America, Elena's brother Alexei says: "You are lucky. You might get to travel
via [the] Hawaiian Islands.” In the Hoover Institution Archives there is a 600-page memoir of the early part of her life. Unfortunately, it ends in 1918 as she is getting on the boat for America. (29)

After the fall of the Provisional Government, Elena went to New York City looking for work. While there she met Donat Konstantinovich Kazarinoff (1892-1957), a graduate of Moscow University. Hoping to see him again, she thought he might be attending Easter services at the Russian Orthodox Church, and that is where she did find him. Within a short time they were married and Donat received a position as professor of mathematics at the University of Michigan from 1918 to 1922. They had one son, Constantine (1919-2000).

Now a single mom, she works for the Harvard Medical School as a translator from 1928 to 1929. She arrives at the Hoover War Library in Palo Alto (CA) in 1929 where she works until 1942 as a research associate for the director Harold H. Fisher. She was a translator for the US State Department from 1942 to 1945, which included her work as a translator at the first United Nations conference in San Francisco in 1945. She taught Russian during World War II at the Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado, and German at Montana State University in Missoula. She returned to Stanford to teach Russian from 1948 to 1951. (30)

Harold H. Fisher (1890-1975) had been an assistant to President Herbert Hoover during the First World War, when he began collecting original documents from the Tsarist regime and the Bolshevik government. He was first appointed to the Hoover War Library in 1924 and held many positions until his retirement in 1955. Elena was Fisher’s right-hand person. She translated a huge correspondence both from Russian into English or from English into Russian—primarily Fisher’s letters. In addition one can find Elena's notes behind the letters Fisher was to read, giving her evaluation about what materials would be good to acquire. Many of the primary documents, memoirs (published and unpublished), and printed materials about the civil war and other political events in the Russian/Soviet Far East that were acquired and now reside in the Hoover archives and library have Elena's hand in them. There are 17 boxes of Elena's translations in the Hoover Archives, as well as a lengthy outline of a book she was working on about the effect of the revolution on Siberia and its far eastern regions. It bears many similarities to an outline of a book Gutman was working on and had sent with his lists of materials.

After her retirement she was a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Palo Alto and worked for anti-war causes, particularly during the Vietnam War. She was an amateur artist working in water colors and ceramics. California resident Shera Thompson befriended Elena in her later years, and made a videotape of her. After watching the tape and reading the memoir of her early life, Elena can only be described as a free-spirited thinker. Today she would be called a feminist.
Anatolii Stefanovich Lukashkin (1902-1988)

Born in Liaoyang, Manchuria because his father worked for the KVzhd, Anatoly was a naturalist by profession and social activist. Educated in Chita and Harbin, he was an active member of the Kharbinskii komitet pomoshchi bezhentsam from 1924 to 1940. He was a statistician for KVzhd, 1927-1930. In addition he was the secretary of the natural science branch of the Obschestvo izucheniiia Man'chzhurskogo kraia [OIMK], 1927-29, and then the curator, 1931-32. In 1932 he was appointed the chief curator of OIMK until 1939. He arrived in San Francisco in 1941 where he began work as a research biologist at the California Academy of Sciences, and again from 1950 to 1978. He served as a statistician for the Department of the US Army in Korea from 1946 to 1948. He was a member of the board of the Russian Center (SF) from 1949 to 1952, as well as Chair of the board for the newspaper Russkaia zhizni' from 1952 to 1955, and the Museum of Russian Culture from 1954 to 1966. (31)

In the spring of 1983 Edward Kasinec, Slavic Bibliographer at UC Berkeley, and I co-organized a conference on Russians in Siberia and the Far East. Lukashkin attended and brought with him Vladimir Sergeevich Starikov, an ethnographer of Manchuria who had worked for Anatoly in OIMK and then repatriated to the Soviet Union. Lukashkin was very articulate and personified my image of an intellectual Russian émigré -- a rather stocky figure with moustache, beard and bald head. Although he invited me several times to visit his home and see his library, this never took place. We met again in August of 1987 in Sitka, Alaska at the 2d International Conference on Russian America.

It turned out that the long runs of 101 newspaper titles that Berkeley-Hoover-Stanford microfilmed around 1983 on a Title II-C grant for Russian émigré serials and that were stamped "Dal'nevostochnyi arkhivnyi fond" were from Lukashkin's library. (32) The story of how he brought these materials to California is not known, but researchers can be grateful for this wonderful collection of very rare newspapers from China, the originals of which are now located in the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco. The only other comparable collection is located in the Slavic Collection of the National Library in Prague. (33)

Nikolai Aleksandrovich Slobodchikov (1911 - 1991)

Born in Sarapul, Nikolai's father was a lawyer who worked for the Kolchak government, and was fortunate to get himself and his family to China without too much trouble just before the civil war ended. Nikolai was educated in Harbin, Belgium and San Francisco. He lived in Shanghai before leaving China. He arrived in California in 1948 where he worked as a planner and engineer. He was the head of the board and director of the archives of the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco from 1965 to 1991. (34) During his long term he worked to persuade Russian emigres to donate their materials to the Museum. This included not only print material, but manuscripts. The location of
materials was mostly all in his head in the rather disordered arrangement in the Museum. Ella Lury Wiswell visited the Museum in 1990 looking for photos to illustrate her translation of Gutman's book on Nikolaevsk-na-Amure. (35) As they wandered around the attic area, Nikolai spotted a few photos sticking out from under a pile of newspapers on the floor. He picked them up and there they were: photos of Nikolaevsk.

When Nikolai died his own personal library was unfortunately dispersed among several book dealers and garage sales in the Bay area. He had a lot of material on the law in China,

It is fortunate that four tapes are deposited in the Bancroft Library at the University of California Berkeley containing his biography, and reminiscences about the rise and fall of Russian publications in China. (36)

Together with Lukashkin, these two men have been responsible for preserving Russian materials in California which deal with the Russian revolutions, the civil war in the Far East, life in China, life in California, and "general" Russian history and literature. (37)

John Albert White (1910-2001)

John was born in Rhode Island and died in Texas. He received his BA from the University of California Los Angeles in 1933, and MA from Columbia University in 1938. He received his doctorate in 1947 from Stanford University under Harold H. Fisher, using the rich Hoover collections on the Siberian intervention. He arrived in 1947 at the University of Hawaii and remained until his retirement in 1977. A perfect successor to Mehnert, he too was interested in the Asian/Pacific view of Russian history. He had been hired to teach East Asian history, but soon developed courses on the general introduction to Russian history, as well as specialized courses on Siberia and Central Asia, which he alternated every other year. His three books were on the Siberian intervention, the Russo-Japanese War, and the Quadruple Entente. (38)

One of White's biggest concerns was building up the library's collection on Russian history and foreign policy in general, and on Siberia, in particular. White used to recount the problems he had with long-time library director Carl Stroven. For almost every title he would have to negotiate to get it ordered; if it was too expensive, Stroven would veto the request. Once John told Carl that the complete set of Azatskaia Rossia (SPB: A.F. Marks, 1914. 3 v. + atlas) that had been purchased for $50 was now listed in catalogs for $150. "Oh, good," said Stroven, "let's sell our copy." Over the years White worked tirelessly to persuade the library administration of the importance of continuing to build
this collection.

White's work was continued through three of his students. John Stephan, who studied under White from 1964 to 1966, was hired at UH in 1970 as a historian with specializations in both Japan and Russia. He revived White's Siberia course in 1984 in a broader context calling it Russia in East Asia & the Pacific. Patricia Polansky, who studied with White from 1964 to 1967, accepted a position as cataloger in Hamilton Library in 1969. With the strong support of the faculty and eventual support of the Library Director, Polansky began in 1970 to create the position of Russian Bibliographer. She continued developing the Siberian collection, and with Stephan's help broadened the holdings to include the Soviet/Russian Far East, and Russian relations in the Asia-Pacific region. Almost a decade after White retired, John Stephan was appointed the director in 1986 of the Center for the Soviet Union in the Asia Pacific Region [SUPAR; later changing its name to CeRA, Center for Russia in Asia]. The Center was able to hire Robert Valliant (39), who had studied at UH from 1966 until he received his doctorate under White in 1976 for his work on the role of Japan in building the Trans-Siberian Railway.

When Stephan and Polansky cleared out White's office after he moved to Texas, it was unfortunate that a large portion of the collection had to be discarded. The tropical Hawaiian climate is very hard on books; the various bugs (cockroaches, termites, silverfish, bookworm) had done their damage. Of the 680 items saved, a small portion (125 titles) was added to Hamilton Library; the remaining 555 books were sent to OIAK Library and the Gorky Maritime Public Library in Vladivostok.

Not only was White my professor at UH, but a real mentor for my library career. Thanks to him there is a wonderful collection of older materials on Siberia and the Far East sitting on our shelves. He was a kind, thoughtful, gentleman with a good sense of humor. (40)

George Alexander Lensen (1923-1979)

Lensen was born in Berlin (Germany) to Russian émigré parents. His father worked as a correspondent for Pavel Miliukov's Paris-based newspaper, Posledniia novosti. The family emigrated to America in 1939. After receiving a B.A. at Columbia University, George worked in US Army Intelligence from 1943 to 1946, after which he returned to Columbia and received a PhD in 1951 in Japanese history. In addition to knowing Russian, German, English, and French, he studied Chinese and Japanese while at Columbia. He taught at Florida State University in Tallahassee from 1949 until his death.
Among his many grants one was as a Fulbright scholar at Hokkaido University, Japan (1953-54), after which he published Report from Hokkaido. (41) This book clearly illustrates the start of Lensen's lifelong interest in beautiful printing and design. He also did research at Leningrad State University in the Soviet Union (1961) thanks to the Inter-University Committee, the forerunner of IREX. While in the Soviet Union he had been able to obtain microfilm from various archives, a rather unusual occurrence in those early years. (42)

A pioneer in looking at the history of Russia and Asia as a whole picture, especially in the Far East (Soviet/Russian Far East, China, Japan and Korea), his personal library reflected this. After Lensen's death, John Stephan tried to bring the library to Hawaii, but George's widow Rumia (Shabey) sold it in the spring of 1981 to the Slavic Research Center at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. Professor Tsuguo Togawa describes the holdings as follows: books: 2772 titles, 3,841 volumes (808 titles, 1030 volumes in Russian); 2) microfilms: 130 reels, 500 titles; and 3) xerox copies: 157 items (27 in Russian). (43)

When Lensen came to Hawaii in 1978, he visited the library, and then asked to see the Hawaii State Archives. Once in the archives he asked to see materials on the Russian Fort Elizabeth on Kauai. In retrospect he was rather like the cartoon character The Tasmanian Devil—a flurry of activity, but knew exactly what he wanted to do...never mind the tidal wave of books and papers scattered in the reading room.

Even though he died at the young age of fifty-five in an automobile accident, it is fortunate that there were over twenty very productive years of scholarship. He considered his final book, Balance of Intrigue, his masterpiece. It tells the story of the international power rivalries surrounding Korea, Manchuria, and Shantung during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. In the preface Lensen acknowledges his debt to John A. White as one of the readers. John Stephan contributed an excellent foreword and edited the manuscript for publication.

Lensen wanted an outlet for unpublished documents, for translations of works on diplomatic history, and for original monographs. This led him to establish the Diplomatic Press in 1966 that issued twenty books. Among these two are most appreciated by librarians as excellent reference books: Russian diplomatic and consular officials in East Asia and Japanese diplomatic and consular officials in Russia. (44)

John J. Stephan (1941-)

The son of an artist and novelist, Stephan was born in Chicago. He received a BA (1963) and MA (1964) from Harvard University. After studying at UH for two years, he went
on to the University of London, where he received a doctorate in Japanese history at the School of Oriental and African studies in 1969. He began teaching at UH in 1970, where he remained until his retirement in 2001. (45)

Among all his publications, Stephan’s best known works about Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, Russian fascists in Manchuria and Connecticut, and the history of the Russian Far East (46) carry on in the tradition of Kerner, Mehnert, White and Lensen.

From his first days at UH, Stephan was always in the library. Over the years he sponsored the acquisitions of materials that we could not afford. The first of these in 1976 allowed us to buy the 687 set microfiche collection of the Izvestiia Vostochnogo instituta in Vladivostok. Appointed for twelve years to the UH Press board of directors he donated all of the UH Press publications for use in the library’s exchanges with Soviet libraries.

While Stephan was a visiting professor at Stanford in 1986, he frequented the San Francisco Russian bookstores. There he met with Veronica Ahrens-Pulawski, the owner of Globus, Slavic Bookstore and explained our collection interests. From this meeting came her long-standing practice of offering the library first choice on the antiquarian items she acquires for sale. It was Veronica who first introduced Stephan to Peter Balakshin, whose rare two-volume set Final v Kitae Stephan had donated to our library in 1973. (47)

In the course of two dozen trips to the USSR from 1959 to 1986, Stephan helped the library and my own work in many ways. In 1966 en route from Hawaii to London he stopped in Khabarovsk to see the Territorial Library and met the director, Mikhail Semenovich Masiuk. In 1970 Stephan carried a letter from then director of Hamilton Library, Stanley West, to propose an exchange program with the Khabarovsk Library. However, during this time it was not permitted. After a trip in 1972 to survey Japanese studies in the Soviet Union, Stephan suggested a list of many libraries to contact to begin a program of exchanging books. University departments and Academy of Sciences’ institutes with programs and scholars studying Asia, the Pacific, Siberia and the Soviet Far East were targeted. During the 1980’s Stephan constantly brought books from the Far East for his own library and Hamilton Library. These were mostly malo-tirazhnye publications from Khabarovsk, Magadan, Vladivostok, Petropavlovsk, and Uzhno-Sakahlnsk. The main suppliers were the Khabarovsk Pedagogical Institute and the DVNTS Institut istorii in Vladivostok. In return he brought to Khabarovsk Russian émigré and samizdat literature printed in the West, and a broad range of English materials. He donated to the Khabarovsk Foreign Literature Library an original edition of Voyage de La Perouse,1785-1788 and to the Khabarovsk Pedagogical Institute a microfilm collection of the US State Department’s files on the Siberian intervention. On every trip this author took to the Soviet Union and later Russia, John suggested lists
of places to go, scholars to visit, and books to find.

Another event also aided the growth of the Russian collection. In 1986 Stephan received an invitation from UH Vice President Marsella to head a Russian Center focusing on Asia. Marsella was impressed by the recently published *Soviet-American horizons on the Pacific* that John had co-authored with V. P. Chichkanov in Khabarovsk, Russia. (48) As the first director of the Center for SUPAR, Stephan regarded library acquisitions as high priority. Marsella found money to support our purchases of Russian publications from China.

Stephan began collecting books on Russia in Asia in 1965. While working on his doctorate, he discovered a unique map collection in a London book shop. One map of the Okhotsk Sea dated 1854 contains handwritten instructions from the British Admiralty to the commander of the China Squadron. Stephan estimates that his library contains about 1,000 titles in Russian, Japanese, Chinese, and Western language books on the Far East. Since his retirement, he has been donating materials to Hamilton Library. Duplicate titles have been sent to Far Eastern libraries: primarily in Khabarovsk, Uzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Vladivostok.

Present-day researchers, libraries and librarians should be very grateful for the work of our scholar-predecessors for what they were able to collect and preserve and deposit in libraries for future generations of users. Let us hope that libraries within the Pacific rim will look at their holdings of these increasingly rare and fragile materials, and work to give them proper preservation whether in the original, taking advantage of modern digital technology, or even microfilming. It is an area in which joint concern for these materials could lead to cross-national proposals to share the burden of preservation.

Patricia Polansky
Russian Bibliographer
Hamilton Library University of Hawaii

NOTES

My thanks for help with this article extends to the staff of the Hoover Institution, especially Molly Molloy, reference librarian, and archivists Carol Leadenham and Ron Bulatoff; to Allan Urbanic, Slavic Bibliographer at the University of California at Berkeley; to John Stephan, Emeritus UH Professor of History; and to Amir Khisamutdinov at VGUES and DVGITU in Vladivostok.

2. My research is continuing on a greatly expanded article dealing with this subject that will contain extensive descriptions of libraries, bibliographers, and collectors. For a good summary of some of the same people mentioned here, see Stephen Kotkin, Introduction: “Rediscovering Russia in Asia,” p. 3-15 IN: Rediscovering Russia in Asia, Siberia and the Russian Far East. Edited by Stephen Kotkin and David Wolff. (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1995. xxiii, 356 p., illus.)


5. The Russians in Hawaii, 1804-1819 (Honolulu: Univ. Hawaii, [1939]. 86 p. UH Bulletin, v. 18, no. 6 and UH Occasional papers, no. 38); Editor of The XXth Century (Shanghai: XXth Century Publ. Co., 1941-45. 8 v., illus.) An index to this journal was prepared by Eric Bott, which is now on the web, along with a project to link the full text of articles. See http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/russian/XX/index.html


11. Elena Varneck [Hoover Institution Archives, Box no. 1, folder 1, item 2]--Gutman to Varneck. Jan. 3, 1933.


14. Khisamutdinov,...*slovar'*, p. 311. Also, Lichnoe delo Tiuinia [BREM archive], Gos arkhiv Khabarovskogo kraia, f. 830, op. 3, d. 5679, l. 1, lob, 2, 2ob., 4


18. *Katalog knig Aziatskogo otdela Kharbinskoi biblioteki IU.M.ZH.D.* (Kharbin: Izd. Kharbinskoi biblioteki IU.M.ZH.D, 1938. xiii, 377 p.) The introduction says that the books recorded in this catalog are from the previously named TSentral'naia biblioteka KVzhd.

19. See no. 17

20. Khisamutdinov,...*slovar'*, p. 345


23. One may contact Vladimir Shkurkin at shkurkin@ix.netcom.com Or, by mail: 6025 Rose Arbor, San Pablo CA 94806-4147


28. Boris Aleksandrovich Bakmetev, also spelled Bakmeteff. Check the web for the émigré archive that he helped establish at Columbia University:
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libweb/indiv/rbml/collections/bakmeteff/

29. See p. 658: Hoover Institution Archives, 2 boxes (1890-1976) that includes her memoirs written when she was eighty.

30. "Elena Varneck Dies; Researcher on Russia" Palo Alto Times, 1976, Feb. 17, p. 2. There are some conflicts in dates in her printed obituary and papers in her boxes at the Hoover.

31. Khisamutdinov, ...siovar', p. 189-190. Also check the web under "Loukashkin" (www.loukashkin.org "A.S. Loukashkin: The Naturalist: biographical data", 4 p. with photos. For further biographical data and archival collections see the web under Hoover Institution Archives, Russian Collection, Museum of Russian Culture microfilming project: Anatole S. Loukashkin (Lukashkin) www.hoover.org/hila/ruscollection/lukash.htm


35. See no. 9 above

36. University of California at Berkeley, Bancroft Library: Nicholas A. Slobodchikoff tapes P/T1355c. There are 4 tapes.

37. The beginnings of their work are described in "V Muzee russkoi kul'tury v San-Frantsisko," *Russkaia zhizn',* 1962, 6 marta. Also, more history can be found in [Olga Bakich, sost.], "Biul'eten' Muzeia russkoi kul'tury v San-Frantsisko: Nashe piatidesiatiletie," *Rossiiane v Azii,* 1998, no. 5, p. 261-274.


39. Valliant was the creator, compiler, editor of the Center's *SUPAR report* [later *RA Report*], Honolulu. no. 1 (1986) - no. 17 (July1994)


47. Balakshin, Peter Petrovich, *Final v Kitate; vozniknovenie, razvitie i ischeznovenie beloi emigratsii na Dal'nem Vostoke* (San Frantsisko, Kn-vo Sirius [c1958-59] 2 v.)

48. see no. 46