Reference Books of 2013–2014: A Selection

Laurence H. Miller

The reference works annotated below are selected from recent acquisitions by the University of Illinois Library, Urbana-Champaign. The library acknowledges the heroic efforts over the past 57 years of the late Ralph T. Fisher, Jr., founding director of the university's Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, in support of the library's Slavic collections and services. His contribution to the collections continues under the Ralph T. and Ruth M. Fisher Library Endowment Fund.

Albania

A Biographic Dictionary of Albanian History. By Robert Elsie. London: I. B. Tauris, in association with the Centre for Albanian Studies, 2013. 541 pp.

Described as containing "clear and objective information about Albanian and Albania-related figures of the past from ancient times to the end of the twentieth century," this book includes more than seven hundred forty predominantly deceased representatives and proponents of Albanian culture. Based on the author's previously published historical dictionaries of Kosovo and Albania and his extensive research on Albanian literature, the work includes a glossary of place names and a twenty-one page bibliography. It is an essential work for collections on Albania and Kosovo.

Belarus

Prafesary Hrodzenskaha dziarzhaunaha universiteta imia Ianki Kupaly 1940–2012: Biia-bibliiahrafichny slounik. By S. A. Habrusevich and Ia. A. Rouba. Minsk: Drukarnia Makarova i K, 2013. 207 pp.

The first part of this work includes bio-bibliographies of the nineteen honorary professors, followed by entries for full professors and deceased faculty of Ianka Kupala Grodno State University. Color photographs of the subjects accompany the articles. Although this book is appropriate for special research collections on Belarus or higher education in eastern Europe, it may also be of interest to readers studying the history of Hrodna (Grodno).

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Kyrgyzstan

Politologicheskaia entsiklopediia Kyrgyzstana. Ed. K. K. Imanaliev. Bishkek: Kyrgyzskii natsional'nyi universitet im. Zh. Balasagyna; Kyrgyzsko-Rossiiskii Slavianskii universitet, 2013. 392 pp.

Though the biographical articles range from Plato and Lao-tse to John Kenneth Galbraith and other American political theorists, the main subjects of this Russian-language encyclopedia are overwhelmingly Kyrgyz. The articles are by scholars but are not signed and lack bibliographies, and the publication itself lacks indexes. Despite this, the encyclopedia is certainly essential for Central Asian collections especially for its extensive coverage of Kyrgyz personalities and government bodies as well as details of parliamentary election results.

Russia

Admiraly i generaly voenno-morskogo flota: Rukovoditeli struktur politicheskoi i vospitatel'noi raboty. Biograficheskie khroniki (1917–2013). By I. I. Barsukov, V. M. Ioltukhovskii, and A. V. Kondrashov. Moscow: Klub admiralov; Kuchkovo pole, 2014. 430 pp.

Some four hundred leading political officers and commissars associated with the history of Russian and (predominantly) Soviet naval forces are contained in this biographical dictionary. Each officer occupies a single page, and black-and-white photographs are included for all. Among the notable entries are Leonid Brezhnev and Grigorii Zinoviev. A number of these individuals were victims of Iosif Stalin's terror during 1937–41. A brief introduction describes the structure of naval political indoctrination.

Bibliografiia zhizni i tvorchestva P. I. Tchaikovskogo: Ukazatel' literatury, vyshedshei na russkom iazyke za 140 let, 1866–2006. By S. A. Petukhova. Moscow: Gosudarstvennyi institut iskusstvoznaniia, 2014. 855 pp.

Compiled *de visu* from publications in Russian libraries as well as from other bibliographies, this massive chronological bibliography of Russian sources concerning Petr Il'ch Tchaikovskii includes a yearly chronicle of newspaper and journal articles (listed by date of publication) followed by books and articles in collections (arranged by author or anonymous title). Some 725 pages are devoted to the bibliography proper, preceded by a nearly 100-page essay on the 140-year history of Tchaikovskii critical bibliography. The only auxiliary features are a list of abbreviations and a list of authors who used pseudonyms (including the pseudonyms used).

Blagotvoritel'nost' moskovskikh predprinimatelei, 1860–1914: Slovar' kuptsov-blagotvoritelei, 2nd ed. Philanthropic Activity of Moscow Entrepreneurs, 1860–1914. By Galina Ul'ianova. Moscow: Forum: Neolit, 2014. 494 pp.

The English subtitle of this important study of the Moscow merchant philanthropists is A Prosopographical Lexicon. The fact that the 1999 first edition has become a bib-

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liographical rarity was a major impetus for publishing this second edition in a print run of 500 copies. Some facts and dates have been corrected, and a few references have been added to the bibliography. The second half of this work consists of 225 biographies arranged alphabetically and written as detailed retrospective questionnaires with complete lists of archival sources. The book includes a thorough personal-name index, which greatly enhances its reference value. It is essential for students of the Moscow merchants and the history of philanthropy in Russia.

Entsiklopediia chuvashskoi zhurnalistiki i pechati. Comp. V. I. Zyrianov, V. P. Komissarov, and N. A. Osipova. Cheboksary: Soiuz zhurnalistov Chuvashskoi Respubliki, 2013. 559 pp.

Published to mark the 90th anniversary of the first Chuvash professional journalism society (Kanash, founded in 1923), this encyclopedia covers all aspects of the Chuvash press, including biographical articles on journalists and publishers as well as entries for societies, individual newspapers and journals, wartime mass information in 1941–45, sports journalism, prizes and awards, and press agencies. Numerous black-and-white portraits and group portraits accompany the articles and occasional bibliographic references are also present. A special feature is the forty-eight-page section of plates, mainly color photographs, chronicling the history of Chuvash journalism from 1905 to the present.

Gazetnyi mir Rossii XIX-nachala XX veka: Katalog dorevoliutsionnykh gazet v fondakh Rossiiskoi gosudarstvennoi biblioteki. Comp. V. N. Bulgakova et al. 3rd ed., rev. and sup. Moscow: Pashkov dom, 2014. 2 vol. 557 + 680 pp.

This latest edition of the Russian State Library's catalogue of prerevolutionary Russian newspapers includes more than 6,000 titles (5,572 of them in the newspaper division), with shelf marks and exact holdings. The index is arranged chronologically by place of publication and is a particularly useful feature. This work also includes military, émigré, and rare newspapers held by different library divisions. With this catalogue and the similar prerevolutionary newspaper catalogue of the National Library of Russia, *Gazety dorevoliutsionnoi Rossii: 1703–1917* (St. Petersburg, 2007), the researcher now can conveniently locate virtually all available Russian newspaper issues in the world's two main repositories.

Kliuchevye kontsepty molodezhnoi kul'tury: Tematicheskii slovar' slenga. By T. G. Nikitina. St. Petersburg: Dmitrii Bulanin, 2013. 863 pp.

More than ten thousand slang words and phrases used in contemporary youth culture in Russia are included in this dictionary. Sample sections include alcohol (pp. 25–54), military service (pp. 58–73), external appearance (pp. 74–89), love and sex (pp. 212–249), music (pp. 279–286)—predictably, Kurt Cobain fans are either "kabanchiki" or "kurtochki"—and drugs (pp. 286–331). The work includes a thematic index, an alphabetical index of head words, and an impressive list of 522 sources, including all forms of youth social and mass media and websites. Because of its solid sociological and sociolinguistic basis, this work is highly recommended for basic Slavic collections.

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Koordinatsionnyi sovet rossiiskoi oppozitsii: Kto est' kto. By D. Belomestnov, G. Belonuchkin, and V. Pribylovskii. Moscow: Tsentr "Panorama," 2013. 191 pp.

Informal autobiographical sketches and photographs of the forty-five members elected in October 2012 to the Russian Opposition Coordinating Council are included in this who's who, along with supplementary lists of various fractions and party divisions of the opposition. An online version is available free along with other Panorama publications at scilla.ru/works/knigi/kso2013.pdf (last accessed June 5, 2015).

Materialy dlia biograficheskogo spravochnika russkikh vrachei XVII–XX vv. By A. B. Bogdanov. St. Petersburg: Evropeiskii universitet v Sankt-Peterburge, 2014. 424 pp.

More than five thousand brief biographies of Russian physicians, mainly from the nineteenth and the first quarter of the twentieth centuries, are included in this biographical dictionary. The quixotic attempt of the author, Anton Borisovich Bogdanov (1969–2004), to compile a complete biographical dictionary of Russian medical doctors is compared in the introduction to a number of similarly overambitious efforts, especially Semen Vengerov's attempts to produce a biographical dictionary of all Russian writers. Vengerov's works (with some substantial corrections by Bogdanov) are in fact major sources for the current work, as are several other general and specialized biographical dictionaries and similar sources. In spite of its incompleteness, this work obviously will serve as a major reference source for historians of Russian medicine and public health and probably a primary source for answering reference queries in this area.

Narody Bashkortostana: Entsiklopediia. Chief ed. F. G. Khisamitdinova. Ufa: Bashkirskaia entsiklopediia, 2014. 528 pp.

Historical photographs, color maps, and contemporary color photographs are features of this attractive encyclopedia. There are some twenty-eight separate sections describing the different peoples of Bashkortostan and a section on ethnology in Bashkortostan, including biographies of leading scholars. Several useful appendices include a glossary, statistical tables and census data, and an extensive international (mainly Russian) bibliography.

Otkrytyi arkhiv—3: Spravochnik istoricheskikh dokumentov, opublikovannykh v otechestvennoi zhurnal'noi periodike v 1900–2000 gg. Vol. 3. By A. Kondakova. Moscow: Rosspen, 2013. 828 pp.

A total of 15,994 historical archival documents published in 745 journals are listed under the journal name and then chronologically in this comprehensive work. The auxiliary indexes (to item numbers only) include names of the archives and archival organizations, foreign archives, family archives, personal names, and broad subjects. Nineteenth and twentieth century documents also are indexed chronologically by decade.

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Pervaia mirovaia voina: Entsiklopedicheskii slovar'. Project leader A. O. Chubar'ian; Ed. E. Iu. Sergeev. Moscow: Ves' mir, 2014. 475 pp.

Designed for the general reader, this encyclopedia includes signed articles compiled by scholars of World War I. While most articles are biographical, there is ample coverage of individual battles and events; however, no bibliographic references are included. The work is illustrated and includes numerous color maps and battle plans and a list of Internet resources and portals on the war. A 75-page introduction and chronology precedes the encyclopedia proper, and there is a selective international bibliography.

Pervaia mirovaia voina: Entsiklopediia. By K. A. Zalesskii. Moscow: FIV, 2014. 2 vols. 524 + 762 pp.

Volume 1 of this outstanding encyclopedia encompasses the imperial Russian period of World War I, while the second volume covers the period after the February revolution. The first volume includes a supplement listing the names and terms of service of key government officials of the Russian empire during this period and is arranged by government body. A supplement to volume 2 lists all major army units and departments and their officers after February 1917 until the end of WWI. The excellent articles cover all aspects of the war with particular emphasis on Russia's participation. This is a standard essential work and by far the best Russian reference work on the topic.

Rasstreliannaia elita RKKA, 1937–1941: Kombrigi i im ravnye. By N. S. Cherushev and Iu. N. Cherushev. Moscow: Kuchkovo pole, 2014. 526 pp.

This work focuses on the Red Army brigade commanders who were falsely convicted and usually shot or sent to prison camps during 1937–41 as victims of Iosif Stalin's terror. It supplements an earlier work of the same title (Moscow, 2012) that involves the higher elite of army, corps, and division commanders of the Red Army. Both works are based on extensive research in military archives and personal archives provided by the victims' families. The biographies in the latest volume include brigade commissars, engineers, physicians, and jurists, as well as commanders, and portraits accompany nearly all of the biographies.

Revoliutsionnaia mysl' v Rossii XIX—nachala XX veka: Entsiklopediia. Ed. V. V. Zhuravlev et al. Moscow: Rosspen, 2013. 610 pp.

Russian revolutionary thought (including full coverage of émigré revolutionary thinkers) receives thorough coverage in this exemplary reference work compiled by leading Russian historians. It, along with the 2005 reference volume on Russian social thought, *Obshcestvennaia mysl' Ro*ssii XVIII–*nachala XX veka* (Moscow: ROSSPEN) should be among the first sources to consult for scholars beginning research in this field.

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Rossievedenie: Otechestvennye issledovateli. Spravochnik. Ed. I. I. Glebova. Comp M. S. Pal'nikov, V. I. Pliutsev, and O. V. Khmelevskaia. Moscow: Rossiiskaia akademiia nauk, Institut nauchnoi informatsii po obshchestvennym naukam, 2014. 321 pp.

This bio-bibliographical directory includes 469 Russian studies specialists living in Russia and was compiled from a total of 470 questionnaires completed and returned to the compilers; only one scholar was rejected. Basic academic autobiographies including dates of birth are followed by a listing of major publications and complete contact information. A particularly useful feature is the detailed subject index by field of specialization. There are plans to keep the directory up-to-date on the INION website.

Russkoiazychnyi zhargon: Istoriko-etimologicheskii, tolkovyi slovar' prestupnogo mira. By Zaur Magomedovich Zugumov. Biblioteka professional'nykh slovarei. Moscow: Knizhnyi mir, 2014. 727 pp.

The scholarly preface by Vladimir Elistratov elucidates the unique nature of this dictionary of criminal slang by comparing it to the work of other Russian lexicographers, beginning with Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, who is famous for insisting on the inclusion of obscene words in his 1903–09 edition of Vladimir Dal''s *Explanatory Dictionary of the Great Russian Language*, and including some contemporary specialists in criminal slang. Pros and cons of scholarly work by a former thief, ex-convict, and writer of crime fiction are discussed. The book includes more than six thousand historical and current entries and, as the publisher states, this work will be useful for sociologists, historians, psychologists, linguists, authors, and a broad range of persons associated with the criminal justice system. It is a major lexicographical contribution and should be in all Russian reference collections.

Tsenzory Rossiiskoi imperii: Konets XVIII–nachalo XX veka. Bibliograficheskii spravochnik. Ed. V. R. Firsov et al. St. Petersburg: Rossiskaia natsional'naia biblioteka, 2013. 480 pp.

This scholarly biographical dictionary of Russian censors includes 1,414 individuals with biographies (in the form of service lists) that are indexed by central and local censoring boards. Portraits of thirty prominent censors are included in a separate section of plates, and exhaustive bibliographical and archival references in each biography facilitate further research. A 60-page introductory history of the imperial Russian censorship itself has 308 archival and bibliographic endnotes.

Voennaia elita Rossiiskoi Federatsii: Kratkii entsiklopedicheskii spravochnik. Ed. A. S. Kulikov. Moscow: "Veche"; Klub voenachal'nikov Rossiiskoi Federatsii, 2014. 302 pp.

Sponsored by the private and influential Club of Military Leaders and edited by its president, General Anatolii Kulikov, this biographical dictionary covers the top leaders of the Russian armed forces from 1992 to the present. Biographies accompanied by black-and-white portraits are arranged alphabetically under current military and

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security organs, followed by a supplementary section on the Soviet military elite. The introduction is a brief history of Russian military operations during the period, and a supplement lists the tours of duty of the leaders under their official positions. An index of personal names is included.

Voennaia istoriia bashkir: Entsiklopediia. Chief ed. A. Z. Asfandiiarov. Ufa: Bashkirskaia entsiklopediia, 2013. 431 pp.

Profusely illustrated with portraits, group portraits, maps, plans, songs, monuments, uniforms, insignia, and medals, with a twelve-page introduction outlining Bashkir military history, this well-designed military-historical encyclopedia is an excellent aid to students and scholars. The articles are signed and include bibliographical and archival references. There is a five-page bibliography, a list of the articles, and an index of personal names.

Zhurnalisty Rossii: XX–XXI. Spravochno-entsiklopedicheskoe izdanie. Chief ed. N. N. Mikhailov. Moscow: ID "Zhurnalist," 2013. 998 pp.

This ambitious and somewhat unwieldy illustrated encyclopedia includes unsigned articles about a wide range of print and broadcast journalists and anchorpersons, photographers, war correspondents, documentary filmmakers, literary and cultural columnists, and so forth, including individual newspapers and news organizations and societies from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Biographical articles tend to be discursive and vary considerably in length. Ideological labels are definitely eschewed. Few facts are known about some individuals, and a number of them are described as victims of the terror. Vladimir Lenin and Lev Trotskii are included, along with contemporary film critics and television personalities. No special scholarly appendixes or auxiliary indexes are provided. Although the work has significant shortcomings, it should be made available in most reference collections.

Zolotaia Orda: Bibliograficheskii ukazatel'. By I. M. Mirgallev. Seriiia "Istoriia i kul'tura Zolotoi Ordy," vol. 18. Kazan': In-t istorii im. Sh. Mardzhann AN RT, 2013. 411 pp.

An impressive achievement and probably the first source for starting research on the Golden Horde, this essential scholarly bibliography lists chronologically books, journal articles, and articles in collected works published from 1726 to 2012. Within each year the arrangement is alphabetical by author. A list of abbreviations is the only auxiliary feature.

Ukraine

Kul'turolohiia: Entsyklopedychnyi slovnyk. Ed. Volodymyr Mel'nyk. L'viv: LNU imeni Ivana Franka, 2013. 506 pp.

Some eighteen hundred signed articles, predominantly by researchers of the philosophy department of L'viv National University discuss prominent philosophers,

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religious leaders, novelists, and social theorists, along with articles on social movements, philosophical concepts, and major religious, literary, and philosophical texts relevant to cultural history. Particular emphasis is placed on Ukrainian subjects and other topics considered especially relevant for Ukrainian students seeking a broad understanding of cultural philosophy. A list of abbreviations and a list of the articles and authors constitute the only auxiliary matter. The articles lack references to secondary literature, and the absence of an index or bibliography limits the usefulness of the book for collections other than those specially devoted to Ukraine.

Slovnyk futurizmu. By Iurii Sadlovs'kyi. Ternopil': Bogdan; Institut literatury im. T. H. Shevchenka NAN Ukrainy, 2013. 127 pp.

Some three hundred dictionary entries on futurist topics, including a seventeen-page international bibliography, a useful subject index, and eight color plates, make up this slim volume. The presence of articles on Ukrainian futurism along with major Russian topics helps to make the book a useful tool for students of comparative literature.

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