The NEWSLETTER
of the Early Slavic Studies Association

From the President

Dear colleagues,

Even as the war in Ukraine rages on, all of us have been carrying on with our research and publishing. Some of us also have already participated in the virtual ASEEES conference, which, for the first time, has been organized this year alongside the in-person conference. Some panels on Ukrainian-Russian relations in the 17th and 18th centuries have taken place. In this way, interest in Ukraine's history grows and expands, even if part of the reason for it is the ongoing tragedy. Those who could not participate in these and other panels can access the session recordings that ASEEES has made available until November 14.

At one panel on digital history, Achim Rabus described his efforts to "decolonize" his research and how he is now working on an OCR that may transcribe Ukrainian handwriting, not only Russian. His is a model we might follow: all of us could "decolonize" our work and either begin new projects on Kyivan Rus' or Ukraine in Early Modern times, or go back to unfinished work and publish it. The Kyivan Academy of Sciences encourages scholars from over the world to publish in their Almanach "Ruthenica," as I was told by its editor, Vadym Aristov.

Have a look at your colleague's publications and get inspired by them towards new avenues of research and publication. Be protected from the perils of war. And stay healthy!

Cornelia Soldat
ESSA President

From the (soon-to-be former) Editor

Dear ESSA members, esteemed colleagues:

One of the great pleasures of being the editor of the *The Newsletter* has been the regular communications I have maintained with our members. As the call for submissions went out each spring and fall, you have reported your many activities, professional accomplishments, and publications, and I have dutifully transcribed them onto these pages since the spring 2020 issue. And as I assembled each issue of *The Newsletter*, including this one, I have been struck by the continuing vitality of our field. We all know that these are not times of plenty for us early Slavists: tenure lines have gone away, some funding sources have dried up, student interest in some places has been redirected elsewhere, and the retirements of the pillars of our field have come too soon for the rest of us (if not, necessarily, for them). Still, the quality and number of research outputs in our field remains stunningly strong. Early Slavic books and articles continue to win awards from professional organizations; our members fill vital roles in universities, government, and organizations with interests in the Slavic spaces; and the tragic events in Ukraine have broadcast to all how important knowing the long history of this region and its peoples is to understanding our present. The assessment that Robert Crummey gave to the field back in 2001 seems to apply equally to us today: "To judge by the quality of recent publications and the level of discussion at conferences, the field enjoys robust health" (Robert O. Crummey, "The Latest from Muscovy," *The Russian Review* 60, no. 4 [October 2001]: 474–86, at 474). I take that assessment to heart as my term as editor comes to an end. I happily, gratefully pass the torch to Iulia Nițescu, who will now send out those familiar calls for submissions and have her name on the masthead of this old and reliable publication from here on out, until she's ready to pass the torch to someone else. Iulia will now chronicle the achievements of our members and our field. She will forge new and deeper ties with you all. We are all very grateful to her for accepting the responsibility and privilege of editing *The Newsletter*. With confidence, I wish her the best of luck as she takes this new role for the benefit of our members.

Russell E. Martin
Editor

New Cyrillic Text-Processing and
Transcoding Tools for Unix(-like) Systems
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Background

In the course of work on my PhD thesis on Epifanii Slavinetskii's historical Church Slavonic dictionaries and in related Digital Humanities projects at Heidelberg University, I have repeatedly encountered texts in out-of-date or idiosyncratic encodings that needed to be converted to the modern Unicode (UTF8) standard. In order to deal with such encoding issues and other problems, over the past three years, I have developed several cross-platform text-conversion and -processing scripts for Unixoid operating systems (MacOS, Linux, *BSD) that have been made available on the Web site of the Institute for Slavic Studies of Heidelberg University (see: https://www.slav.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/projekte/ocrprojekt.html). In keeping with the so-called 'Unix philosophy' and the principles of simplicity, modularity, and composability, these shell scripts mostly chain together common command-line utility programs (cat, grep, sort, tr, sed, head, etc.) as well as Perl scripts for more sophisticated functionality. The purpose of this brief report is to present these tools and their functions as well as potential use cases, in the hope that they will prove helpful to other scholars in the early Slavic Studies community.

Copy-and-Paste Transliteration and Transcoding

A task that one often faces as a researcher in (historical) Slavic Studies is that of transliterating Cyrillic text segments in different languages, including quotations, examples, and bibliography entries. Despite the availability of various Web-based tools for this purpose,[1] I resolved to streamline the process further by developing command-line tools that can be invoked with keyboard shortcuts to transliterate text from the clipboard. The resulting shell script (translit) can transliterate Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, and Church Slavonic with support for the ALA-LC, DIN 1460[2], and ISO 9[3] transliteration standards. It works with both the MacOS and Xorg clipboards (detected automatically). The language and/or transliteration standard can be set using command-line parameters (-r for Russian, -b for Belarusian, -u for Ukrainian, etc.). After being made executable and installed on the user's $PATH (for

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[1] For an example designed specially by a Slavist for Slavists, see: https://podolak.net/de/transliteration/russisch (accessed 19.10.2022).
[2] A transliteration table is available at: https://byzantinistik.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/sites/IfA/Byzantinistik/Allgemeine_Bilder/DIN_1460_1982.pdf (accessed 07.08.2022).
[3] https://www.iso.org/standard/3589.html (accessed 07.08.2022).

example, /usr/local/bin), the script can be invoked in a terminal emulator or by being assigned to system-wide keyboard shortcuts. In Linux, such shortcuts can usually be configured through one's desktop environment; in Mac OS, this can be accomplished either with an AppleScript Automator service or with a program that allows binding of Terminal commands to keyboard shortcuts.[4] In this way, I have been able to integrate this program seamlessly into my workflows and make use of it on a nearly daily basis.

Another, more specialized program with similar functionality (ostbib) was devised to convert text from Rafail Turkoniak's digital searchable version of the Ostrog Bible (Turkoniak 2003–2005) to Unicode in order to streamline work with quotations from it. While Turkoniak's edition partly follows the Unicode standard, the fonts in it have a number of idiosyncratic character assignments that the script is designed to correct. The bash script accepts plain text files as input.[5]

Bulk Renaming of Files
Another tool, likewise developed originally for personal use, but which I have since made publicly available, is a shell script (romanize) for bulk transliteration of filenames in a directory from Cyrillic Unicode to ASCII characters, which can confer advantages in certain programming environments. The conversion table is based on the ALA-LC standard and includes pre-Revolutionary Russian characters. It can similarly be installed on a user's $PATH and invoked via a terminal.

SlavConvert: An All-Purpose Conversion Tool for Pre-Unicode Fonts
Beyond this, I have developed an adaptable, general-purpose script (slavconvert) for transcoding the character sets of old fonts based on outdated standards, such as the bitmap fonts in Sebastian Kempgen's MacCampus packages for Classic Mac OS (most frequently Method or MethodThin). The script works by decompressing Word OpenXML (2007–2021, *.docx) documents, reading out the names of the fonts from XML attributes in the source of the document body and footnotes, and then replacing individual characters sequentially in the values of the corresponding XML nodes. The script thus partially replicates the functionality of the font converter developed by Simon Skilevic for the Freiburg University project SlaVaComp (Skilevic 2013). The correspondences between characters for each font are read out line by line from a simply structured text file, the filename of which must be composed of the name of the respective font and the extension *.chars. These files have to be placed in the same directory as the source documents. The basis for parsing the XML source of

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[4] For example, https://github.com/deseven/icanhazshortcut (accessed 19.10.2022).
[5] I have created an analogous script (geoconvert) for Georgian and Old Georgian, as well, which I can share with interested colleagues upon request.

Word (OpenXML) documents is provided by the simple but powerful command-line (CLI) tool xmlstarlet using XPath expressions.[6]

Nevertheless, using xmlstarlet for editing the XML files in this way came to present a significant technical impediment: xmlstarlet is based on libxml2, which only supports XPath 1.0, so it was not possible to use the XPath 2.0 replace() expression to substitute strings of arbitrary length, but rather only the translate() function to replace exactly one character with exactly one character (similar to the sed 'y//' syntax). This is especially problematic with respect to the conversion of Greek fonts, since Greek accented characters in the Unicode standard are often represented in older fonts or encodings using a sequence of characters. In order to circumvent this limitation, the core transcoding functionality in the shell script was replaced with a Perl script that additionally supports a font table of arbitrary dimensions (read from a CSV file) and support for alternate characters in non-Unicode formats, making it highly generalizable. To implement these features, it uses the Perl packages XML::LibXML[7] (based on libxml2) and Text::CSV.[8] The final result thus replicates in full the functionality of the SlaVaComp conversion tool. Simultaneously, it offers superior cross-platform support: while the SlaVaComp converter is a Windows-specific tool dependent on the Microsoft .NET framework (Skilevic 2013: 175; cf. Podtergera et al. 2016: 13), the SlavConvert scripts depend only on open-source, widely-available libraries and CLI programs that have (including MacOS, GNU/Linux, and FreeBSD). Since both the original version and the new version may prove handy depending on the respective use case, I have decided to make both available together with the respective sample font/character tables.

Other Notes

Needless to say, I would be grateful for any bug reports as well as suggestions for improvement or new features for any of the tools described above.

As well as defining their functionality, it is also worth stating what these scripts are *not* designed to do. Above all, they are not Cyrillic 'decoders' designed to identify unknown encodings.[9] With the exception of SlavConvert, where the font data are stored separately in plain text/CSV files, they are also not indefinitely extensible without modifying the source code (e.g., to include other encodings). Nor, for the time being, do they have a full GUI, though the SlavConvert script does optionally

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[6] For documentation, see: http://xmlstar.sourceforge.net (accessed 12.08.2022).

[7] https://metacpan.org/dist/XML-LibXML/view/LibXML.pod (accessed 12.08.2022).

[8] https://metacpan.org/pod/Text::CSV (accessed 12.08.2022).

[9] Such as those available on the Web at https://2cyr.com/decode/ or http://mashke.org/Conv/, the latter being based on a useful Perl script called cyr-conv (accessed 19.10.2022).

trigger a file-selection dialogue using the zenity GTK+ CLI tool on GNU/Linux (if a source file is not specified).

I would also like to flag up the very useful tools ucs2unicode and hip2unicode developed by the Ponomar Project (made available as part of the Perl module Ponomar::Cu, cf. Andreev et al. 2018). I frequently employ these to transcode Church Slavonic texts in the outdated UCS and HIP standards, and thus have not needed to develop tools of my own for such a purpose.

References
Skilevic 2013 = Skilevic, Simon. "SlaVaComp: Konvertierungstool". *Slověne* 2 (2), 2013, pp. 172–183.

Podtergera et al. 2016 = Podtergera, Irina, Susanne Mocken, and Juliane Besters-Dilger. *SlaVaComp – COMPutergestützte Untersuchung von VAriabilität im KirchenSLAvischen: Forschungsergebnisse.* Freiburg: Freiburg University, 2016 (eBook, FreiDok plus). URL: <https://www.freidok.uni-freiburg.de/data/11162>.

Turkoniak 2003–2005 = Turkoniak, Roman. *Ostroz′ka Bibliia.* Kyiv: Ukrains′ke Bibliyne Tovarystvo, 2003–2005.

Chronicle of Publications

Charles J. Halperin (Independent Scholar) published: "Josephians and the History of the Grand Prince of Moscow Revisited," *Russian History* 48, no. 2 (2021):158-68; "The Pendulum Swings: Ivan the Terrible in Russian Historiography," *Ulbandus Review* 19 (2022): 165-84; "Kyivan Rus' and the Mongols: Hostility and Accommodation," *The Medieval World: Culture and Conflict* 2 (2021): 40-43; "German Pamphlets, Russian Chronicles, and Ivan the Terrible," *Russian History* 48, nos. 3-4 (2021): 187-301; *The Rise and Demise of the Myth of the Rus' Land* (Yorkshire, England: Arc Humanities Press, 2022), available through open access at https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/58585.

Ágnes Kriza published *Depicting Orthodoxy in the Russian Middle Ages: The Novgorod Icon of Sophia, the Divine Wisdom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022 (in the series Oxford Studies in Byzantium); and *Enigma in Rus and Medieval Slavic Cultures*, ed. Ágnes Kriza in collaboration with: **W. F. Ryan** (Walter De Gruyter, 2023) (in the series Sense, Matter, and Medium).
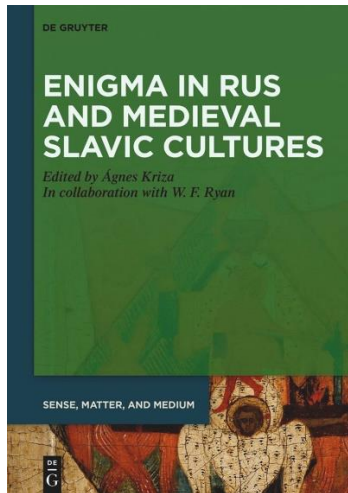
Viacheslav Lytvynenko (Charles University) has published the following works: "Слово о 'различных образах спасения и о покаянии Псевдо-Афанасия Александрийского в славянских сборниках 'Измарагд,'" *Slovo* 72 (2022): 249-293; "Монастырский и мирской пути спасения в русской книжности XV века," in *Монастирски библиотеки в южнославянските земи и Русия през XIV–XVI век. Доклади от Международната научна конференция 26-28 април 2021 г. Кирило-Методиевски студии*, кн. 32 (София, 2022): 333-40 (co-authored with **I.M. Gritsevskaya**); "Дидактическая тематика в текстах славянского Псевдо-Афанасия," *Palaeobulgarica* XLVI (2022): 391-424 (co-authored with **I.M. Gritsevskaya**); "Повесть о юноше и чародее: славянские версии византийского сюжета," *The Problems of Historical Poetics* 20/2 (2022): 137-54 (co-authored with **I.M. Gritsevskaya**); and "From Greek to Slavonic: St. Athanasius of Alexandria in Translation," *The Pappas Patristic Institute*, April 6, 2022, accessible at https://www.pappaspatristicinstitute.com/post/slavonic-athanasius.

Russell E. Martin (Westminster College) is pleased to announce the imminent publication of the translation into Russian of his *A Bride for the Tsar* (originally published in 2012 by Northern Illinois University Press). This volume is as much a second, corrected edition as it is a translation, and it includes a new introduction. *Nevesta dlia tsaria: smotry nevest v kontekste politicheskoi kul'tury Moskovii XVI – XVII vekov* (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2022). He is also the co-editor (with Sergei Iu. Shokarev) of a Festschrift in honour of Boris N. Morozov, entitled *"Enrich and Enlighten Them All the More by the Precision of Your Speech": A Collection of Articles in Honour of Boris N. Morozov – Part 1*, in which appears his contribution "'The Prayers of the Sinful Semën Shakhovskoi': the Religious World of Russia's First *Intelligent*," *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 56, no. 4 (2022): 498–522. He also co-authored the introduction to the Festschrift: (With Sergei Shokarev), "Boris Nikolaevich Morozov: A "Letter" to an Esteemed Colleague*," Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 56, no. 4 (2022): 399–407.

Iulia Niţescu (U of Bucharest) has the chapter "From Individual Destinies to an Emergent Community. Latins in Sixteenth-Century Moscow," to be published in Simon Dreher, Wolfgang Mueller, eds., *Foreigners in Muscovy: Western Immigrants in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Russia* (Routledge, forthcoming December 2022), 27–41.

Donald Ostrowski (Harvard University) has the following publications: "La Russia de Pedro I el Grande." *Desperta Ferro Historia Moderna*, no. 60, *The Battle of Poltava* (2022): 28–32; "Who Decided and How Did They Decide It? Succession in Early Modern Russia," *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, vol. 56 (2022): 367–382; "Mongol Campaigns in 1252 in Rus': Searching for the *Kniaginia*," *Medieval World: Culture and Conflict*, no. 2 (July/August 2022): 28–35; "The Mongols in the Eyes of the Rus'," in *The Mongol World*, ed. Timothy May and Michael Hope (London: Routledge, 2022), 826–41; "The *Povest' vremennykh let*: Ends and Means," *Russian Linguistics*, vol. 46, no. 1 (April 2022): 1–22 (Published online January 6, 2022); "The 'Life of Alexander Nevskii' in the 'Litsevoi letopisnoi svod'. Iconographic and Textual Influences," in *Die Illustrierte Chronikhandschrift des Zaren Ivan IV. Groznyj. Ein Schlüsselwerk der Moskauer Historiographie und Buchkunst zwischen Spätmittelalter und Früher Neuzeit*, ed. Reinhard Frötschner (Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2021), 187–212 (illustrations, pp. 253–57).

Robert Romanchuk, Brad Hostetler, Matthew W. Herrington, Christopher Timm, and Sarah Simmons, "'Daniel the Exile': *Ekphrasis* of Hippodrome Scenes: Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kyiv?," in *Sources for Byzantine Art History*, vol. 3: *The Visual Culture of Later Byzantium (c.1081 - c.1350)*, ed. F. Spingou (Cambridge University Press, 2022), 564–584.

Matthew P. Romaniello (Weber State University) published "Could Siberian 'Natural Curiosities' Be Replaced? Bioprospecting in the Eighteenth Century," *Early Science and Medicine* 27, no. 3 (2022): 257-77.

Cornelia Soldat (U of Cologne), published the book *Russland als Ziel kolonialer Eroberung. Heinrich von Stadens Pläne für ein Moskauer Reich im 16. Jahrhundert* (Bielefeld: transcript-Verlag, 2022) (= Global- und Kolonialgeschichte; 9); and the journal article "Novgorod Counter Histories around 1700. The Story about Ivan the Terrible's Raid of Novgorod reconsidered," in *Russian History* 48, nos. 3-4 (2021): 231-86, and "Response," in: Russian on pp. 316-20.

Cynthia M. Vakareliyska (Prof. Emerita, U of Oregon) published "The Karpino Gospel menology and seven close Greek relatives. Part I: Descriptions and transcriptions" *Byzantinoslavica* vol. 79 (2022) (in press).

Daniel C. Waugh (Prof. Emeritus, U of Washington, Seattle) published the following: "Virtual Silk Roads: Objects, Exhibitions, and Learners," in *The World of the Ancient Silk Road*, ed. by Xinru Liu, with the assistance of Pia Brancaccio (London and New York: Routledge, 2023 [2022]): 542–86. The article includes a great many references (with URLs) to online resources. Forthcoming in the next issue of *Slověne: International Journal of Slavic Studies* is "Memory and Memoirs: The Past as a Foreign Country," an essay commemorating the late Iurii Dmitrievich Rykov and including an appendix of his unpublished letters. Mentioned previously in the *ESSA Newsletter*, but now up and available on-line at the HEIR website in Oxford (https://heir.arch.ox.ac.uk/pages/home.php?login=true) are nearly 200 of Waugh's photos documenting the mosaics and frescoes in the Kariye camii (Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora), Istanbul – probably the best freely available collection of color images for this important 14th-century Byzantine church. HEIR has completed the posting of two large image sets for Ephesus and Palmyra and is currently uploading a large photo collection from the historic Pergamon (Bergama, Turkey). The images are available in various sizes, up to print quality tiffs.

THE WORLD OF THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD
Edited by XINRU LIU
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF PIA BRANCACCIO
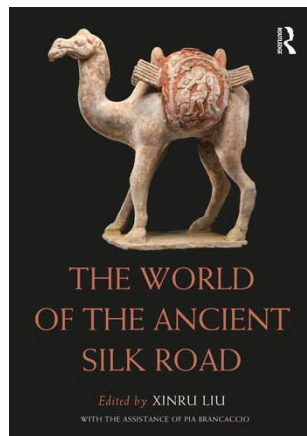
Res gestae

Charles J. Halperin (Independent Scholar) gave a podcast interview about his book *Ivan the Terrible in Russian Historical Memory since 1991*, with Aaron Weinacht, New Book Network for Russian and Eurasian Studies, April 4, 2022, which can be heard here: https://newbooksnetwork.com/ivan-the-terrible-in-russian-historical-memory-since-1991/.

Valerie Kivelson (University of Michigan) is the honorand of the conference entitled "Muscovy and the World," hosted at the University of Michigan from November 3 to November 5, 2022. The conference begins with a reception on November 3, 2022, at

the home of Ronald Suny. Panels follow on the next two days with papers delivered by many ESSA members (both in person and via Zoom), including: Maria Grazia Bartolini, Brian Boeck, Elena Boeck, Michael Flier, Simon Franklin, Robert Frost, Nancy Shields Kollmann, Olga Kosheleva, Russell Martin, Nick Mayhew, Erika Monahan, Johan Neuberger, Karen Petrone, and Daniel Rowland.

Viacheslav Lytvynenko (Charles University) was awarded a one-year research fellowship at Yale Divinity School for 2023.

Cornelia Soldat (U of Cologne) gave the paper "Heinrich von Staden und die Eroberung Mexikos. Russland als Ziel kolonialer Eroberung," at the University of Münster, East European History Kolloquium, April, 27, 2022.

Ludwig Steindorff (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany) was invited by the Faculty of Letters of the University of Zagreb, Croatia, to give a lecture in Croatian on the occasion of the retirement of prof. dr. sc. Neven Budak, professor of Croatian medieval history, on 21 October 2022. He chose the topic "Ad fontes et initia. O početcima ustanove kneštva u dalmatinskim gradovima" [About the beginnings of the institution of the comes / knez in the Dalmatian cities]. The topic allowed to the lecturer to return to the times when Neven Budak and Ludwig Steindorff met for the first time during a course on Croatian medieval history, held by the late Nada Klaić in 1976. The lecture referred to the events at the beginning of the 12th century when the northern Dalmatian cities recognized the rule of the Hungarian-Croatian King Koloman in 1105 and when some of them, only one decade later, came under Venetian rule.

Daniel C. Waugh (Prof. Emeritus, Univ. of Washington, Seattle) has recently been named to the editorial advisory board of the *Trudy Otdela drevnerusskoi literatury* in the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskii dom), St. Petersburg. The board also includes ESSA's **Isolde Thyrêt**.

Early Slavic Panels – ASEEES (virtual)

Thursday, October 13, 2022
On the Margins of Enlightenment Russia
10:15am to 12:00pm, ASEEES 2022 Virtual Convention, VR3
We are going to discuss the specifics of the deep internal contradictions inherent in the Russian 18thcentury. The most obvious and deepest contradictions were associated with the conflict between modernization and tradition, enlightenment and superstition. The precarity of Russian society is reflected in different documents:

visual, textual, and performance sources. Our panel focuses on the reflection of precarity and marginality in various materials and contexts.

Chair: **Gregory Afinogenov** (Georgetown U)

Papers: **Ernest Alexander Zitser** (Duke U), The Barber of Moscow, or What's So Funny about State-Sponsored Religious Persecution of Old Believers?; **William Forrest Holden** (U of Michigan), 'Superstitious People': Orthodoxy and Empire in Chulkov's Dictionary of Russian Superstitions (1782); **Elena Marasinova** (Institute of Russian History, RAS / NRU Higher School of Economics, Russia), Russian Eighteenth-Century Culture between Triumph and Vanity in Andrei Belobotskii's Pentateugum; **Erica Camisa Morale** (U of Southern California), Punishment after the Death Penalty: Attitude towards the Body of a Criminal in Russia in the 18th Century

Discussant: **Gary J. Marker** (SUNY Stony Brooks)

Thursday, October 13, 2022
Early Modern Ukrainian Lands as a Space for Transregional and Transcultural Connections
12:30 to 2:15pm, ASEEES 2022 Virtual Convention, VR14
The Early Modern Ukrainian territories remain highly invisible in the international scholarship as various political developments and visions as well as scholarly trends have continuously disfavored the study of this area. This tendency, apart from being problematic in itself, also comes as an obstacle against the backdrop of the increasing awareness of the importance of transregional and transcultural interrelations in the study of history. This panel seeks to address precisely this issue and demonstrate the ways in which the study of Ukrainian lands would contribute to our understanding of various historical developments which unfolded through social, cultural and political interrelations, networks and exchanges. Different papers analyze such topics as transfer of knowledge and practices, geographical mobilities, introduction and implementation of imperial law and rule, shifting power relations.

Chair: **Tetiana Grygorieva** (National U of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", Ukraine)

Papers: **Stanislav Mohylnyi** (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Germany), Serfdom and Freedom in the Ukrainian-Russian Contact Zone in the Eighteenth Century; **Stepan Blinder** (U of Cambridge, UK), Commune bibliotheca tam professorum, quam studiosorum? Interconnecting Library Visits in the Early Modern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; **Bogdan Pavlish** (Northwestern U), Uses and Abuses of Church History in the Theatine Mission to Polish Armenians in the 1660s; **Kateryna Pasichnyk** (Martin Luther U Halle-Wittenberg, Germany) Medical Practice and Imperial Law in the Ukrainian Lands of the Russian Empire in the 18th Century

Discussant: **Alexandr Osipian** (Freie U Berlin, Germany)

Friday, October 14, 2022
Early Slavic Studies in Digital History
8:00 to 9:45am, ASEEES 2022 Virtual Convention, VR3
The panel presents various digital tools for working with sources. The presenters showcase possibilities for facilitating work with pre-modern Slavic sources, e.g. OCR on handwritten texts, the creation of digital and printed editions using OCR, as well as databases that present finished OCR projects based on various texts. The main tool shown will be Transkribus, which is used for recognizing handwriting in various languages and scripts and also provides a wide range of possibilities for creating philological editions of manuscripts, both digitally and in print. The Digital Livonia project shows how acts, charters, and letters can be transcribed and presented for further study via an Internet database accessible to all interested scholars.

Chair: **Cornelia Soldat** (U of Cologne, Germany)

Papers: **Achim Rabus** (U of Freiburg, Germany), Handwritten Text Recognition for (pre-)modern Slavic; **Marek Tamm** (Tallinn U, Estonia), Digital Livonia: For a Digitally Enhanced Study of Medieval Livonia (ca 1200–1550); **Walker Thompson** (U of Heidelberg, Germany), Digitizing Epifanii Slavinetskii's Greek–Slavonic–Latin Lexicon: Tools and Methods

Discussant: **Kelly O'Neill** (Harvard U)

Friday, October 14, 2022
Precarious Privacy: Russian Epistolary Culture in the Long Eighteenth Century
10:15am to 12:00pm, ASEEES 2022 Virtual Convention, VR3
Although Russians had written letters long before the eighteenth century, 1708 marked a dramatic change in epistolary culture: it witnessed the publication of the first printed letter-writing manual in Russia, Priklady kako pishutsia komplimenty raznye. As Lina Bernstein has demonstrated, these model letters based on German sources were supposed to provide new models of behavior and thus modernize and westernize Russian society. Letter-writing throughout the long eighteenth century became inseparable from dramatic social changes and new understandings of educated Russians' "public role and subjective self" (Schönle, Zorin, and Evstratov). Contributing to the rapidly growing field of Russian epistolary studies, this panel will explore how the new letter-writing culture reflected the changing boundaries between the personal and the official, the family and the court, ego-documents and literary facts.

Chair: **Alexei G. Evstratov** (U of Oxford, UK)

Papers: **Sara Dickinson** (U of Genoa, Italy), Early Eighteenth-Century Letters and the Origins of Women's Writing in Russia; **Kelsey Rubin-Detlev** (U of Southern California), Why Publish Correspondence in Eighteenth-Century Russia?; **Victoria S. Frede** (UC Berkeley), The Boundaries between Public and Private: Pavel and Sofia

Stroganov in the 1790s; **Ekaterina Shubenkina** (U of Southern California), Such an Exercise… Shapes Both the Heart and the Mind': Children's Letter-Writing in Early Nineteenth-Century Russia as Moral Education
Discussant: **Andrew Kahn** (U of Oxford, UK)

Friday, October 14, 2022
Patronage Politics in Early Modern Russia and Ukraine
12:30 to 2:15pm, ASEEES 2022 Virtual Convention, VR3
In this interdisciplinary and international panel, three Russia-based historians (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ekaterinburg) will discuss their ongoing research on patron-client relations in early modern Russia and Ukraine, as well as between Russia and Ukraine (16th-18th centuries). The panel will also include commentary by one of the leading US authorities on the topic. The purpose is to look at the development of early modern Russian and Ukrainian patronage politics in both a regional and a broader comparative perspective.
Chair: **Ernest Alexander Zitser** (Duke U)
Papers: **Mikhail Markovich Krom** (European U at St. Petersburg, Russia), Patron-Client Relations in Early Modern Muscovy: Origins, Types, and Specific Features; **Maya Borisovna Lavrinovich** (NRU Higher School of Economics, Russia), 'Imagined Brothers': Transformation of Patronage and Clientage in the Age of Sensibility; **Kirill Kochegarov** (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia) The Patronage of Late 17th to Early 18th-Century Russian Grandees towards Ukrainian Elites: From Occasional Support to a System of Patron-Client Relations?
Discussant: **Paul Alexander Bushkovitch** (Yale U)

Early Slavic Panels – ASEEES (in person)

Thursday, November 10, 2022
Languages of the Non-human in Early Modern Muscovy and Poland-Lithuania
1:00 to 2:45pm CST (9:00 to 10:45pm EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, LaSalle 3
Our panel discusses how the fluidity of the boundaries between the human and the non-human was conceptualized in the early modern Slavic world. By choosing the primary sources from early modern Muscovy, Poland and Ukraine, we aim at presenting the ways in which the interactions between the human world and the world of gods, the world of animals, and the world of demons were depicted, analyzed and employed. At the same time, we show that the portrayal of such interactions by sixteenth and seventeenth century intellectuals was conceived as exploration of the human condition in the inequitable social order and in the times of uncertainty and

precarity, which ultimately meant addressing and questioning the limitations, vulnerability, and liminality of the human.

      Chair: **Valerie Ann Kivelson** (U of Michigan)

      Papers: **Elena Boeck** (DePaul U), Intersecting Worlds: Managing Human-Divine Communications in the Trojan Illustrations of the Litsevoi Letopisnyi Svod; **Tom Grusiecki** (Boise State U), Can the Wolf Speak?: Dumb Peasants, Articulate Animals, and the Polish Aesop (1578); **Maria Ivanova** (McGill U, Canada), The Language the Devil Speaks

      Discussant: **Simon Franklin**, (U of Cambridge, UK)

Thursday, November 10, 2022
A Journey out of Precarity: New Perspectives on the Ukrainian Literary, Religious, and Social Culture of the Mazepa Era (1687–1708)
3:15 to 5:00pm CST (Thu, November 10, 11:15pm to Fri, November 11, 1:00am EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, LaSalle 3
This panel brings together historians and literary scholars to explore the dynamic intellectual and social history of the Ukrainian Hetmanate under the rule of Ivan Mazepa. Drawing from a multidisciplinary range of sources, including hagiographic texts, panegyrics, and civil documents, we aim to show the ways in which Ukrainian intellectuals in the late seventeenth-century Hetmanate sought stability despite an environment both politically and socially unstable. The first paper explores the new and prominent role of the Song of Songs in the religious discourse of seventeenth-century Ukraine, showing that the popularity of this Biblical book may have prepared the way for the concept of the saint's mystic marriage to Christ – an idea of Western import that, until that point, did not feature as a part of East Slavic Orthodox theology. This paper argues that a legal and theological rethinking of marriage encouraged the use of the marriage metaphor, one with emotional and psychological appeal during unstable times. The second paper explores how feelings of love, friendship, and mentorship were creatively constructed through complex poetic forms that helped Ukrainian intellectuals respond to an age of crisis. In addition, it examines the role of poetry as a privileged means of communication between members of the intellectual elite in the Hetmanate. The third paper focuses on the impact of Ivan Mazepa's educational and cultural policies on the Russian Empire and explores Ukrainian intellectuals' quest for stability along the porous borders between Ukrainian Orthodoxy and Russian imperial culture.

      Chair: **Maria Ivanova**, (McGill U, Canada)

      Papers: **Maria Grazia Bartolini** (U of Milan, Italy), 'I Gave My Consent to Marry Christ': Dmytryi Tuptalo's Life of Saint Agnes, the Language of Affect, and Bridal Self-imaging in Early Modern Ukraine; **Jakub Niedzwiedz** (Jagiellonian U, Poland), How Did Stefan Iavors'kyi Construct His Love for Barlaam Iasins'kyi in His Panegryric 'The Fullness of Never Decreasing Glory' (Pełnia nieubywającej chwały,

1691)?; **Tatiana Tairova-Yakovleva** (St Petersburg State U, Russia), Mazepa's Policy and Peter's Church Reform

> *Discussant*: **Giovanna Brogi** (U of Milan, Italy)

Thursday, November 10, 2022
Facing the East, Facing the West: Knowledge Transfer and Cultural Encounters in Early Modern Eastern Europe
3:15 to 5:00pm CST (Thu, November 10, 11:15pm to Fri, November 11, 1:00am EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, Sandburg 2
The early modern era was a time of diverse encounters for the lands and people throughout the world. In Eastern Europe, it was an era of migration of ideas, knowledge, books, and people, that contributed to the far-reaching contacts between the global East and the West. This panel is devoted to the region of Poland-Lithuania and Muscovy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and its reception and use of Western and Eastern knowledge (broadly defined) and culture. We provide a perspective on early modern Eastern Europe and its cultural entanglements from diverse thematic (philosophy, education, diplomacy, "sciences") and regional (Poland, Lithuania, Muscovy) angles and engage in a broader conversation on cultural differences and knowledge in this period. The panelists look specifically at humanistic thought, noble library collections, intellectual tastes, and baroque cuisine, reflecting some of the most recent research trends on the region, its history, and culture.

> *Chair*: **Olenka Z. Pevny** (U of Cambridge, UK)
> *Papers*: **Karolina Grzybczak** (Jagiellonian U, Poland), The Polish Reception of European Dispute on Free Will in the 16th Century: Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski's Libri tres; **Oleksii Rudenko** (Central European U Vienna, Austria), Laboratories of Knowledge and History-Writing: Aristocratic Libraries in the Sixteenth-Century Grand Duchy of Lithuania; **Stefan Schneck** (U of Zürich, Switzerland), How to Write a Bestseller in Moscow in the 17th Century?; **Ewelina Sikora** (Central European U, Hungary), Taste(s) of Poland-Lithuania in the 17th Century
> *Discussant*: **Barbara J. Skinner** (Indiana State U)

Friday, November 11, 2022
The Legacies of Nikon's Patriarchate (1652-1666)
10:15am to 12:00pm CST (6:15 to 8:00pm EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, LaSalle 3
Nikon has been controversial since his own time for effecting what became Russia's lasting ritual reforms, as well as for his pride of office. His concrete effects were the subject of a 2021 ASEEES Virtual Convention panel initiating work on a collective volume, which two speakers on this roundtable are spearheading. The formal presentations there examined only three specific aspects: a) his relevance for Russia's last pre-modern patriarch Adrian; b) Peter the Great's retention of Nikonian military-

religious rituals; and c) Old Believer mass suicides. The current roundtable will, as if a preliminary to a workshop, explore a much wider range of other subjects which merit inclusion in the collective volume and will invite active participation from the audience. Such brainstorming at AAASS/ASEEES conventions has worked in the past for this type of collective project. The speakers themselves have researched specifically the rituals Nikon promoted, the monasteries he founded, his domestic ideology, his foreign policy goals, his impact abroad in the Orthodox Balkans and the Greek patriarchates, the writings attributed to the most famous Old Believer leader, and the locus of the most serious violent Old Believer rebellion. They intend to go well beyond these issues in their presentations.

 Chair: **David Goldfrank** (Georgetown U)

 Roundtable Members: **Priscilla Hart Hunt** (U of Massachusetts Amherst), **Kevin Michael Kain** (U of Wisconsin-Green Bay), **Ovidiu Olar** (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria), **Roy Raymond Robson** (Pennsylvania State U)

Friday, November 11, 2022
Of Myths and Men: Precarity of Memory in Sixteenth-century Muscovy
2:00 to 3:45pm CST (10:00 to 11:45pm EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, LaSalle 3
This round table discusses comparative construction of royal authority in the Litsevoi Letopisnyi Svod produced at the court of Ivan IV. Taking as examples a fictional ruler (Trojan Priam), a historical legend (Alexander the Great), and a historical conundrum (Ivan IV), the contributors discuss how medieval East Slavic narratives imaginatively represented royal power, court culture and charismatic authority. Priam, Alexander, and Ivan IV became didactic examples, whose deeds were deemed worthy to live on in memory at the Muscovite court. The contributors to the round table illuminate dynamic complexities of intellectual discourse on the boundaries of authority in the East Slavic world.

 Chair: **Justin Willson** (Princeton U)

 Roundtable Members: **Brian James Boeck** (DePaul U), **Elena Boeck** (DePaul U), **Susana Torres Prieto** (IE U, Spain)

Friday, November 11, 2022
Language, Tradition, and Authority in the Pre-modern Slavic World
2:00 to 3:45pm CST (10:00 to 11:45pm EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, Sandburg 2
This panel will trace the intersections between textual tradition and forms of authority—political, legal, spiritual—in the pre-modern Slavic world. Spanning the Kyivan, Mongol and Muscovite periods of Rus' history, the papers presented here highlight the mutually constructive possibilities of macro and micro analyses: on the one hand, how the language of surviving texts can be understood as a vector of cross-

cultural political change, grounded in either Byzantine or Mongol models; on the other, how texts themselves were the site of contested notions of spiritual authority, to either buttress prevailing norms (in the case of liturgical poetry) or to challenge them (in the case of iurodstvo). By juxtaposing temporally discrete case studies, this panel seeks to show how authority can neither be defined nor analysed singly in pre-modern texts, but reflects often discordant manifestations of power.

    Chair: **Angus Russell** (U of Cambridge, UK)

    Papers: **Olga Grinchenko** (U of Nottingham, UK), The Authority of Byzantine Liturgy in Early Slavonic Liturgical Manuscripts; **Sofia Simões Coelho** (U of Oxford, UK), Holy Foolery (Iurodstvo) and the Transformations of Sixteenth-century Rus'; **Vera Gagarina** (U of Cambridge, UK), The Authority of the Nomocanon in Early Rus' in the 11th-13th Centuries; **Angus Russell** (U of Cambridge, UK), Institutional Genealogies in Post-Mongol Moscow

    Discussant: **Yulia Mikhailova** (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)

Friday, November 11, 2022
Between Translation and Creation: Compositional Strategies in pre-Modern Slavonic Literature
4:15 to 6:00pm CST (Sat, November 12, 12:15 to 2:00am EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 7th Floor, LaSalle 3
By looking at two Slavonic epic works traditionally labelled as translations, the Digenis Akritis and the Alexander Romance, and at a pseudo-historical legend considered an original Rus'ian work, the Legend of the Calling of the Varangians, this panel intends to understand strategies of literary composition in the medieval Slavonic world.

    Chair: **Jennifer B. Spock** (Eastern Kentucky U)

    Papers: **Robert Romanchuk** (Florida State U), The Old Slavic Digenis Akritis and the Story-Patterns of Greek and Slavic Oral-Traditional Epic Song; **Susana Torres Prieto** (IE U, Spain), 'Without Hesitation, Repetition, or Deviation': Innovation in Kyivan Rus' scriptoria; **Ines Garcia de la Puente** (Boston U), Translating the Origins: The Legend of the Foundation of Rus' as Re-Writing

    Discussant: **Simon Franklin** (U of Cambridge, UK)

Saturday November 12,
Why and Why-Nots of Early Russian Development: Some Counter-Factual Peeking
12:30 to 2:15pm CST (8:30 to 10:15pm EET), The Palmer House Hilton, Floor: 3rd Floor, Salon 8
Counter-factual history is an intriguing method to investigate contingencies that plausibly could have happened. Like any history, counter-factual history involves close reading of primary and secondary sources in order to detect "shifts" or "outcomes"

that even easily could have transpired and produced momentous changes in the received wisdom of historical records. Jeremy M. Black, in his introduction to Other Pasts, Different Presents, Alternative Futures (2015), proposed three criteria for determining whether a counter-factual is helpful: (1) it must have been considered by contemporaries, (2) it must be probable, and (3) it must "illuminate" the "uncertainty" of the time. Whether helpful or not, a counter-factual must also be in the subjunctive ("What if?") mood. Newer research (archeology, population density studies, textology, land tenure systems) continue to refine our comprehension of counterfactual alternatives in Early Eastern Slavic history. Our three presentations not only are cognizant of advances in these disciplines, they propel them further with their synchronic and diachronic re-interpretive approaches and their skepticism towards historiographical tropes. Our first paper portrays how a variety of political models might have come into play (suppositionally different from those that did appear) in the lands of Rusʹ had the thirteenth-century Mongol invasions never taken place. The second paper analyses a concocted legend about a Roman-era aristocrat and his family who fled Italy for a new abode in the Eastern Baltic lands. This presentation will show how this tale became embedded in a fifteenth-century Lithuanian chronicle as a counter-claim to Russian chronicles' enshrinement of the Rurikid Dynasty's genealogical right to rule over the lands of Rusʹ. The third presentation portrays the process and the conceivable effects of a shift to peasant, wage-labor and attendant peasant freedom of movement in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Russia.
Our panel nests well within this year's ASEEES theme of "Precarity" and its attendant description. The three papers explicitly and implicitly will raise issues of instability and uncertainty surrounding a host of biological, cultural, agnatic, and economic uncertainties, and in so doing sharpen our insights into the precariousness of existence during the Medieval and Early Modern Eastern Slavic and Eastern European time frame. An extensive range of methodological knowledge and techniques have long infused the scholarship of our three presenters and of our Chair and Discussant.

    Chair: **Ines Garcia de la Puente** (Boston U)
    Papers: **Yulia Mikhailova** (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology), What if the Mongol Conquest Had Not Happened?; **Donald Ostrowski** (Harvard U), Fifteenth-Century Claims to Inherit Rus': Counter-factuals and Alternative Facts; **Peter B. Brown** (Rhode Island College), Why Not Hired Labor Instead of Serfdom?: An Alternative Look at Muscovite and Early Imperial Russia
    Discussant: **Jennifer B. Spock** (Eastern Kentucky U)

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