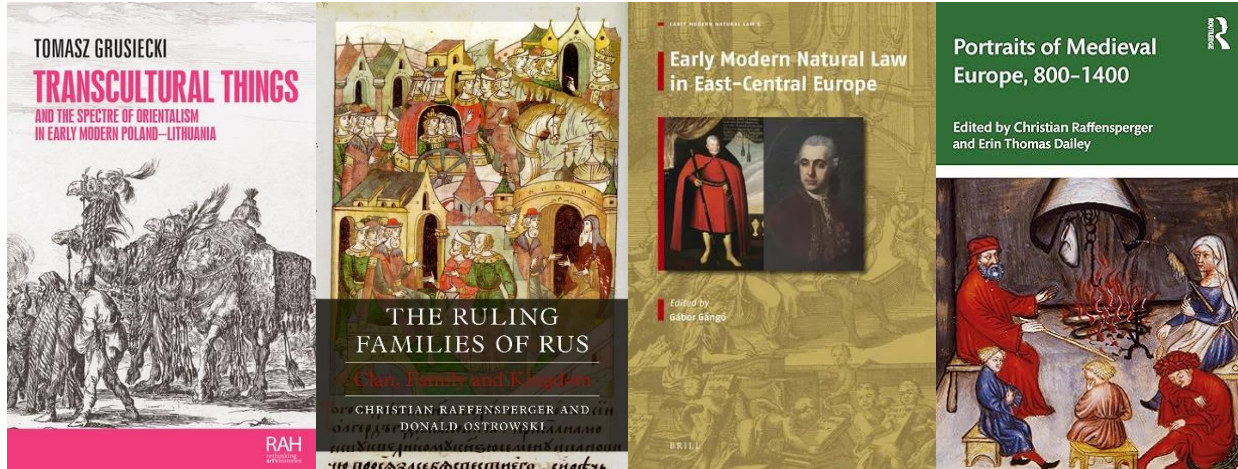


# The NEWSLETTER

## of the Early Slavic Studies Association



Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring 2024)

### *From the President*

Dear ESSA members,

It is my great pleasure to announce that the time and location for the first ESSA conference have been confirmed: please save the date for March 7-8, 2025, as we will convene in Columbus at The Ohio State University Pfahl Conference Center. I thank M.A. “Pasha” Johnson, Curator of the Hilandar Research Library and Director of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, for her invaluable support. While you will find the detailed call for papers in this newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a couple of important points.

As you will see in the call, the organizers have opted for the registration fee for the participants – with the exception of graduate student participants. We decided to take this step in line with the 2023 Philadelphia General Assembly commitment to support our graduate student members and facilitate their taking part in the ESSA activities. All funds from the registration fees will be allocated towards the Graduate student travel grant which will, hopefully, allow meaningful support for a student who will be presenting their paper at the conference.

While ESSA, as an affiliate organization of ASEEEES, will be following the ASEEEES Convention format by adopting our own conference theme “Archive,” I wanted to encourage you to submit your papers and panels even if they do not address this topic. The theme presents us with an opportunity to collectively focus on archival experiences, findings, practices, wonders, tragedies, biases, and challenges, however this conference’s goal is, most importantly, to serve as a platform for the Early Slavists to convene, an opportunity to continue the scholarly conversations in the Winter-Spring semester, in addition to the long-standing tradition of coming to ASEEEES in the Fall.

If you have any questions about the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you very much for supporting this ESSA initiative.

With best wishes,  
Maria Ivanova  
ESSA President

### *2025 Early Slavic Studies Association Conference*

The Early Slavic Studies Association (ESSA) announces its first conference to be held at The Ohio State University, 7-8 March 2025. The conference is supported by the Hilandar Research Library (HRL) and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS). The 2025 theme is Archive. The conference aims at introducing and analyzing previously unknown archival sources (manuscripts and early printed books) that contribute to our understanding of the field of Early Slavic studies. We also invite contributions that address the topics of lost and forgotten sources, authorship attribution, readership circles, and ongoing digitization projects, as well as contributions on the role and scope of archival research in Early Slavic studies. **Papers that do not explicitly address these topics are welcome and encouraged.** Scholars from all disciplines are invited to participate.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** Either panel proposals (three papers) or individual paper proposals can be submitted. Paper and panel proposals with abstracts of 150-200 words for each paper, and a brief one-page curriculum vitae for each participant should be sent to Maria Ivanova ([maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca](mailto:maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca)), Inés Garcia de la Puente ([inesgdlp@bu.edu](mailto:inesgdlp@bu.edu)), and Iulia Nițescu ([iulia.nitescu@icub.unibuc.ro](mailto:iulia.nitescu@icub.unibuc.ro)). The deadline for proposals is **September 15, 2024**. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to apply.

**REGISTRATION:** To participate in the conference, all panelists must be members of ESSA and must register. The registration fee is \$ 45 and will be used towards the

graduate student travel grant. There is **no fee for graduate students**, although registration is still required.

**SCHEDULE:** The panels will be held at the Pfahl Conference Center of The Ohio State University. The conference starts on Friday morning and features an evening banquet shortly after the final Friday panel. The last conference panel ends on Saturday afternoon. All sessions are plenary.

**GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT:** *Limited funding* will be available to provide graduate students with assistance for travel expenses. Further information on the graduate student travel grant will be available in October 2024.

**PUBLICATION:** Conference participants will be asked to submit their papers shortly afterwards for publication in the *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*.

For more information on the conference, please contact Maria Ivanova (maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca) and Inés García de la Puente (inesgdlp@bu.edu). Regarding the venue, please contact HRL curator and RCMSS director Mary-Allen “Pasha” Johnson (hilandar@osu.edu).

### *Spotlight*

#### **Two New Book Series for English Translations of Medieval and Early Modern Texts from Eastern, Central, and Southeast Europe**

There is no denying that, alongside the general sidelining of the Humanities, the field of premodern studies is increasingly overlooked in American secondary and higher education. Topics in medieval studies are often perceived as overly specialized and challenging to teach, as well as irrelevant and unappealing to students. Needless to say, the last two assumptions are simply myths. Today, the medieval period holds more relevance than ever, particularly in the context of rising neo-nationalism in politics and neo-medievalism in pop culture. Both draw heavily on medieval symbols, esthetics, and historical legitimacy claims, sparking interest in the historical narratives, social structures, and cultural dynamics of the Middle Ages. And students actually love leaning about medieval history, once they get a chance. There is, however, some truth to the first two points. Although we know that the premodern period is not inherently more difficult to teach than any other course on foreign or native literature or history, there is a noticeable shortage of engaging and accessible educational materials, free from national bias, that would make teaching this period to today’s undergrads simple. While

more secondary literature in English about medieval Eastern, Central, and Southeast Europe continues to emerge, translations of primary sources — which are essential for any course in history and literature — are still lagging behind. The introduction of two new series, described below, which publish translations of medieval and early modern texts aims to bridge this gap. Let us hope that this initiative will not only facilitate the creation of more up-to-date educational materials for teaching but will also enhance wider familiarity with our region across various medieval and modern fields.

### **Medieval Library of Rus, Ruthenia, and Muscovy (Northern Illinois University Press imprint of Cornell University Press)**

The *Medieval Library of Rus, Ruthenia, and Muscovy* is a peer-reviewed series that publishes English translations of texts originally written in early Rus, Ruthenia, Novgorod, Muscovy, and related lands. The mission of the series is to make primary sources on the early history of the lands that are now part of modern Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine accessible for use in teaching and research by scholars working across various disciplines and linguistic fields. The series emphasizes the contextualization of these sources within contemporary academic discourse, striving to remain free from national biases and agendas.

The series aims to support the study of the material and social history of medieval sources by presenting and analyzing texts as they were originally written and read by medieval audiences. It focuses on translations of texts from unpublished original manuscripts and existing editions of individual manuscripts. The series does not publish collated critical editions or reconstructed scholarly editions. Translated texts may belong to any genre and contain any type of content, in any language or script, provided they originate from the territories covered by the series. Each volume includes a transcription of the original text where relevant, an annotated translation into English, a critical introduction providing historical context and an overview of current scholarship, and a selected bibliography for further reading.

For questions and to submit a proposal, contact the series editor, Julia Verkholtantsev ([juliaver@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:juliaver@sas.upenn.edu)), University of Pennsylvania, and Amy Farranto ([afarranto@niu.edu](mailto:afarranto@niu.edu)), acquiring editor for the press.

For more information, visit: <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/series/medieval-library-of-rus-ruthenia-and-muscovy/>

***Medieval Textual Cultures of Central and Southeast Europe* (TEAMS, Medieval Institute Publications, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo)**

The Medieval Textual Cultures of Central and Southeast Europe series is published by Medieval Institute Publications in partnership with the Teaching Association for Medieval Studies (TEAMS). TEAMS was originally founded as a committee of the Medieval Academy of America to develop new ways to support the teaching activities of its members. It was later reorganized as an independent nonprofit educational corporation whose mission continues to be the support of teaching in medieval studies at the undergraduate, secondary and elementary school level through the provision of resources and the sharing of techniques.

This peer-reviewed series publishes modern English translations of medieval texts of diverse genres and content that originate in Central and Southeast European lands. Its aim is to promote and facilitate the teaching and research of this region, making it accessible to wider audiences. Particularly, the series strives to fill an important gap in the cohesive study of medieval European Latinity and related Slavonic traditions of Central and Southeast Europe.

In addition to an annotated English translation of a primary source, each volume of the series includes a critical introduction that provides relevant cultural and historical context, an overview of the current scholarship on the published text, and a selected bibliography for further reading. An annotated English translation may be accompanied by a parallel original text from a manuscript or a published edition of that manuscript, typically without a full scholarly apparatus. Questions and proposals should be sent to the series editor, Julia Verkholtantsev ([juliaver@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:juliaver@sas.upenn.edu)), University of Pennsylvania, and to Tyler Cloherty ([tylercloherty44@gmail.com](mailto:tylercloherty44@gmail.com)), acquisitions editor for the series. Proposals for new volumes should include samples of introductory material and annotated translation.

For more information, visit: <https://wmich.edu/medievalpublications/teams/central-southeast-europe>

Julia Verkholtantsev  
University of Pennsylvania

***In memoriam Priscilla Hart Hunt***

I am reporting with great sadness that a dear friend and colleague, Priscilla Hart Hunt, died of cancer last Monday, April 1, 2024.

Priscilla was born in San Francisco in 1947, but grew up in the small town of North Haven, Connecticut, as did I, although our paths didn't cross until we were both ESSA members and discovered this fact at the International Congress of Slavists in Ohrid in 2008. Our coming from the same hometown became an integral part of our friendship. She was a longtime and active ESSA member, and a specialist in medieval Russian literature. In particular, she focused on Russian Holy Fools, publishing numerous articles on that subject in history and literature journals, in addition to co-editing the book *Holy Foolishness in Russia: A New Perspective*. She graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College, and held an M.A. with distinction from Berkeley and a Ph.D. from Stanford in Slavic Languages and Literatures. She taught Russian literature at the University of British Columbia, Amherst, Brown, UMass, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York, and other institutions before working as an independent scholar in Amherst, Massachusetts.

In addition to her scholarship, Priscilla was an accomplished musician, playing Renaissance and Baroque recorder in chamber groups and in the Boston Recorder Orchestra. She also trained in the Alexander Technique of improving posture as a way to reduce and prevent back and neck pain, and taught the Alexander Technique to music students at UMass to help prevent the kind of work-related injuries that she herself had suffered as a flautist in her youth. Both these areas were very important to her.

Priscilla's passing is a great loss to the ESSA and the international Slavic medievalist community, as well as to her family and her many friends.

Cynthia Vakareliyska  
Prof. Emerita, University of Oregon

### ***Chronicle of Publications***

**Maria Grazia Bartolini** (University of Milan) has published: "Like a Magician Who Tricks the Eyes': Demonism, Epistemological Uncertainty, and Religious Heterodoxy in Seventeenth-Century Ukraine", *The Slavic Review* 82, 3, 2023, pp. 689 – 713; and "Under the Virgin's Veil: Monastic Spirituality, Gender and Power in Stefan Iavors'kyi's Sermon to the Nuns of the Ascension Convent in Kyiv", *The Slavonic and East European Review* 101, 1, 2023, 1–27.

**Karin Friedrich** (University of Aberdeen) has published: "The 'Common Good' and urban crisis management in early modern East Central Europe: the examples of Danzig and Slutsk", in: Mirosława Hanusiewicz-Lavallée, et al., *Early Modern Cultures of the*



*Younger Europe* (Leiden: Brill, 2023), pp. 48-69; “The influence of natural law on the discourse of toleration in 17th-century Poland-Lithuania”, in: Gábor Gángó (ed.), *Natural Law in Eastern Europe. Early Modern Natural Law: Studies and Sources*. General editors Frank Grunert/Knud Haakonssen/Diethelm Klippel (Leiden: Brill, 2023), pp. 61-104; “Multiconfessionalism and Interconfessionality: Religious ‘Toleration’ in Royal Prussia, Lithuania, and the Ruthenian Lands” in *Multicultural Commonwealth*, edited by Stanley Bill and Simon Lewis (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023), pp. 45-65.

**Tomasz Grusiecki** (Boise State University) published [\*Transcultural Things and the Spectre of Orientalism in Early Modern Poland-Lithuania\*](#). (Manchester University Press, December 2023).

**Charles J. Halperin** (Indiana University) has published: “Redemption (выкуп) of Land in Muscovy during the Reign of Ivan IV,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 24:4 (2023): 721-52; See BLOG summary: New York University, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia Blog, <https://jordanrussiacenter.org/>, posted 9 April 2024. “Textology versus Textual Criticism: Donald Ostrowski and Attributing Texts to Ivan IV and Andrei Kurbskii,” *Slavonic and East European Review* 101:3 (2023): 515-39; “The Fictional Ivan: Ivan the Terrible in English-Language Fiction,” *RussianStudiesHU*, 2023, 2, 71-86; “A New Theory of Medieval Rus’ Terminology for Muslim Tatars: Batunskii’s Russia and Islam,” *Zolotoordynskoe obozrenie* 11:3 (2023): 504-20.

**Paul Knoll** (Professor of History, Emeritus, University of Southern California) has published the Introduction (pp. 29-113) and 52 pages of annotations to individual translated works included in: Pawel Włodkowic, *Writings (1416-1432) The Struggle for The Self-Determination of Central Europe* (Rome and Warsaw: Angelicum University Press and Fundacja Świętego Mikołaja, 2023 [recte 2024]). The works translated from the Latin to English by **Charles Kraszewski** (Kings College, Pennsylvania) and annotated by Paul Knoll are: *Saevitibus*, *Opinio Hostiensis*, *Articuli contra Cruciferos*, *Iste Tractatus, Quoniam Error, Oculi, Ad Videndum*, and *Epistola ad Episcopum Cracoviensem*. The volume is expected to be distributed in the US by The Catholic University of America Press.

**Viacheslav V. Lytvynenko** (will be self-employed as an independent researcher, starting from June, 2024) has published: “Newly Found South Slavic Manuscripts of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries with the Pseudo-Athanasian *Questions and Answers to Antiochus the Duke*,” *Scrinium/Brill* 20 (2024): 1-14; “*Epistle on the Celebration of Easter* (CPG 4612): Slavonic Version, Translation, and Context,” *Studia Ceranea* 13 (2023): 125-135; “Афанасий Александрийский в *Софийской Кормчей*,” *Древняя Русь* 1/95 (2024): 52-70; “Древнейшие полные списки славянского перевода Вопросоответов к князю Антиоху: проблемы происхождения и истории текста,” *Palaeobulgarica* XLVIII/1 (2024): 115-136; “The Metaphors of Motion in

Athanasius' Account of Idolatry,” *After Constantine* 3 (2023): 21-34; “Вопросоответы к князю Антиоху в южнославянской и русской книжности: списки XIV – XV вв. в конвое Лествицы Иоанна Синайского,” *Palaeobulgarica* XLVII/2 (2023), 43-62; “Вопросоответы Афанасия Александрийского к князю Антиоху в двух сербских рукописях конца XIV – первой половины XV в.,” *Вестник Сыктывкарского университета. Серия гуманитарных наук*, № 3 (2023): 50–74.

**Donald Ostrowski** (Harvard University) has published: (with **Christian Raffensperger**), *The Ruling Families of Rus: Clan, Family, and Kingdom*. London: Reaktion Books, 2023; “Heloise: Philosopher of Love and Friendship,” in *Portraits of Medieval Europe, 800–1400*, edited by Christian Raffensperger and Erin Thomas Dailey, London: Routledge, 2024, pp. 127–135; “The Rus’ian Sources of the Mongol Empire,” in *The Mongol Empire*, 2 vols., edited by Michal Biran and Hodong Kim. “The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire”, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023, vol. 2: Sources, pp. 170–193; “The Tale of Bygone Years: The Conversion of Volodymyr Sviatoslavych, Ruler of Rus,” *Medieval Magazine*, issue 157 (2023), pp. 16–23; “The Debate over the Authorship of the Rus’ Primary Chronicle: Compilations, Redactions, and Urtexts,” in *Historiography and Identity*, vol. 5: *The Emergence of New Peoples and Politics in Europe 1000—1300*, edited by Walter Pohl, Francesco Borri, and Veronika Wieser. Turnhout: Brepols, 2023, pp. 415–448; “A Counterfactual Theory of Counterfactuals,” *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, vol. 57, no. 1 (2023): pp. 125–139; “Recent Studies of Early Rus’ Chronicles,” *Kritika. Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, vol. 24, no. 1 (2023): pp. 151–166.

**Talia Zajac** (Niagara University) has published: “The World of the Early Capetian Court: 987–1180,” *Routledge Handbook of French History*, Ed. David Andress (London; New York: Routledge 2023), 53-63. The chapter discusses the French royal court, including during the reign of Anna Yaroslavna, wife of King Henry I, in the eleventh century.

**Daniel C. Waugh** (University of Washington, Seattle) and **Ingrid Maier** (Uppsala University) published: *Cross-Cultural Communication in Early Modern Russia: Foreign News in Context*. Seattle and Uppsala, 2023. [2], 893 pp., with 61 illustrations. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.6069/XCSQ-BF71> An open-access book in electronic format published in ResearchWorks at the University of Washington libraries. The volume may be downloaded from the ResearchWorks webpage accessible through the DOI link above.



## *Res gestae*

In February 2024, the Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, welcomed Dr **Marcel Garboś** (PhD Harvard University) as postdoc, funded for three years by a British Academy postdoc fellowship.

**Ashley Morse** will start as Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian Language and Area Studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in September 2024.

**Iulia Nițescu** (University of Bucharest) together with **Ovidiu Olar** (Austrian Academy of Sciences) organized a workshop on *Strategies of Sainthood: Local Saints in Premodern Eastern and South Eastern Europe*. The event took place on 10-11 May 2024, in Vienna, at the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Participants: **Liliya Berezhnaya** (Austrian Academy of Sciences), **Ovidiu Cristea** (“N. Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy), **Emese Muntán** (Austrian Academy of Sciences), **Elisabeta Negrău** (“G. Oprescu” Institute of Art History, Romanian Academy), **Nataliia Sinkevych** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), **Yorgos Tzedopoulos** (Academy of Athens & University of Ioannina), **Marija Vasiljević** (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), **Monica White** (University of Nottingham), **Justin Willson** (The Icon Museum and Study Center). More information on the workshop and the full program [here](#) and [here](#).

**Cornelia Soldat** (University of Cologne) gave a paper on “National and Transnational Perspectives in Religious Studies. Summing up Christian-Muslim Relations in 19<sup>th</sup> ct Russian Empire” at the conference *Transottoman (Retro-)Perspectives: Eastern European-Middle Eastern Shared History and Its Global Implications*, 29 Feb–1 March, 2024, Leipzig; and a paper on “Die Güter finden ihren Weg. Handelsgüter aus der Kiever Rus‘ im Mittelalter”, at the conference *Enns und der europäische Fernhandel im Mittelalter*, October, 24-25th, 2023, Museum Lauriacum, Enns (Austria).

**Justin Willson** started a new position as of February 1, 2024, as Curator at The Icon Museum and Study Center in Clinton, Massachusetts.

## **Fear and Angst in Early Modern East Central Europe**

It is a conspicuous and also disturbing reality that Eastern European studies in North America is constantly filled with a staunch sense of presentism and a strong attachment to political memory. Meanwhile, Slavic national history writing, even until today, often carries a lachrymose tone haunted by a lingering romanticism. Given these facts, can we recount premodern Slavic experiences in their own rights without any modern or modernist disturbance? Can we study feelings and passions without falling victim to the nationalist sentimentality? Therefore, the goal of this panel is to plot out new ways to (re)write fear and angst in the Slavic (far) past that is liberated from the tragic and pathetic tropes commonly present in the teleological historiography of Eastern Europe. Drawing on recent methodology and discourse of affect and emotionality, we are eager to build original dialogues between early modern Eastern European history and history of emotions, along with cultural history, religious history, ecological history, utopian history, and historical theory. In specific, the four papers in this panel are going to grapple with various “negative” emotional moments of early modern Czechia, Poland, and Ukraine - from utopian anxiety and royal angst to the lamentation of loss and the spectacle of the passion - and offer case studies of how to define Slavic sensibility in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Composed of historians, art historians, and literary critics, this panel also hopes to promote visibility and interdisciplinarity of the long-marginalized field of premodern east-central Europe at ASEEEES and beyond.

*Chair:* **Barbara Skinner** (Indiana State University)

*Papers:* **Václav Zheng** (Johns Hopkins University), “Poland is Falling: Stanisław Orzechowski and his Utopian Anxiety.”; **Phillip Haberkern** (Boston University) “Trauma, Loss, and Lamentation in the Writings of Jan Amos Comenius.” **Tomasz Grusiecki** (Boise State University), “Royal Angst: The Last Aurochs Habitat and its Artistic Reanimations.” **Maria Grazia Bartolini** (University of Milan), “‘Teach us how to Weep’: The Spectacle of the Passion in Early Modern Ukraine.”

*Discussant:* **Frank Sysyn** (University of Alberta)

## ***Renew Your Membership***

To be a member of ESSA or to renew your membership, please sign up for an annual dues subscription, with PayPal, on the ESSA website: <https://earlyslavicstudies.org/membership>. Membership dues are \$35, or \$10 for

retirees and graduate students. Members receive the ESSA Newsletter by email and may participate in the ESSA's Annual Meeting at the convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

Dues may also be paid via check on a US bank. Please make the check payable to the Early Slavic Studies Association. For the address for payment by check, please contact **Justin Willson** at [justin.willson@gmail.com](mailto:justin.willson@gmail.com).

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