TITLE: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RUSSIAN EMIGRE MEMOIRS

AUTHOR: TERENCE EMMONS, Ed.
Stanford University

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TITLE VIII PROGRAM

1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
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CONTRACTOR: Stanford University

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Terence Emmons

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Executive Summary

The National Council Contract was awarded to provide, principally, the better part of salary support for the two full-time bibliographers on this project for the second year of a three-year work plan. As the financial reports make clear, the Contract was used for this purpose. Thanks to the National Council contract, the continuity of work was maintained through a second consecutive year.

At the end of the year supported by the National Council Contract (07/01/93-06/30/94), the Stanford team has completed its share of work on creation of the repertory master file and selection of materials to be annotated. (The selection process has been completed by both Stanford and Moscow teams; it is the responsibility of the Stanford team to create and maintain the master file.) Some progress has been made with the writing of annotations at Stanford, although less than anticipated at this juncture by the original work plan. The Moscow group has made considerable headway with annotations.

The upshot of this work to date, the result of the first two years of the project, is a unique computerized bibliography of memoir and memoir-related materials from the printing presses of the Russian emigration around the world, 1917-1991: books and materials found in periodicals, including some 700 journals and 20 newspapers. The total number of main entries (entries for annotation) is approximately 12,500.
I. Historical overview of project support.

The present Contract project is part of a larger undertaking that has also received financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (RG-20026-92), from Stanford University, as well as a modest amount of outside private funding. Most of the funding for the first two consecutive years of the Stanford part of this project, now ended, has come from the NEH and The National Council for Soviet & East European Research, in the respective ratio of approximately 3:2.

This project, the compilation of an annotated printed bibliography of Russian émigré memoirs, 1917-1991, was originally designed as a three-year project, under whose terms approximately half of an estimated 10,000 entries would be registered and processed at Stanford University by three full-time scholar-bibliographers. The other half would be registered and processed by a group in Moscow centered at the State Historical Library. The "three years/three bibliographers" estimate envisioned essential completion of the processes of searching and annotation. It was assumed that some additional months would be required for generation of indexes and other finding aids and for general editing, and that some additional funding, at least for the Stanford part of that enterprise, would be required.

This three-year plan was submitted to the NEH in 1990 with the aim of commencing work in mid-1991. However, NEH sponsorship of the project was begun only in July 1992. The level of NEH funding was, moreover, significantly lower than that required by the original budget plan; the NEH-supported plan of work accordingly had to be reduced to two years with two, rather than three, employees. In order to provide substantially for the third year of the original project, application was made to the National Council. Also, in order to allow time to search for matching funds for the one half of the NEH grant that was so designated, the National Council was turned to for support in the second year of the project and an extension of the NEH grant to a third calendar year was requested and received.

At the present juncture (July 1994), the Stanford project has been operating with two full time operatives for two consecutive years, the second of these, as noted, largely with National Council support. The work accomplishments for the project as a whole and for the second year in particular will be described in the next section of this report.

Accessible funding has now run out. For the immediate future, further operation of the project depends on whether NEH will agree to transfer the balance of its grant (approximately
$60,000 at this point) to an outright grant and/or outside, private matching funds for all or part of that balance can be found. In regard to the former, formal application to this effect has been made to NEH; in regard to the latter, efforts continue. If nothing should be forthcoming on either side, operations will have to be suspended and supplementary grants sought in the next competitions of NEH and the National Council, in the first place. At the other extreme, should the balance of the NEH grant and an equal amount in outside funds become available, the Stanford part of the project can be brought to virtual completion, leaving only some minor editing and finding-aids work. A plan has also been worked out for operating with funding between those two extremes; it will be outlined in the third section of this statement.

II. Description of work accomplished to date.

General remarks. At the end of the second year of work, the Stanford team has completed the process of searching and selecting materials for annotation. In this process, the Stanford team has searched de visu approximately 350 journals (periodicals with a periodicity of more than one week) and 6 newspapers. The total count for the project as a whole (Moscow and Stanford groups) is ca. 700 journals and 20 newspapers. The total number of relevant items revealed by the search is ca. 20,000; of these some 12,500 will emerge as main entries in the annotated bibliography; the remainder will be subordinated to them and listed in the "bibliographical information" field of the main entries.

The parameters of the task of the Stanford team, in terms of the division of labor with Moscow and of the general profile of work, have changed in the course of experience. For one thing, the general proportion of émigré materials available in Moscow (and to some extent Petersburg) increased to ca. 65% (from the original estimate of 50%). This change was due principally to one development that occurred subsequent to the original estimate: the opening of the closed collections (spetskhrany) of the major Russian libraries.

For another thing, the amount of time and effort required for examination of émigré newspapers proved to be considerably greater than anticipated due to the sheer volume of several newspapers and the unexpectedly high frequency of memoir-publications in their pages.

As a result, while the Moscow group has taken upon itself a higher proportion of the annotations, the Stanford group retained responsibility for searching several of the largest émigré newspapers, which in volume far exceeded all other serials combined. This was particularly the case with the New York paper Novoe russkoe slovo, which has been appearing as a large daily newspaper for most of the 75 years covered in the project. In terms of volume, it alone is larger than all other émigré newspapers combined. Of a total ca. 10,000 items
revealed in the Stanford search, 2,500 or one quarter come from that newspaper alone! The runner-up in these terms was the Paris paper Poslednye novosti (1921-40). The third largest newspaper of the emigration, the Parisian Russkaia mysl' was also Stanford's responsibility.

The upshot of this situation has been that considerably more time has been expended by the Stanford group on searching and selection than originally expected. The examination of the three newspapers mentioned above alone required the equivalent of one year of work by one person. In addition, the Stanford group has had to take charge of general maintenance of records, beginning with the master list of files, due to the relatively low level of computer-related skills obtaining among the Moscow participants. This activity has constituted a constant, significant demand on the time of one of the two Stanford operators.

For this reason, less headway has been made at Stanford in the writing of annotations than originally projected. Fortunately, in the last year, the Moscow group has expanded to some 7 full- and part-time operators, who have made considerable progress to date with the annotation work and are prepared to annotate materials sent them by the Stanford group as well.

At present, then, the proportions of the project as a whole appear in quantitative terms to be approximately as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of serials searched</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of items from search</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total size of repertoire (entries)</td>
<td>12,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotations completed (06/31/93)</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Work accomplished at Stanford under National Council Contract.

Between June 10 and September 10, 1993, the Stanford group hosted at Stanford the working visit of the chief bibliographer of the project’s Moscow group, Marina Ovsiannikova. Her travel expenses were paid by the Soros Foundation and her per diem expenses were paid from Stanford University funds. She worked with our bibliographers on the craft of writing annotations. This interchange proved invaluable for the maintenance of uniform standards of description in the bibliography. Over this three-month period the group as a whole wrote some 150 annotations while simultaneously continuing work on searching and selection.

In the summer and fall of 1993, Leonora Soroka additionally worked on file maintenance and searching of small-run items in the library of the University of California at Berekeley.
In the Contract period the task of searching the major émigré newspapers was completed: Solomon Ioffe completed the search of Poslednie novosti in February 1994, having begun, with significant interruptions for other searches and the annotation work mentioned above, in the spring of 1993. Leonora Soroka complete the analysis of Russkaia mysli' early in the autumn of 1993 and searched Novoe russkoe slovo between November, 1993 and end of April, 1994, with significant interruptions for file-maintenance work and other matters.

Beginning in February, 1994, Ioffe returned to annotation work and Soroka finished up short-run journals and filled lacunae in runs of serials previously searched with the help of library loan and microform copies. In the last two months, various loose ends of the searching process occupied both employees, with the aim of essentially terminating that stage of the project by the end of the Contract period. This goal has been achieved.

IV. Results and prospects.

(Stanford group only)

Total number of serials searched in the Contract period 150
Total number of items recorded ca. 5,000
Total number of annotations written 200

While the finished product of the project, the printed multi-volume bibliography, must await completion of the annotations, preparation of indexes, English-language resumés, and so on, the master repertory is now virtually completed and is accessible through author-name searches. The State Historical Library in Moscow is intending in the near future to begin using this master list in a data base conversion for various search purposes, including preparation of reference bibliographies at the request of patrons. No definite plans of this kind are afoot at Stanford, but there is no reason why similar accessibility locally or even on line could not be arranged. Thus, even if the completion of the annotations were to be significantly delayed, the bibliographical data could be made available as a unique research tool at any time.

In preparing for the financially uncertain future of the project, a contingent plan has been prepared for the year to come (07/01/94-06/30/95). Essentially, this plan calls for a preliminary division of Stanford-available entries into three groups: main entries (monographs and serialized), together with dependent versions and fragments; individual memoirs from journals; and individual memoirs from newspapers. Work would then proceed to annotations
of book materials and photocopying of dependent materials for main entries designated for annotation in Moscow. Then, depending on the level of funding made available, the local staff would turn either to annotations of individual materials in serials or to their photocopying so that they could be forwarded to Moscow for annotation. The minimal variant would call for only Stanford-available books to be annotated on site; all other materials to be photocopied and forwarded to Moscow. Then, following completion of the annotation work in Moscow, the manuscript would be forwarded to Stanford for preparation of the English-language apparatus.

Final completion of the annotation process (at Stanford and in Moscow) will take at least eighteen months more, and preparation of the typescript and diskettes for the printer will take some time after that. We currently anticipate submission of final copy to the publisher in mid-1896. Because of the size of the anticipated product (3-4 volumes), the material will be broken down into 4-5 major thematic-chronological rubrics for ease of handling by the reader (Pre-revolutionary Russia; War, revolution and civil war; the emigration, 1921-1991; World War II; Scholarship, science, technology, culture). The printed volumes will presented to the National Council.