

# News of the Profession

## THE ASSOCIATION

The first national meeting of the AAASS is scheduled for April 2-4, 1964, at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. According to Holland Hunter of Haverford College, Chairman of the Program Committee, the program will include general sessions of interest to members in any field of the profession, as well as sessions which will deal with specific topics. William E. Harkins of Columbia University is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

Because of the national meeting, several affiliates of the AAASS have decided to dispense with their annual gatherings for 1964 and have scheduled their next meetings for 1965. Among these are the Midwest Slavic and East European Conference, which will reconvene April 9-10, 1965, at the University of Kansas, and the Far Western Slavic Conference, which has chosen April, 1965, as its next meeting time.

The Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will meet in New Orleans in October, 1964, with Tulane and Louisiana State University—New Orleans as hosts. Jordan Kurland of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is in charge of the program. Officers for 1963-64, who were elected at the October, 1963, conference held in Atlanta, are: President—C. Jay Smith, University of Georgia; Vice President—Thomas T. Hammond, University of Virginia; Secretary-Treasurer—Henry Huttenbach, LSU—New Orleans; Executive Board—Clifford Foust of the University of North Carolina, Bronislas Jezierski of Duke University, Edgar Lehrman of Emory University, Warren Nutter of the University of Virginia, and Edward Sokol of the University of South Carolina.

## CONFERENCES

Reports on the following conferences which have already taken place, as well as announcements of future meetings, are given in the AAASS *Newsletter*.

General Assembly of the International Association for Slavonic Languages and Literatures (AILLS), New York City, August 27, 1963.

Conference on Soviet and Communist Studies, American Political Science Association, New York City, September 5, 1963.

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Toronto, Canada, September 5-7, 1963.

American Translators Association, Brooklyn, New York, November 23, 1963.

## APPOINTMENTS AND STAFF CHANGES

This section contains news of promotions, regular appointments, and retirements. For information on visiting appointments, leaves of absence of a year or less, and summer appointments, see the *Newsletter*.

*University of Alberta:* G. Melnikov promoted to Assistant Professor of Slavic Studies. *University of California, Los Angeles:* Huey Louis Kostanick, Professor of Geography, appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Russian and East European Studies Center; Vladimir Markov promoted to Professor of Slavic Languages. *University of Chicago:* Ralph E. Matlaw of the University of Illinois appointed Professor of Russian Literature. *Colorado State University:* Sidney Heitman promoted to Associate Professor of History.

*Columbia University:* Michael Florinsky, Professor of Economics, retired this year. *Cornell University:* Antonia Glasse of Columbia appointed Instructor in Russian; Martin Horwitz of Columbia appointed Instructor in Russian; Jerry Liston of Columbia appointed Assistant Professor of Slavic Linguistics. *Harvard University:* Melvin Croan appointed Assistant Professor of Government and Research Associate at the Russian Research Center; Paul Hollander appointed Assistant Professor of Sociology and Research Associate in the Russian Research Center. *University of Illinois:* Frank Gladney of Northwestern University appointed Instructor in Russian; Constantin D. Uszynski of Western Maryland College appointed Assistant Professor of Russian.

*Indiana University:* Fritz T. Epstein appointed Professor of History and Curator

of the Slavic collection; Reginald E. Zelnik appointed Lecturer in History. *Lawrence College (Appleton, Wis.)*: Irene Nagurski of the University of Illinois appointed Assistant Professor of Russian. *Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)*: Mrs. Dilara Nikoulin of the University of Illinois appointed Assistant Professor of Russian. *New York University*: L. Jay Oliva promoted to Assistant Professor of History. *State University of New York (Albany)*: Bohdan Budurowycz appointed Assistant Professor of History.

*University of North Carolina*: C. M. Foust promoted to Associate Professor of History; Leopold Koziembroski resigned to accept a position in a private research agency in Washington, D.C.; Arpad von Lazar appointed Instructor of Political Science. *Ohio University (Athens)*: Paul N. Hehn of Temple University appointed Assistant Professor of History. *University of Oregon*: Gustave Alef promoted to Associate Professor of History. *Pennsylvania State University*: Zbigniew Folejewski of the University of Wisconsin appointed Professor of Slavic Languages. *Purdue University*: James A. Duran, Jr., appointed Assistant Professor of History.

*Stanford University*: Lawrence L. Stahlberger of Boston University appointed to teach comparative Slavic literature. *Syracuse University*: Christopher Collins appointed Senior Instructor in the Eastern European Language program. *Union University (Albany College)*: V. E. Andic of the University of Pittsburgh appointed Associate Professor of Economics. *U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point, N.Y.)*: Joseph Gitman of Yale University appointed Assistant Professor of Russian. *Vanderbilt University*: Albert Kaspin of the University of Wisconsin appointed in the Department of Slavic Languages.

*University of Virginia*: Thomas Taylor Hammond promoted to Professor of History. *University of Washington*: Peter F. Sugar promoted to Associate Professor of History. *University of Wisconsin*: J. Thomas Shaw, Chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages, named Executive Secretary of the Russian Area Studies Program for 1963-64; Robert N. Taaffe of Indiana University appointed Associate Professor of Geography. *Wisconsin State College (Stevens Point)*: Waclaw Soroka appointed Assistant Professor of History. *Yale*

*University*: Victor Erlich of the University of Washington appointed Bensinger Professor of Russian Literature and Chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Michael Samilov appointed Associate Professor of Slavic Linguistics.

#### DEATHS

RAPHAEL ABRAMOVITCH (1880-1963)

APPRECIATION CONTRIBUTED BY

LADIS K. D. KRISTOF, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

On April 11, 1963, the Menshevik leader best known in America, Raphael Abramovitch (Rein), died in New York.

Born Rafael Abramovitch Rein on July 21, 1880, in Dvinsk (Latvia), of a fairly well-to-do merchant family, he attended a science high school first in Ponevezh and then in Libava. From there he went to the Polytechnical Institute of Riga, intending to become an electrical engineer, but was immediately caught up in the whirl of the student movement. For the rest of his life, politics was to be his chief preoccupation.

In his political career we can distinguish five periods following one another with a certain logical continuity. The first, lasting through 1905, saw Abramovitch's complete and exclusive immersion in the activities of the Bund and his astonishingly rapid rise from simple party membership (1901) to membership in the Central Committee (1905). It was a period of *kruzhkovshchina* and illegal agitational and organizational work, interrupted by a flight abroad (1903) and arrest after a clandestine return (1904), and culminating in the election to the First Petersburg Soviet in 1905.

In the second period, 1906 through 1916, Abramovitch devoted himself chiefly to open political and publicistic activities, first in Russia, where he represented the *likvidator* tendency, and then—after arrest, exile, and escape in 1910—abroad in Vienna. Throughout this decade Abramovitch was still mainly a Bundist, but beginning with the Stockholm Congress of the RSDRP, at which he entered the latter's Central Committee as a representative of the Bund, he became more and more identified with the Mensheviks and was one of the organizers of the so-called *Avustovskii Blok* (1912), which welded together the various Menshevik groups. At the same time Abramovitch extended his interests and socialist activities to Western Europe and even America, which he visited in 1907 during a fund-raising speaking tour on be-

half of the Bund. During the war he was drawn into the Zimmerwald movement and became a close associate of Martov and his "internationalist" wing of the Mensheviks.

The third period, 1917-20, which began with his journey in the second transit train to cross Germany with Russian exiles on their way back to Russia, was characterized by the leading role Abramovitch played as a representative of the Mensheviks, especially in the All-Russian Central Executive Committee (VTsIK) of the Soviets and during the *Vikzhel* negotiations. Although also a member of the Central Committee of the Bund, he devoted relatively little time to its affairs except in April, 1920, when he split away a Menshevik faction from the now Communist-dominated Bund and formed a separate Bund (S.D.).

The fourth period, 1921-40, was dominated by his activities within the Second International (L.S.I.), in the Executive Committee of which Abramovitch became a leading member. His other main interest was the *Sotsialisticheskii vestnik*, which he and Martov founded in Berlin in 1921 and which remains to this day the official organ of the *Zagranichnaia Delegatsiia* of the RSDRP; Abramovitch occupied a centrist position, opposed to the leftist faction led by F. I. Dan.

The fifth, the American period, 1940-63, was devoted to publicistic activities in the New York periodical press, both Yiddish and English, and to the editorship of the *Sotsialisticheskii vestnik*. His last few years were chiefly spent on the preparation of the manuscript of *The Soviet Revolution 1917-1939*.

In Abramovitch's political career there is apparent a pattern of consistency despite the great variety of activities and some shifting from one political position and organization to another. There was above all a growth in political perspective and maturity which facilitated the transition from small-town Bundism to Russian Menshevism and then to international socialism. At the same time there was a persistent preoccupation with, and understanding of, the practical as it affects the political and, conversely, of the political as it affects the everyday lives of individual human beings. Being a revolutionary Marxist, Abramovitch was not a democrat in the strictly procedural and institutional sense we Americans tend to ascribe to this word. But in the fundamental sense he was a democrat by instinct, and no political doctrine or theoretical formula could force

him to follow a path counter to his emotional capacity to understand, and suffer with, every fellow man.

Essentially a pragmatist and practitioner in the field of politics, not a theoretician or scholar, Abramovitch had little contact with the academic community. Most scholars in the field of Russian studies who have not mastered Yiddish knew little of Abramovitch until his *The Soviet Revolution 1917-1939* came out in 1962. This book, though based on several years of research, is not a systematic or exhaustive history but rather a political testament of one who shaped that history. As Sidney Hook wrote in the preface, "it is a part of history commenting on itself," and therein lies its value and interest. Its imperfections in detail and editing are immaterial, and are surprisingly few when one considers that at the time of writing the author was practically blind and so could not personally check sources or read what he had dictated, the translator submitted, and the printer set. The reviews which the volume received—from W. H. Chamberlin, E. Crankshaw, R. V. Daniels, J. Keep, L. Schapiro, and others—were virtually all exceptionally favorable.

And since the academic community has now acknowledged its indebtedness to Abramovitch, one may point out that there is something which that community owes both to itself and to him. In 1944 Abramovitch published in New York in two volumes his memoirs, *In Tsvei Revolutsies*, written in the 1920's and 1930's while his memory was fresh and while he was surrounded by old comrades long since gone. These memoirs are an exceptionally valuable document on the socio-political developments in Russia from 1900 to 1920, and yet they remain virtually unused by scholars because of the language barrier. Funds should be sought for the publication of an English (or Russian) translation of this work, including, if possible, the third volume, which has remained in manuscript and which covers the activities in the International in the interwar period. Incidentally, Abramovitch was preparing for the Inter-University Project on the History of the Menshevik Movement a manuscript on the role of the Mensheviks in the International, but had brought the story up only to the Marseilles Congress (1928).

(A full-length biographical and bibliographical article on Abramovitch is to be published in the Spring, 1964, issue of the *Russian Review*.)

## YURY ARBATSKY (1911-1963)

APPRECIATION CONTRIBUTED BY  
GEORGE VERNADSKY, YALE UNIVERSITY

Yury G. (Yury Ivanovich) Arbatsky, born in Moscow in 1911, died of a heart attack in New Hartford, N.Y., on September 3, 1963. Arbatsky was a man of many talents—composer, musicologist, and specialist in Slavic epos, mythology, and folk medicine. He was twice a Guggenheim Fellow (1955-57). In May, 1963, he was awarded the St. Pauli Prize (Bern), the last recipient of which before him was Gerhard Gesemann. During his field research in the Balkans (1933-42) Arbatsky became thoroughly familiar with the living epic and musical folk traditions. He approached them not as an outsider but as a participant, which enabled him to achieve a congenial understanding of these folk cultures. In 1942-45 Arbatsky took part, together with Gustav Becking and Gerhard Gesemann, in the Committee for the Study of Balkan Epos at the Slavic Institute, Prague. Among Arbatsky's publications are: *Beating the Tupan in the Central Balkans* (Chicago, 1953); *Etudy po istorii Russkoi muzyki* (New York, 1956); and "Vorlaufiger Bericht uber das Igor-Lied," *Die Musik-Forschung*, XVI, 2 (1963). Arbatsky received his Ph.D. from Prague University. He held research and teaching positions in several institutions, the most recent being that of Associate Professor of Slavic Studies at Utica College of Syracuse University (1961-63).

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Contributions to both this section and the *Newsletter* are welcome at any time. The deadlines for inclusion in this section are October 15 for the March issue, January 15 for the June issue, April 15 for the September issue, and July 15 for the December issue. The deadlines for the *Newsletter* are February 28 for the spring issue and September 30 for the fall issue. All items should be sent to Professor Tatjana Cizevska in care of the AAASS, 112 Davenport House, 620 East Daniel Street, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.

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