

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Mr. Timberlake's accurate and informative article on the Slavic Department of the Helsinki University Library in the September issue of the *Slavic Review* should, I hope, stimulate Western scholars to make greater use of what is undoubtedly the best Slavic collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century materials outside of the Soviet Union. In addition to the facilities described by Mr. Timberlake, mention should be made of the Valaam Collection, which is now available to Slavic researchers. The library of the Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga, which originally consisted of almost 40,000 volumes, was stored in Heinävesi after World War II, and comparatively recently the remnants of this collection (totaling approximately 14,000 volumes) were moved to the University's Depository Library near Lahti. Although ownership of the collection has been retained by the Russian Orthodox Church of Finland, the University Library has been granted full use. An alphabetical card catalog is available on the third floor of the University Library (a classified card catalog is in the process of being compiled), and items requested for loan are shipped from the Depository Library to Helsinki within a few days. Some of the oldest volumes of the Valaam Collection, primarily gospels and saints' lives of the seventeenth century (only a few of these are included in the University card catalog), are on display in the extremely interesting Orthodox Museum (*Ortodoksinen kirkkomuseo*, Venemiehenkatu 10) in Kuopio along with an extensive collection of icons, liturgical articles, and vestments that were used in the monasteries of Valaam, Konevitsa, and Petsamo as well as in various Karelian parishes. The intendant of this unique cultural museum is Ylidiakon Leo Kasanko, Suokatu 41 (A2), Kuopio.

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