

SECTION II. NEWS ON ARCHIVES, COLLECTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Comintern Online Archives Back on Russian Portal

After being offline for a time period, the “Comintern Online” project, featuring holdings of RGASPI’s Comintern Archives digitised by the international INCOMKA initiative (The International Committee for the Computerization of the Komintern Archives) in the 1990s, is now back as part of the online platform “Dokumenty sovetskoi epokhi / Documents of the Soviet Epoch” run by the Russian Archives Agency (Rosarkhiv). All holdings which had been available at “Comintern Online” are now accessible at <http://sovdoc.rusarchives.ru/#!tematicsection§ionId=233826>. Unfortunately, the sole language of the interface is Russian, and the English keyword index compiled by INCOMKA has yet not been transferred to the new platform. Nevertheless, the return of the most crucial online archive resource on the history of international communism between the wars is of utmost importance for the international scholarship. Hopefully the efforts undertaken at present to reestablish the finding aids in English will succeed. In the meantime, Evan Smith, blogger and historian at Flinders University (Australia), published a very useful guide on how to navigate the new interface without knowledge of Russian. It is available at <http://hatfulofhistory.wordpress.com/2016/05/23/how-to-navigate-the-comintern-archives-online-a-guide-for-the-non-russian-speaker/>.

Ukraine Opens KGB Archives

As part of its “decommunisation” efforts, the Ukrainian government has decided to open the country’s KGB archives, which are currently under the control of the SBU, the modern Ukrainian security agency. On 9 April 2015, the parliament approved a respective government bill. The archives will be transferred to the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, which will facilitate public access to the files. See http://www.bbc.com/russian/news/2015/12/151202_ukraine_kgb_archives for news coverage (Russian), as well as an interview with Russian historian Nikita Petrov on crucial implications for the study of Soviet history: <https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/04/21/russia-will-cover-up-stalinist-crimes>.

“Each One’s Personal File”: New Memorial Online Project

On 3 March 2016, the Russian NGO “Memorial” has launched a new web portal. “Lichnoe delo kazhdogo” (“Each one’s personal file”) aims at assisting citizens in obtaining access to the personal files of relatives who became victims of Stalinist repressions. The website provides legislative texts that citizens can refer to, instructions for appealing to archives, reports from those who succeeded in obtaining their relatives’ files, and a gallery of archival files already obtained. The website is available at <http://dostup.memo.ru>.

Monoskop.org Guide to Digitised Avant-garde Magazines

Monoskop.org, “a wiki for collaborative studies of the arts, media and humanities”, has put online a guide to digitised Avant-garde magazines which have been put online by libraries and archives all over the world. The index lists over 200 international Avant-garde and modernist periodicals issued between 1890 and 1945, completed with links to the online versions. Included are many well-known magazines of artistic and literary movements close to the Left, like expressionism, dadaism, futurism, surrealism, or the Bauhaus school, as well as several Soviet arts and culture journals. The list includes not only Western European periodicals, but also countless titles from Eastern Europe, the Americas, and even Japan. It is available at <https://monoskop.org/Magazines>.

“Latin America and the Comintern” Biographical Encyclopedia Online

The biographical encyclopedia “América Latina en la Internacional Comunista, 1919-1943. Diccionario Biográfico” by Victor & Lazar Jéfets, two reknown experts on Latin American communism and regular authors of the *International Newsletter*, is now available in a digital edition, provided by the Chilean academic journal *Izquierdas*:

<http://www.izquierdas.cl/images/publicaciones/DiccionarioBiograficoWeb.pdf>

“Using Archives & Libraries in the Former Soviet Union”: New Edition Published

“Using Archives & Libraries in the Former Soviet Union”, an online guide edited by Samantha Sherry (UCL), Jonathan Waterlow (Oxford University), and Andy Willimott (UCL) and published by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, is now available in an updated second edition (2013). Featuring crucial information on archives and libraries in post-Soviet countries – not only “official” data, but also information based on the personal experiences by the contributors –, it is an invaluable resource for graduate students and others who plan to do archival research in Russia and Ukraine. The guide can be downloaded in PDF format from <http://www.basees.org/resources/>.

“Prozhito”: Over 250 Soviet Diaries Online

The Russian historians Mikhail Mel'nichenko and Il'ia Veniavkin, together with the programmer Ivan Drapkin, have launched a new web project titled “Prozhitoe” (which roughly translates as “Lived Experience”) to digitise and make available diaries of 20th century Russian and Soviet citizens – both unpublished ones and those published in peripheral editions and journals. The project, relying on the work of volunteers, features over 250 fully digitised diaries. The range of diary author is exceptionally wide, from famous artists, academics and high-ranking military and party personnel to “ordinary” city dwellers, schoolchildren, and peasants. The website features a full-text search as well as a possibility to look for specific dates. The sources for each diary are always provided. The project can be accessed at <http://prozhito.org>.

Melbourne University Archives: Communist Party Collection Finding Aids

As the Melbourne Branch of the Labour History Society reported in November 2015, “Finding aids for the Communist Party of Australia (Victorian Branch) collection at the University of Melbourne Archives are now available. The collection, ‘one of the most significant from the CPA held in Australia’, spans much of the twentieth century. [...]In addition to posters, minutes, correspondence and subject files, there is a large photographic collection, and

many of these are now available online via their catalogue. Also held by the Archives is a large (albeit incomplete) run of *Tribune*." For more information and conditions of access, see <http://labourhistorymelbourne.org/2015/11/26/melbourne-university-archives-communist-party-collection-lists-now-available/>.

1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War

"1914-1918-online. *International Encyclopedia of the First World War* is an English-language virtual reference work on the First World War. The multi-perspective, open-access knowledge base is the result of an international collaborative project involving more than 1,000 authors, editors, and partners from over fifty countries. More than 1,000 articles will be gradually published. Innovative navigation schemes based on Semantic Media Wiki technology provide nonlinear access to the encyclopedia's content" (from the project's website). The encyclopedia, edited by a large international consortium of academic institutions and coordinated by the Freie Universität Berlin, features many articles by renowned scholars on topics relevant to the study of Communism, labour and socialist movements. Apart from the articles and an extensive bibliography, it features an innovative interactive timeline of the First World War, allowing to access the articles according to the war's chronology. The encyclopedia can be consulted at <http://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net>.

70 Years of *Partisan Review* Now Online

The arts and politics magazine *Partisan Review*, the left and anti-Stalinist alternative to the CPUSA journal *The New Masses*, has been digitized and put on the internet by the Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center. Founded by William Phillips and Philip Rahv in 1934, the journal published contributions by James Baldwin, T. S. Eliot, Mary McCarthy, Pablo Picasso, Arthur Koestler, Dwight Macdonald, James Agee, Susan Sontag and many other prominent intellectuals. Between 1941 and 1946, George Orwell made a sensation on the pages of the journal with his „London Letters“, criticizing Soviet totalitarian governance with its “most enormous crimes and disasters” including “purges, deportations, massacres, famines, imprisonment without trial, aggressive wars, broken treaties...”. The journal represents an essential source for the cultural, intellectual and political history of the Twentieth century. In Rahv's words, *Partisan Review* was „the first anti-Stalinist left literary journal in the world“ but at the same time „encumbered with a Stalinist past“ and „subject to the tremendous pressure of the American environment towards disorientation and compromise“ (see: Terry A. Cooney: *The Rise of The New York Intellectuals. Partisan Review and its Circle*, Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2004). The issues, up to the last issue from 2003, can be accessed online and free of charge at <http://hgar-pub1.bu.edu/web/partisan-review>.

Archivio Biografico del Movimento Operaio

“The Biographical Archives of the Workers' Movement (ABMO) was set up in 2012, thanks to two Genova think tanks, the Istituto "Sergio Motosi" per lo Studio del Movimento Operaio Internazionale and the Istituto di Studi sul Capitalismo. Its realisation is both a final destination and the re-launching of a by now decade-long work that, in view of the results so far obtained, required an appropriate tool to realise the entire original project in the best possible way. This project is designed to present the Biographical Archives of the Italian Workers' movement in such a way that the historian, the scholar and the militant can find not only one hundred well-known leaders, but also the thousands of minor and often unknown

figures who have contributed to the overall history of the working class. Besides continuing our historical-prosopographic analysis of the various political currents of the workers' movement, the intention and immediate aim of ABMO is to make all of its current biographies available on the Internet. The biographical profiles appended to the first four volumes of the series, Individual and Collective Biographies of the Italian Workers' Movement (Biografie individuali e collettive del movimento operaio italiano) published by "Edizioni Pantarei" (Milan) from 2006 on, will therefore be available online. These digital Biographical Archives, in addition to other volumes currently in progress, will, when the series is complete, provide tens of thousands of biographical profiles." (<http://www.abmo.it/>)

"Russia's Great War and Revolution": New Book Series

To mark the approaching centenary of the 1917 revolutions in Russia, a broad coalition of international historians have launched a multivolume book series, published by Slavica Publishers over the next years. The volumes, featuring contributions by over 200 scholars concentrate on specific aspect of Russia's involvement in World War One and its 1917 revolutions. The first three volumes ("Russian Culture in War and Revolution, 1914-22", Books 1 and 2, and "The Empire and Nationalism at War") have already been published. For more information, see <http://russiasgreatwar.org>.

Marxist Internet Archive: French Academic Journal *Cahiers Léon Trotsky* Digitised

The *Cahiers Léon Trotsky* was a journal published between 1979 and 2003 by the "Institut Léon Trotsky", the research institute founded by Pierre Broué (1926-2005). Together with Jean-Jacques Marie, Broué, who was professor at the Institut d'études politiques at the University of Grenoble, was one of the most outstanding historians of international Trotskyism, who also set standards in the history of the Soviet Union and the Communist International (see the obituary in *INCS* no. 19, 2006). The *Cahiers Léon Trotsky* are a treasure trove for the history of tendencies and movements of the Left Opposition, featuring publications on all parts of the world, from Latin America (Cuba, Peru, Mexico), India and South-East Asia (Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Indochina), to Russia, Georgia, the Ukraine, South Africa and various European countries. The online edition features an overarching index of contents. The journal is available at <http://www.marxists.org/francais/clt/>.

Henry Sara's Lantern Lectures Online

The Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick has scanned more than 1500 lantern slides from the collection of Henry Sara (1886-1953), a British anti-war activist who joined the CPGB in the early 1920s, and went on to become a leading British Trotskyist after being expelled from the Communist Party in 1932. The slides, as the Modern Records Centre website explains, "were used to illustrate his public talks on a range of social, political and historical subjects during the 1920s and 1930s - from the Chinese revolution to 'the fraud of spiritualism'. Sara made many of the slides himself, using a mixture of his own photographs (including some taken during his visits to China and Soviet Russia) and images taken from publications. He supplemented these with bought lantern slides, including two striking sets of colour slides purchased in the USA during the early 1920s (used for the talks 'Russia's labors' and 'Russia's struggle')." The scans can be accessed at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/explorefurther/digital/sara>.

Chronicle of Current Events Digitized by “Memorial”

The Russian NGO “Memorial” has digitised a complete run (nos. 1-65, 1968-1983) of *Khronika tekushchikh sobytii* (“Chronicle of Current Events”), the famous *samizdat* bulletin on human rights issues and violations published by Soviet dissidents. It can be accessed at <http://www.memo.ru/history/diss/chr/index.htm>.

JahrBuch für Forschungen zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung: Neuer Name, neuer Verlag

Das seit 2002 im NDZ-Verlag erscheinende *JahrBuch für Forschungen zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung* (JBfGA) erscheint ab 2016 unter dem neuen Titel *Arbeit – Bewegung – Geschichte* im Metropol Verlag erscheinen. Herausgeber bleibt der „Förderverein für Forschungen zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung“ mit Sitz in Berlin. Der Erscheinungsrhythmus von drei Heften pro Jahr wird beibehalten. Auch die inhaltlichen Schwerpunkte auf Forschungen „zur deutschen, europäischen und außereuropäischen Arbeiterbewegung, zur Geschichte der Arbeitswelt, zur Organisations- und Ideengeschichte demokratischer Bewegungen, zu Kultur und Lebensweise im Arbeitermilieu“ bleiben erhalten. Weitere Informationen sowie Inhaltsverzeichnisse bereits erschienener Ausgaben finden sich unter <http://www.arbeiterbewegung-jahrbuch.de>.

Early American Marxism: Proletarian Party of America Internal Bulletin Online

The Early American Marxism website has digitised, in cooperation with the Holt Labor Library, San Francisco, and the Riazanov Digital Archive Project, five issues of the extremely rare internal bulletin of the Proletarian Party of America (PPA) from the first half of 1933. The PPA was a small independent communist party founded in 1920 in Detroit and dissolved in 1971. It was most known for operating the Charles H. Kerr publishing house, the United States’ oldest Marxist publisher. The digitised bulletins, along with a paper on the history of the PPA by Tim Davenport, are available at <http://www.marxisthistory.org/subject/usa/eam/13-13.html>

“Krasnaia Tataria” Newspaper 1924-1953 Online

The newspaper *Krasnaia Tataria* was the official organ of the Tatar SSR committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), issued in Kazan. The official successor, the *Respublika Tatarstan* daily, offers scanned and partly digitised issues of the Soviet newspaper on its website. Over 500 issues between 1924 and 1953 are available for online browsing and PDF download at <http://rt-online.ru/ar-newspaper-edition-page/>.

The Newsletter 1957-1958 Online

The Newsletter was a periodical launched in 1957 by former *Daily Worker* journalist Peter Fryer (1927-2006) and other former CPGB members who were disenchanted by the Soviet clampdown of the 1956 uprising in Hungary and joined *The Club*, a Trotskyist group within the Labour Party led by Gerry Healy. In 1959, the group formed the Socialist Labour League, which transformed into the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) in 1973. On the website of Norman Harding (1929-2013), a former WRP activist, one can find the digitised issues of *The Newsletter* from its first two years, 1957-1958: <https://stayingred.wordpress.com/the-newsletter-archive/>

Der Arbeiter-Fotograf 1926-1933 digitalisiert

Die Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden hat in Zusammenarbeit mit der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek die kompletten Jahrgänge des *Arbeiter-Fotograf* digitalisiert und macht sie über ihre Mediathek öffentlich und kostenfrei im Internet zugänglich. Das 1926 gegründete Magazin war das Zentralorgan des im Umfeld von Willi Münzenbergs *Arbeiter-Illustrierte-Zeitung* entstandenen „Vereinigung der Arbeiter-Fotografen Deutschlands“. Die Jahrgänge stehen zur Online-Ansicht und zum PDF-Download unter <http://digital.slub-dresden.de/id392751569> bereit.

The NEP Era Back Issues Online

The scholarly annual journal *The NEP Era: Soviet Russia 1921-1928* was founded in 2007 by a group of US historians. It is published by Charles Schlacks Publisher and prints articles and reviews related to NEP-era Soviet history. Digital copies of the back issues (minus the current year) can be browsed and downloaded at <http://d.umn.edu/lib/d-commons/libpub/journals/NEP/index.htm>.