



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR  
SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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comments, or contributions  
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Deadline for submissions for  
the November newsletter  
is 15 October 2012.

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# BASEES Newsletter

MAY 2012

## President's report

Annual general Meeting, 1 April 2012

**Before describing the main activities undertaken by the BASEES Committee in the past year, I wish to express my gratitude to those colleagues whose hard work on behalf of BASEES has been of enormous help to me:**

- All officers and committee members for the work they have done in the past year: our Vice-President (Past President), Terry Cox, Dominique Moran as Treasurer, Sarah Young as Secretary, Elena Korosteleva-Polglase as Membership Secretary, and Birgit Beumers as Press and Information Officer, and BASEES 'webmaster';
- Our R&D sub-committee, consisting of Derek Hutcheson, David Willis, and Terry Cox;
- Our conference committee, consisting of the academic conference organiser, Cathie Carmichael, and subject stream organisers (Jeremy Hicks, Sarah Hudspith, Matthias Neumann, Dagmar Divjak, Jon Oldfield, Martin Myant and Alan Sikk) and Suzie Howes Associates, our conference organisers, who have continued to provide excellent service to us, to encourage us to think in new ways about the possibilities the annual conference offers and to remain open to all suggestions put forward by members of our committee;
- Our postgraduate liaison officer, Matthias Neuman, and our postgraduate students' representative, Andrew Willimott, for another successful postgraduate conference and for his excellent work in promoting the interests of our postgrad members;
- Cai Wilkinson for handling liaison between BASEES and Universities

- Council for Modern Languages;
- Birgit Beumers for taking on and making such a success of the Newsletter in its new format; with the support of the AGM, we hope in due course to be able to make further improvements to its content and appearance;
- Richard Sakwa, for continuing to oversee the highly successful development of the BASEES-Routledge book series, and who serves as a co-opted member of the Committee in this role;
- Peter Waldron, who has represented BASEES on the ICCEES executive.

In addition I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Elena Korosteleva-Polglase, Sarah Young and Birgit Beumers who reach the end of their terms this year. They have all offered superb and unflinching support to me. Their expertise will be sorely missed (though Birgit has very generously agreed to carry on looking after our website, and Sarah will stay on the committee for a further year). Cai Wilkinson has left the committee to take up a new position in Australia and I must thank her for her efforts to keep us up to date with developments at UCML, and for acting as a stream organiser for the conference. She is replaced as UCML representative by Ramona Gonczol. Likewise, Seth Graham and John Round have left their positions as stream organisers, to be replaced by Jeremy Hicks and Jon Oldfield respectively.

I would also like to thank the Fellows and staff of Fitzwilliam College for their continuing hospitality at our annual conference, and Routledge, who sponsored our drinks reception for Europe-Asia Studies journal.

## Conferences and Calls for papers

### Enlightened Russia

Princess Dashkova Russian Centre  
University of Edinburgh  
31 August-1 September 2012

### UACES 42nd Annual Conference

Passau, Germany  
3-5 September 2012

### The French Language in Russia

University of Bristol  
12-14 September 2012

### The Alexander Men Conference 2012

St Andrew's Church in Moffat,  
Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland  
14-17 September 2012

### Decadence or Renaissance? Russian Literature since 1991

St Antony's College, Oxford  
24-26 September 2012

### Graduate Conference

Literary Theatricality: Theatrical Text  
Princeton University,  
Dept of Slavic L&L  
26-27 October 2012

### Russia(n) in the Global Context

University of Leeds  
6-8 December 2012

### BASEES and ICCEES

European Congress 2013:  
'Europe: Crisis and Renewal'  
5-8 April 2013  
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

Panel and paper proposals on the congress theme and on other topics in Central and East European and Slavonic Studies are welcomed. The deadline for panel proposals is 1 October 2012, and 14 September 2012 for individual paper proposals. The congress especially welcomes participation by postgraduate research students and by young scholars.

General enquiries about the congress are welcome at [info@euroiccees2013.org](mailto:info@euroiccees2013.org)  
[www.euroiccees2013.org](http://www.euroiccees2013.org)

As usual, the committee has devoted much of its time this year to overseeing the regular activities of BASEES.

These include organising the annual conference; supporting the BASEES study groups; providing small grants through our R&D Committee to support the research of postgraduate members, and to help others organise small conferences; and providing news and information to members through our website, the newsletter and our new BASEES e-mail list. The latter continues to grow, both in terms of numbers of members, and modes of use. I am now regularly approached by people asking me to disseminate information about events and opportunities via the list and it is clear that it is seen as a valuable means of communicating to our membership. There are, however, still over half of BASEES members who have not subscribed and I would like urge you once more to do so as soon as possible. Simple instructions on how to join the list are available on our website; it takes no more than a few minutes at most.

The committee regularly engages with other organisations to which we are affiliated, or which play an important role in the teaching and research of our members.

### Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

I submitted on behalf of BASEES an online response to the HEFCE consultation on the draft criteria and assessment guidelines for REF 2014, focusing on the specific guidelines for subpanel D (which includes Modern Languages and Linguistics, and Area Studies). The response, drawing on comments and suggestions from the BASEES executive committee, expressed strong feelings about the treatment of output reduction and maternity leaves. We are pleased to see that these concerns, which were shared by many other organisations and institutions, were addressed in the final version of the HEFCE guidelines.

### British Academy (BA)

The British Academy approached us in May to request input into a case they were putting forward to HEFCE in support of the identification of Slavonic and East European languages as vulnerable and/or strategically

important languages. The BA was very grateful for the data we supplied and has included it in its submission to HEFCE. It remains to be seen if this will result in the restoration of HEFCE funding for the teaching of these subjects.

### Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

I represented the BASEES perspective at a number of meetings relating to the future of the LBAS centres, which now fall under the remit of the AHRC (having previously been funded by the ESRC). The AHRC have now confirmed that in the second round of funding approximately £270K will be available to each of the 3 remaining centres (of which CEELBAS and CRCEES will together form one, whilst retaining separate management structures and identities) for 2 years, with a possible further 2 years, and with a small top-up likely from the British Academy. The money will be used to support (i) knowledge exchange (ii) research networks, and (iii) language training. The AHRC has also confirmed that the centres are eligible to apply as consortia to the next round of BGP funding for postgraduate research. In the current environment, this is a good settlement for our subject areas.

We have also joined the national campaign to persuade the AHRC to restore the dedicated funding for Postgraduate Taught students which it has recently withdrawn. Along with representatives from other organisations, a member of our committee (Peter Waldron) attended a meeting on March 23 of this year with Rick Rylance, Chief Executive of the AHRC, in order to put our concerns to him.

### Arts and Humanities Users Group (A-HUG)

BASEES lent its support to A-HUG coordinated petitions calling for the AHRC to remove all references to 'The Big Society' in its latest delivery plan, and objecting to the revival of the ERIH for Humanities journals in a form featuring even less credible than its predecessor. I received a particularly large number of messages from BASEES members expressing strong support for our position on ERIH.

## The Higher Education Academy (HEA)

As many people will know, The Higher Education Academy has, regrettably, and despite a letter of protest that I wrote on behalf of BASEES, and messages from many other professional organisations, taken the decision close its Subject Centres. These include the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS) from which BASEES members have benefited. However, the HEA is making an effort to maintain some support for language teaching in higher education. It has resources to fund workshops/seminars on teaching and learning issues (e.g. to bring people together to discuss policy issues related to the discipline and/or to raise awareness of good practice in teaching) and is able to commission research/reports/reviews that are of value to field, to gather evidence for the discipline in response to particular teaching issues and/or to disseminate good practice. We have been in contact with the Languages Lead at HEA, and are discussing initiatives which may be of use to BASEES members.

In addition to our contributions to campaigns already mentioned above, BASEES has expressed its view on other issues and problems affecting our members. I reported last year on a number of letters of concern I wrote regarding the fate of Slavonic Studies at Glasgow University in the recent restructuring of Modern Languages there. I have now received a personal communication from the Principal of Glasgow University in reply to my letter to him. He responds that, though the Slavonic Studies programme (which does not include a compulsory language requirement) will be discontinued from 2012, Russian will continue to be offered to Honours level, and Polish and Czech to sub-honours level, and as support to Central and East European Studies which is also being maintained within the College of Social Sciences.

Not all of the campaigning work that BASEES undertakes is in reaction to problems and challenges faced by our members. We endeavour also to give our backing to proactive initiatives which we believe will serve the disciplines that we represent well.

It is thus with pleasure that I am able to report on a visit to Leeds University earlier in March in connection with the launch of an initiative to establish a Leeds Russian Centre whose aim is to pioneer a new approach to Russian Studies by moving beyond established, binary paradigms (Russia and the West; Soviet and post-Soviet) and repositioning both Russia and Russian Studies within the age of globalisation. The new Centre, if, as I hope, it is given the go-ahead, could provide a beacon of innovation and new thinking in our field.

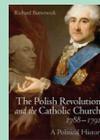
Finally, and to develop my opening statement a little further, I think it is important that the wider BASEES membership should be aware of the sheer dedication displayed by our executive committee members, whose work on behalf of BASEES remains, unlike that of many other professional organisations, unsupported by any regular administrative assistance. They carry out BASEES-related tasks, often of some intensity, whilst combining it with the teaching and administrative duties they are assigned in their own institutions, not to mention maintaining their research activities. We have from time to time bought in administrative help on an ad hoc basis and would like the flexibility to carry on doing so. It is in part for this reason that we are asking the AGM to approve a modest rise in BASEES subscription fees. I hope members will agree that they will still be receiving excellent value for their money.

### Addendum

The AGM at which this report was presented approved a number of proposals from the BASEES Executive Committee as follows: (a) a rise in BASEES membership fees to £35 for full members, and £25 for associate members; (b) opening full BASEES membership to overseas scholars; (c) requiring evidence of standing rather than supporting letters of those applicants not entitled to automatic membership; (d) publishing the Newsletter in an online version only; (e) changing the status of the BASEES Membership Secretary to that of an elected officer. The changes are reflected as appropriate in a revised version of the BASEES constitution which we are uploading onto our website.

## Books

### NEW BOOK



Richard Butterwick,  
**THE POLISH  
REVOLUTION AND  
THE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH, 1788-  
1792. A POLITICAL**

**HISTORY**, Oxford University Press, 2011. 400 pages.

This monograph deals with a pivotal period for both Poland and the Catholic Church, based on little-used manuscript and printed primary source material from eight countries.

### EUROPE-ASIA STUDIES

Special reduced subscription rate to Europe-Asia Studies for BASEES members.

The annual rate for BASEES members is £52 (\$86) for ten issues. Full details can be found in the small print under "pricing information" on the subscription page of the journal's website: [www.tandfonline.com/action/pricing?journalCode=ceas20](http://www.tandfonline.com/action/pricing?journalCode=ceas20). When contacting the publishers you may be asked for your BASEES membership number which can be found by following the links to the members' section on the BASEES website. Reminder: username – basees, password – smirnoff.

### BASEES/ROUTLEDGE SERIES ON RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Routledge is proud to publish this series on behalf of BASEES. The primary aim of the series is to publish original, high-quality, research-level work by both new and established scholars, on all aspects of Russian, Soviet, post-Soviet and East European Studies in humanities and social science subjects. Works of synthesis, reference books, and student textbooks will also be considered. Submissions from prospective authors are welcomed, and should be sent in the first instance to the series editor: Professor Richard Sakwa (R.Sakwa@kent.ac.uk), Dept. of Politics & International Relations, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NX.

## Changes to the BASEES Constitution

### As approved at the AGM on 1 April 2012

#### Paragraph 2:

"The following shall be eligible for full membership of the Association: a) Members of staff who hold or who have held until retirement posts in any institution of higher education or research whose work relates to the disciplines described in paragraph 1" [the remainder of paragraph 2 is unchanged].

#### Paragraph 3:

"Persons falling into the categories listed in paragraphs 2 a) and 2 b) shall be qualified for membership of the Association without any requirement of nomination or election, but their membership may be terminated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5. Nominations for membership under paragraphs 2 b) and c) must be supported by appropriate evidence of standing, and membership may be terminated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5. The Committee shall have the power to accept or reject such nominations."

#### Paragraph 5:

"Each member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The subscription for associate members shall be less than the full subscription. Membership may be terminated by a decision of the Committee for non-payment of the annual subscription or other good cause."

#### Paragraph 7:

"The Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, a Vice-President (the most recent holder of the office of President who is able to serve), a Vice-President (President-elect) in the year preceding the first year of office, the Secretary, the Membership Secretary, the Information Officer, the Treasurer, and eight other members."

# Russia(n) in the Global Context

## Workshop, University of Leeds



On 9 March 2012, scholars from within and beyond the UK met at the University of Leeds for a workshop on the theme of Russia(n) in the Global Context. The event was organised by members of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Leeds (Vlad Strukov, Sarah Hudspith, Olga Voronina, James Wilson and Natalya Bogoslavskaya), with support from other colleagues around the University. The full programme can be seen at the URL: [www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/125106/leeds\\_russian\\_centre/1716/workshop](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/125106/leeds_russian_centre/1716/workshop).

The day began with two panels exploring the theme from the perspective of various disciplines, attended by scholars from Russian Studies. The opening speaker on the first panel, chaired by Mark Smith, was Simon Dixon, who spoke of the significance of global history to the History community. Following this, Nancy Condee highlighted the challenges to current thinking on globalisation, including the need for a new language with which to articulate the characteristics of the new era. After a powerpoint presentation on economics sent by Julian Cooper in absentia, John Russell discussed the Political Studies perspective, exploring possible forms of democracy for Russia and stressing the significance of Russian diaspora.

The second panel, chaired by Stephen Muir, was opened by Alissa Prudnikova via Skype from Yekaterinburg, speaking on how to formulate the idea of Russianness in art projects. Next, Marina Frolova-Walker discussed ways of overcoming the 'ghettoisation' of Russian music and the difficulties of overcoming the paradigm of Russia vs

the West. Stephen Hutchings, speaking about Media Studies, echoed her point by asserting that it is still easy to fall into Cold War paradigms, but also explored ways of speaking about Russia, including, for example, the Russian Federation, the Russophone world, post-Soviet space. Birgit Beumers concluded the panel by arguing that 'global' is the only context for culture, using Russian cinema as an example. The second part of the workshop drew the focus to the Russian presidential elections, which had concluded on 4 March, and took the form of a round table on the theme of 'Putin's Russia and Globalisation,' chaired by Stephen Coleman of the University of Leeds Institute of Communications Studies. The speakers were Vera Tolz, Nigel Holden, Mustapha Lahlali, Sarah Gibson and Luke Harding. Debate covered discourses of globalisation and nation-branding in and around Russia, issues of management culture in Russia, the interaction of Russia with the Arab media and the UK media, corruption, and future directions in Russian politics and economics. The round table was attended by staff and students from the University of Leeds as well as members of the public.

The workshop was organised as part of an initiative to launch a new Leeds Russian Centre, and served the purpose of exploring initial research questions and networking. The organisers would like to thank everyone who took part and look forward to announcing further events in the near future. We would like to invite interested parties to contact us by email on [lrc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lrc@leeds.ac.uk).

*Sarah Hudspith*