
Contents

Russian Football Today by Jim Riordan	1
SCRSS News	2
Soviet Memorial Trust Fund News	3
Book Reviews	3
Rugby League in the USSR by David Hyatt	5
From the Russian Press	5
Listings	6

Feature

Russian Football Today

By Jim Riordan, Emeritus Professor of Russian at Surrey University, Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts and President of the European Sports History Society

After the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991, the free trade union sports societies (such as Spartak – white-collar workers – and Lokomotiv – railway workers), as well as Dinamo (sponsored and financed by the security forces) and the armed forces clubs (such as TsSKA), mostly gave way to private sports, health and recreation clubs.

At the same time, the various nationalities preferred their own independent teams to combined effort and success. So, Kiev Dinamo opted to compete in a Ukrainian league, Tbilisi Dinamo in a Georgian league, and Russian clubs in the Russian Football League set up in 1991. However self-defeating this might seem for smaller nationalities, denying themselves top-class opposition and profitable match attendance figures, it matched the liberation mood of post-communist times.

The failed communist coup of 19–21 August 1991 accelerated the shift from state control of and support for sport towards private, commercial sport, and a massive 'brain' and 'muscle' drain of top athletes, coaches, sports medics and scientists to the richest overseas 'buyer'. The international market for sports talent enabled stars from one-time communist states to offer themselves for sale to promoters from around the world. By 1995 more than 300 football, 700 ice hockey and 100 Russian basketball players were plying their trade abroad. As in Latin America and Africa, post-Soviet domestic clubs and leagues rapidly became 'farm teams' for Western sport. This

new and much-resented subordinate status made it difficult for Russians to assemble players for international games, collect transfer fees and get their clubs into lucrative European tournaments.

In the wake of the crumbling communist edifice, a deadly struggle began for control of sport, especially football. Seeing the inevitable end to their political power, a number of communist officials swiftly turned themselves into business people and, using their influence and contacts, purchased state enterprises at rock-bottom prices under cover of privatisation. These were known as 'nomenklatura' companies, such as the huge oil outfits Sibneft, Lukoil, Yukos and Rosneft, as well as Russia's largest company, Gazprom. They were soon joined by similar companies formed by members of the new political elite, the embourgeoisified 'New Russians'. Both sets of the new elite soon accumulated excess wealth and, wishing to put a 'healthy gloss' on their public image, turned to sports sponsorship.

People like Roman Abramovich – the owner of Chelsea and TsSKA and, until recently, master of Sibneft – have made a radical break with the past in world football. In so doing, they are also bringing about a major shift in football's balance of power – from West Europeans to Russians. For the first time, the clubs they own can buy players from all over the world, no matter what the price or wages demanded. Chelsea's wage bill for 2004–5 was nearly £200 million, by far the highest in the world. For the moment, the Russian football club owners are permitted more or less free rein both by their own government in Russia and by the football authorities in the country where the clubs play.

To some, participation in the global market for sports talent is seen as part of living in a 'normal' and 'civilised' world. Yet the process of sports globalisation only goes to confirm Russia's subordinate status in the world. The sporting diaspora has stimulated nationalistic ire among Russians against such multinational juggernauts based mainly in the USA. It has also had the effect of forcing football fans to turn away from the game altogether. Some 30 years ago, in Soviet times, the major grounds were packed to capacity, with an average of 35,000 fans at Premiership matches. Today, the six major Moscow teams (Spartak, TsSKA, Dinamo, Lokomotiv, Torpedo, and the recently formed Moskva) average just over 7,000 fans a game between them – a pitiful figure by any European comparison.

Continued on page 2

One reason for the decline in attendance is lack of nationalistic interest in games against other Russian teams, rather than teams from other ethnic regions. There was always added 'spice' to watching a Moscow Russian team take on the Georgians or test their metal against the top Soviet team Dinamo Kiev, from the Ukraine.



USSR National Football Team, 1960s (SCRSS Photo Library)

While some fans might look to the national team or Abramovich's 'Chelski' as representing a new Russian nationhood, the players often regard themselves – as the captain of the Russian national team, Alexei Smertin, recently told me – as 'gypsies' who roam the world looking for a hook on which to hang their boots. From being sold by his home Siberian town of Barnaul for 'two wagonloads of coal', he spent two and a half years at Bordeaux, and then on to Chelsea, Portsmouth and Charlton Athletic. "God knows where I'll be next season!" As top Russian players are moving westwards for the moment, another migration is occurring to which the football world is only just waking up. Leading European and South American players are heading eastwards at an ever-increasing rate. This season, the Russian Premiership had an astonishing average of 11–12 foreign players on the books of each club.

A new direction in Russian oligarch involvement in world football has been evolving of late. Not only does it include the attempted takeover of debt-ridden Western clubs, it signals, more sinisterly, a business operation of buying and selling shares in player transfer values, a sort of market speculation in 'player futures'. The Russian oligarchs are men with huge personal wealth who are adept at betting on futures. In this particular case, it is the future value of football talent. Where the funds come from to finance Russian football and the tentacular Russian reach round the world is a well-kept secret. Russian clubs and their 'investors' are unwilling to reveal their financial accounts and the law does not oblige them to do so. What also makes them attractive to investors is that they pay less tax than other businesses and experience less government control. However, like all business, it is a precarious situation that could change at any moment, with the oligarchs walking out of the clubs they presently sponsor

(perhaps through state fiat), leaving behind chaos and enormous debts.

Fixing the economy, cleaning up corruption, stopping the outflow of Russia's wealth, and restoring a sense of pride and community would certainly contribute to a healthier society and a healthier game of football in both Russia and the rest of the world. But in a land where more money is spent on bribing officials – some £20 billion by one estimate – than on paying income tax, you won't find many Russians betting on that happening.

Jim Riordan lived and worked in Russia for five years in the 1960s; during that time he played (twice) for Moscow Spartak. He has written extensively on football in the USSR and other communist countries.

SCRSS News

New Era Appeal

In July the SCRSS launched its New Era Appeal aimed at raising £25,000 to modernise and develop our unique library and archive, upgrade our equipment and make further essential improvements to the safety and security of our premises. Since the launch in the last newsletter, SCRSS members have generously donated nearly £2,000. The appeal is still open and is now being widened to a range of external organisations in the business, academic and trade union sectors.

Departure of Vladimir Molchanov

On 17 September, following an SCRSS Council meeting, a farewell reception was held for Vladimir Molchanov, First Secretary at the Russian Embassy, and his wife Galina, who will be leaving the UK in early November. The Molchanovs have been good friends of the Society throughout their 15 years' service. They were presented with gifts and thanks were extended from the SCRSS, the Soviet Memorial Trust Fund and the RAF in Russia Association.

Events

Friday 11 November, 7pm

Lecture: Children's Literature in Russia – Past and Present

Jill Cunningham.

Friday 25 November, 7pm

Lecture: Art in the Cold War

Christine Lindey considers the ideological preoccupations and social contexts that influenced art and culture in the Soviet Union and the West during the Cold War. Christine Lindey is the author of *Art of the Cold War* (The Herbert Press Ltd, 1990) and a graduate of the Courtauld Institute.

Friday 2 December, 7pm

Film: The First Glove

Directed by A. Frolov, screenplay by A. Filiminov, Mosfilm, 1946. A light-hearted film about the rivalry between two trainers over a boxer.

All lectures and film shows take place at the SCRSS premises in Brixton. Admission: £3.00 (members), £5.00 (non-members). Tea and coffee are available.

Soviet Memorial Trust Fund News

Russian Convoy Club

A ceremony of remembrance and thanksgiving took place at the Soviet Memorial on 31 August to mark the laying up of the National Standard of the Russian Convoy Club.

The National Standard was borne by Shipmate David Kennedy and followed by Branch Standards. A service was conducted by the Club Chaplain the Rev BA Hughes, himself a survivor of HMS Britomart, with music provided by the Brixham Merchant Navy Band. The service was also attended by the Mayor of Southwark, naval attaches from the Russian Embassy, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Soviet Memorial Trust Fund (SMTF). The ceremony of handing over the Standard to Robert Crawford, Director General of the Imperial War Museum, was followed by the closing hymn *Now the Day is Over*.

The Trustees are grateful for all the support the Convoy Club has lent to the Soviet Memorial over the past years.

National Holocaust Day Trust

The Chairman of the SMTF attended a launch at the Imperial War Museum on 5 September to establish a Trust to manage the annual National Holocaust Day event. To date the event has been administered by the Home Office. The main speakers were Paul Goggins, Minister of State at the Home Office, and Dr Stephen Smith, Chairman of the new Trust.

Events

2 & 3 November

UK and Russian Veterans Meeting with Schools

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3. The event is organised by ACT 2005: New Russian Arts in London.

Sunday 6 November, 3pm

Lecture: Objects, Memories, Quests

Imperial War Museum, London. Suzanne Bardgett, Project Director of the Holocaust Exhibition, talks

about her day-to-day work and meetings with victims of Nazi persecution. Free admission.

Sunday 13 November, 11.30am

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Soviet Memorial, London. Dignitaries from Southwark, CIS embassies and veterans organisations will be present. Tel: 020 7274 2282 in early November for further details.

The Soviet Memorial, which honours the Soviet dead of the Second World War, is situated in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London, adjacent to the Imperial War Museum.

Book Reviews

1812: Napoleon's Fatal March on Moscow
By Adam Zamoyski (Harper Perennial, 2004, Paperback, £8.99)

This is a foot soldier's view of the Grande Armée's march to Russia and its final retreat from Moscow. Drawing on the letters and memoirs of the participants, from the first diplomatic encounter between Napoleon and Alexander I to the invasion of Russia, Zamoyski's history gives an unbiased and truthful view of the disastrous effects of total war on soldiers, civilians, communities and animals, especially the ubiquitous horses.

The psychology of Napoleon and Alexander I is examined. Napoleon's self belief and increasing megalomania is contrasted with that of the vacillating and charming Alexander, damaged by his implication in the murder of his father, intellectually liberal but ruler and demi-god to a vast, feudal empire.

Both were seeking control over central Europe and Scandinavia. Turkey and Sweden had allied themselves with their former enemy, Russia.

Napoleon's *bête noir* was Britain, which controlled the seas and was conducting a campaign against the French in Spain. His response was to forbid any port in the French Empire to import British goods, hoping to weaken the British economy prior to invasion. This was not popular with some countries, in particular Russia, which was a traditional trading partner with Britain. Russia broke the embargo and took Britain's side against Napoleon.

Napoleon would have liked Russia on his side in his plans to expand his Empire to India and Egypt, but this would have required Russia's submission to his imperial hegemony – something that no Russian Tsar could accept. Negotiations over the control of Poland, Austria and Sweden came to nothing and a game of bluff commenced, with French and Russian troops massed on both sides of the River Nieman, each hoping to force the other's surrender to their demands.

When this did not occur, Napoleon decided on a swift war against Russia, to be over in three weeks. He reckoned without the terrain, the heat, the primitive conditions of the peasants that provided little forage for an army of 400,000, and the refusal of the Russian Army to engage in full battle.

The author deals in detail with the logistic requirements of moving a vast, multi-lingual and multi-national army across alien territory. Men and horses died in vast numbers without ever engaging in battle. Disease was rife.

The Russian Army's retreat to Moscow, except for its stands at Borodino and Smolensk (for which both sides claimed victory), puzzled Napoleon.



Napoleon Bonaparte (SCRSS Library)

His entry into Moscow without any resistance from General Kutuzov, who had taken over as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, was something of an anti-climax: there were no civic leaders to welcome him, the population had been evacuated and there was no indication of a Russian surrender. In fact, all state organisations were still intact in St Petersburg.

The French occupation of Moscow – the fires, the looting, the general lack of discipline of the troops – Tolstoy has described well. What is less known is the level of collaboration with the French occupiers amongst the merchants and remaining aristocratic households, whose language and culture were derived in some measure from the French. When the French retreated from Moscow, they went along as camp followers to avoid retribution from the Russians.

The Russian hero Field Marshal Kutuzov is shown as indolent, self-indulgent and indecisive, but luck, and Napoleon's disastrous lingering in Moscow until the winter arrived, combined to give him the appearance of a master strategist.

The horrors of the French retreat are well known and the author spares us none. The Cossack sorties on the retreating army caused more havoc than the Russian Army itself. Later, Kutuzov and his commanders were blamed for allowing Napoleon to escape, but the destruction of the Grande Armée had profound political results for Russia.

It became a force in Europe and the courage of the Russian peasants in battle led to the Russian intelligentsia's move towards Slavophilism and their demands for the emancipation of the serfs and greater democracy.

Reviewed by Jean Turner

The Priest Who Was Never Baptized: Stories Factual and Fictional of Russian Life in the Nineteenth Century

By Nikolai Leskov, translated by James Muckle (Bramcote Press, 2004, Hardback, 216pp, £13.95, ISBN 190040512)

Professor Muckle brings together a selection of seven short stories by Nikolai Leskov, translating them for the first time into English. Much of the tales' content is factual – or at least purports to reflect true-life events – and Leskov's characters are vividly portrayed.

A number of themes recur throughout the anthology. There are fond reflections on childhood and the characters who helped shape a child's personality or world view, such as the tutor nicknamed *The Goat* and the old miller, *Grandad Ilya*. The importance of religion at the core of country life is described in *Rebellion among the Gentry in the Parish of Dobryn* and the tale that lends its title to the whole anthology. These recount how the villagers hold the figure of the local priest in fiercely high regard, despite the flaws of many of the post holders. Humour mingles with the superstitions of simple peasant folk, perhaps best illustrated in the story of the Boo Radley-like *Selivan the Bogeyman*, where the reader cannot help but be amused by the ridiculousness of the locals' accounts of the bogeyman's monstrous deeds. The importance of 'doing the right thing' is asserted in such stories as *A Pygmy* and the tantalisingly unfinished account of a mysterious lady, *A Response to the Kreutzer Sonata*.

No reader can fail to find entertainment in these snapshots of daily life in 19th-century Russia and Ukraine.

Reviewed by Wendy Ansley

Feature

Rugby League in the USSR ... at Last!

By David Hyatt

It's an odd fact that the two biggest passions in my life have always been Russia and rugby. So I was naturally thrilled when I got a call from the Rugby League authorities asking me to help in a revolutionary plan to introduce the game to the USSR.

The year was 1990, the Berlin Wall had just come down, but in the rugby world a Cold War still raged. I had always been incensed that the USSR, which claimed to champion the cause of the world's proletariat, played only Rugby Union. However, while Rugby League had never been played in Eastern Europe, many Rugby Union players there had heard of Rugby League thanks to a few dissidents who dared to question the sporting status quo and brave souls such as myself who, as a student in Voronezh in 1980, smuggled in copies of *The Rugby Leaguer* newspaper.

In a cloak and dagger operation, we managed to induce dissident groups of players from Moscow, Leningrad and Tiraspol in Soviet Moldavia to come to our secret training camp at Butlins outside Blackpool.

After a century of existence British Rugby League was still confined to the north of England, with only one other small playing area in southwest France. They were desperate to establish another foothold in Europe, so they poured a lot of resources into the project. We had the assistance of top referee Fred Lindop, a gruff Yorkshireman and veteran of many Wembley finals, together with the legendary Lancashire lad Phil Larder as head coach.

The Russians had only a week to learn the game from scratch before the first match against the crack Oulton team from Leeds. But while the Russians were physically strong and athletic, their attitude was worrying. For almost all of them, it was their first time in the West and the capitalist fleshpots of Blackpool seemed to be more alluring than the playing fields of Stanley Park. They also seemed more adept at handling a vodka bottle than a rugby ball. To make matters worse, the Moscow players refused to talk to the Leningrad contingent because of allegations of theft of money that the Rugby League authorities had been channelling into the USSR to help develop awareness of the game. But the best was yet to come – the night before the Oulton match several players were injured in a drunken brawl.

Yet in the best traditions of sporting fairy tales, the Russians didn't just win – they ran Oulton ragged. They also put in creditable performances in the following games at Headingley and Wigan. It wasn't

that our Russians had the superior skills or that after a week's coaching they had been able to pick up the knowledge players normally acquire over several years. They had little grasp of tactics, the subtleties of kicking for touch or the offside rule. The deciding factor was that most of the Russian players were nearly two metres tall with breadth to match – they had no trouble knocking down the Oulton players and whenever a Russian got the ball, he just charged straight for the opposition tryline, defying anyone to stop him.

From the Russian Press

Teachers' Salaries

Argumenty i Fakty reported on a threatened national strike by teachers over pay ('I kak oni uchat za eti groshi?', No 36 [1297], 7.9.05, www.aif.ru). The Vice Chair of the Russian Education and Science Workers Union claimed that, prior to a 20% pay award in January, teachers had received no salary increase for 15 months. The pay rise had already been outstripped by inflation due to a 29% increase in the cost of household bills over the first half of the year (40–50% in some regions). More than half a teacher's salary now went on household bills.

According to official statistics, the average salary in Russia for the first half of 2005 was 8,464 roubles. However, nursery school teachers earned 3,966 roubles, secondary school teachers 4,808 roubles and university lecturers 8,164 roubles. It was not surprising, therefore, that teaching was no longer prestigious. Thousands of state-funded posts in teacher training colleges were vacant. Only 30% of newly qualified teachers joined the profession – and who could blame them when starting salaries were 1,200 roubles?

President Putin had given an undertaking to increase public-sector teachers' salaries by 150% over three years, irrespective of inflation. *Argumenty i Fakty*, however, believed this undertaking was being quietly sabotaged by the Government.

Renovation of the Moscow Metro

Izvestiya reported on major renovation work on the Mayakovsky Metro Station in Moscow ('V metro poyavilos' nebo Mayakovskogo', 5.9.05, www.izvestiya.com). Designed by the architect Aleksei Dushkin, the station had opened in 1938 and won the Grand-Prix at the International Festival in New York in the same year. It had earned its place in architectural history as the first deep-bore underground station in the world to use lightweight columns, faced with ribbed stainless steel, instead of massive stanchions. The station was also famous for the artist Alexander Deneika's mosaic, space-themed ceiling panels in the central hall. In November 1941, a meeting of Moscow City Council had taken place in

the station, led by Stalin, at which the decision to defend the capital from the Nazis had been taken.

Today, Mayakovsky Station was in poor structural condition with its columns and arches subject to water ingress. An initial stage of renovation had been completed in time for Moscow City Day, when Mayor Yuri Luzhkov had ceremonially opened the station's new second exit. The new vestibule had been constructed in Stalinist neoclassical style with a vaulted ceiling decorated by deep-blue mosaic panels with quotations from Vladimir Mayakovsky's poems. The work had also revealed one of Deineka's mosaic panels hidden for many years behind a wooden screen.

Now the serious reconstruction work would begin. The station would be covered by a special 'umbrella' to prevent water penetration, the mosaic panels cleaned, new escalators installed, and the marble floor replaced by a more hard-wearing granite surface. First in line was replacement of the escalators, which had worked continuously since the station first opened. The works were expected to last one and a half to two years, during which time the station would remain open as usual.

Mysterious Apparition

Komsomol'skaya Pravda reported that a fresco of the Virgin Mary had mysteriously appeared in the remote village of Zabrama, close to the Ukrainian border, ('V zabroshennom monastyre pod Bryanskom poyavilsya lik Bogomateri', 5.10.05, www.kp.ru). An orthodox priest from Ukraine had arrived in the village at the beginning of September, claiming to have had a vision of the Virgin Mary. He had directed the villagers to the half-ruined Kamensky Uspensky Monastery where they were astonished to see a large fresco on the walls of the bell tower depicting the Virgin and child encircled by four angels.

The monastery had been destroyed before the war and the villagers were adamant that the fresco had not been there before, nor was one listed in the schedule of historic monuments for the Bryansk oblast. Now the icon was growing clearer each day, prompting a rush of visitors (mostly women) hoping that it could protect their families, restore sick children to health and protect relatives in the armed forces.

A local church dignitary agreed that the fresco did appear miraculous, but urged caution. After the destruction of the monastery in the 1930s, the surviving frescos had been whitewashed over to protect them from malicious vandalism. Once people started visiting the monastery as a holy site again and viewing the frescos and icons as sacred, everything had changed.

Articles selected, summarised and translated by Diana Turner

Listings

Art and Photography

The Chambers Gallery

23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL, Tel: 020 7778 1600

27 October–1 December: *Soviet Impressionism: Impressionism in the USSR after the Second World War*.

Sketch Gallery

9 Conduit Street, London W1S 2XG

26 November–25 January 2006: *Oleg Kulik: Retrospective*. A series of new and celebrated past projects from Russia's most famous and controversial artist-rebel.

Somerset House

The Strand, London WC2

November/December (TBC): *Soviet Photography of the 1920s and 1930s: From Pictorialism and Constructivism to Social Realism*. 250 vintage prints from 1920–35 that represent the work of some of the leading photographers of the period.

Dance

Barbican Centre

Barbican Theatre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS, Box Office: 0845 120 7515, www.barbican.org.uk

1–5 November: *O Stravinsky Project Part 1* performed by Michael Clark Company (Dance Umbrella 2005).

The Place

Robin Howard Dance Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1

17–18 November: *Does the English Queen Really Know What Life is About?* and *Staring into Eternity* performed by the Chelyabinsk Theatre of Contemporary Dance.

St Petersburg Ballet Theatre

The company performs *Swan Lake*, *La Bayardère*, *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty* on its UK tour. Check with venues for repertoire.

21 November: Royal Albert Hall, London, Tel: 020 7589 8212

22–26 November: His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, Tel: 01224 641122

29 November–3 December: Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tel: 01902 429212

4 December: Blackpool Opera House, Tel: 01253 292029

6–10 December: Nottingham Royal Centre, Tel: 0115 9895555

13–17 December: Eastbourne Congress, Tel: 01323 412000

18–19 December: Kings Lynn Corn Exchange, Tel: 01553 764864

23 December–2 January 2006: Brighton Dome, Tel: 01273 709709
4–5 January 2006: Birmingham Symphony Hall, Tel: 0121 7803333
6–7 January: Buxton Opera House, Tel: 0845 1272190
8–10 January: Crawley Heath, Tel: 01293 553636
11–14 January: Southend Cliffs, Tel: 01702 351135
16–21 January: Sheffield Lyceum, Tel: 0114 2496000
25–28 January: Dartford Orchard, Tel: 01322 220000
30 January–4 February: Norwich Theatre Royal, Tel: 01603 630000
7–11 February: Reading Hexagon, Tel: 01189 606060

Film

SCRSS

320 Brixton Road, London SW9, Tel: 020 7274 2282, www.scrss.org.uk
2 December 7pm: *The First Glove*. **See page 3.**

Language Courses

TEFL for Russians in Edinburgh

English-Speaking Union, Edinburgh, Tel: 0131 229 1528
Eight-week English language courses for Russians, either two or four hours per week. Cost: £120 (4-hour course), £70 (2-hour course). Small groups, daytime or evening, qualified TEFL teachers, preparation for Cambridge Certificates, intensive weekend courses.

Lectures

The British Library

Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, Box Office 020 7412 7222
The 2005 Panizzi Lectures: *The Magic of Russia*. Will Ryan, former Academic Librarian of the Warburg Institute and current Emeritus Professor of Russian Studies, University of London. Admission free but entry by ticket only.

2 November 6.15–7.45pm: *Russian Magic at the British Museum Library*. Examines the career of WRS Ralston, founder of the Folklore Society and a leading 19th century interpreter of the Russian literary world.

9 November 6.15–7.45pm: *Ivan the Terrible and Russian Magic*. Discusses the impact of the 1551 Synod, summoned by Ivan the Terrible, the records of which defined ecclesiastical policy on magic and witchcraft until modern times.

23 November 6.15–7.45pm: *Travellers Tales and Russian Magic*. Draws upon travel literature and the memoirs of foreign visitors to Russia to highlight popular beliefs and superstitions regarding magic and witchcraft.

SCOLA Russian Circle

St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, Tel: 020 8642 1017, Contact: Laura Oram

25 November 7pm: *Aspects of Ukrainian Music in the Past and the Future* by Alla Sirenko.

20 January 2006 7pm: *Iolanta*, *Tchaikovsky's Forgotten Opera*, and *Russia in 2006* by Iain Elliott.

SCRSS

320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB, Tel: 020 7274 2282, www.scrss.org.uk

11 November 7pm: *Children's Literature in Russia – Past and Present* by Jill Cunningham.

25 November 7pm: *Art in the Cold War* by Christine Lindey. **See page 2.**

Music

Boyan Ensemble

Ukraine's top professional male choir tours the UK with *Sacred Chants and Songs of Ukraine*. General information on the tour: 01905 350237 / 01684 573730. Tickets: contact venues below.

1 November 7.45pm: United Reformed Church, Sanderstead, Tel: 020 8405 1687

2 November 7.30pm: St Thomas on the Bourne, Farnham, Tel: 01483 898037/ 01483 811542

3 November 7.30pm: St James, Piccadilly, London, Tel: 0870 163 3833

4 November 7.30pm: St Mary's Bathwick, Bath, Tel: 01225 463362

5 November 7.30pm: Malvern Priory, Tel: 01684 575915

6 November 4pm: St. George's Bristol, off Park Street, Bristol, Tel: 0845 40 24 001

7 November 7.30pm: Methodist Church, Redruth, Tel: 01209 213912/01209 216140

8 November 7.30pm: Chapel Street Methodist Church, Penzance, Tel: 01736 368108

9 November 7.30pm: St David's Church, Davidstow, Cornwall, Tel: 01566 880085

10 November 7.30pm: St Aldhelm Church, Branksome, Poole, Tel: 01202 764420

12 November 7.30pm: St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh, Tel: 01728 687110

13 November 7.30pm: Parish Church, Dedham, Nr Colchester, Tel: 01206 322136

14 November 7.30pm: Bury Parish Church, Greater Manchester, Tel: 01204 884842

15 November 7.30pm: St Aloysius Church, Garnet Hill, Glasgow, Tel: 0141 204 5151

16 November 7.30pm: Canongate Kirk, Royal Mile, Edinburgh, Tel: 0131 228 1155

17 November 7.30pm: St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth, Nr Durham, Tel: 0191 378 0452

18 November 7.30pm: All Saints Church, Hurworth, Nr Darlington, Tel: 01325 720782

19 November 7.30pm: Cartmel Priory, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, Tel: 01539 534026

20 November 6.30pm: St Andrew's Church, Bishopthorpe, Nr York, Tel: 01904 701133
21 November 7.30pm: St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, Tel: 01423 504035
22 November 7.30pm: St Francis Xavier Church, Broad Street, Hereford, Tel: 01432 275063
23 November 7.30pm: Cheltenham College Chapel, Cheltenham, Tel: 01242 513540
24 November 7.00pm: Swindon Bourton Church, Nr Shrivenham, Tel: 01793 782205

Cadogan Hall

5, Sloane Terrace, London SW1, Box Office: 020 7730 4500

18 November: Musica Aeterna Ensemble and the New Siberian Singers Chamber Choir conducted by Teodor Currentzis, principal conductor with the Novosibirsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre.

29 November 7.30pm: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Barry Wordsworth with Julian Lloyd Webber, cello. Tchaikovsky: *Serenade in C Major* and *Rococo Variations*, Mendelsohn: *Symphony No 4 Italian*.

Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival

Box Office: 01484 430528

23 November 7.30pm: *Unorthodox Chants* performed by the Pakrovsky Folk Ensemble, OPUS POSTH and Evelyn Petrova (accordionist).

St Luke's

161 Old Street, London EC1

25 November: Tatiana Grindenko and the OPUS POSTH ensemble perform *Night in Galicia*. Tatiana Grindenko is a renowned violinist and prominent champion of modern jazz, rock and experimental electronic music.

Publications

From Russia with Love

New magazine in English and Russian for Russians living in the UK. Published by the Russian-British Association. Contact: Tatiana Tarasova (Editor-in-Chief), Tel: 020 8391 9393, www.fromrussia.co.uk.

North and Siberian Practical Encyclopaedia

By E Akbalijan, V Golubchikova and Z Khvtisiashvili (Publications Maecenas, Paris, 2004, 100 euros, www.ruslania.com, English or Russian). A complete natural history of the Northern Arctic regions, including Siberia and northern Russia. Includes CD with 2000 illustrations and sound tracks of ethnic music from the region.

Pulse UK

New free, bi-weekly Russian-language newspaper for Russians living in London. Published by New STYLE Publishing House. News, events and personal classified advertisements. Available in London in Russian shops and newsagents, Russian airline

offices, hotels, and Russian schools. For further details, to subscribe or place advertisements, visit www.pulse-uk.org.uk.

Russia from A to Z

A comprehensive book about Russia with a foreword by President Vladimir Putin. Published by RIA-Novosti Press Agency, 3 Rosary Gardens, London SW7 4NW, Tel: 020 7370 3002.

Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida

Edited by Robert Chandler (Penguin Classics, May 2005, £9.99).

Solovki Garden: Russia's Monastery, Gulag and Botanic Garden on the Edge of the Arctic Circle

By Artyom Parshin (International Business Leaders Forum, September 2005, 56pp, 92 colour illustrations). Solovki – the Solovetsky archipelago of islands in the White Sea northwest of Archangel – was a major site of 19th-century pilgrimage. The garden attached to Arkhimandrite Makarii's Hermitage drew thousands of visitors to marvel at exotic fruit and flowers raised in this remote location. After the Russian Revolution, when Solovki became a notorious forced labour camp, extension of the garden's experimental work made it a refuge for some of the many scientists held in the camp. Today Solovki is a World Heritage site, its monastery has been returned to use and the garden is being restored. Available at the special price of £7.95 (including p&p) from: IBLF Solovki Garden Project, 28 Stratford Villas, London NW1 9SG, E-mail: susan.causey@iblf.org.

Theatre

Riverside Studios

Studio 2, Crisp Road, London W6 9RL, Box Office: 020 8237 1111, www.riversidestudios.co.uk

8–10 November 7.45pm: *Wet Wedding* performed by AKHE Russian Engineering Theatre, St Petersburg, winner of Russia's Golden Mask Award. A procession of inspired images, bizarre props and curious events as a young couple are brought to a fantastical wedding ceremony.

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Tel: 020 7274 2282, Fax: 020 7274 3230

Email: ruslibrary@scrss.org.uk

Website: www.scrss.org.uk

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Editor: Diana Turner