



THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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31 March, 2015, Issue 3

March 2015 Events

Dashkova Open Seminar.
Prof Paul Dukes, U of
Aberdeen ‘The Urals:
Russia’s Crucible’

Honorary Dashkova
Lecture. Prof Andrei Zorin,
U of Oxford
‘The Ways of Emotional
Europeanization of the
Russian Elite in the second
half of the Eighteenth
century’

Honorary Erickson
Lecture. Prof Jacek
Saryusz-Wolski, Member of
the European Parliament
‘The European Union and
its values under test:
terrorism, Greece, Russia’

Public Lecture. Charles
Hendry, MP
‘Britain’s relations with
Russia and the CIS – the
way ahead’

April 2015 Events

SLOVO 2015: The Russian
Word in Edinburgh
An Evening with Leonid
Parfenov
(provisional, subject to
further confirmation)
Date: Friday, 17th April,
6:30pm

News: Dashkova
International Trainee



Reporting on our March 2015 Events

March happened to be the busiest month of the year so far for the Dashkova team: we hosted a record number of very exciting events, including two annual Honorary lectures associated with the Centre, the John Erickson and the Dahskova lectures. In addition, we have reaffirmed our partnership with Milan University by welcoming a new Dashkova trainee from Milan, Erika Perico.

Honorary Dashkova Lecture 2015

Professor Andrei Zorin, University of Oxford

The Ways of Emotional Europeanization of the Russian Elite in the second half of the Eighteenth century

Thursday, 12th March

The Honorary Dashkova Lecture is usually the Centre’s intellectual highlight of the year and this spring we were particularly looking forward to Professor Andrei Zorin’s talk. In his lecture, he explored the Europeanization of the Russian elite as a grand cultural project during the reign of Catherine the Great, focusing on the two areas Catherine used to implement it – namely, theatre and education.



‘Peter gave us being, Catherine – soul’ – this often quoted line, which became a rhetorical cliché, embodied three central assumptions widespread in Russia at the time of its appearance. Firstly: that to

exist meant to be European, as individuals and nations outside European civilization did not have any sort of presence in the world. Secondly: that having acquired European habits, appearances and customs under Peter the Great's rule, the members of Russian elite had been 'created' only physically, and could thus be compared to soulless bodies, who had to wait until Catherine's reign to claim their moral existence. Finally: that the prerogative to endow the nation with a being and soul belonged entirely to the state, and in Russia's case, to the monarch.

The 1762 manifesto on the freedom of nobility, signed by Peter III, but mostly implemented by Catherine, made service conditional upon the nobility's desire to perform it, while the state was made responsible for its shared values, attitudes and passions. This logic defined a monumental educational plan that inspired several generations to send children away from their families at an early age, educating them to be a 'new race of men' and 'new fathers and mothers'. Children were to be fully isolated from their 'bestly and furious' parental environment and brought up according to completely new rules. The scale of the plan confirmed that the Empress and her close circle regarded the task of Europeanization begun by Peter the Great as unfinished business.



Theatre attendance at the court was compulsory, and the court life itself was a theatrical performance, where everyone was expected to imitate the monarch's emotions and follow her hints.

This completely reformed new generation would emerge in the future, but in the meantime, Catherine had to rule in the present. For the time being, her main didactic enterprise was the close management of court practices in order to provide the higher elite with emotional patterns and symbolic models for imitation. Predictably, an important part in this process would be played by the theatre, understood both as artistic artefact and social ritual.

A completely different approach was adopted in the Masonic lodges: here an alternative, but no less ambitious project was developed which was intended to bring about the complete renewal of humankind. Freemasons, disappointed with the level of spirituality in the Orthodox Church, turned towards Europe for guidance, not only reading and translating an impressive amount of moral and didactic literature, but also putting themselves into direct obedience to foreign masters of Masonic lodges, and confessing their inner secrets to them.

This practice of self-contemplation and self-improvement was radically secularised and individualised by Nikolai Karamzin, one of the young disciples of the Muscovite Freemasons. His famous 'Letters of a Russian Traveller' put forward a major programme to import emotional patterns elaborated in Western Sentimental and Romantic literature into Russian culture. The Letters are organized around the tension between two different "emotional communities" – the circle of close friends Karamzin had left behind in Moscow, and the circle of educated Europeans he described. With his book, Karamzin aspired to bring both circles together and to serve as a link between them.



Professor Andrey Zorin is the Head of Russian at the University of Oxford. Since late 1980s, he has taught as Visiting Professor at Harvard, Stanford, the University of Helsinki, the University of Texas (Austin), and L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris). His research interests include Russian literature and cultural history of the 18th and early 19th centuries in the European context, Russian literature and ideology, the cultural history of emotions, and late Soviet and post-Soviet literature.

The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre would like to express our gratitude to the Henry Cobb Foundation supporting the annual Honorary Dashkova Lecture.

It has now become a tradition for the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre to host an annual Honorary John Erickson lecture, providing a platform for the most sought-after specialists in Russian and East European politics and international relations. The annual Erickson Lecture was established to mark the seminal contributions to military history and analysis made by Professor John Erickson FRSE FBA while Professor of Defence Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Honorary Erickson Lecture 2015

Dr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Member of the European Parliament

The European Union and its Values under Test: Terrorism, Greece, Russia

Monday, 16th March

Elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2004 and in 2009, Dr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski is currently the Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and a Member of the Conference of Delegation Chairs, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, as well as Substitute Member of the Budget Committee.



In his overview of challenges the EU is facing, Dr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski covered the attack on Charlie Hebdo journalists in Paris, as well as the current situation in Greece and the Ukraine. According to the speaker, the current troublesome issues in both European and world politics remind the EU of its basic foundational values, such as human rights, dignity, respect, and peace. Will they remain but declarations, or will they become a guidance for the political Union of European states? In what ways can unanimity of common political foundations (such as freedom of thought and condemnation of terrorism) be turned into real actions? Finally, in cases where there are differences of opinions amongst EU members on complex issues (such as crisis in Greece or the Ukrainian conflict), how can these declared values, which are equal for everybody, be prioritised? These and other topical and acute questions were the subject of a vigorous discussion.

Public Lecture

Co-hosted together with the Europa Institute and the Politics and International Relations Transatlantic Seminar Series

Charles Hendry, MP

Britain's relations with Russia and the CIS – the way ahead

Thursday, 19th March

Our second prominent visitor in a single week was Professor Charles Hendry, Member of Parliament for Wealden since 2001, and Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change in 2010-2012. Professor Hendry's other posts included Shadow Energy Minister (2005-2010), Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party (2003-2005) and Shadow Minister for Young People. In 2012, the Prime Minister appointed him as Trade Envoy to Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. He has also been appointed as Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh, associated with both the Business School and the Academy of Government.

In his lecture, Charles Hendry presented a refreshingly optimistic opinion of political developments between Russia and the UK in the future. Whilst he acknowledges that the two countries have recently experienced a cooling in their relations, there still are impressive commercial and cultural exchanges going on between them. Charles Hendry believes that it is through these positive exchanges, as well as through University education, that the UK and Russia can gradually achieve a better mutual understanding. According to the speaker, the key to this understanding is the study of the Russian language in British universities, alongside the key concepts of Russian culture and historical features of self-



understanding in the Russian society. In turn, a major role in establishing Russian-British relations can be attributed to the practice of promoting visits of Russian students and young professionals to the UK, and their active involvement in educational processes, and academic and professional exchanges.



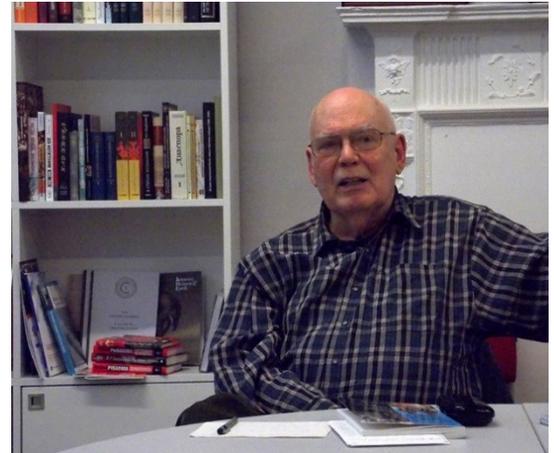
The Dashkova Open Research Seminar

Professor Paul Dukes, University of Aberdeen
The Urals: Russia's Crucible

Thursday, 5th March

Professor Dukes presented an account of cultural history of the Urals region through a collection of striking historic images including 19th century photographs and maps, as well as one of the first maps of the Urals that appeared in Europe in 1549.

Russia's 'Stone Belt', formed by the Ural Mountains, was considered from early times to mark the division between Europe and Asia, and this impression remains to this day. However, the Ural region has significance beyond that of a mere boundary, especially because of its mineral wealth, extracted in trying circumstances.



'Russia's Crucible' was an appropriate subtitle for this talk according to both dictionary definitions: 'a container in which metals and other substances may be melted or subjected to high temperatures', and 'a situation of severe trial, or in which different elements interact to produce something new'. Indeed, the Urals have produced and suffered much in what has been called a 'mining-industrial culture'.



The first coat of arms of Perm was adopted on July 17th, 1783 by a decree by Catherine the Great, which contained the following description: 'On a red field, a bear with a gilded New Testament on its back, and a silver cross above, this meaning – firstly, the savage manners of local inhabitants; secondly, enlightenment through the adoption of Christian Law'.

Paul Dukes has been to the Urals three times, and has first-hand experience of the so-called *горнозаводская* culture – the mining and metallurgical culture, which embraces folk legends of the golden hag (zlata baba) – a legendary idol worshiped by the indigenous people of the Urals. In his account of local cultural habits Paul Dukes also mentioned the local writer Pavel Bazhov. Indeed, Bazhov's collection of folk tales *The Malachite Casket* (1939) could be an excellent starting point for those wishing to discover the folklore of the region.



Paul Dukes is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Aberdeen and an expert in Russian, European and World History. He has published multiple books including *A History of Russia: Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary* (Macmillan, 34 editions published in 1974-1994), *The Making of Russian Absolutism, 1613-1801* (31 editions in 1982-2014) and *World Order in History: Russia and the West* (17 editions in 1995-2002).

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April 2015 Events



SLOVO 2015: The Russian Word in Edinburgh

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Date: Friday, 17th April, 6:30pm

Venue: Project Room, 50 George Square



The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre at the University of Edinburgh, in association with Academia Rossica, continues presenting a fascinating series of academic and public events with guest participation of award-winning Russian writers and intellectuals.

On the 17th of April, we will be delighted to host Leonid Parfenov, one of the most renowned award-winning journalists and TV presenters in modern Russia, the author of a range of projects that have defined an entire era of Russian television. In whatever genre he has worked, Parfenov has raised the bar for contemporary journalism. His acceptance speech for the 2010 Vladislav List'ev Prize became one of the stories of the year in Russia, when Parfenov launched a bold and impassioned defence of journalistic freedom.

As author and narrator for the TV show 'Namedni' on NTV, Parfenov produced a number of popular history documentaries. The series achieved great success and was repeatedly broadcast for years after its premiere. In his Dashkova presentation, entitled 'The USSR as an Antiquity', Leonid Parfenov will discuss his series of four books 'Namedni' (2009-2010) about the final decades of the Soviet Union, which capture the spirit of the period through subtle analysis of historical facts and popular opinion. The talk will be in Russian, with an English translation. The event is free but booking is essential. To book your seat, please go to <https://parfenov.eventbrite.co.uk>

News: Dashkova International Trainee



We are pleased to announce that Erika Perico, a first-year postgraduate student at the University of Milan, joined the Dashkova team on the 19th of March. Erika will stay in Edinburgh for 3 months, and will receive training in both research and academic events organisation.

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