

Section II. News on Archives, Holdings and Institutions.

New Declassifications in Russian Archives 2009.

Volume 10 (2009) of the declassification bulletin issued by Russia's Federal Archival Agency gives an overview of a multitude of declassified files in Russian state archives. The following declassifications might be of interest for studies on Communism:

- The *Archive of the President of the Russian Federation (APRF)* has declassified VKP(b)/CPSU materials on agricultural, *rabfak* and university matters, as well as rather selective parts of Leonid Brezhnev's personal fonds.
- The *Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (RGANI)* has declassified materials of meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties in Moscow 1956-1988; miscellaneous materials of the CPSU, such as reports on crime, sabotage and social unrest in the USSR; reports from the USSR Embassy in West Germany on contacts with various politicians (including Egon Bahr and Herbert Mies), reports from Soviet embassies in the GDR, North Korea and the CSSR; as well as various other materials that might turn out crucial for Cold War history as well as the social and cultural history of the Soviet Union.
- The *State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)* has declassified materials of the Council of People's Commissars, the Council of Ministers, the Council on Labor and Defense, and other state institutions of the USSR, mostly on defense questions; materials on Soviet-Korean relations; and, perhaps most intriguing, the archive of the radio station located at the Soviet Embassy in Trapezunt (now Trabzon), Turkey, 1920-1922.
- The *Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI)* has declassified selected VKP(b) materials on the famine of 1932-1933 and World War 2, as well as materials from the personal fonds of Andrei Andreev, Lazar' Kaganovich and Georgii Malenkov.
- The *Russian State Military Archive (RGVA)* has declassified vast materials on Soviet border patrol troops from 1918 until the mid-60s.

For a detailed report on the declassified files (in Russian), see <http://www.rusarchives.ru/secret/bul10/index.shtml>.

News on Journals.

- In the last *International Newsletter*, a new British annual journal on the history of Communism, *Twentieth Century Communism*, was announced. In June 2009, the first issue came out, concentrating on leader cults within Communism. For the table of contents and calls for papers for future issues, see <http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/journals/twentiethcenturycommunism/>.
- The *Archiv für Sozialgeschichte (Archive of Social History)*, one of Germany's most reknown scholarly periodicals focussing on social history and particularly the history of social movements, has published a vast number of essays and materials on the history of Communism over the years since its foundation in 1961. Now the complete journal is retro-

digitized (except for the last three volumes) and browsable/searchable for free at the website of the social-democratic Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the editor of the journal. For the digitized issues, see <http://library.fes.de/afs-online/>.

- *UTOPIE kreativ*, the historical-political journal of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, has been issued for the last time in December 2008. Thus, one of the most important historical periodicals affiliated with Germany's political Left has ceased to exist. The Foundation started publication of the *LuXemburg* instead (<http://www.zeitschrift-luxemburg.de>), yet it seems to have a much less historical focus than its predecessor.
- *East European Quarterly*, a journal issued by the University of Colorado, has ceased publication as well. It had included numerous essays relevant for the history of Communism. All back issues are still available, as are the monographs. If you are interested in obtaining a back issue or monograph, contact Prof. Emeritus Stephen Fischer-Galati at: eepublications@msn.com
- *Otechestvennaia istoriia*, one of Russia's leading historical journals, issued by the Institute of Russian History of the Academy of Sciences and known as *Istoriia SSSR* before 1990, has been renamed into *Rossiiskaia istoriia* since the beginning of 2009.
- *Internationale wissenschaftliche Korrespondenz zur Geschichte der deutschen Arbeiterbewegung (IWK)*, founded in 1965 by Henryk Skrzypczak and being one of the main German journals on the history of the labor movement, ceased publication at the Otto-Suhr-Institut (FU Berlin), and moved to the IISG in Amsterdam, as announced in a circular letter dated June 11, 2008.

Berlin: Archiv der Internationalen Brigaden im Bundesarchiv einsehbar.

Die von der *Vereinigung zur Förderung des Archivwesens e.V.* betriebene Digitalisierung des im Moskauer RGASPI (fonds 545 op. 1, 2). aufbewahrten Archivs der Internationalen Brigaden im Spanischen Bürgerkrieg (der *International Newsletter* berichtete) ist abgeschlossen. Eine Verlinkung der Images im Internet steht noch aus, dies wurde jedoch von der russischen Firma RusAR zugesagt. Die Digitalisate sind bereits im Benutzersaal des Bundesarchivs in Berlin-Lichtenfelde einsehbar. Für die Öffnungszeiten siehe <http://www.bundesarchiv.de>.

St. Petersburg: Autobiography of Kirov's Assassin Declassified.

A 56-pages autobiographical account of Leonid Nikolaev, a rank-and-file Communist who shot Leningrad's VCP(b) Secretary Sergei Kirov on December 1 1934, has been declassified by the FSB archives and is being prepared for publication by the Sergei Kirov Museum in St. Petersburg (<http://kirovmuseum.spb.ru>). The head of the museum, Tat'iana Sukharnikova, told the public on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the assassination that Nikolaev's motive has been revenge for his unemployment and thus had no political background (see <http://www.lenta.ru/news/2009/12/01/kirov/>). The murder of Kirov, through its instrumentalisation, is considered the catalyst of the Great Purges in the Soviet Union.

Paris: Encounter with Nikita Petrov, Memorial.

The National French Association of the *Maisons des sciences de l'homme*, in cooperation with the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales*, organized an encounter with the

Russian historian and *Memorial* activist Nikita Petrov, which took place on December 10 2009. It has been accompanied with the screening of a documentary film on *Memorial* and its activities.

The Assassination of Radek and Sokol'nikov: Document Published in France.

In a documentary appendix to his biography of KGB head Ivan Serov (*Ivan Serov. Pervyi predsedatel' KGB, Moskva, Materik, 2005*), Nikita Petrov published an internal report written by Serov in 1956, which confirms that the Bolshevik oppositionists Karl Radek and Grigorii Sokol'nikov were murdered by NKVD agents infiltrated into the prison because they talked too much about their trial. In 2009, the report was translated into French and published in *Cahiers du Mouvement Ouvrier*, N° 43, pp. 83-86. The issue can be obtained at <http://www.trotsky.com.fr/>.

Pobeda 1941-1945. Russian Photo Archives on World War II.

The Russian archival portal "Arkhivy Rossii" (<http://www.rusarchives.ru>) has launched a sub-portal called *The Victory: 1941-1945 (Pobeda. 1941-1945)*. It is available online at <http://victory.rusarchives.ru>, and contains 1638 photographic documents on World War II from a Soviet perspective, digitized with the participation of over 100 federal and regional archives in Russia. Eventhough the site's primary aim seems to underline the victorious engagement of the Soviet Union in World War II, and despite the topical categorisation, it is a highly valuable resource, since it not only puts online previously unknown WWII visual sources, but also states the exact archival signature with each photo, making the documents fully citeable in scholarly research. Thus the site may be considered a finding aid on WWII photography in Russian archives.

Fundação Amílcar Cabral/ Fundação Mário Soares: Memory of the Tarrafal Concentration Camp in Cape Verde.

In the context of the organization of an International Symposium about the Portuguese concentration camp of Tarrafal (28.4.-1.5.2009), the Mario Soares Foundation and the Amilcar Cabral Foundation opened a combined website publishing online the principal items, documents and illustrations of the exposition opened in Tarrafal at this occasion. The exposition was opened by the Premier of Cape Verde, José Maria Neves, who asked for a joined effort to convince the UNESCO to recognize the camp as "patrimony of mankind". The "camp of the slow death" ("campo de morte lenta") was situated at the island of Santiago and created under the Portuguese dictator Salazar. In a first period from 1936 to 1954 it was mainly directed against Portuguese antifascists and from 1961 to 1974 against the members of the liberation movements of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Among the 32 who died in the camp were anarchists and communists, like the general secretary of the Communist party, Bento Gonçalves. The most important illegal resistance group within the prisoners was the "Organização Comunista Prisional" (OCP, controlled by the Communist Party of Portugal), followed by the "Organização Libertária Prisional" (OLP). The duty of memory is described as the main aim of the website: "Moreover, the understanding of the importance of the historical legacy now evoked demands the consolidation of a museological project in Tarrafal – that preserves and keeps alive the memory of the common fight of the peoples from Portugal, Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, that must be extended to

the other countries of the CPLP [Community of Countries of Portuguese Language]. From the Utopia Generations to the Duty of Memory, it matters to reinforce the Ideals and Principles that must guide Citizenship and Human Rights in our democratic societies."

See <http://www.fmsoares.pt/aeb/dossier15/default.asp> for more information.

Recently Published in French Language: A Guide to the Comintern Archives.

The University of Burgundy released a guide presenting the Archives of the Communist International hosted by RGASPI in Moscow. This vade mecum is especially orientated to be a pathfinder to the digitised fonds of the Comintern Archives within the framework of the European and International INCOMKA project ("The International Committee for the Digitisation of the Comintern Archives") which may be consulted in France at the National Archives (Paris and Fontainebleau) and the Institute of Contemporary History at the University of Burgundy. In Germany these digitals (about 1.3 mio. pages) can be consulted by every German resident within the framework of a national licence agreement between the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Comintern Online database (<http://www.comintern-online.com/>). The book contains a foreword by the general director of the French National Archives, Martine de Boisdeffre, an introduction by Christian Oppetit from the aforementioned archive, and an extensive article summing up the history of the Communist International by Serge Wolikow. The short description of the individual fonds and "opisi" gives details about the description level, the period covered, the volume, the RGASPI and INCOMKA specifications, some characteristics of the provenance history and the organisational structure, the outlined content, the languages used in the documents, and the existing finding aids.

Serge Wolikow, Alexandre Courban, David François, Christian Oppetit: Guide des archives de l'Internationale communiste, Paris-Dijon, Archives nationales, Maison des sciences de l'homme, 2009. 336 p. ISBN: 978-2-86000-338-4.

The book may be ordered for the price of 20 euro at: Université de Bourgogne: UMR CNRS Ub 5605/IHC, 2, boulevard Gabriel, 21000 Dijon, France.

Neue Online-Ausstellung würdigt politische Häftlinge des KZ Oranienburg.

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Stiftung Brandenburgische Gedenkstätten und den Landesarchiven von Brandenburg und Berlin sowie dem Bundesarchiv haben Studierende eines Projektkurses des Otto-Suhr-Instituts für Politikwissenschaft an der Freien Universität Berlin eine Internet-Ausstellung mit dem Titel „Die politischen Häftlinge des Konzentrationslagers Oranienburg“ erstellt. An dem von den Professoren Siegfried Mielke und Günter Morsch geleiteten Projekt haben 20 Studierende und Wissenschaftler rund zwei Jahre lang gearbeitet. Die Ausstellung kann ab sofort auf der Website der Gedenkstättenstiftung unter <http://www.stiftung-bg.de/kz-oranienburg/> besucht werden.

Den narrativen Rahmen dieser Ausstellung, in deren Mittelpunkt mehr als 200 Biografien politischer Häftlinge stehen, bildet die Schrift „Oranienburg“ (1934) des ehemaligen Reichstagsabgeordneten Gerhart Seger. Durch seinen Bericht, den er nach seiner Flucht aus dem Lager veröffentlichte, wurde das Wort „Oranienburg“ international zum Synonym für den Terror der Nationalsozialisten. Neben der biografischen Darstellung prominenter politischer Häftlinge wie Friedrich Ebert jr., Ernst Heilmann, Kurt Magnus und Erich Mühsam

werden auch die Lebensgeschichten von weniger bekannten politisch Verfolgten, vor allem Sozialdemokraten, Kommunisten und Gewerkschaftern, präsentiert. Viele von ihnen gerieten nach dem Reichstagsbrand vom 28. Februar 1933 in die Terrorwelle der Nationalsozialisten und wurden als politische Gegner unter menschenunwürdigen Verhältnissen zusammengepfercht und misshandelt. In einer ehemaligen Brauerei mitten in der Kleinstadt vor den Toren Berlins richtete die örtliche SA am 21. März 1933, dem „Tag von Potsdam“, das erste Konzentrationslager in Preußen ein und hielt bis zu dessen Auflösung am 14. Juli 1934 etwa 3.000 Menschen gefangen. Mindestens 16 Häftlinge überlebten den grausamen KZ-Alltag nicht. In der Nacht vom 9. zum 10. Juli 1934 ermordeten die Nationalsozialisten den anarchistischen Schriftsteller und Politiker Erich Mühsam.

Berlin: Verfilmung, Digitalisierung, Indexierung und Herausgabe von SMAD-Dokumenten aus den Beständen des Russischen Staatsarchivs.

Im Rahmen des von der Volkswagenstiftung finanzierten Gemeinschaftsprojekts "Verfilmung, Digitalisierung, Indexierung und Herausgabe von SMAD-Dokumenten aus den Beständen des Russischen Staatsarchivs" (Kooperationspartner: Russisches Staatsarchiv/Moskau, Bundesarchiv/Berlin, Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung/Potsdam und University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill) ist beabsichtigt, eine zweibändige russischsprachige und eine einbändige deutschsprachige Dokumentation zum Thema "Die Wirtschaftspolitik der SMAD 1945-1949" herauszugeben. Das als Fondsedition konzipierte Vorhaben verfolgt das Ziel, anhand ausgewählter Praxisfelder der sowjetischen Wirtschaftspolitik in der SBZ Organisation und Arbeitsweise der SMAD zu dokumentieren, wobei insbesondere folgende thematische Schwerpunkte Berücksichtigung finden sollen: Reparationen, Aufbau und Entwicklung der deutschen zivilen Industrie, Landwirtschaft (Bodenreform), Handel und Versorgung, Verkehrswesen, Außen- und Interzonenhandel, Finanzen (Währungsreform). Darüber hinaus soll die Einbindung der sowjetischen Besatzungsorgane in Deutschland in das Beziehungsgeflecht der wirtschaftspolitisch relevanten Strukturen der UdSSR (Staatliches Verteidigungskomitee, Ministerrat/Ministerien, Rote Armee) verdeutlicht und ihr Verhältnis zu den entsprechenden deutschen Stellen dargestellt werden. Projektbearbeiter am ZZF ist Dr. Viktor Knoll, seitens des Bundesarchivs werden die Dokumente von Dr. Kai von Jena betreut. Weitere Informationen sind erhältlich unter http://www.zzf-pdm.de/site/mid_2932/ModelID_0/EhPageID_208/410/default.aspx und <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/aktuelles/projekte/00001/index.html>.

The Workers' Museum & The Labour Movement's Library and Archive.

The Labour Movement's Library and Archive is the main archive in Denmark for the Danish communist movement. Besides literature, papers, periodicals, posters, photos and banners, it possesses archival fonds on the Danish Communist Party (DKP), the youth (DKU), many local branches, many peace and solidarity organisations and a huge number of leading communists. The last six years "Communism in Denmark" has been a focus subject in regard to collecting, organizing, making finding aids, promoting collections and exhibitions. At the moment the institution is preparing the next yearbook which has DKP's history (-1989) as theme. It shall include contributions from seven experts on Danish communism.

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Moscow: Secret Katyn Documents Published on the Web.

As a reaction to an order by the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitrii Medvedev, Rosarkhiv put online documents from the famous "Package N° 1" (RGASPI, f. 17 op. 166 d. 621), handed from one Soviet leader to another and containing documents on the massacre of Katyn. Seven documents, digitized in color, are viewable online at <http://rusarchives.ru/publication/katyn/spisok.shtml>.

Berlin: Biographical Article on Skoblevskii-Roze Published.

Voldemārs Roze alias Petr Skoblevskii (1897-1939) has been a highly illustrious figure in the history of German communism: a Latvian Red Army commander, Roze was appointed leader of the "military apparatus" of the Communist Party of Germany in the wake of the "German October" 1923, sentenced to death in the "German Cheka-Trial" in 1925 and released into the Soviet Union in 1926 in exchange for German citizens. There have been numerous confusions about the identity and biography of Roze in literature, scholarly and otherwise. Berlin-based historian Jacques Mayer has now published a seminal article (in German), compiling all known information on Roze from German, Russian and Latvian literature and enriching it with previously inaccessible archival materials. The article can be read online at <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:kobv:11-10098012>.

Journal Article on Archives in the Russian Province.

The debate on an "archival counterrevolution" in Russia has been let intensely in the last years, yet it was to a large extent concerning only archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The situation in the Russian province has rarely been in the spotlight, and a recently published article by Sören Urbansky, doctoral candidate at Heidelberg University (Germany), has the aim to amend this disbalance. Urbansky accumulates his working experience during the past two years in the archives of East Siberia and the Russian Far East (Chita, Irkutsk, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk), as well as the experiences of two fellow researchers who have worked in Magadan and Tambov. The article offers a highly differentiated picture of the archival situation outside the capitals, which makes it difficult to uphold the image of an "archival counterrevolution" throughout the whole Russia. In several aspects, regional archives are likely to provide a much more uncomplicated access to archival sources, declassifying previously secret files within a few days, or sometimes even allowing researchers to make photographs of archival documents. Yet not all regional archives maintain such a researcher-friendly policy, and especially in formal party archives researchers are sometimes confronted with obstacles comparable to those faced by historians in Soviet times, such as the confiscation and censorship of the researcher's excerpts by the archival staff. Concerning the province's FSB archives, the chance of access is even thinner than in Moscow. Nevertheless – as stated in the article – provincial archives can provide great possibilities for research, and anyone who is doing archival research on Soviet history should consult this article.

Sören Urbansky: Auf in die Provinz! Recherchen in Russlands Regionalarchiven. In:

Osteuropa 59 (2009), 11, pp. 121-130.

Nouvelles de Belgique

Le *Centre des Archives Communistes en Belgique et le Centre d'histoire et de sociologie des gauches de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles* ont lancé un projet de recherche sur l'histoire des Jeunesses Communistes et de la Jeunesse Populaire de Belgique. Une série d'entretiens enregistrés sont en cours de réalisation et un premier séminaire a été tenu autour d'un premier master en sociologie (Sébastien François), défendu à l'Université de Louvain, consacré aux années 1970 à 1980. Le travail se poursuit parallèlement à l'inventorisation par le CARCOB des Archives de la JCB et de ses autres avatars : JGSU, JGP, JPB, ainsi que les copies du KIM Belgique reçues du RGASPI.

Le *Centre des Archives Communistes en Belgique (CARCOB)* a entièrement revu son site internet, dont l'adresse est désormais <http://www.carcob.eu>. On peut notamment consulter les catalogues des collections mis en ligne au fur et à mesure de leur réalisation. Viennent ainsi d'être intégrés l'inventaire des papiers de l'ancien ministre et dirigeant du PCB, Jean Terfve, les archives de la Fédération bruxelloise du PCB-KPB (1960-1999), celles de la Fédération boraine du PCB (1955-1978) et les papiers d'Ernest Burnelle, ancien Président du PCB (1911-1968), ces derniers contenant notamment le registre original aux délibérations du groupe de Liège de la Centrale Nationale du Personnel Enseignant Socialiste (1918- 1939).

Le *CARCOB* a consacré une journée d'études aux partis communistes étrangers en Belgique. Elle a abordé particulièrement les relations entre le PCB et les sections en Belgique des PC d'Italie, d'Espagne, de Tunisie et de Turquie. Les textes des interventions sont consultables (PDF) sur le site du Carcob (www.carcob.eu).

Le Centre d'histoire et de sociologie des Gauches de l'ULB ont tenu deux journées d'études consacrées en novembre 2009 à : « Il y a 40 ans, L'Autre Printemps : le mouvement de réformes en Tchécoslovaquie et les dissidences à l'Est. Leurs retombées en Belgique ». Y ont présenté des communications ou des analyses d'acteurs, des dirigeants d'époque du PCB, des responsables des divers comités de solidarité avec la Tchécoslovaquie et la Pologne, des militants, dirigeants et acteurs de toutes les familles politiques des gauches belge et internationale, ainsi qu'un fondateur de la Charte 77. Les interventions seront ultérieurement disponibles sur le site du Carcob.