

October 1944

200 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

> TELEPHONE CIRCLE 5-5377

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This is the first of a series of personal letters you will receive during the coming season from various members of the Board of Directors. We hope not only to keep you periodically informed of activities, plans, and the continuous progress of the Association, but also to encourage more true membership participation in the work of ARCA, such as distinguished our first year.

The American Russian Cultural Association is a non-profit membership organization not only in its legal aspect, but in life. We are an expanding group of individuals, cooperating to achieve cultural aims, pooling our ideas and efforts. If you reside far from New York we invite you to send in your ideas, and to volunteer your efforts. If you are within reach of our headquarters we invite you to pay us a visit. Through the ideas and efforts of one of our Annual members alone, Mr. E. Litvinoff, of Detroit, an ARCA Exhibition was held with great success a few months ago in the Detroit Institute of Arts. This was the beginning of a series of exhibitions which covered many states and continued throughout the summer. An interesting record of these successes. in the way of clippings, letters and photographs, is on file here.

Have you seen our current exhibition of cities and churches, historic monuments, architectural and cultural treasures of Russia, showing the war-time destructions and the plans for restoration? This unique photographic exhibition, which was received direct from Moscow, has attracted many visitors. If you have not yet had an opportunity to come in and see these photographs, I urge you to try and do so while they are still on view.

We have recently welcomed here a number of distinguished visitors, including Mr. Wm. L. McKim, of the Four Arts Society of Palm Beach, Miss Muriel Caswall, of the Boston Sunday Post, and Dorothy Stall, writer. It was our pleasure to send to Dr. Serge Koussevitsky, ARCA Honorary Advisor, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, a congratulatory letter in the name of the Association, and we also sent a cable to the Scientific Conference held at the Moscow University on June 5th.

You have received the invitation to our first lecture of the season, "U.S.S.R: Unity in Diversity", to be given here by Mr. Valery Tereshtenko, member of our Honorary Board, on Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 3 P.M., and we shall look foward to seeing you then

> Most condially yours, Dudley Fordick, President.

RCJ

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

November 1944

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Joseph J. Weed HONORARY BOARD

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It is my pleasure to address you personally at this time and to tell you of what has been transpiring here at headquarters during the past month.

On October 22nd we were honored by the presence of Valery Prof. Nicholas Roerich Honorary President J. Tereshtenko, one of our honorary board, who delivered Mrs. Samuel L. M. Barlow a lecture entitled, "U.S.S.R - Unity in Diversity". Mr. Tereshtenko came here from Washington where he is a member of the advisory board of U.N.R.R.A. His lecture was most Mrs. John Henry Hammond interesting and was enthusiastically received by a large audience of members and their friends.

This month will be featured by a lecture delivered by Rockwell Kent. Naturally, he will talk on art and the title of his address is "The People's Artist in the Soviet Union". He will be with us Sunday, November 19th, at 3:00 Prof. Paul Radosavljevich P. M. and, as you know, you are cordially invited to be Robert L. Redfield present at that time to hear and meet Mr. Kent.

> One of our members in the mid-west, Miss Magdalene Lehrer of Lansing, Michigan, has been very active recently and we owe her a debt of gratitude. She has arranged for exhibitions in many cities of special features prepared by ARCA covering various phases of the cultural life in Russia before and during the war. And she has been furthering the ends of our Association in many other ways, not the least of which is the preparation of lectures on music and art in Soviet Russia today.

We have received letters written by school children in Soviet Russia and addressed to American school children. If our Association can open a doorway of communication and understanding between the children of the two most powerful nations in the world, The United States and Russia, it will indeed have achieved its purpose.

As you know, this letter is only one of several and you shall hear from another member of the Board of Directors next month.

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc. December, 1944

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Magdalene Lehrer

Dudley Crafts Watson

Dear Member:

It is a pleasure for me to record for you the events of the last few weeks.

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The exhibition, "Historic Cities and Cultural Treasures of Soviet Russia", was shown at Adelphi College for 2 months, with great success. It was divided into several groups which were featured at the President's reception, the History Dept. and a hall where the Tolstoi Museum and illustrations to Gorki's works were displayed. Another ARCA exhibition was loaned to Mrs. Samuel L. M. Barlow the Sewanee University in Tenn. where it was viewed by 300 Navy men receiving their military training at the university.

The lecture given by Rockwell Kent on Nov. 19th evinced again Mrs. John Henry Hammondthat Mr. Kent is a splendid speaker as well as a distinguished artist. He spoke on "The People's Artist in Soviet Russia", and brought out in his lecture the parallel between the American and Soviet artist. The lecture was a powerful defense of culture and evoked great enthusiasm and interest in the audience.

> We are looking forward to our next lecture on Dec. 10th, by Olga Lang, who will speak on "Human Relations in Soviet Russia".

ARCA was requested recently to collect material which had appeared in American papers and periodicals pertaining to Stalingrad for an exhibition which is to be held in the USSR. Stephen Sikorski, another of our most helpful active members. devoted a great deal of research to this, collecting valuable Midwestern Representative material which has already been dispatched to Stalingrad. Mr. Sikorski deserves an expression of gratitude from ARCA for his untiring cooperation.

> A class of 30 students from a public school in Staten Island visited ARCA for a two hour morning session on Nov. 14th, when I spoke to them on School Children, Art, Theatre and Sports in Soviet Russia. The children were keenly interested, plying us with many questions. The peak of excitement was reached when Mr. Fosdick read to them 3 letters from Russian school children to American school children. The entire class expressed the desire to answer these letters, through ARCA who will act as intermediary between the school children of the two countries. Should you wish to have copies of these 3 letters from the Russian school children, we will be glad to send them to you.

With a cordial hand-shake.

Yours sincerely.

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

January 1945

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Magdalene Lehrer
Midwestern Representative

ARCA is at present working on the preparation of several exhibitions pertaining to painting and graphic art of Soviet Russia. Rather unusual material in this respect has been received from the Soviet Union, as well as many interesting publications and books, which have been added to our Reference Library.

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An exhibition of Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of the Soviet Union was loaned by ARCA to the Bowers Memorial Museum in Santa Ana, California and will stay there until Jan. 16th.

The lecture given by Olga Lang on Dec. 10th, on "Human Relations Mrs. John Henry Hammond in Soviet Russia" drew a very sympathetic audience. Mme. Lang gave an interesting outline of the principles and ethics which govern the life of the people in Soviet Russia as well as the marked characteristics of the "Soviet man" as representative of a new generation.

> From material and data received from the USSR, two prepared lectures have been compiled -- one on "Art in Soviet Russia" and one on "Music in Soviet Russia" -- and are now ready for use by ARCA members who may wish to give them before women's clubs, libraries or any organization with which they are connected.

Mrs. Valentina Dutko, another of our active members, has been of great help recently in voluntary work for ARCA. She has translated a very fine article by I. Ehrenburg, "Thoughts about the Future", which appeared in "Pravda", in May. She has also translated other material received from the Soviet Union, pertaining to music, art and science.

The next public event planned by ARCA is an exhibition of a group of photographs of the paintings of well-known artists in Soviet Russia, to be shown in January.

You may be interested to learn that I have found some important and hitherto unknown material in the American Libraries pertaining to the influence of Jefferson on Eastern Europe and the American-Russian relations in the 18th and first half of the 19th Centuries. I am at present preparing a paper on the above which, I hope, will be published in the United States and USSR.

Dr. E. Markoff



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Midwestern Representative

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TELEPHONE

October 1945

Dear ARCA Member:

As we begin the 1945 fall season, we are more than ever convinced of the value and urgency of the work and plans adopted by the American Russian Cultural Association at its inception. We ask all members to cooperate especially now in two ways - attend ARCA events, and bring more friends into membership.

Good will and active cooperation between America and Russia is as essential to reconstruction as it was to the winning of the war, and it will continue to be essential in the building of a new world at peace. "Peace Through Culture" has been advocated by our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich, for many years - not only since but long prior to the founding of ARCA. Nations and peoples must understand each other, and must know, appreciate, and exchange each other's cultures. We are still fighting ignorance and prejudice, and the United States and the Soviet Union are two countries most advantageously situated to set the example in this difficult period.

During the past 4 months ARCA has handled widely varying inquiries: From the Y.W.C.A. of Bridgeport, about planning a lecture series on Russia; from the National Council of Jewish Women, of Pittsburgh, about a speaker on Russia for the fall; from the University of Oregon Library, about Russian folk songs; from the Hudson Shore Labor School, about Art Theaters in Russia; from Dr. C. Hirt, of the University of Southern California, about Russian liturgical music; from the U.S. National Council of Nurses, about nurses in the USSR; and from many individuals about Russia's culture in general, her economic structure, the Far Eastern question, Soviet music and composers, writers, artists, illustrators.

ARCA exhibitions have continued to travel widely throughout the summer, being shown in New York, Michigan, Florida and California. During the months of June and July War Front Drawings by Soviet Artists were shown at ARCA. During August and September Soviet Graphic, an exhibition recently prepared by ARCA, was shown. Both these Exhibitions attracted many visitors.

On June 13th a cable was sent to the President of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow, extending ARCA's felicitations on the 220th Anniversary of founding of the Academy.

Early in September extensive preparations were started for a course in the Russian language, under Dr. E. Markoff, to be inaugurated on Oct. 11th, and to run for 33 weeks.

During the month of August, over 300 letters were sent out to Superintendents of Boards of Education in the United States, recommending the teaching of Russian in the high schools of this country. The majority of replies received thus far welcome the idea, and we have been notified that high schools in California, Oregon and Nebraska have already begun courses in Russian.

Letters were received from cultural leaders in Holland and Sweden who are planning to form institutions similar to ARCA in their respective countries, and who are asking ARCA for advice and cooperation.

Sina Fosdick's article, "Peace Through Culture", appeared in the Eastern Art Association Bulletin, May 1945 issue. The following editor's note was received by ARCA: "I have had loads of requests for your article from people all over the country. Thanks". Signed L. I. de Francesco.

Mrs. Fosdick and I, being in California in September, availed ourselves of the opportunity to be present at the opening of the ARCA exhibition at the Public Library in Los Angeles, and also visited the Manual Arts High School, and made many contacts looking toward future ARCA exhibitions and lectures in this area.

The first lecture of the season here in New York will be given on Oct. 28th by Mari Tolstoy, granddaughter of Leo Tolstoy. She will speak on Leo Tolstoy and Life in Yasnaya Polyana.

All members will receive announcements and invitations to forthcoming ARCA events, and are again urged to attend and to interest friends.

Most sincerely.

Dudley Fordick, Pres.

The Armageddon of war is ended, and now humanity must realize and solve the problem of the Armageddon of Culture. ARCA is an arc of magnanimous mutual understanding. Under this benevolent arc let a structure of true invincible Culture be strongly buttressed. Not a shaky civilization which at times forgets about humaneness, but glorious Culture - that inextinguishable torch upon the paths of ascent - shall be our common goal.

ARCA is not going to speak about war, about the horrors which have overtaken a confused humanity. ARCA is a messenger of joy, a messenger of luminous constructiveness. Nations must join hands not only in mutual defense, but for mutual progress. ARCA brings true information, and its work is for a strong peace, for universal peace.

Mme. Roerich has written already about a timely rebirth of the Banner of Peace - our Red Cross of Culture. Yes, it is time to speak again about cultural values. This activity is inseparably close to the work of ARCA. The field of culture is vast, and on such a spacious pasture all, from small to great, can find application for beneficient endeavor. During recent years the world has seen so much vandalism, so much savage cruelty! The Red Cross of Culture must glow again.

Recall the great international names who subscribed to and endorsed the Banner of Peace. The archives of our Conventions carry indelible and beautiful words which cannot be erased by any vandalism. If timid ones will doubt, and will question the possibility of raising again the Banner of Culture, let them know that it will not require overburdening, and that Culture is not dependent on wealth.

Fruitful seeds can be sown in one's own circle, in the garden of his best striving. Everyone has access to the printed word and can use this instrument for common good. All dream of peace, of enduring peace, but it will not come through international policing; neither will it be affirmed by "don'ts" and threats. Peace must be molded first in the human heart, and the heart can develop capacity for full trust only through Culture.

"Peace Through Culture" is our constant motto. Events have proven that Culture is necessary as a protective shield for humanity. If anyone imagines that a "civilized" man cannot become savage, he is mistaken. A civilized avage is the ugliest spectacle. Therefore let us again rally around the anner of Peace. It is not necessary to overwork, but let us work, under the Red Cross of Culture, utilizing every possibility toward the healing of humanity's wounds.

In this endeavor gather small nuclei throughout the face of the earth. Each such good-creating cell somewhere, somehow will ennoble, will elevate the thoughts. They will create new strongholds of Culture. The cementing of space for Common Good is a panacea within reach of everyone. Let your words about Culture, about everything Beautiful, about that which makes the human heart live, ring out incessantly.

Greetings from the Himalayas!

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Magdalene Lehrer
Midwestern Representative

November 1945

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Sina Fosdick Executive Director Dear ARCA Member:

It is a real pleasure to send you this month a greeting from our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich. You will find enclosed herewith his special message addressed to the members of ARCA from India.

The past month has been marked by several activities of interest. On October 28th Mari Tolstoy, the grand-daughter of Leo Tolstoy, gave a talk on her famous grand-parent and life in his home, Yasnaya Polyana. She was introduced to a large and appreciative audience by the newly elected member of the Board of Directors. Lt. Col. David Fogel.

On November 18th ARCA presented a recital of Russian music given by the gifted pianist, Miss Hazel Harrison. She played works by Medtner, Rachmaninoff, Prokofieff, Stravinsky and others. Miss Harrison is a brilliant technician as well as a fine musician and her offerings were enthusiastically received.

During the month the Agent General for India, Mr. Natarajan, asked and was granted permission to reprint in publications in India the lecture given here last year by our Honorary Advisor. Valery J. Tereshtenko, entitled "USSR: Unity in Diversity". Also during the month ARCA had exhibits of photographs and paintings on display in the Michigan State Library, Lansing, Michigan; the Egyptian Museum, San Jose, California; the A.A.F. School, Orlando, Florida and the Art Gallery of the Tuscan School, Maplewood, New Jersey.

On November 17th our headquarters was visited by a group of 35 New Jersey school administrators and teachers. They viewed our permanent exhibition of Nicholas Roerich paintings and the current exhibition of "Soviet Graphic". Miss Magdalene Lehrer delivered a talk on graphic art and Mrs. Fosdick followed with a lecture on "The Ideals and Aspirations of Russian Culture".

In closing, let me emphasize the statement of Prof. Roerich that "Peace Through Culture" is our motto. Let us do all we can to further the cause of culture.

Sincerely yours.

Joseph J. Weed, Dir.

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December 1945

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Dudley Fosdick President

Ingeborg Fritschi Secretary-Treasurer Dear Member:

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Katherine S. Campbell

Lt. Col. David Fogel Dr. E. Markoff Leonide Massine Joseph J. Weed

Sina Fosdick Executive Director ARCA extends most cordial wishes for the New Year. Eventful 1945 has taken its place in history. Let us hope that the United Nations' constructive efforts in 1946 will not fail posterity in the insurance of permanent peace for mankind. ARCA's effort will continue in the direction of American-Russian friendship based on the ideals of culture.

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Inquiries have been received from teachers and students of colleges in California, District of Columbia, Michigan, New Jersey, Indiana, Idaho, North Carclina, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin. They have requested of us material pertaining to Russian art. Mrs. John Henry Hammond music, and literature to be used for theses and instruction.

Through the active assistance of Mrs. B. Sendzimir, an ARCA member residing in Pittsburgh, the ARCA exhibitions "A Year of Great Victories" and "War Drawings by Soviet Artists" will be Maria Kurenko
Dr. G. H. Paelian
Gregor Piatigorsky
Prof. Paul Radosavljevich

Maria Kurenko
held there in a leading department store under the auspices of
Russian War Relief. An exhibition was sent to State Teachers'
College, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, consisting of "History of USSR" and twenty-four reproductions of Professor Roerich's paintings, to be displayed for the month of January. The exhibition "Russians at War and in Peace" was sent to the Egyptian Museum in San Jose, California, to be displayed also for the month of January.

Magdalene Lehrer Midwestern Representative Several monographs and catalogs on the art of the American sculptor, Boris Lovet-Lorski were forwarded to Mr. S. Gerasimov, Chairman of the Moscow Union of Soviet Artists. This important material will be used to acquaint Russian artists with the work of outstanding American artists.

> In a very enthusiastic letter received from Mrs. Swayzee, Chairman of the League of Women Voters, Chevy Chase, Maryland, to whom ARCA recommended Mr. V. Tereshtenko as a lecturer for their November meeting, she writes as follows: "You must be doing a really effective job in your Association if Mr. Tereshtenko is an indication of your potentiality. We are most grateful."

> The Netherland Russian Cultural Association has been in correspondence with ARCA for some time. In the past, ARCA has offered advice and suggestions in patterning the work in their country along the line of ours. They have written to subscribe to an Institution Membership in ARCA, thus becoming the first foreign group member.

On December 6, the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee was inaugurated by the Directors of ARCA to continue with its

activities which were interrupted during the war. Mr. Weed was elected Chairman and a program of activities is being prepared.

On December 9, Dr. B.A. Liu, a well-known Chinese lecturer and educator, lectured on "The Seven Liberal Arts of the Chinese". He stressed particularly painting, poetry, love for a cultivation of flowers among the seven arts which are greatly enjoyed by the Chinese in daily life. Mr. Weed, who was Chairman of the day, presented Dr. Liu. The audience greatly enjoyed the lecture.

On December 11, twenty-three students of a Long Island public school escorted by their teacher, Mrs. Greenblatt, visited ARCA. Mrs. Fosdick spoke to them for two hours on children's literature in Soviet Russia, their interest in music and art, their sport activities, and the children's education in public schools. The student audience ranging in age from nine to thirteen years showed great interest in the talk and asked many intelligent questions.

Today, active and discharged servicemen are struck by the national and international conflicts splashed in newspaper print. These conflicting issues are not the ideals which motivated their glorious combat effort. Certainly, they are not the insurance for a permanent, universal peace. Wherein, then, does the solution lie? The serviceman has the keynote, if not the answer, in the ageless teaching, "Know thy neighbor."

For the first time Americans have become acquainted with themselves and their allies. This acquaintance was made in military barracks, ship hulls, bomber compartments and battlefield fox-holes. These meeting places are no respectors of prejudice. In adversity, danger, and battle victory a mutual understanding was born. It must continue to live -- for it is the sole foundation of universal peace.

Where personal contact was absent a substitute was found. In search for knowledge of his brothers-in-battle the soldier referred to Allied Culture. Again, he found the instrument of understanding. Witness the re-birth among servicemen of Tolstoy's "War and Peace". This one work of Russian genius did more to establish a common ground between Americans and Russians than frequent fraternization. The begrimed, battle-scarred soldier had a new sense of awareness for culture. It was no longer the monopoly of a few - but a benevolent torch for the illumination of all. The re-birth of this concept made his condemnation of World War II vandalism so flagrant and final.

The war's end brought the termination of personal contact. Now, more than ever, we must resort to the contact through culture - the contact which is mutual understanding. Culture must be preserved, fostered and availed to all to insure permanent universal peace. Let us champion our Honorary President's constant motto:

"PEACE THROUGH CULTURE".

Cordially yours,

Marid W. Fogel.
David H. Fogel, Lt. Col.

Director

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> TELEPHONE **CIRCLE 5-5377**

February 1946

Dear ARCA Member:

As stated in the January Letter, we are reviewing here the ARCA activities for both January and February.

On January 20, Prof. Roman Jakobson gave a brilliant lecture on "The Ancient Russian Epic". A large audience, consisting mainly of teachers, educators and librarians, besides ARCA members, was deeply interested in Prof. Jakobson's topic, as he is a recognized authority in this country on Slavic culture. He dwelt at length on the culture of Russia in the 11th and 12th Centuries, and gave a profound interpretation of one of Russia's greatest epic poems, "The Tale of the Raid of Igor", accompanying it with a great deal of data and critical analysis, and views of many foreign scholars.

Olga Lang, who started a beginners' class in Russian last fall at ARCA, had to leave suddenly for Europe, where she was sent by the U. S. War Dep't. as an interpreter at the Nurnberg Trials. Mari Tolstoi was invited to substitute in her absence, and is continuing the beginners' class.

In furthering our efforts to promote the teaching of the Russian language in the high schools of this country. letters were sent to Columbia and New York Universities. and to the Board of Higher Education, N.Y.C., asking these institutions to allow the same credit points for Russian as for other languages to high school students upon entrance. Their replies stated that they favor the project with certain stipulations and reservations.

Mr. V. Tereshtenko's article "USSR: Unity in Diversity" appeared in the magazine "20th Century", a publication in India. Another weekly magazine, "Concord", of Calcutta, India, in its January 1946 issue, carried an article by Krishna Chaitania, "Unity in Diversity --- Russian Achievement", based upon quotations from the lecture given by Mr. Tereshtenko at ARCA last season.

Active correspondence continues with the Instituto de Intercambio Cultural Mexicano-Ruso, the Netherlands-Russian Cultural Institute in Holland, and the Russian Institute of Stockholm University, in Sweden, --- accompanied by the exchange of material between these institutions and ARCA.

An interesting paper was received from Dr. Paul Kolachov, Washington, D. C. scientist, on "Cultural Relations Between the USA and USSR". He also expressed thanks for the material which was sent to him by ARCA for the preparation of this paper.

Several packages were shipped to VOKS, Moscow, containing: "The American Journal of Archaeology" for 1943, 44, and 45; several issues of "The Oak Leaf", school paper of the Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; 17 issues of "Science News Letter"; Bulletins of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for 1943, 44, and 45. Two copies of a book of poems by Irina Yassen, ARCA member, were sent to VOKS, one for their library, and one to be transmitted to the Union of Soviet Writers and Poets.

Many ARCA exhibitions were active throughout the United States during January and February: The MacMillan Publishing House, exhibited in their Fifth Avenue window, six ARCA photographs depicting the staging of famous plays in Soviet Russia. These were shown in connection with their new publication, "Six Soviet Plays". The window display was very effective, and MacMillan's expressed their appreciation for the loan of the exhibit. Two ARCA exhibitions had successful showings at The Egyptian Museum, San Jose, Calif., "Russians at War and in Peace" during January, and "History of the USSR" during February. Wisconsin State Teachers' College exhibited "24 Reproductions of Roerich Paintings" and "History of the USSR" during January; the University of Wisconsin exhibited "15 Soviet Artists" and "24 Reproductions of Roerich Paintings" during February, at Elizabeth Waters Hall. Miss Sarah G. Ross informed us that both exhibitions aroused great interest among the students.

ARCA Reference and Research Library supplied data on various topics to many visitors, including Dr. Konstantine Z. Fournadjieff of Yale University, who was interested in pre-school education and the kindergarten system in Soviet Russia. Mr. A. Dubitsky secured data pertaining to Turkestan, and Miss Patricia Brown, of Readers' Digest, obtained information pertaining to sports activities in the USSR.

Prof. James F. Grainger, State Teachers' College, Farmville, Va., requested suggestions and help in securing speakers, exhibits, and material in connection with their project of holding an Institute on Soviet Russia during their summer season. ARCA replied with a letter outlining many possibilities and suggestions for this project. Dr. Brown, President of Panzer College of Physical Education and Hygiene, East Orange, N. J., requested pictures of Russian folk dance costumes. Other interesting inquiries came from colleges, libraries, and lecturers from several states, requesting information pertaining to art and music in Soviet Russia, and in some cases, asking for special exhibitions which could be used in schools, colleges, and churches. ARCA also sent literature and material to the Free Public Library in Cranford, N. J. at their request.

The second semester of my advanced Russian course at ARCA began in January with several new students added to the class. A letter giving full details of this course was sent to Dr. E. S. Mooney, Assistant Commissioner for Teachers' Education in Albany, N. Y. at his request. In my work undertaken at the invitation of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, I completed the research pertaining to Benjamin Franklin and the Russian Academy of Sciences, having found interesting data as yet unknown and unpublished. This is one of the many evidences of the uninterrupted friendship between the USA and the USSR, since the beginning of American history.

Sincerely yours,

J2 E. Marroff.

Dr. E. Markoff, Director.

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

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200 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK 19. N. Y.

> TELEPHONE **CIRCLE 5-5377**

Dear ARCA Member:

Reviewing for you ARCA activities for February and March, we are pleased to report, first, the success that has accompanied the efforts of Mr. V. Tereshtenko, Honorary Advisor, who, while stationed in Kiev, Ukraine, as an economic advisor with UNRRA, has established contact between the Ukrainian VCKS and ARCA. A "Ukrainian Corner" is to be set up in our Research and Reference Library, in New York, which will hold newspapers, magazines, books, and music of the Ukrainian people. In turn, ARCA will send to the VOKS of Ukraine music records, music, books by leading American writers, magazines dealing with art, literature, cinema, theatre, and related subjects. ARCA is most gratified to begin this cooperation with the Ukrainian Republic in the field of culture.

Articles by Dr. E. Markoff, Director, and material relating to her research and work in the U.S.A., were sent by ARCA to the Pan-Slavic Committee in Moscow. Dr. Markoff recently received a third grant from the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia for her continued research on the relations between that Society and the Russian Academy of Sciences in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

A much appreciated donation of two dozen folding chairs has been received from Miss Ingeborg Fritschi. Secretary and Member of the Board.

The following letter was received in February from the Library of Congress: "The Librarian of Congress has re-

quested me to acknowledge with many thanks your gift of a file of Moscow News, including thirty-nine numbers, which you have so generously made to the Library" - signed, Thomas R. Barcus, Chief, Exchange and Gift Division.

A letter was received from the University of Kentucky. thanking us for a previous gift of material for their library and welcoming our offer to send them copies of Moscow News.

Some splendid Monographs on "Serov", "Levitan", "Repin", and other great Russian masters of painting, have been received from VOKS, Moscow. Newspapers, magazines, VOKS Bulletins, and latest books of fiction and poetry also have been received and added to our Library. ARCA has again written to VOKS, Moscow, a letter of sincere appreciation for their continued cooperation.

Mrs. Katherine Campbell, Director, has been instrumental in preparing a new ARCA exhibition, "Life in Soviet Russia". utilizing photographs received from VOKS, Moscow. This exhibition has been viewed and warmly commented upon by many visitors. It will be continued through April and May.

A second ARCA exhibition was held in Pendle Hill for five weeks in February and March, following which ARCA received a letter from Dr. Elton Atwater in which he writes: "..... thank you for loaning us the second exhibit of prints, 'Artists of Soviet Russia'. Our course in Russian came to a close last Friday with a lecture by Dr. John Somerville on Russian Literature. The course aroused much interest, and we greatly appreciate your help in making it a success. The exhibits were particularly well liked".

One thousand visitors saw the exhibition "Historic Cities, Ancient Churches and Cultural Monuments of Soviet Russia", held for one month at Mohawk College. Very favorable reviews appeared in the "Mohawk Calumet", the college magazine, and in the "Utica Daily Press" of January 31st. Dr. Joseph J. Raymond, Department of Modern Languages of Mohawk College, ends his letter to ARCA with the following: "We would appreciate any suggestions from you for developing better cultural relations between the U.S.A. and Soviet Russia. Thank you for your kindness in lending us such a worth-while exhibition".

The exhibition "Historic Cities, Ancient Churches and Cultural Monuments of Soviet Russia" was sent in February to Mr. Robert P. Griffing, Director of Education at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in Hawaii. As arranged in previous correspondence, we also sent with the exhibition some ARCA literature, VOKS Bulletins, and other informative material.

The exhibition "Graphic Art of Soviet Russia" was on display at Dartmouth College during the month of March.

On March 20th ARCA Member, Marjorie Nichols, was given the exhibition "24 Reproductions of Paintings by Prof. Nicholas Roerich", to be exhibited for about two weeks at Columbia High School, Maplewood, N. J., where Miss Nichols is teacher of English.

On March 30th Irina Khrabroff gave a lecture on "Russian Poets - Past and Present". Mme. Khrabroff's lectures before several hundred clubs and cultural organizations have attracted considerable note in this country. Most of her talk for members and friends of ARCA was devoted to the classic poets of Russian literature, Pushkin, Lermontov, and Tutschev. Mme.Khrabroff read many of the poems of these great poets of Russia in her own translations, which are very sensitive and beautiful. Coming to the Soviet poets, she spoke of Essenin, Block, and Mayakovsky. Several of Mayakovsky's poems were read, and Mme. Khrabroff ended her lecture with his well known poem "Spring", also in her own, most vivid, translation. A lively discussion arose after the lecture, as Mme. Khrabroff answered questions from the audience.

On March 27th Mrs. Fosdick gave a second lecture, "Human Values in Russian Literature", at Columbia High School, Maplewood, N.J. The audience consisted of members of the English Club - students of Columbia High School and faculty members. Mrs. Fosdick spoke chiefly about Tolstoi, Gorky and Chekhov, reading excerpts from their writings and giving broad characteristics of the psychology and human values presented in Russian literature. The audience was very responsive.

On March 28th Dr. Markoff gave a lecture in French for Ecole Libre, New York, on "Rumanian Literature and Pushkin". She was presented by the Rumanian Ambassador, Hon. Mihai Ralea. Dr. Markoff gave a scholarly and most versatile lecture on the influence of Rumanian popular literature and folk songs on Pushkin during his stay in Bessarabia.

Mrs. Benjamin Van Wye, ARCA member, wrote on March 26th, asking for material for several club papers on Russian Art and Russian Theatre. She is scheduled to speak on "Russian Art" in Cincinnati on April 29th, and on "Russian Theatre" on May 13th. ARCA sent her extensive material for both talks.

During the past two months ARCA has continued to handle the usual wide variety of requests for information, including inquiries from New York Times, Hotels Assn. Magazine, Time Magazine, Town and Country, New York School for Social Work, Readers Digest, Brooklyn Ethical Culture School, and from university, college, high school, private school and grade school students.

One student, from Columbia University, requested data with which to prepare an article on the use of Russian language in the United States. Mrs. Fosdick suggested she might write also to Prof. H. Josselson, ARCA member in Detroit, who is Chairman of the Russian Word Count Committee of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages.

Two students from N.Y.U., who came for research work in the ARCA Library, collecting material for a scrap book on life, culture, family, etc. in the USSR, were given the following material: Moscow News, Dec. 22, 1946 and January 9, 1947; "Drama in Wartime Russia", by H.W.L.Dana; "Why Study Russia", by John Somerville; VOKS Bulletins 1945 and 1946; Speeches by V. M. Molotov, Nov. - Dec. 1946; Speech by N. Novikov, Dec. 13, 1946; Embassy Bulletins of Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 1946 and Dec. 1945.

On March 18th seventeen students of the Mills School, New York private school for girls, visited ARCA to view the current exhibition of Soviet photographs. Mrs. Fosdick talked to the girls, who were very eager to learn about the life, customs, and cultural activities in Soviet Russia and also greatly admired Prof. Roerich's paintings. Later in the week many more students from the Mills School visited ARCA.

A request has come from the Clara De Hirsch Residence for Women, New York, asking us to put them on our mailing list, since they would be interested in ARCA programs.

A letter was received from the Psychiatric Quarterly, Utica State Hospital, Utica, N. Y., asking if we could help them to exchange publications with a certain psychiatric publishing house in Moscow with whom contact had been lost during the war. After an exchange of correspondence this contact, with the "Moscow Library of the Neuro-Psychiatric Clinic", was re-established, and ARCA was thanked for its efforts in behalf of the Utica State Hospital.

Miss Marjorie Dycke, teacher of diction at Hunter College, requested assistance in obtaining a Russian book, "Theory and Practice of the Living Theatre Newspaper", by Vakhomin and Permiaka, published in 1929 in Moscow. She was preparing a thesis on the "Living Newspaper", and had visited Dr. Dorosh, of the Library of Congress in Washington, who had directed her to ARCA. After considerable discussion with Mrs. Fosdick, who offered to write to Moscow but advised of probable delays, Miss Dycke finally visited the N. Y. Public Library, where she found the pamphlet "Zhivaya Gazeta", by Kachalov, and had it photostated. She ended her letter of March 1st as follows: ".... Although this cannot possibly be as thorough as the other, it may serve my purposes. It may be possible for me to have it translated by a friend. If not, I shall be calling on you again! The enclosed membership application and check are a token representation of two feelings - my belief in the aims of your organization - and my gratitude for your very kind assistance".

A week later Miss Dycke brought the booklet by Kalachov to ARCA, for help in preparing the dissertation for her P.H.D. at New York University on the subject of "Russia's Living Newspaper". Mrs. Fosdick worked with her translating practically the entire book, while Miss Dycke took notes. Miss Dycke expressed deep appreciation, stating that she now has most of the material needed for her dissertation.

Elizabeth Seeger, author of "Pageant of China History", "American Boy Visits the Orient", and other books, requested material pertaining to the Russia of the 12th, 13th and 14th Centuries, as she is writing a "History of Russia for Children".

On March 28th Miss Nirska, Ballerina of Music Hall, New York, called to say that she is planning to stage in the fall a ballet "One World", and that she would like to have cooperation from organizations such as ARCA.

Mrs. Fosdick offered assistance in regard to the Russian ballet whenever Miss Nirska will be advanced enough in her plans to require such assistance.

On March 25th a representative of the club, "Challenge", consisting of young people of ages 18 to 25, a branch of "American Youth for Democracy", New York, came in to ask for literature, pamphlets, posters, etc., to be lent to this club for a broadly illustrative Soviet Russian exhibition, and a few days later the following material was given to them: 1945 VOKS Bulletin; 18 Embassy Bulletins; Album - "Leningrad and Stalingrad"; "Sixteen Soviet Republics"; "The Youth of Heroic Leningrad"; "Soviet Art in Wartime"; "Soviet Woman", a magazine; Education Bulletin, December 27, 1945; five photo-dance scenes; Album on various phases of Russian life.

A letter was written on March 20th to Mr. B. Tseboev, VOKS, Moscow, enclosing the following: Copy of a letter from Mohawk College pertaining to an ARCA exhibition; a review of that exhibition in the Utica newspaper, an announcement card of our current lecture; ARCA also sent a large number of American magazines on art and science, Museum Bulletins, and other publications; and a copy of a review of Nina Potapova's Grammar by Anna Sementa, which had just been received from Edinburg, Scotland. VOKS had previously sent copies of this new grammar to ARCA, requesting special reviews, and ARCA had forwarded one copy to Mme. Semenova. ARCA's letter to Mr. Tseboev also raised questions as to future exhibitions, asking for some new material and also 16 mm. films.

The ARCA Literary Circle, a new project which we previously announced would be inaugurated this season, is now meeting regularly once a month. At the Organization Meeting of February 14, with Mrs. Fosdick as Chairman, plans for procedure were agreed upon and recorded. It was noted that the potentialities of this undertaking are great and that it may prove to be of significant influence on the American mind. The importance was recognized of the possibility to develop a comparative analysis of the literatures of Russia and America.

In so far as is possible, each meeting will dwell on two great writers, one Russian and one American, whose style and creative ideas run parallel, thus providing material for discussion as to comparative values and influences. Later, each meeting may deal with one writer only, perhaps alternating from month to month between Russian and American writers.

The first meeting of March 21st was devoted to Pushkin and Washington Irving. Dr. Markoff gave a brief address on Pushkin and Miss Nichols spoke on Washington Irving. Irving's "Golden Cockerel" and Pushkin's "Golden Cockerel" were then read, by Mr. H. Mann and Dr. D. Gordon respectively, followed by general discussion.

Cordially yours,

Sina Fosdick, Exec. Dir.

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

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March. 1948

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TELEPHONE **CIRCLE 5-5377**

Dear ARCA Member:

The recent months have been crowned with many gratifying results. The two final lectures by Prof. John Somerville brought to a brilliant ending his series "The Culture of the Soviet Union". For the benefit of those of our members who could not be present, we shall give below in some detail the content of these lectures.

Our correspondence takes on wider dimensions, letters coming from libraries, colleges, educational institutions, as well as writers, musicians and people in many walks of life. It seems that interest in Soviet Culture is very much alive, in spite of differences in the political field. We are, therefore, determined to continue as steadfastly as ever on the path of furthering cultural unity and ties of friendship between the two nations. This road may be thorny at present. but magnanimity and good-will must prevail!

Our exhibitions attracted a number of interested visitors who commented upon the vividness of color and fine technique of contemporary Soviet painters.

A considerable increase in visitors anxious to see the superb paintings of Prof. Nicholas Roerich was especially noticeable, and in these first months of 1948 there came old friends and new from California, Canada, Switzerland, India and other countries.

It was gratifying to learn from Mme. E. I. Roerich that an exhibition of Prof. Roerich's paintings had recently opened in Delhi, India, and was attended by tremendous crowds. At the opening, Prime Minister Nehru made a beautiful speech

about the significance of Prof. Roerich's art and creativeness, especially emphasizing the idea and importance of the Banner of Peace. India has strongly and widely responded to the passing of Prof. Nicholas Roerich. All leading magazines, newspapers, cultural, scientific, artistic bodies, numerous friends and strangers reflected in spoken and written statements the irreplaceable loss to the world in the departure of this great artist, thinker, and true friend of humanity.

A most notable event will take place in Milan, Italy sometime this month, namely, a new presentation of Stravinsky's "Rites of Spring" for which costumes and scenery were painted by Prof. Roerich. About two years ago Leonide Massine, ARCA Honorary Advisor, spoke to us of plans for his own production of "Sacre du Printemps", and soon we received from Prof. Roerich new sketches painted especially for this purpose. Prof. Roerich, as our members may know, collaborated with Stravinsky in the first production, years ago. The sketches for the Massine production were on exhibition at ARCA until very recently when they were mailed directly to Mr. Massine in Italy. We are awaiting with keen interest news of this production, which will open soon in Teatro Scala, Milan.

On January 11th, Prof. John Somerville gave his third lecture "Soviet Science and Its Implications":

Prof. Somerville gave a fine expose of "dialectical materialism" which is the way of approach to science in Russia, and spoke at length of its relationship to the state and society. He contrasted the approach to science prior to the revolution with that since the revolution, stressing that in Soviet Russia a new philosophy of science has been adopted, recognizing our Universe as being dynamic with only superficial stabilities instead of static with only superficial changes occurring. Prof. Somerville explained how in the USSR this emphasis on the concept of "change", linked together with "evolution", has produced what may be termed a "faith in science", paradoxical though it may sound. He spoke of the system of allocation of funds to great scientific projects in Russia, and on the whole gave a throughly clear picture of the importance and prestige of science in Soviet Russia.

On February 22nd, Prof. John Somerville gave his fourth and final lecture "Soviet Education and Ethical Philosophy":

He pointed out several important factors in the Soviet system of education humanism as the keynote of Soviet ethics, the values of Soviet philosophy and the source of these values, and the practice of Soviet ethics. He stressed that the values of Soviet philosophy are basically the same as those of Christianity, namely, the brotherhood of man and the morality of universal love, brotherhood, charity and peace. It is in the source recognized that there is a difference between the Christian tradition, in which these values are on a super-natural basis, coming from a super-natural world, and the Soviet concept. in which the same values are on a natural or material basis, that is, the product of this world and of the mind of man. Prof. Somerville pointed out that materialism in the Soviet usage is not at all sensual or cynical, as the word often implies here. Soviet ethics, according to Prof. Somerville, are carried out in legislation and in practice; in a rational solving of problems according to their Constitution. Equality of opportunity, racial equality, full advantages of education for all, as well as maximum efficiency in maintenance of public health, are aims being really achieved. He dwelt a great deal on education in primary and secondary schools as well as on the higher education. For character building, the Soviet humanism is stressed throughout the schooling process. He gave statistics, from nursery up to the higher education, describing the school period as averaging 10 years which covers primary, middle school, secondary and junior college. After that the student usually enters the University or Professional School. Prof. Somerville mentioned that in the Soviet Union there are so many distinct ethnic groups that in their schools instruction is given in more than 70 languages. Finally he dwelt on the fact of integration in the whole education process in the Soviet Union, explaining that the press, motion pictures, theatre, home, radio, church and working environment all work in harmony with schools in the education system there. This lecture was the most illustrative of the series, since Prof. Somerville gave a number of examples, statistics and data, bringing out the positive factors in the USSR system of education. It is to be noted that the entire lecture series was completely free of any biased opinions or political views, and gave to the audiences a clear cut presentation of the culture of the Soviet Union. At the conclusion of Prof. Somerville's lecture series we were gratified to hear the many expressions of appreciation from members and friends of ARCA.

An exchange of letters has taken place between ARCA and Miss Sarah Gertrade Knott, Director of the National Folk Festival in St. Louis, through which arrangement has been made for them to use an extensive ARCA exhibit next year.

An inquiry was received from the Music Division of Metropolitan Museum of Art, about the possibility of obtaining autographed scores of Glinka or Tschaikowsky, for reproduction in a forthcoming Metropolitan Museum publication, "Music Autographs, from Monteverde to Hindemith".

21. 2

The Fortnightly Club, Haddonfield, N. J., came to ARCA with a request for a loan of photographs of paintings and buildings in Soviet Russia. The club is preparing a spring project in the form of a book and needs this material about Soviet Russia.

An interesting inquiry pertaining to whereabouts of miniatures of Gen. Suvorov painted in America around 1800 by an artist named S. King, was received from a New York University student who is preparing a thesis on art of that period.

Mr. Kyril Evans, of Hamilton, Canada, requested advice as to how to find a publisher for a book of compiled translations from Russian of children's stories, entitled "The Little Homes in the Forest", by V. Bianki, a noted Soviet children's story writer.

The exhibition "Life in Soviet Russia", loaned by ARCA to the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, was most successful - having been viewed by at least 4,500 students. Dr. J. J. Raymond of that University writes us that the comments were highly favorable.

The exhibition "Historic Cities, Ancient Churches and Cultural Monuments of Soviet Russia", which was loaned by ARCA to Honolulu Academy of Arts for summer and fall of 1947 and which was exhibited also at the University of Hawaii, Farrington High School, Roosevelt High School, McKinley High School and other places, was returned to ARCA in January. Dr. R. P. Griffing, Director of Honolulu Academy of Arts, wrote that the exhibition was viewed with a great deal of interest, and thanked ARCA for its cooperation in letting them have the exhibition for such a long period of time.

An exhibition of reproductions of Prof. Roerich's paintings has been sent to Mrs. Ruth Shelor of Death Valley, California, where it will be exhibited in the Hotel Amargosa. It will be shown later in several cultural societies on the coast.

At our headquarters in New York the exhibition "Old Moscow, 1147-1947" was continued through January, and the new exhibition "Moscow in the Days of Victory", comprising 15 colored reproductions from the paintings by Prof. Michael Bobyschoff, was opened on February 1st. This exhibit depicts Moscow during the celebration of its 800th anniversary. Together with it ARCA presented 12 special reproductions from etchings similar to our Currier and Ives, under the title "Moscow in Days of Old".

Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson, ARCA Honorary Advisor, visited us on February 3rd prior to an extended art and lecture tour through South and Central America. Being greatly interested in the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace movement, Dr. Watson assured the Directors that he will make special efforts to acquaint persons of cultural prominence in the countries he visits in South and Central America with this great humanitarian project.

Material sent to UOKS, Kiev, Ukraine, and VOKS, Moscow included leading American magazines and publications on literature, art, theatre, geography, philosophy, and also children's magazines. In return a great deal of material of similar nature, and also contemporary fiction, was received by ARCA from both these cultural Soviet State Organizations.

On behalf of the Association a warm welcome is extended to our new member, Mrs. Nina Lohe, of New York, an artist.

With heartiest wishes and greetings from all Directors.

Cordially yours,

Sina Fosdick, Exec. Dir.

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> TELEPHONE CIRCLE 5-5377

June 1948

Dear ARCA Member:

This is our last letter before the closing of the current season, but you shall hear from us once again in the Fall when we shall greet you with interesting news regarding our program of lectures and other events for the 1948-1949 season.

The Annual Report for the year 1947 is now at the printers and should go forward to you in the very near future. I know you will find it interesting.

Among our activities this spring the exhibition of "Children's Books in Soviet Russia" was of paramount importance. This large collection of children's books includes the works of such Russian Masters as Gogol, Stanyukovitch, Chekhov, Leo Tolstoi, Chevtchenko and a host of contemporary writers such as Barto, Gaidar, Marshak, Bianki, Katayev, Mayakovsky, Boronina, Michalkov, Tschukovsky, and Aleksei Tolstoi. It contains stories of adventure, animals, truth, ethics and charity.

An interesting item is the magazine, "Murzilka" which is published for children in the first grade elementary schools. It is a concrete example of the fine type of literature now being published in Russia for its school children.

This exhibition will close July 1 and during the summer months ARCA plans to exhibit 30 reproductions from well-known paintings by Professor Nicholas Roerich.

Another ARCA exhibition "Old Moscow, 1147-1947", 12 color woodcuts by Ivan Pavlov, was shown at Bard College, New York during the month of April. This is what the Librarian of the College, Dr. Felix Mirsch, had to say upon its culmination: "This is only to express to you our most sincere appreciation for letting us have the wonderful pictures of Moscow for an exhibit The woodcuts aroused considerable interest and enthusiasm among the art-loving members of our community."

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Among many inquiries received a few are quoted below:

Miss J. Pinson, Clinton, Miss., wanted information on history of Russia for her thesis.

Mr. Lieberman, a student of N.Y.U. asked for a possibility of exchanging letters with a student in Soviet Russia.

Miss A. Totten, a high school student of Somerville, N.J., asked for material on cultural life in Russia.

Miss M. Smith of Munter College asked for information on aid to artists in Soviet Russia.

Mr. M. Weiner, Migh School student of New York asked for general information about Soviet Russia.

Among visitors were teachers, architects, artists, college and high school students from New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, California.

Gift of several issues of Soviet publications, "New Times," "Soviet State and Law," "Moscow News" was sent to the Library of Bard College, New York.

Gift of several issues of "New Times,""VOKS Bulletin, "Moscow News," was sent to the Library of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Gift of a number of Ukrainian periodicals, magazines, fiction and poetry in Ukrainian language was sent to Main Public Library, New York.

ARCA has been also sending periodically to VOKS, Moscow, the following magazines and periodicals: "The Farm Quarterly," "Business Week," "Time," "Look," "Musical Digest," "Natural History Magazine," "National Geographic Magazine," "Science News Letter," "World Youth," "Philosophical Abstracts," "Philosophical Review," "Philosophy of Science.

In return VOKS has been sending to us regularly their leading art, literary and scientific magazines, among them: "October," "Novy Mir," USSR Academy Bulletins, "Soviet Woman," "Ogonek," "Smena," "New Times," "VOKS Bulletins," and a large amount of works of classic and contemporary writers, in fiction and poetry.

We invite again those ARCA members who wish to avail themselves of the facilities of our Research and Reference Library, to pay us frequent visits.

With sincere wishes for a pleasant summer.

Cordially yours,

J. J. Weed President

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- TELEPHONE **CIRCLE 5-5377**

October 1948

Dear ARCA Member:

Since our last letter to you in June 1948 the world tension has increased. Unfortunately, passions continue to be aroused in all nations, stimulated by their racial and national beliefs. But our work of serving culture goes on. No prejudice should soil the white garment of culture dedicated to the highest ideals of man's creative spirit.

And so we start a new season, our fifth, with plans to bring good-will, friendship and understanding between all nations, and particularly between the United States and the Soviet Union. We hope that all our members and friends will help us carry along our program of activities by participating in our public events, by taking an interest in our ever growing Reference and Research Library and by spreading a good word about ARCA and its ideals in general.

We heartily invite all of our members to a most interesting lecture on Sunday, November 21, at 8:00 PM. The eminent Professor Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana will deliver a specially prepared illustrated lecture entitled "Fifty Years of the Moscow Art Theater." We have chosen this topic because this year is the jubilee year of that world renowned institution, the Moscow Art Theater, which started fifty years ago in a small studio and in the course of its existence has revolutionized many of the concepts of acting and theatrical presentation and has become today one of the best known theaters in the world. Those of you who have heard Professor Dana in previous lectures will remember his brilliant treatment of subject matter, and the wealth of material with which he illustrates his talk.

Our members who have met Dr. E. Markoff, one of our Directors, will be interested to learn that she has accepted an invitation to teach at the University of California in Los Angeles where she will head the Department of Russian literature and languages.

She will also give a special course on the "History of the Cultural Relations Between America and Russia" which will give her an opportunity to carry on the work of ARCA in her new milieu.

During the summer our permanent exhibition of Professor Roerich's paintings had many visitors. Among them were Mr. Avinoff, former Art Director of the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Mr. M. M. Chambers representing the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., Mr. John Reshetar from the faculty of Princeton University and Major Aubrey J. Parody, Miss Ruth Rapp, President of the International Relations Club, Hunter College High School, and many others.

As you know, ARCA, in line with our policy of bringing a knowledge of American culture to the Russian people, has been sending at regular intervals copies of the leading American magazines, books, and special publications on cultural subjects to the U.S.S.R. A special project was undertaken by ARCA during the summer, namely a collection of bibliographical data published in this country about Maxim Gorki. Gorki's family is planning to issue all works by the great writer together with bibliographical material about him and translations of his works into foreign languages. This monumental publication will be undertaken in the U.S.S.R., but material for it is being gathered from all sources. We are happy to contribute what we can in this direction, and twenty-two typewritten pages containing a vast amount of data on Maxim Gorki is the result of our work.

During the past months we have received an imposing number of books and magazines from Russia. These include works of current fiction and fine new editions of the classics. They have been placed in our Reference and Research Library which, of course. is open as usual to all ARCA members.

With all good wishes for the coming season and a sincere hope that we may greet you soon, I am,

Cordially yours,

Joseph J. Weed

President



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Bronia Drutt Corresponding Secretary June, 1949

P. O. Box 107 Gracie Station New York 28, N.Y. Telephone SAcramento 2-1346

Dear ARCA Member:

We are happy to inform you that we are planning a new home into which we hope to move this fall. Meanwhile, in order to bring you up to date with our activities, we write you from our temporary quarters.

It is with pleasure that we report to you the success of the exhibition "50 Years of the Moscow Art Theatre". It was shown in February to the students of the High School of Dramatic Arts in New York by Miss Marjorie Dycke, a member of the faculty of that school who is also a member of ARCA. The students showed real interest. Later. through the assistance of Miss Dycke, the exhibition went to the Actors Workshop, and after it was shown there it was returned with the following note, "Just a note to thank you for the "Moscow Art Theatre" pictures. They were wonderful, and we spent an exciting few hours with them. We are all very grateful".

Miss Dycke returned the exhibition to ARCA early in March, and it was thereupon sent to Bard College for a showing lasting several weeks. The appreciation of the students and faculty of Bard College was expressed in a letter asking ARCA to allow them to keep the exhibition for two more weeks. However, since the exhibition had been promised to Adelphi College, Garden City, N. Y., for a period

immediately following its scheduled showing at Bard College, their request could not be granted. It is being shown through the month of May in Adelphi College.

The Trustees of the New York Public Library, in a letter of January 21, 1949, acknowledged with thanks ARCA's gift to the Main Library of a number of publications, including VOKS Bulletins, newspapers and pamphlets dealing with the life and culture of the Soviet Union.

Prof. D. B. Van Dalen, Department of Physical Education, University of Pittsburgh, writes in his letter of January 21st, "Your letter of December 20 mentions that you have received from VOKS three fine articles pertaining to sports activities in Russia during the past year, and some pictures and photographs. I would greatly appreciate the privilege of borrowing these materials. Your thoughtfulness in forwarding the Moscow News to me is greatly appreciated. It has been of assistance in the understanding of physical education in Russia. I wish to thank you for all the help you have given me".

Prof. J. Held, of Barnard College, Columbia University, asked ARCA's assistance in obtaining photographs of drawings of Jacob Jordaens, great Flemish artist of the 17th century, whose many works are in the Hermitage and the Moscow Museum of Fine Arts, in Soviet Russia. He specified a number of

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drawings of which he was very anxious to obtain photographs, since he is writing a book on Jordaens. His request, with all data, was forwarded to Mr. S. Striganov, First Secretary of the USSR Embassy in Washington, who kindly promised to transmit the letter to the proper channels in the USSR.

Miss D. Heinz of Collier's magazine telephoned ARCA asking for information pertaining to various topics, including special data about Andrei Byely, the famous Russian poet.

Miss B. Roland, Associate Editor, "Young America Junior Reader", visited ARCA on March 15th, having previously requested photographs and material pertaining to children's life in Soviet Russia. A number of publications and childrens' magazines were given to her, together with several photographs. Miss Roland explained that they were planning to run in one of their magazines an article devoted to Russian children, their life, customs, games, etc.

on March 31st the following letter was received from Miss Roland: "The back-ground material you supplied has been valuable and certainly lightened my load considerably. Copies of our little magazines which carry the stories on kussia will be sent to you when they are received from the printer. This will be in about eight weeks' time. Again may I thank you for your assistance". The magazines arrived considerably later, and the issue of May 12, 1949, of Young America Reader, carried a story, "In Moscow", discussing a meeting of the Supreme Soviet and telling about the women delegates.

Information was dispensed in answer to inquiries from the following: Master Reporting Company of New York; Library of the University of Texas; Joseph Simon, student of Cornell University; Miss Kurtz and Joyce Viviano, High School students, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Sidney Peller, graduate student at New York University. The latter asked specifically for material for a "Panel Discussion on Russia", which was conducted by his group. A number of issues of Moscow News, New Times, VOKS Bulletins, USSR Embassy Information Bulletins and several pamphlets were given to him. An inquiry about the brochure by Prof. H.W.L. Dana - "Drama in Wartime Russia", and a recent publication, "Soviet War Plays", came from J. W. Brady of New York, whose daughter wanted them for use in her college paper.

On April 6th ARCA sent out VOKS Bulletins dealing with Theatre, Literature and art of Soviet Russia, as gifts to members.

Included in very fine material received recently from VOKS, Moscow, are some especially important and interesting photographs of "Russian Folk Art in the 19th century", "All Union Exhibition of Folk Art in Moscow in 1948" and "The Palace of Culture of the Stalin Airplane Factory". These excellent photographs constitute fine exhibition material which will be used by ARCA later.

The exchange of cultural material covering current fiction, magazines and publications pertaining to all phases of life in the United States of America and Soviet Russia is being maintained between ARCA and VOKS. Moscow.

ARCA wishes to all its members a pleasant and restful summer, and hopes to greet them in its new home in the fall.

Cordially

Dudley Fordick Vice President