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International Congress “100.German Bibliothekartag”.

Section “Preservation of the cultural heritage”

367 „German-Russian Library Dialog“

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The motto of the congress was - "Libraries for the Future - Future for the Libraries". The focuses of the congress were: the modern trend of library development, the prospects and opportunities of libraries international cooperation, the role of libraries in the dissemination of knowledge, preservation and providing open access to the library collections. More than 4 000 librarians from different countries took part in the Congress activity. Many thanks BI-International for the grant which makes possible my participation in the Congress activity.

The Congress occupied three full days and one half-day. The program of my trip was intense and rich of cultural events.

Grand opening of the congress was held on Tuesday, 7 June 2011 in the Concert Hall of Berlin. Greetings to participants of the Congress have been told by Susanne Riedel – The Chairman of German Professional Association of Libraries, Claudia Zinke – The State Secretary of Education, Youth and Family Services of Germany , Ellen Tise – The President of the International Federation of Library Associations and other officials. Very popular German actress Gayle Tufts was invited to the ceremony and her sparkling humor was unforgettable.

On Wednesday, 8 June 2011, I visited the exhibition, organized within the framework of the Congress. It was the excellent opportunity for me reviewed the latest advances and innovations, to tap into the exhibitors' knowledge and expertise and gain from hands-on product demonstrations.

Later the same day I took part in the reception on the occasion of the German Library Congress and hosted by Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, the Mayor of Berlin. The reception was held in a magnificent Hall of Pillars of the Berlin Town Hall in Berlin-Mitte.

On the same day in Berlin was held the "Night of the Libraries". I visited the old and at the same time absolutely new building (reconstruction of which is still unfinished) of the *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*. I was shown the new reading rooms, a special hall for the Museum of the Libraries, new staff rooms. One of the ideas of my visit to the Library was to take over the experience of the Digital and Scanning Department. *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin* has got one of the most modern equipment which is used for the scanning and digitizing the modern books and for the old printed book collections.

The main purpose of my trip was participation in a section „German-Russian Library Dialog“. The meeting took place on Friday, 10 June 2011. The organizer of the section was the *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*, Dr. Barbara Schneider-Kempf, director of the library, chaired the section.

My report and presentation were on the topic "International Information and Documents Centre on the Problems of Removed Cultural Valuables of the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow". I presented some results of the center's activity over the past ten years. Participants of the meeting were very interested to learn about the Centre's activity. I was asked questions concerning with the some details of the search and research of German book collections in Russia, questions connected with prospects of the Centre. Exchange of views was held in a constructive and high level professional manner. Approximately 80-100 people took part in the meeting. It was really good professional experience for me.

Participation in the Congress has allowed me to share experiences with the colleagues, learn more about the new trends in the national and international librarianship and learn more about the new library technologies.

Below I attach the text of my report.

**International Information and Documents Centre on the Problems of Removed
Cultural Valuables**
LIBRARY FOR FOREIGN LITERATURE IN MOSCOW

Dear colleagues,

First of all let me congratulate you with the anniversary conference and wish you personally and the libraries you are representing here prosperity and successful development.

Many thanks to colleagues from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, staff of the organizing Committee for the invitation and organizing of this panel.

Many thanks BI-International for the travel grant which makes possible my participation in the Congress activity.

International Information and Documents Centre on the Problems of Removed Cultural Valuables is a special unit of the Library for Foreign Literature named after M.I.Rudomino. The Centre was launched in Moscow in 2001.

The purposes of the Centre are:

- To accumulate various materials on the problems of cultural valuables removed to Russia as a result of World War II
- To incorporate the results of the Centre's activity into international research network

Activity

The Centre is engaged in a fairly wide range of activities - organizing of the international conferences, historical and educational projects, conducting archival and book research, creation of databases, reference and information activities. The main goal of the Centre activity is searching for and identification of the displaced book collections.

It should be noted that the Centre focuses on the studies related to the book collections which were displaced to Russia from the European countries, while the Bureau of the Russian National Library in Saint-Petersburg, which is representing here by Dr. Irina Matvejeva, focuses on the studies related to Russian book losses. Nevertheless, we are working closely exchanging experience and information.

The Centre has established professional contacts with the various libraries in Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Tomsk, Perm', Voronej, Nijnii-Novgorod, Kaliningrad, Samara, Saratov. Among them there are federal, academic, university, regional and city libraries, libraries of museums and archives.

The Centre's international contacts are also developing successfully. For the previous years we have cooperated with the international partners and sponsors such as:

- Foundation for Development and Support of International Dialogue in Science and Culture Secco-Pontanova (Germany)
- Cultural scientific and information Centre of the Hungarian Republic
- National Library of Hungary
- Esterhazy Private Foundation (Austria)
- Research project on Art and Archives (USA)
- Christie's Auction House
- Zentral und Landesbibliothek Berlin (Germany)
- Goethe-Institut, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Germany)
- Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (Germany)
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Moscow)
- Kulturstiftung der Länder (Germany)

The search of the saved European book collections in the Russian libraries make it possible:

- to reconstruct the history of their displacement among the libraries
- to collect information connected with their storage location
- to specify the number of the preserved book items
- to facilitate the return

For example, The center's specialists took part in the study and description of the Sarospatak book collection which was returned in 2003 from Russia to Hungary and

in publication catalogue of the collection. I am talking about book collection from Sarospatak Calvinist College which for more than fifty years was kept in the funds of Nizhny Novgorod regional Library.

An important part of our activity is background research and study of archive sources related to cultural valuables displaced to Russia during and after the World War II and deposited in the Russian Archives, libraries and museums. The State Archives of the Russian Federation and the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art are the main sources of information in this issue.

Generally the results of our research are presented in two ways: via printed editions and on our website.

Let me briefly inform you about the Website “Displaced cultural valuables” which reflects the main activity of the Centre.

(Its address is: <http://www.libfl.ru/restitution>). Due to numerous links the Website is closely connected with many subject resources, represented in the Internet.

It is located at the home page of the Library for Foreign Literature <http://www.libfl.ru> and has 7 main subject sections:

- Collections
- Law
- Institutions
- Conferences
- Publications
- Archive "Rudomino"

Materials are implemented in a text format open for copying and printing. Every section is equipped with swimming menu and navigation up to 4 levels.

Nowadays the section “Collection” has 13 databases of displace book collections and 8 of them are fragments of German book collectons.

- Foreign ownership marks in VGBIL
- Princes Esterházy book collection
- Von der Gabelentz book collection
- Göritz-Lübeck-Stiftung book collection

- Prinz Schönburg-Waldenburg book collection
- Graf Hardenberg book collection
- Graf Yorck book collection (Moscow)
- Graf Yorck book collection (St.Petersburg)
- Bremen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek book collection
- Herzog Braunschweig-Oels book collection
- Hannover Niedersächsische Landesbibliothek book collection
- Sárospatak Calvinist College Library book collection
- Postcards collection of art objects

I would like to attract your attention to some of them. First of all there is the database of the Foreign owner's marks of the Library for Foreign Literature. There is an attempt to create a special reference instrument which would give us the opportunity to find quite easily any owner's mark, even if we do not know the owner. A description for any exlibris, superexlibris, stamp is given on the base of classification, which takes into consideration their type, form and size. The practice showed that you could hardly meet the owner's mark with similar description. So you can easily identify an illegible owner's mark with similar ones which have been met before. The database contains more than 400 owner's marks belonged to 300 former owners. There are owner's marks both of public and private collections, mostly German. More details you can find in the article of Dr. Nikolai Zubkov on the website.

The second database to which I would like to draw your attention - Database "The private collection of cards". What is interesting in this database? It is an additional source of information for searching for art objects which were lost during the World War II by museums of Russia and Germany. Some of them are the only saved images of the art objects. For example - Dresden Art Gallery or Berlin museum of Emperor Friedrich. The database presents a part of Dr.Sergei Rozanov private card collection. At the same time it should be noted that the site needs a major renovation and replacement of software. We know about it but we have no opportunity to solve this problem quickly.

Last years joint German-Russian projects have become the major components of the Centre's activity:

Centre is a coordinator of the Russian-German library dialogue. Two significant Russian German projects have been realised since 2006- till now : Graf Hardenberg historical and book research project, Graf Schulenburg also historical and book research project. In 2012 we are planning to present a new project devoted to family of Graf York von Wartenburg. Each project included exhibition, conference, printed catalogue or list of the books which are preserved in Russian depositories.

In conclusion I would like to note that the center is opened for new partners and cooperation which will help it's further development.