

# Building the Slavic Collection at the SRC

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It was in June of 1953 that the “Slavic Institute,” the predecessor of the present Slavic Research Center (SRC) was established at Hokkaido University as a research organ for the study of Russia and East-European countries. It was admitted as an official institute attached to the Faculty of Law in July of 1955. After 23 years it was reformed as an interdisciplinary institution at Hokkaido University under the name of the “Slavic Research Center” in April of 1978. In 1990 it became the national Center for Slavic studies in Japan. In April of 2014 the SRC was renamed from the “Slavic Research Center” to the “Slavic-Eurasian Research Center,” and is known so today. I was chief librarian of the Slavic Institute and SRC in 1966–96 and, therefore I would like to tell you about the process of building the Center’s Slavic collection during those years.

## I. The Slavic Institute Attached to the Faculty of Law at Hokkaido University (1953–1978)

### *1) Preparing the Slavic collection (1953–55)*

In prewar Japan only the South Manchuria Railway Company and Ministry of Foreign Affairs had the research infrastructure to allow for the systematic study of Soviet Union.

In universities and colleges Russian studies were limited to literature and language. Under these conditions there were scarcely materials for Slavic studies available at Hokkaido University. Therefore, it was necessary for the Slavic Institute to collect essential materials for Slavic studies.

The initial core of the Slavic collection at the Institute was a small collection of books bought by donation of 5 million Yen from the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Charles Burton Fahs, director of the Humanities of the Rockefeller Foundation, was concerned with the establishment of the Slavic Institute at Hokkaido University and supported the formation of its core collection. He visited Hokkaido University at least 3 times in 1948–55, and met with the President and several professors, including the director of the Central Library. After the donation from the Rockefeller Foundation was allocated, members of the Slavic research group of Hokkaido University selected the books they desired and through Dr. Fahs informed Dr. S. Jakobson of the Slavic Division of the Library of Congress of their choices. As a result the Institute accepted delivery of 464 titles in August of 1953. Most of these books were published during and after the war, and could not be found in Japan.

As the Institute was not yet an official organ in this period, its operating costs, including purchase of books, were only met by scientific research subsidies supplied to individual researchers. Therefore, there were few opportunities to expand the book collection.

## ***2) The Slavic Institute attached to the Faculty of Law (1955–78)***

In 1955 the Slavic Institute became an official institution attached to the Faculty of Law at Hokkaido University. As a result it obtained a building and a library (previously an insect specimens room during the time of the Sapporo Agricultural College), and was allowed to hire full-time researchers, assistants, and office clerks.

In 1966 the Institute moved to the second floor of the new building of the Faculty of Law and the book collection was moved to the third floor of the neighboring Central Library. But the yearly acquisition of books by the Institute increased only slowly during these 20 years. The collection of the Institute as of April of 1975 included only 19,000 volumes. In 1966 the institute's library printed the "Library Catalog of the Slavic Institute, Hokkaido University, 1953–1965."

In 1969, campus riots by extreme left-wing students, which had been happening all over the country, also occurred in Hokkaido University. The Faculty of Law building and the Central Library were occupied by students. But the damage to the Slavic collection was luckily very small.

In 1971 the library of the Institute published “The List of Microfilms at the Slavic Institute, Hokkaido University, 1953–1971,” in 1972 the “Catalogue of the Slavic Institute, Hokkaido University, 1966–70,” and in 1973 “The List of Periodicals at the Slavic Institute, Hokkaido University, 1953–73.”

## II. The “Slavic Research Center” as an Interdisciplinary Institution (1978–1990)

In April of 1978 the Slavic Institute was reorganized into an interdisciplinary institution for Russian and East-European studies at Hokkaido University under the name of “Slavic Research Center.” It was only after this reorganization that its library began to expand rapidly thanks to an allocation of additional funds from the Ministry of Education for the purchase of special publications in Slavic-related fields. Many excellent individual collections and special materials on microform were added to the library’s possessions. Though the number of books was gradually increasing in this way, the institute’s holdings couldn’t compare with those of excellent foreign libraries, such as the Center of Soviet and East European Studies at Illinois University. It was established in 1948, several years earlier, but already had 550,000 volumes, five times more than the SRC at Hokkaido University.

The reorganization of the Institute, however, had greatly benefited the Center. For example, there was an increase in the number of positions for professors and visiting professors, and also two foreign researcher positions. (For more details on this program, see Ito article above.) It advanced the Center’s research agenda and brought with it expansion of the library holdings.

In 1978 two individual collections of books, namely the “Vernadsky Collection” and the “Souvarine Collection,” as well as a microfiche collection titled “18th century Russian studies” were received by the Central Library of Hokkaido University. These were purchased through a budget for large-scale collection acquisition, administered by the Ministry of Education. In December of that year “a special fund for library equipment” was established for the Center’s library. The main items bought through the fund included: “Entsiklopedicheskii slovar’

(Brokgauz-Efron, 1809–1907) 86 vols.” / “Bol’shaia sovetskaia entsiklopedia” (1926–47) 66 vols. / “A Catalog of the Western language collection (Stanford Univ., Hoover Inst. on War, Revolution, and Peace, 1969–77) 63 vols.” & the 2nd suppl. 6 vols. / Microfilm sets of 4 titles including “18th century Russian Publications (Svodnyi katalog russkoi knigi grazhdanskoi pechati XVIII veka, 1725–1800), 1978–90 (3,909 titles, 651 reels)” (See: A descriptive Guide to Russia-related Research Materials at Hokkaido University <Slavic Bibliography Series, No. 1, pp. 4–5>) / A collection of Russian Revolutionary literature; from the collection of Houghton Library of Harvard University, 1976 (1,031 titles. 47 reels) etc. / Microfiche sets of 5 titles: “Russian History and Culture” (Rare books on 19th and early 20th century Russia from the Helsinki University Library). Compiled by Russian and East European Center, Univ. of Illinois. Unit 1–5, 1978 (approx. 600 titles). / Zemstvo publications (Statistical materials: 1860–1917), 1978. 107 titles, etc.

In 1979 the Center’s library obtained “Doctoral Dissertations on Russia” (xerox edition of the theses authorized during 1936–1976 in universities in the USA) through a special fund for library equipment acquisition for the fiscal year.

The first number of “Slavic Research Center News” was published in March of 1979. It began to disseminate widely the activities of the Center, including “A Letter from the Library” providing various information for the users. The “Slavic Research Center News” continues to be printed up until the present, 144 and counting as of February 2016.

The big news for the SRC’s library in 1980 was its purchase of the individual collection of Dr. George Lensen, late professor at Florida State University. Prof. Lensen was to be invited to the SRC as a foreign visiting professor, but he died in a traffic accident in January of 1979. Prof. Lensen’s specialty was Russo-Japanese relations from the end of the 17th century to the present, and he was a world-famous scholar in this field. His collection is notable for its well-selected books on Russo-Japanese relations, Soviet foreign policy, as well as the histories, cultures, and foreign policies of the USSR’s neighboring countries. His collection contains 3200 titles of books, journals and manuscripts (including his posthumous work “Balance of Intrigue: International Rivalry in Korea and Manchuria, 1884–1899”). (See: Slavic Studies, No. 28, 1981)

In 1981 the Slavic Research Center applied for the Ministry of Education's "five-year plan for collecting basic books, 1981–85." The Center was granted a sum 96,000,000 Yen for five years, but it was very hard work to select so many special books in the Slavic-related fields. Therefore, the work was carried out jointly through the efforts of all staff members of the Center under the leadership of Prof. T. Ito, and with the cooperation of the Nauka book import company.

Funds from the "five-year plan for collecting basic books" were also additionally disbursed several times (the first grant: 1981–85; the additional grant: 1986–88; the second grant: 1989–93; the third: 1994–98). They contributed greatly to building the Slavic collection of the Center. During these years (namely 1981–1998) our library acquired thousands of Russian and East-European publications in their original forms, as well as on microforms. In this way many missing back numbers of journals and newspapers were supplemented, and basic book collections in the fields of history, politics, economic literature, etc. were remarkably enriched. Among them were also included the following individual collections:

1. Fritz Epstein Collection on the foreign relations of the Soviet Union (approx. 2,750 titles, received in 1982)
2. Collection of Russian émigré fiction (566 titles, received in 1983)
3. Leon B. Bernstein Collection on Russian Revolutionary thought and movements (approx. 5,000 titles, received in 1984)
4. Henryk Gierszynski Collection on the Polish struggle for national independence and the socialist movement (approx. 2,500 vols. received in 1987)

I would like to add here some comments about the Bernstein Collection. Leon Bernstein (1877–1962) was a founding member of the Bund. His collection includes many books, manuscripts, revolutionary pamphlets and leaflets, etc., which couldn't be found easily abroad. This is a rare collection which Bernstein collected at the risk of his life for over sixty years, through his own political activities as a journalist. A catalog of the Bernstein Collection was made by Prof. Eugen Beshenkovski of Columbia University in New York. The catalog includes detailed explanations by Beshenkovski. When I visited the Library of Columbia University in 1985, I met him and found him to be a gentle and smart man.

He was very glad of the news that the Slavic Research Center Library had bought the entire Bernstein Collection.

There was an episode concerning the purchase of this Collection. The antiquarian world is highly fluid. At the same time, “the early bird catches the worm.” At first we had to investigate the existence of the Bernstein Collection and its present situation to confirm whether or not the information in the catalog was accurate. We asked Prof. T. Hasegawa to check about this collection during a stay in New York. He replied by mail that everything was OK. Then the most important thing was to prepare the funds for the purchase of the collection. The SRC tried every means for getting together the considerable amount necessary to purchase the Collection. After approval of the application for the funds by the Ministry of Education, the SRC started proceedings for payment. As the national fund must be spent during the Japanese fiscal year, making payment and taking acceptance of the Collection within a definite period were indispensable conditions. Transport of the Collection from New York to Sapporo proceeded smoothly owing to the support of <Yushodo Old Book Shop> in Tokyo.

Though we did not have many original materials published before the Russian Revolution in our library, in the 1980’s we received the following materials: <Sobranie gosudarstvennykh gramot i dogovorov, khраниashchikhsia v Gosudarstvennykh kollegii inostrannykh del. Chast’ 1–5, 1813–1894>. (Collection of State Charters and Agreement) (See: Slavic Studies, No. 38, 1991) / <Rossiia. Gosudarstvennaia Duma. Pervyi sozyv–Chetvertyi sozyv. Stenograficheskie otchety, 1906–1917. 131 vols.> / <Chteniia v Imperatorskom obshchestve istorii i drevnosti Rossiiskikh pri Moskovskom Universitete, 1846–1913> (partly on microfiche) / <Russkoe bogatstvo, 1884–1914> (partly incomplete) / <Russkaia mysl’, 1880–1922> (partly incomplete) / <Russkaia starina, 1–48, 1870–1917>.

We also received during 1986–1995 the following publications: <Russkii arkhiv, 1863–1917>. (vol. 2 includes an alphabetical index of “Polnoe sobranie zakonov Rossiiskoi imperii imperatora Pavla Per-vago,” 1754–1801, and vol. 1 includes an index of main treatises in “Russkii vestnik, 1856–1864” as supplement) / <Aziatskaia Rossiia. Pereselencheskoe upravlenie Glavnogo upravleniia zemleustroistva i

zemledeliia. 1914. Text 1–3 & 1 atlas>. (See: SRC News, No. 30, 1987)

I would like to also mention here two splendid bibliographies on Russo-Japanese relations <Bibliografiia Iaponii; literatura, izdannaiia v Rossii s 1734 po 1917> and <Bibliografiia Iaponii; literatura, izdannaiia v Sovetskom soiuzie, c 1917–1958> published by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. These bibliographies included 14,149 titles of books and journal papers. This is to mention that all literatures included in these bibliographies were captured on microfilm by request of the Nauka book–importing Company of Japan to the Russian authorities. The 726 reels of microfilm were sold in Japan in 1978, and our library bought all of them in cooperation with the Central Library of Hokkaido University until 1982. These are now offered freely to users.

Aside from big sets of publications, there were voluminous sets separately obtained. Of this, I provide some detail on two categories: literature and raskol’niki (old believers).

(1. Literature): Sochineniia G. P. Danilevskago (Tom 1–9. Izd. 7, 1893) / Polnoe sobranie sochinenii F. M. Dostoevskago (Tom 1–14, Iubileinoe shestoe izd., 1904–06) / Polnoe sobranie khudozhestvennye proizvedenii F. M. Dostoevskago (Tom 1–13, 1926–30, Xerox copy, 1923) / Polnoe sobranie sochnenii M. Iu. Lermontova (Tom 1–5, 1913–16) / Lunacharskii, A. B.: Sobranie sochnenii. (Tom 1–8, 1963–67) / Polnoe sobranie sochinenii Dmitiia Sergeevicha Merezhkovskago (Tom 1–24, 1914, reprint ed., 1973) / Mikhailovskii, N. G.: Polnoe sobranie sochinenii. N. G. Garin [pseud.] (Tom 1–8, 1916) / Chukovskii, K. I.: Polnoe sobranie sochinenii (Tom 1–6, 1965–69).

(2. Raskol’niki <Old believers>): 20 titles by individual authors including <E. E. Golubinskii: K nashei polemnik s staroobriadtsami, 1905> / <Ocherki tverskogo raskola i sektantstva, sost. D. Skvortsov, 1895> / <Raskol oblichiaemyi svoeiu istorieiu, Izd. 2, 1854> / <Semeinaia zhizn’ v’ russkom raskole. Vyp. 2, 1867> / <Materialy k istorii izucheniuiu russkogo sektantstva i raskola pod. Bonch-Bruevicha, Tom 1–5, 7, 1908–16>. In addition to above titles we have five organs of denominational sects published by raskolniki (old believers) in 1906–14 on microfiche. Lastly two materials relating to raskol’niki, namely: F. V. Livanov’s <Raskol’niki i ostrozhniki; ocherki i razskazy, T. 1–4 (sources on “Delo petrashevtsev,” 1869–73)> and <Delo petrashevtsev> AN

SSSR, Institut istorii, Tom 1–3, 1937–55 (Pamiatniki obshchestvennoi mysli) were added to our library holdings.

### III. The “Slavic Research Center” as National Cooperative Center for Slavic Studies in Japan (1990–to Present)

In June 1990 the Center was reformed from a university institution to a national cooperative institution in Japan. From the end of 1989 to 1991 great political changes occurred in East European countries and Russia. The collapse of the Berlin wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 had immeasurable effects for many of these countries.

In order to cope with these situations, our library drew up two plans for reforming of its holdings. One of them was to become the center of journals from the Slavic areas in Japan, and the other was to emphasize book selection on East-European countries. The first plan had been presented to authorities in 1987, but it had yet to be realized. Therefore in 1991 our library aimed at becoming “the center of journals for Slavic studies” on a small scale. For this purpose we ordered 217 titles of journals and newspapers (Albania 5, Bulgaria 7, Czechoslovakia 14, Hungary 18, Poland 12, Rumania 22, Russia 97, Yugoslavia 21, Byzantine Studies 3, English titles 18). Our library asked specialists in related fields to select the titles.

The political changes in East European countries and the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in us reconsidering our purchasing policy. Among the periodicals we had already ordered there were frequent changes in their titles or subtitles, delays or suspensions of publication, and a general lack of information.

In 1991 our library received representative periodicals published in Yugoslavia from the latter half of the 19th century to the start of the 20th century, along with four monographs (594 vols. in all). Some of the main titles of the collection are as follows: <Glasnik Srbskog ucenog drustva>, <Savremenik>, <Ljubljanski zvon>, <Ruski arhiv>. Among them the typical one is <Ljubljanski zvon> which had been published for a long time, 1881–1941. The entire set was in perfect form without a missing number and their bookbinding was also beautiful. (See: SRC News, No. 46, 1991)

From 1993 to 1994 our library received a collection on Czech literature from the end of 19th century to the 20th century (866 titles). It contained many poetic works and important works on literary history. (Prof. S. Hashimoto of Hokkaido Univ. provided a detailed introduction to this collection. See: SRC News, No. 55, 1993)

During this period we acquired many more materials on microforms. There are too many titles to list, so I will only point out some collections here:

1. Newspapers from the Russian Revolutionary era, 1873–1927 (51 titles, microfilm). (See: SRC News, No. 37, 1990); 2. <Russian history and culture; a microfiche collection of scarce books on 19th century Russia from the Helsinki University Library; a cumulative index to units 1–20. Ann Arbor, 1988>. This material consists of five parts as follows: ① Author index ② Title index ③ Subject index ④ Microfiche number index ⑤ RH register number=Bibliography index. (See: SRC News No. 39, 1989; Slavic studies, No. 37, 1990)

In 1993 the first volume of “Acta Slavica Iaponica: a Journal in European Languages of Slavic Research Center of Hokkaido University” was published. (See: Acta Slavica Iaponica, Tomus 1, 1989, pp. 153–164)

In 1994 our library received microfilm of Boris I. Nicolaevsky Collection in Archives of Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. (Series I–II, Microfilm 400 reels) and “Karty SSSR v mashtabe 1:200,000,” topographical maps published in six colour printing by Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR, 1956–1991. (4,460 sheets, size 46x50 cm)” (See: SRC News, No. 60, 1995)

In 1995 the following materials were received:

1. “Archives of the Soviet Communist Party and Soviet State” (Microfilm. Opis’: 456 reels, Dela: 11,351 reels) (Chadwyck-Healey/Proquest) (See: SRC News, No. 50, 1992, SRC News, No. 64, 1996)
2. “Comintern Archiv. Installment I. Congresses I–IV~” (IDC Microfiche ed. 1,792 sheets) (See: SRC News, No. 64, 1996)
3. “Podrobnaia karta Rossiiskoi Imperii i bliz’ lezhashchikh zagranichnykh vladenii, sochinena, gravirovana i pechatana pri sobstvennom Ego Imperatorskago Velichestva depo kart, 1810”

(scale 70 verst=100mm. 400x350mm) (See: SRC News, No. 64, 1996)

4. “Eesti Vabriigi Riigikogu protokollid, 1917–1931” (The Congressional Proceedings of the Republic of Estonia), 78 vols. It contains fundamental materials for the study of politics and history of Estonia before World War II. (See: SRC News No. 63, 1995)

In 1997 we received the first part (Parts 1–4) of the “George Shevelov Collection.” Dr. Shevelov (1908–2002) was a Slavic linguist, philologist, and literary historian. He was born in Kharkov, and emigrated to the USA in 1952. He was a professor of Slavic philology at Columbia University for a long time. His collection is a treasure house of materials relating to not only Ukrainian but also other East Slavic languages. Collecting of Ukrainian books at Hokkaido University goes back to the opening period of the course of Russian literature at the Faculty of Literature (1949) and the establishment of the Slavic Institute (1953). As Prof. S. Fukuoka was studying Shevchenko, the library began to acquire materials on Ukrainian literature little by little. The basic materials on Slavic philology, however, were not effectively collected, owing to the lack of a specialist in the field at Hokkaido University. As a result the lack of books in this field has been felt as one of the weak points at the Center’s library. Therefore, the acquisition of Dr. Shevelov’s Collection was a great help to our library.

In November of 1996 I visited Dr. Shevelov in New York to examine his collection through the kind introduction of Prof. Znayenko of Rutgers University. Both sides of the hall of Dr. Shevelov’s apartment were filled with books from the floor to the ceiling. He wanted to sell the entire collection together. I made a short memorandum about rare books at every shelf. This task was very interesting for me. If possible I wanted to purchase all of the collection at any cost.

Overall, our library holdings have increased from 46,600 volumes (in 1980) to 136,000 volumes (in 1998), especially owing to the “5 years plan for basic books” of the Ministry of Education.

#### IV. Cooperation of Foreign Visiting Professors

(Notes in parentheses show: the year of stay at the SRC/specialty/nationality)

It was in October of 1978 that the SRC introduced a system of receiving foreign visiting professors. The first visiting professors were Prof. Basil Dmytryshyn from Portland State University and Prof. S. E. Kirby from Oxford University. Since then this system has continued to affect not only the Center, but the SRC library as well. The sojourns of foreign scholars directly or indirectly help our library. I still have good memories about many of them. I would like to mention only some persons who were deeply concerned with our library's work.

***1) Prof. Basil Dmytryshyn (1978/Russian and Soviet History/USA)***

He arrived at the Center in autumn of 1978. He was a pleasant man who made us cheerful. He strongly advised me to participate in the "Second World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies," held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany in 1980. As a result I attended the Congress with Prof. H. Kimura. To my surprise I was suddenly asked to tell about the library of SRC at the library session in which I participated. Since then I became a constant attendant of the World Congress (held in Washington in 1985; Harrogate, England in 1990; Warsaw in 1995).

***2) Prof. Paul Horecky (1978–79/Philosophy, Library Science/USA)***

He was formerly the director of the Slavic division of the Library of Congress. He was famous in the field of library science and published many reference books related to East-European countries. The SRC invited him in expectation of his advice and cooperation for improving its Slavic collection. When I showed him our Slavic holdings, he said "the scale is small, but the contents of the collection are well-balanced." He gave me advice for building the Slavic collection, especially about reference books. And his wife Mrs. Horecky offered to open an "English conversation class" for office workers of the Faculty of Law once a week, and the conversation class was useful for us. The entire staff of the SRC was invited to the 30th wedding anniversary party of Dr. and Mrs. Horecky. We remember the experience fondly.

**3) Prof. Aleksander L. Petrov (1990–91/Yugoslav and Russian literature in the 19th and the 20th centuries/Institute for Literature & Arts in Beograd, Yugoslavia)**

He suggested us to add the basic journals of Yugoslavia to our library. He selected for us basic journals and some materials of Yugoslavia from a catalog of Zentral Antiquariat. With his kind help our library could luckily obtain all of them (31 journal titles and four monograph sets of 594 vols. in all). They included <Brastvo, Beograd, 1–32, 1887–1914> and <Ljubljanski zvon, 1–61, 1881–1941> etc. Prof. Kurihara offered detailed explanations of each title. (See: SRC News, No. 46, 1991)

**4) Prof. Edward Mojeiko (1991–92/Modern Slavic literature/Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, Canada)**

When I asked Prof. Mojeiko to point out the shortcomings of our Slavic holdings, he gave me concrete and appropriate feedback from his standpoint as a researcher of Slavic literature. At my request he made for us a very extensive list of writers in East-European countries, consisting of two parts. The first part of the list contained 220 important writers in the following countries (numerals in parenthesis show the number of writers): Poland (73), Bulgaria (32), Yugoslavia (Croatia 35; Serbia 30; Slovenia 31), Macedonia (3), and others (17). The second part of the list was for Czech literature (75 Czech writers) and Slovak literature (52 Slovakian writers) and each writer's important works were added with short comments. After compilation of the list he advised me to collect, first of all, works of Polish writers, as they are second in importance only to works of Russian literature. I would like to express my warm thanks for his troublesome cooperation in building our Slavic collection. It seemed to me that no one but he would be suitable for this task. (See: SRC News, No. 47, 1991; No. 48, 1992)

**5) Prof. Geoffrey J. Jukes (1992–93/Soviet & Russian military history and strategy/Australia)**

When our library planned to purchase a large book collection on Russia offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, we had to select indispensable materials and avoid duplication. Prof. Jukes voluntarily helped us with selecting 760 titles out of nearly 4,800 titles (230

titles in western languages and 4,500 titles in Russian) according to importance, indicating them into four grades (A, B, C, D). This work depended on his deep knowledge and rich experience. We heartily thanked him for his careful cooperation with our library.

**6) Prof. Myroslava T. Znayenko (1993 March/Russian and Ukrainian Literature/USA)**

She stayed at the SRC as a visiting professor for only one month. Though her stay was short, she compiled a bibliography under the title of “Ucrainica at Hokkaido University: a preliminary bibliography,” with my assistance. The catalogue included about 550 titles of books on Ukrainian literature and Ukraine held by Hokkaido University libraries. After she left Sapporo we frequently exchanged mails and faxes to finish the bibliography. The catalogue was printed in 1995 by the Center as the “Slavic Bibliography Series, No. 2.”

Though Ukrainian books have not been collected systematically at Hokkaido University, some rare books are found in individual collections, such as the Bernstein, Vernadsky, Epstein Collections and the Collection of Russian Émigré fiction.

**7) Prof. John H. Lowenhardt (1993–94/Soviet and Russian Politics/ Institute of East European Law, Leiden University, the Netherlands)**

In 1993 I compiled a catalogue entitled “A Descriptive Guide to Russian-related Research Materials at Hokkaido University” and it was published as the <Slavic Bibliography Series, No. 1> by the Slavic Research Center. Prof. Lowenhardt also wrote a book review in <SRC News (English ed.), No. 2, 1994>. In his review he gave a detailed explanation of the volume, and wrote that this guide will prove to be an indispensable companion to those who will want to locate Russian publications. I was very glad for his kind and polite introduction of my work.

## V. In Conclusion

I have described the evolution of the Slavic collection of the SRC from its beginning and through my service days, 1953–1996. Together with the fundamental reforms of the Slavic Research Center as a whole

in 1978 and in 1990, its library holdings have been enriched to build a splendid Slavic collection.

But the social and political changes in Russia and Eastern Europe since the 1990's have greatly influenced publishing within these countries. "Novye knigi" which has been the source for information of publications in Russia ceased to appear. In Japan the "Nauka book importing Co." which supplied information on Russian publications, went bankrupt in 2006, owing partly to confusion regarding circulation of publications in Russia. As a result it was difficult to obtain information on Russian publications for a while. At present, "Nauka Japan" (new Nauka) and "Nisso Tosho Co." are supplying this information through the catalog "Litera," or by internet-mail. In addition we can access the Russian electronic library "Rukont" through "Nauka Japan." To my surprise, however, the prices of Russian publications have increased these last 20 years. Therefore, the number of Russian books received by the SRC has decreased in recent years. As of 2015, the SRC library has about 170,000 printed books and an additional 50,000 titles on microform.

Speaking broadly, our Slavic holdings were too inclined toward Russia or the Soviet Union, with neighboring areas often overlooked. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, not only Eastern Europe but also the Eurasian continent proper, seems to have become an object of research, as the renaming of the SRC shows. The library of the SRC will have to play a more complicated role in the future.