



UNSSSEESING  
THE  
ALUMNI  
MAGAZINE  
FROM SSEES  
FEATURING  
MAPS,  
DIGITAL  
ARCHIVES,  
MOSCOW –  
AND SPYING!

THIRD EDITION | SPRING 2012

## EDITORIAL – IN GOOD FAITH

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**Welcome to the third edition of *unSSEESing*.** Here I would like to highlight a new service. When we revived the SSEES alumni community we followed UCL advice about how to help you contact SSEES friends; we suggested you email **alumni@sseees.ucl.ac.uk** and, if the person was in our database, we would check with him/her before passing on contact details. This method is still operational, but note that UCL now run a scheme called UCL Alumni Web Community. This is a password-protected area on the alumni website, where, apart from allowing you to contact university friends and read their latest news through an online alumni directory, you can also apply for a Benefits Card, update personal details on your UCL alumni record or obtain a free uclmail.net email address. The downside is that at present only a small proportion of UCL alumni have registered. Can I encourage you to do so? Log on to **<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/alumni-community/>** for more details.

You may also have wondered how far undergraduate applications to SSEES in the era of new tuition fees would drop, especially since for English universities as a whole the decline is nearly 10%. Last year was a bumper year with over 1200 undergraduate and EU applicants to SSEES trying to beat the fee deadline. Though some reduction would be expected this year, it appears that once all applications have made their way through the system to the SSEES Admissions Office, the decline will be very much smaller. Since overseas student applications have also risen, filling places for next year with high quality applicants should not be too problematical. None of this reduces my sympathy for students who will now shoulder a very large burden of debt on graduation, something my generation avoided.

*Faith Wigzell*

UNSSSEESING

# MAPPING ST PETERSBURG

The city of St Petersburg with its canals, elegant ironwork bridges, dark winters and white summer nights looms large in Russian literature. Shaking off the literary associations when you visit the city is well nigh impossible.



Dr Sarah Young has initiated a fascinating new digital project, *Mapping St Petersburg: Experiments in Literary Cartography* ([www.mappingpetersburg.org](http://www.mappingpetersburg.org)). She writes: 'I have long been interested in the city's role not simply as a setting for some of the greatest works of Russian literature, but also as the place that spurred the development of Russian literary culture. Thinking about the ways the geography of the city shaped its literature, and conversely, how the Petersburg works of Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky and others have altered our understanding of the cityscape, led me to consider the potential of visualizing the spatial dynamics of literature.'

Mapping a text involves addressing various dimensions of its relationship to the city: the difference between static locations and movement through space, and between places and events. I began with *Crime and Punishment* – an exceptionally detailed novel in its references to Petersburg locations. The result is a set of annotated maps that reveal the changing use of space in different parts of the novel, and unexpected topographical connections between characters – intriguing

findings that point towards new interpretations. With the help of John Levin ([www.anterotesis.com](http://www.anterotesis.com)), who makes the maps and provides technical support, we have now added maps of Gogol's Petersburg Tales, showing the centrality of Nevsky Prospect in his fictional world, and an opposition between places that actually appear in the stories and spaces simply referred to. The project will eventually incorporate other literary texts, visual art and historical data.'

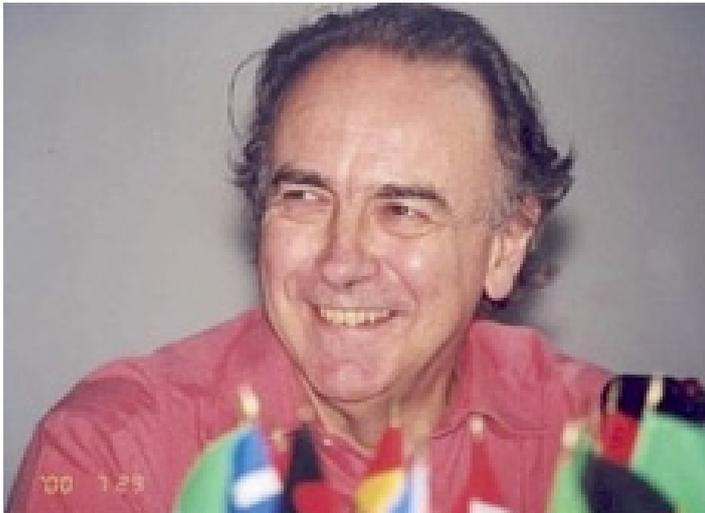
If you have a love of classic Russian literature or St Petersburg, please do take a look at the website. Comments and suggestions are particularly welcome.

## Image

Monument to Dostoevsky on Raskolnikov's House, Stoliarnyi pereulok

# SSEES EVENTS

## February and March Alumni Events



### Professor Geoffrey Hosking Lecture

**March 15th is the date of the next alumni event.** Few people are better qualified than the distinguished historian, Professor Geoffrey Hosking to talk about Russia today in the light of history. As before, the talk constitutes the intellectual hors d'oeuvre before the party (drinks and snacks) in the Masaryk Senior Common. We hope to see many of you there.

For more details about the event and to book your place, please log on to [www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/alumni/index.htm](http://www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/alumni/index.htm)



### Roundtable Discussion in Memory of Václav Havel

**On Tuesday 14 February SSEES hosted a roundtable discussion in memory of Václav Havel.**

The main speakers were HE Michael Žantovský, the Czech Ambassador to the UK and former spokesman for Václav Havel; Timothy Garton-Ash, Professor of European Studies at Oxford University; and Professor Jacques Rupnik, Director of Research at the Centre for International Research, Sciences-Po, Paris. Other speakers were Tim Beasley-Murray, Peter Zusi and Seán Hanley, all from UCL SSEES. The discussion was chaired by the SSEES Director, Robin Aizlewood. Of the 100 people present at the event were representatives of the EU and SSEES region countries as well as former British diplomats, and members of think-tanks. A video recording of the event is available on the SSEES website.



### Organising a local Alumni event?

Please let us know. To advertise a SSEES alumni event, please e-mail: [alumni@ssees.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ssees.ucl.ac.uk).

# TRAVEL INTO THE PAST – DIGITALLY!

“Rejoice and prepare for some serious amounts of time wasting”.



This is how SSEES Library’s new collection of digitised books, photographs and maps was greeted by one SSEES alumnus in his blog [www.bucharestlife.net](http://www.bucharestlife.net). Enjoying the diversion offered by browsing rare books, old photographs and exquisite historic maps became much easier last year when SSEES Library finished digitising nearly 300 rare travel books and 200 maps, dating from 1557 to 1860, and unique photographs, sketches and postcards collected by the archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans and the anthropologist Margaret Hasluck.

**SSEES Library’s Special Collections have always been available to students and academics who needed them for teaching or research, but only by visiting the Library.**

Image

Arthur Evans leaving Zagreb in 1932

Photo credit: Lesley Pitman ([l.pitman@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.pitman@ucl.ac.uk))

As SSEES already has such a strong profile in the study of travel and writing, it was particularly pleasing when the Library became a partner

back in May 2009 in a successful bid to the European Union for digitisation in the area of travel and tourism, aimed at creating digital content to add to their new Europeana portal. The project was completed in spring 2011. So if you enjoy reading old travel accounts of Europe, examining old maps, or have an interest in the work of Arthur Evans or Margaret Hasluck, do have a look and let us know what you think. We would be interested to know what use might be made of this new digital resource, and welcome feedback which may help us get further funding in future.

You can find the collection by following the link on the SSEES Library website to the EuropeanaTravel Project, or go direct to [www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/europeanatravel](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/europeanatravel). The European Library is also featuring some of our content in their exhibition entitled ‘Travelling through History’: [www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition-travel-history/](http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition-travel-history/).

# ROSIE HAWES (RUSSIAN AND HISTORY 2002): LIVING IN MOSCOW

I first came to Moscow in 1999. Since then the city has changed hugely...



At that time we brought all our luxuries – like shampoo and cheddar - with us. Today, I stock up on the essentials when in the UK, as Moscow stores are massively overpriced. You can get anything here today, except Marmite, if you are prepared to pay for it. The grand opening of Top Shop was a day I thought would never come. For an old hand, it's strange to hear that people come to Moscow for the glamour of the nightlife when I remember the dingy bars and drab fashions of my *ab initio* year.

SSEES alumni in Moscow are a diverse crowd: bankers, lawyers, consultants, journalists, teachers and diplomats. Those at the higher end of the pay scale have probably gone on to study law or finance after a Russian degree. On the downside their Russian language skills do not match up to those of people who came to Russia straight after graduating. Finding a happy medium is the trick. As a business risk consultant, I have the fun of researching the latest business intrigues without the misery of the long hours endured by my lawyer friends.

look me up for a place to stay on holiday, for a coffee during a short business trip or for some insider knowledge if they are seconded to Moscow. Three years is a respectable stint in Moscow; more than seven years and you are considered a lost cause!

I stay because, despite inflation and the weather (it was -23 last week) Moscow is still a fun and challenging place to live. No day is the same and the opportunities for new experiences are endless. I've been hiking up volcanoes in Kamchatka, interpreted for a former prime minister, run from Samara to Kazan' and live down the road from the Bolshoi. Cross country skiing alone makes the winter infinitely more pleasant than British drizzle. On the downside, I still can't work out the rules for queuing; the nadir was three hours at a train station during the peak of 2010's apocalyptic smog and heat wave (see picture).

It is interesting that of my friends who have read *Snowdrops*, those who still live in Moscow disagree with every word while those who have left regard the author's negativity with fond reminiscence. For every angry babushka or miserable bureaucrat I have had equally positive experiences in the random discussions with vegetable sellers and passers-by, who having stopped to ask the way, seize the chance to ask all about *Tumanny Albion*.

Every year I say I must leave and every year a new opportunity crops up. I am not sure I could hope for that in London.

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## Image

Rosie in Red Square in the smog 2010

The longer I am here, the more fellow-students I have seen come and go. Former classmates

# A REMARKABLE WOMAN: CLARE HOLLINGWORTH OBE

Without doubt Clare Hollingworth is one of the most extraordinary of our alumni.

Last October she celebrated her 100th birthday in the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong where she has lived for many years. Famous for being the first person to break the news of the German invasion of Poland in 1939, she had developed her interest in Central and Southern Europe through travel round Central and South-Eastern Europe in summer breaks from her job as a local secretary for the League of Nations Union. Wishing to acquire a historical context to the politics of the region, in October 1935 Clare Hollingworth enrolled on a two-year diploma course at SSEES. She remembers studying with the 'brilliant' R. W. Seton Watson, but she completed only half the course, perhaps because, having in the autumn of her first term acquired a husband with similar interests, she preferred to observe contemporary politics in the Balkans and Central Europe at close hand.



into Germany (the border was closed to ordinary traffic) where she spied hundreds of tanks hidden in a valley, signs of the imminent German invasion. Filing her 'scoop', she thus broke the news which led to Britain's entry into the war. With the Polish government retreating before the Nazi invasion, Clare escaped to Romania where she covered the abdication of King Carol, the growing interference from Germany and the civil war. From there she moved to Greece and, when the Balkans fell increasingly under German control, she was sent to Egypt. Here she acted as war correspondent for the *Daily Express*. After the war she worked in many countries though not in Central and Eastern Europe. She was the person who broke the story of Kim Philby's defection to the USSR in the *Guardian*. For many years she worked in Asia and China in particular, ultimately making her home in Hong Kong.

A longer account of Clare's remarkable life can be found on the alumni pages: <http://www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/alumni/alumnipp.htm>  
See also <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/8811229/Clare-Hollingworth-interview-I-must-admit-I-enjoy-being-in-a-war.-I-dont-know-why.-Im-not-brave.html>.

Watch out also for the forthcoming biography by her great nephew, Patrick Garrett.

## Image

Portrait of Clare Hollingworth  
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By 1938 she was in Poland helping refugees to get to Britain. When the operation was curtailed, she returned to Poland a year later as a *Daily Telegraph* correspondent. Sent to Katowice, she borrowed the British consul's official car to drive

# UCL SCHOOL OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## HOW YOU CAN **CONTRIBUTE TO SSEES**

The SSEES Alumni Association is part of the overall UCL alumni network. Consequently, from time to time you will be contacted by mail or phone with a plea for donations. These are handled centrally from UCL. However, if you make it clear that any contribution is specifically for SSEES, the School receives the money.

**We want to say a big thank you to all those SSEES alumni who have contributed so generously to the SSEES endeavour. Money received goes to two vital areas of our work: small bursaries to support PhD students, and help with the cost of internships for both postgraduates and undergraduates.**

In an increasingly competitive world, we have found that internships offer graduates the kind of work experience that employers seek and which often lead to full time employment.

The internship scheme is still in its infancy. In 2010 funds were allocated on a competitive basis to students on our International Master's programme (IMESS) who had found an internship and needed help with travel and accommodation. We are now looking to expand this area of work. If you are an employer, or you work for an organisation that would be interested in offering internship opportunities for SSEES students, we would like to hear from you.

**[www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ssees.ucl.ac.uk/alumni)  
[alumni@ssees.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ssees.ucl.ac.uk)**