

Social History and Russia

A NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH, ARCHIVES,
CONFERENCES AND OTHER PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL HISTORY IN RUSSIA

Nº. 6

November 1996

Editorial

PROSIS: Information System for Prosopographical Research

FROM 1993 THROUGH 1995 we have been working on an experimental version of an information system for prosopographical research *PROSIS*. *PROSIS* is based on mixed technology of data bases and hypertext and uses specially developed information models. It provides a wide range of opportunities for searching for, as well as analyzing, information.

We use *PROSIS* for research in the project "Russian historians, 18th to 20th centuries". The main aims of this project are:

- to systemize information (in a computer environment) about the scientific and social image of the most important personalities in Russian historical science during two centuries;

- to analyze their most important traits on the basis of computer research, and
- to generalize the individual information of every person;
- to try to create a "genealogy" of Russian historical science on the basis of the relations "teachers-students";
- to clarify the boundaries between different historical schools and the laws of their formation and development.

PROSIS has a special program which automatically prepares short or long versions of biographical entries; this is very useful for the historiographer.

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There are 95 positions in a typical questionnaire. All positions are arranged into 13 divisions: basic biographical information; social characteristics; education; place of work; higher educational degrees; scientific career; public activity; philosophical orientation; field of scientific activity; field of research interest, general works in history,

scientific relations; rewards and academical recognitions.

Until now we have gathered information about 60 of the most important figures in Russian historiography, and this is enough to do limited research, such as clarifying the boundaries of historiographical schools located around a certain university or teacher. This analysis could prove to be very fruitful, since we find many differences between traditional typologization and our experiences in the computer environment. We continue to collect new biographies for our research and we should be able to report more about the full data base and our first academic results at the next Conference of the Association for History and Computing.

We believe that this data base of Russian historiography could be of interest not only to Russians but also to individual foreign researchers or universities. If you would like to receive more technical details about *PROSIS*, we will be happy to provide you with this information.

by Dmitry Gutnov (e-mail: gutnov@gut.msk.ru) and Vladimir Perevertin' (e-mail: PVA@rsuh.ru)

State and Society in the Stalin Era through the Prism of Regional Archives

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THE STALIN-ERA RESEARCH and Archives Project of the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, announces a symposium on State and Society in the Stalin Era through the Prism of Regional Archives, to be held in Toronto, 15-22 June 1997, subject to available funding. The symposium will bring together junior faculty and advanced graduate students who have recently undertaken major research projects in the regional archives of

the Former Soviet Union. The objectives of the symposium are to disseminate the most current research in the field; to share archival information, experiences and methods; and to work toward a new synthesis of research findings.

The Stalin-Era Research and Archives Project invites applications from doctoral students and junior faculty interested in presenting papers at the symposium; successful applicants will have their transportation and accommodation expenses covered. Applications will be adjudicated on a competitive basis, and the invited papers are expected to be prepared and circulated in advance of the symposium. To obtain further information concerning the symposium, please contact the Project at the address given below. To be considered for participation, please submit to the same address an application consist-

ing of: (1) a one-page curriculum vitae; (2) a five-page statement describing your project in full detail (subject of research; methodology; substantive issues addressed; specific problems of archival research); and (3) two letters of reference.

Applications will be accepted up to December 1, 1996.

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[source: H-Net newsgroup,
9 October 1996]