

The New York Public Library

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August 4, 2009

William Taubman
President, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
8 Story Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Taubman:


Paul LeClerc has asked me to respond to your letter of July 13th. Thank you for your comments about the importance of our Slavic holdings and about the need to ensure access to them.

I am in complete agreement with you on both points. In recent weeks, I have worked with my colleagues in the Library to reassign Mr. Hee-Gwone Yoo to our Collections Division and to entrust him with the responsibility for developing and promoting our Russian language research collections. As you may know, Mr. Yoo worked for many years with Ed Kasinec, retired head of the Slavic and Baltic Division. Not only will Mr. Yoo be responsible for overall collection development for our Slavic materials, but he will also ensure access to these materials and provide general and specialized reference service.

Unfortunately, we simply can no longer afford to maintain specialized reading rooms. By finding savings through the consolidation of service points, we preserve funds for collections and access to them.

Please be assured that we at the New York Public Library are devoted to protecting and enhancing our collections, even in these times of severe fiscal austerity.

Sincerely,



David S. Ferriero
Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries

cc: Paul LeClerc
Victoria Steele