

never gathered for publication in a single volume. These included: “Russia as a Great Power, 1709–1856: Reflections on the Problem of Relative Backwardness, with Special Reference to the Russian Army and Russian Society” (Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Occasional Paper #33); “Russia’s Military Style, Russian Society, and Russian Power in the Eighteenth Century,” in *Russia and the West in the Eighteenth Century* (1983); “The Burden of Defense in Imperial Russia, 1925–1914,” *Russian Review*, 43 (3): 231–59; “The Nobility and the Officer Corps in the Nineteenth Century” in *The Military and Society in Russia 1450–1917* (2002); and “Russian Military Thought: The Western Model and the Shadow of Suvorov” in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age* (1986).

Walter was a wonderful colleague, advisor and mentor. Many of his students at Cornell, both graduate and undergraduate, went on to contribute broadly and significantly to the field. These included such specialists as Robert Johnson, Alexander Martin, David Engermann, and Caryl Emerson. He supported and mentored many others at various levels of professional development as well with a particular appreciation of intellectual integrity and commitment and a generous understanding of the meandering ways of intellectual insight and development. He was especially alert to the promise and difficulties of women in academia, offering sound mentorship and vital professional support as the author of this memorial had occasion to experience.

His final years after retirement were spent in the beautiful mountaintop home in Fallbrook, California designed by his beloved wife Sara Pintner, where the two of them resided until his death on July 9, 2015. He is survived by his wife Sara, his children Anne Burch and Robert Pintner, and three grandchildren, all of Anchorage, Alaska. His first wife, Mary Mathews Miller, died in 1968. He is sorely missed by all of those who had the opportunity to experience his openness and honesty, his immense kindness, and his quiet, alert appreciation of the world around him.

BARBARA WALKER
University of Nevada

Svetlana Boym, 1959–2015

Svetlana Boym, Curt Hugo Reisinger Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, died August 5, 2016 in Boston. She had been ill for almost a year, but only a few knew the full extent of her disease. Always oriented toward present and future projects, she wanted us to think of her as a young artist, not a fatally ill person. She had never failed to surprise, delight, and inspire her community with her brilliant formulations, oral and written, with her creative work, which was no less varied and prolific than her critical writing, and with her ability to get right to the heart of a problem, to be always original, without trying, and, like her guiding intellectual lights Walter Benjamin and Hannah Arendt, never confusing the aesthetic, the ethical, and the political, although she had a rare talent for bringing them into close proximity. Of the many surprises she offered us, her death was the only one that was not joyous, luminescent, and mind changing.

“I agree with all of the previous orators,” was a favorite phrase, delivered with a merry mock-Soviet solemnity, but she would inevitably go on to disagree, graciously and constructively, but firmly, whether in committee meetings or on conference panels or in dinner-table conversations. Born in Soviet Leningrad, she early on showed signs of this independence, once refusing to disassemble and clean an AK-47, a required part of her school program. Her curiosity and sense of adventure brought her to an early love of film, philosophy, art, and foreign languages. She studied Spanish

at the Herzen Institute in Leningrad, but had already decided to emigrate in her late teens. She left without her parents, Yuri and Musa Goldberg, engineers whose application to emigrate was denied nearly a decade (a young KGB officer named Vladimir Putin told them they would never see their daughter again). Her marriage to the designer Constantin Boym ended in divorce, and she found herself alone in Boston. As reported by Masha Gessen in *The New Yorker* (August 7, 2015), she persuaded Boston University that she was the daughter of a refugee from the Spanish Civil War and taught Spanish there while completing a M.A. in Hispanic literatures. Equally persuasive with Harvard, she was admitted to the Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature, where she added French and Russian literature to her fields of interest, quickly mastering the subjects which interested her (theory, modern poetry, the essay) and treating others, notoriously Old Church Slavonic, as she had once treated the AK-47 in her Russian school.

A few years later Harvard had advertised a joint position in the undergraduate Literature and History and Literature programs. She applied and overwhelmed her interviewers. The position held no prospects for promotion until the Slavic Department took over her half-time position in History and Literature. The ink was barely dry on her dissertation, *Death in Quotation Marks: Cultural Myths of the Modern Poet*, when the Harvard University Press published it in 1991, and she had already begun her second book, *Common Places: Mythologies of Everyday Life in Russia* (1994), which she completed before her tenure review. She earned this promotion, quite rare at the time, with her numerous publications, her inspired teaching, and her willingness to contribute to many programs: Slavic, Comparative Literature, the Davis Center, Visual and Environmental Studies, and the Graduate School of Design. She was particularly active on admissions and search committees, determined to give applicants with unconventional backgrounds a fair hearing.

Those first two books set the standard for what was to follow. They took on major problems in the humanities including the death of the author and mythologies of everyday life. She took full cognizance of theories fashionable and unfashionable, but even as a very young scholar-critic she quickly established her own voice and perspectives. Her favorite theoreticians and essayists of the time (Shklovsky, Nabokov, Barthes, Derrida, Foucault, Certeau, to name a few) attracted her by their humor and playfulness, not by their algorithms, and she critically set them off against her full range of literary, cultural, and historical references, often to their detriment. While she acknowledged with self-irony her need for help with English definite articles, her writing in English became superbly nuanced, playful, and incisive. Her mastery of the personal voice lent depth of experience to this critical writing.

While completing these projects and beginning a third, Svetlana found time to make a short documentary film, write prize-winning short fiction, complete a play, *The Woman Who Shot Lenin* (1990), begin a multi-layered experimental novel, *Ninotchka*, appropriately published in the SUNY series "The Margins of Literature" (2003), and mount several exhibitions with accompanying catalogues. Her third book, *The Future of Nostalgia* (2001), grew from the conclusion to her second and developed it further. As with her previous books, this work reconceived a current issue, memory, but took it to new places, from dinosaurs to Nabokov, from St. Petersburg and Berlin to cyberspace and "e-space." Conceptually, *The Future of Nostalgia* developed a resolutely non-sentimental distinction between "restorative nostalgia," which can eventuate in paranoiac nationalism, and ironic "reflective nostalgia," which can foster empathy and be a creative emotion. The book left no doubt about where she stood in this range of possibilities.

Her fourth book, *Another Freedom: The Alternative History of an Idea* (2010), is her most literary and philosophical. It neglects neither concrete historical nor

political situations, but it begins and ends by celebrating the unknown, the experience of adventure and of the “infinitely improbable,” a term she adapted from Hannah Arendt.

At the time of her passing, she was at work on several new projects, including a film about the refugee camp in Vienna where she stayed after leaving the USSR. She is survived by her parents, her husband, Dana Villa, the Packey J. Dee Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, and by her devoted students, who are preparing a collection of her works for publication.

WILLIAM MILLS TODD III
Harvard University

Teresa Lynn Polowy, 1953–2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Teresa (Terry) Lynn Polowy, professor of Russian and Slavic Studies at the University of Arizona. A brilliant scholar, teacher and mentor, Terry passed away on November 25, 2015. She will be remembered in death as she was in life: a kind and charismatic person of great integrity who embodies the ideals of our profession. During her twenty-five years of teaching at University of Arizona, Terry worked with countless students, fostering interest and passion in Slavic languages and cultures.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Terry moved to Tucson in 1990 where she began her long and fruitful career in the UA Department of Russian and Slavic Studies. Serving multiple terms as Head of the department up until last year, Terry proved to be an excellent administrator who enjoyed the respect of her colleagues and staff. While Head, she coordinated partnerships with the community, including a tutoring program for high school students learning Russian and an internship for UA students to work with Holocaust survivors. She tirelessly fought for new hires in times of shrinking budgets and ever-changing hiring priorities of higher administration. Always calm in the face of adversity, always friendly and happy to talk, even though it was increasingly difficult in her last year, she maintained high spirits, striving to keep the department a cohesive unit in the face of constant external pressures on morale. In curricular matters, she aggressively developed and promoted successful online courses. And she also supported with enthusiasm yearly celebrations of Slavic culture open to the public—readings, music, and lectures in which students and faculty participated.

Terry's contribution to the field of Slavic Studies includes many articles, translations, presentations, reviews, and a full-length study of the popular Russian writer, Valentin Rasputin. Her monograph, *The Novellas of Valentin Rasputin: Genre, Language and Style* (1989) was one of the first works to examine this author in depth. A pioneer in the field of gender and Russian literary studies, Terry authored groundbreaking work on the portrayal of alcoholism in female-authored texts from the Soviet and post-Soviet periods.

Terry was an innovative teacher and inspiring mentor who encouraged her students to challenge themselves and actualize their potential; she was also an exemplary colleague who enjoyed the respect and confidence of all of us. The Russian and Slavic Studies Department at University of Arizona, along with countless friends and colleagues, will remember her legacy and the impact she made on our field and on the lives of those she knew.