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Cornell Univ.
Russian Study
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It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000), or
RF 40052

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STUDIES

as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby
is, appropriated to CORNELL UNIVERSITY for development
of RUSSIAN STUDIES during the five-year period beginning
July 1, 1940, not more than \$4,000 to be available in
any one year of the grant.

The following were the considerations presented:

Humanities

Previous Interest: In June, 1938, \$15,000 was appropriated to
Cornell University for development of Far Eastern studies through
a staff appointment in history during the five-year period ending
June 30, 1943.

In June, 1939, a grant in aid of \$3,500 was made for work in
Russian and purchase of materials during the academic year 1939-
1940.

General Description: In recent years the Foundation has aided the
development of Far Eastern studies in order to bring them into a
standing more nearly comparable to European and classical studies
in this country. Progress has been steady, particularly in work
on China. Less has been possible in advancing first-hand research
and effective teaching in Japanese subjects, although former fel-
lows of the Foundation have made contributions of value in eco-
nomics and history. In Russian subjects the state of American
scholarship is limited still by scarcity of men fully competent
in use of the language who have assured futures in university de-
partments of history, philosophy, geography, economics, and polit-
ical science.

At a few centers the relation of work in Russian language
and literature to other fields is fairly well defined. This is
the case at Columbia, California, and Harvard. The research work
of the Institute of Pacific Relations has stimulated demands for
persons who can use source materials in the Russian language; but
universities have been slow to add men under present conditions
and the supply of competent research workers is still very limited.
The most useful work in this direction during recent years is un-
doubtedly that of Professor Patrick of the University of California,

which has resulted in production of adequate texts for easy learning of Russian. These were prepared under a grant of the Foundation, and they have been generally adopted here and abroad.

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It is important now that universities ready to organize rounded programs in Russian studies have some encouragement to bring into use the few men who can unite their teaching of language with special work in one of the essential fields. Such an opportunity exists at Cornell University, where Russian history has had a fair amount of attention over a considerable period. Purchase of Russian books and journals was a part of the regular library expense through many years. This development in history was interrupted due to changes in the faculty, but two years ago the interest in Russian at Cornell was renewed with the appointment of men in history whose special fields call for larger library resources and for training in the Russian language. At that time, the University having appointed as Professor of Chinese Dr. Knight Biggerstaff, a former fellow of the General Education Board, a university committee set about the organization of studies in the political and economic history of Asia. Courses outlined are now recognized as fulfilling the requirements for major sequences; and reading ability in Russian is accepted as fulfilling the requirement of one language for higher degrees in the humanities. In September, 1940, the course work in Russian literature and language will be offered for undergraduates as well as for graduate students, and advanced courses will be started to relate the programs in Russian to the requirements of other departments in the Graduate School.

This year 17 students have been at work on the language, a small number on literary studies. It is expected that the undergraduate course for next year will have an enrollment of some 60 students and that both the first and second courses in language will have good enrollments. The work is planned to give rapid reading knowledge as well as oral control of Russian and to prepare students for their work with contemporary source materials.

Dr. Posin, trained by Professor Patrick at California, is to be in charge of the language work for another year and to offer a course on Russian literature in translation. In 1941 a permanent appointment is to be given to Professor Simmons. He is now at Harvard University and is to spend this coming year in writing an important critical study on Russian literature. Both of these men are highly trained in the general field and specially suited to serve in developing the work of various departments. The subjects that are in the plan of development are philosophy, history, political theory, economics, and geography.

Cornell University has an advantage in its plan for studies of this nature in its endowment for books in English on China. The Wason Fund has provided a substantial income for many years, and this has been applied wisely toward creating a collection of

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use in all Asiatic studies. The University has added a small amount for book purchases in Russian subjects during 1939-1940 and proposes to continue this special subsidy to the library during the period of the present grant.

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Finances: The request of the University is for full and later partial support of the salary of the new staff member over a five-year period on the schedule of \$3,000 a year for 1940-1943, \$2,000 for 1943-1944, and \$1,000 for 1944-1945. A fund of \$2,000 for book purchases during the period is also requested.

The University proposes to maintain the salary during the fourth and fifth years and thereafter, and also to provide not less than \$2,000 during the five-year period for further purchase of books.

Future Implications: None.

Comment: At present the predominance of European and classical studies in the humanities draws the best men into overworked fields and increases the wrong emphasis on what American scholarship should endeavor to accomplish. It seems clear that the growth of Chinese studies in the United States will affect undergraduate teaching and general opinion fairly soon because of the distribution of younger men in several colleges and universities producing competent graduate students. The same kind of growth can be expected in Japanese and in Russian studies, and the need for this development is clearly as great.
