



The study of women in Russia and the Soviet Union is a healthy field. This is not to say, however, that the growing body of literature is well

represented in course outlines or on conference panels. The following guide should provide a starting point for further reading on Soviet women and contemporary society.

Atkinson, Dorothy, Alexander Dallin and Gail Warshofsky Lapidus (eds). *Women in Russia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1977.

This is one of the early important works on the study of women in Russia and the Soviet Union. It is a collection of papers by historians, political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists and economists. The essays provide a good introduction to a wide range of topics and, frequently, the author has a book-length study to which the reader can refer for more information (see the bibliographies by Yedlin and Wilman and by Hyer).

Bridger, Susan. *Women in the Soviet Countryside: Women's Roles in Rural Development in the USSR*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Most of the information which we have on Soviet women pertains to city dwellers. In this important contribution to the literature, Bridger discusses the nature of women's work in the agricultural sector and in the home.

Browning, Genia. *Women and Politics in the USSR: Consciousness Raising and Soviet Women's Groups*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.

At the 27th Congress of the CPSU, Gorbachev spoke of the need to establish a broader network of women's councils. Browning's study is a history and an analysis of these councils, exploring the reasons why they have not led to the development of an independent women's movement and the creation of a feminist consciousness among women.

Clements, Barbara Evans. *Bolshevik Feminist: The Life of Aleksandra Kollontai*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979.

Kollontai is Russia's most famous female revolutionary. With the re-emer-

# Annotated Bibliography

## Women in the Soviet Union

BY JANET HYER

gence of the women's movement in the 1960s, she has been rediscovered, and reclaimed, by feminists and chroniclers of women's history. This biography by Clements is excellent. For more on Kollontai, see Holt.

Goscilo, Helena (ed). *Balancing Acts: Contemporary Stories by Russian Women*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.

An excellent anthology, including biographical sketches of the writers and their publishing histories. For more on literature, see McLaughlin.

Hansson, Carola and Karin Liden. *Moscow Women*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1983.

*Moscow Women* is a collection of thirteen interviews which the authors conducted in the late 1970s. They met the women through personal rather than official contacts. There is a good cross-section of women from all walks of life. The interviews are punctuated by short, informational chapters on women in the work force, birth control and abortion, women in politics, divorce, etc. This is a valuable book because we learn about the life of Soviet women from the women themselves.

Heitlinger, Alena. *Women and State Socialism*. London: Macmillan, 1979.

This is a comparative study of women in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. Heitlinger analyzes the implications of the ideology of egalitarianism for sexual equality.

Holland, Barbara (ed). *Soviet Sisterhood*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1985.

*Soviet Sisterhood* is an anthology of essays on a wide range of topics, from Soviet views on psychological sex differences to the images of women in the media to maternity care. A fairly recent publication, it provides a necessary update to the earlier literature. And in step with the development of women's studies, it deals with issues which the earlier literature tends to overlook.

Heldt, Barbara. *Terrible Perfection: Women and Russian Literature*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.

See the book review by Diana Greene, p.102-03.

Holt, Alix (trans. and ed). *Alexandra Kollontai: Selected Writings*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1977.

Kollontai was one of the very few women in the Russian revolutionary movement to write on theoretical issues. Of particular interest to feminists is her work on the "woman question". Kollontai was also the theoretical mind behind the Worker's Opposition during the early years of the Bolshevik regime. Holt's introduction and commentaries are excellent. For more on Kollontai, see Clements.

Hyer, Janet (compiler). *Women in Russia and the Soviet Union. Bibliography. Supplement 1*. Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, 1988.

This bibliography contains 434 titles in English and Russian. Also see Yedlin and Wilman.

Jones, Ellen and Fred W. Grupp. *Modernization, Value Change, and Fertility in*

*the Soviet Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

This is a very thorough study of demographic trends and demographic policy in the Soviet Union. Until recently, the "woman question" in the USSR was understood primarily in terms of the demographic consequences of women's integration into paid labour. The discussion of the effects of social policies such as the child allowance program, the family assistance program, protective labor laws, maternity leave, etc., on women's reproductive behaviour is particularly informative.

Lapidus, Gail Warshofsky. *Women in Soviet Society: Equality, Development and Social Change*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.

This is still the standard work on women in the USSR. Lapidus's aim is to explore the ways in which the Soviet state has sought to change women's roles in the economy, politics and the family. Her analysis covers the period from the October Revolution to the Brezhnev years, with some discussion of the "woman question" in pre-revolutionary Russia.

Lapidus, Gail Warshofsky (ed). *Women, Work and Family in the Soviet Union*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1982.

This is a collection of articles by Soviet scholars and, therefore, a good opportunity to see what the Soviets themselves have to say. For more recent material from the USSR, see *Moscow News*.

Mamonova, Tatyana. *Russian Women's Studies: Essays on Sexism in Soviet Culture*. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1989.

See the book review by Heather Jon Maroney, p. 101-02.

Mamonova, Tatyana (ed). *Women and Russia: Feminist Writings from the Soviet Union*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1984.

Tatyana Mamonova was one of the founders of a dissident feminist journal, *Woman and Russia*, in Leningrad in 1979. The KGB were quick to repress the new publication and Mamonova was deported, along with three fellow editors. For an English translation of the first issue of *Woman and Russia*, see *Woman and Russia: First Feminist Samizdat*. Sheba Feminist Publishers, London, 1980. Mamonova's volume is a continuation of her work in Leningrad — documenting the experiences of Soviet women.

McLaughlin, Sigrid (trans. and ed). *The Image of Women in Contemporary Soviet Fiction*. London: Macmillan, 1989.

A selection of works by both women and men. For more on literature, see Goscilo.

*Moscow News*. A weekly newspaper published in Moscow.

In 1988, *Moscow News* began to run a column, about every four weeks, entitled "She and We." With the advent of glasnost, Soviet women are talking openly about their problems. "She and We" makes for fascinating reading. Available in English.

Stites, Richard. *The Women's Liberation Movement in Russia: Feminism, Nihilism, and Bolshevism, 1860-1930*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.

This is the standard work on the history of the women's movement in Russia — an excellent study and a goldmine of information.

Voznesenskaya, Julia. *The Women's Decameron*. London: Methuen, 1986.

Julia Voznesenskaya was deported, along with Tatyana Mamonova, from the Soviet Union in 1980 for her dissident feminist activities. *The Women's Decameron* is a novel about ten women in a maternity ward. The hospital is under quarantine, so they pass the next ten days together by telling stories about love, sex, rape, jealousy, happiness.

Yedlin, Tova (ed). *Women in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*. New York: Praeger, 1980.

This is a collection of papers from the Conference on Women in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, held at the University of Alberta in 1978. It covers a wide range of topics in history, economics and political science.

Yedlin, Tova and Jean Wilman (compilers). *Women in Russia and the Soviet Union. Bibliography*. Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, Ottawa: Carleton University, 1984.

This bibliography contains 465 titles in English and Russian. Also see Hyer.

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## This Poem's for You!

SUSAN L. HELWIG

"Shall I write a poem or iron your shirts,  
O husband mine?"  
"Iron my shirts, my dear, for clothes make  
the man, not poems the woman."

"Shall I write a poem or bake a cake,  
o husband mine?"  
"Bake a cake, my pet, for man shall not  
live by bread alone and Marie Antoinette  
herself once said, 'Let them eat cake!'"

"Shall I write a poem or wash the tubby, hubby?"  
"Oh scrub the tub, my lamb, for cleanliness is next  
to Godliness; less toil is your *bon ami*."

"Shall I pen a poem or pour your beer, my dear?"  
"Pour me a beer, my dear, for it's surely Miller time,  
and time and tide wait for no man."  
With that she poured her own beer, raised  
the glass and said  
"This poem's for you!"