UNIVERSITY THESES IN RUSSIAN, SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, 1907-2006

A Centennial Bibliography of Research in the British Isles

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PREFACE

When the late John S.G. Simmons published his original list of British higher-degree theses in Slavonic studies in *Oxford Slavonic Papers* in 1967, he noted in his introduction that ‘…British theses in Slavonic studies have not so far attracted the attention of the bibliographer’. It was characteristic of him to identify an unmet bibliographical need, in this case for access to postgraduate research on Russia, the USSR and Eastern Europe: research that was difficult to trace through general and subject-based bibliographies because of its multidisciplinary nature. Equally typical was his decision to meet that need himself by compiling the first list, covering theses approved from 1907 to 1966, drawing not only on existing published sources but also on reports from university departments. He followed it with three five-yearly supplements before convincing me to carry on the undertaking. Four further quinquennial supplements have since appeared, taking coverage up to 2001*. It was the long-standing intention of both of us that a cumulated and further updated bibliography should be published in due course, and John took an active interest in its preparation until his death in 2005.

The present bibliography of 3,317 entries includes 1,067 theses not recorded in the previously published lists. Most are from the period 2002-2006, but the figure includes 229 theses from earlier years which have been added after a further extensive search of sources. On the other hand, 546 MA and other one-year masters’ dissertations which appeared in previous lists have not been included here. On the rationale for this, see ‘Criteria for Inclusion’. Fourteen further entries in the previous lists have been omitted because re-checking showed them to be duplications, two more because they proved to be collections of published works, and two because they were judged to be out of scope. Substantive corrections or additions have been made to 167 previously published entries.

* ‘Theses in Slavonic studies approved for higher degrees …


(see ‘Sources’). Entries have been rearranged into a single sequence under an expanded set of subject and country/language headings, and two completely new Indexes have been compiled.

Despite our best efforts, and even within its carefully-defined scope and criteria for inclusion, the bibliography does not claim to be truly complete. Universities’ procedures for the recording, deposit, cataloguing and reporting of their own theses have not always been – nor are they always now – either prompt or rigorous. However, the database from which the bibliography has been derived will remain in being, in the expectation that it will be made available online to students and researchers in due course. This will offer greatly enhanced search facilities, as well as the opportunity for regular updating, and for the inclusion of a wider range of masters’ dissertations if support for that expansion of coverage is found. Corrections and additions are welcome, and should be sent to me care of the publishers (mail@mhra.org.uk).

The earliest thesis listed here was written for an Oxford B.Litt in 1907 (see entry 3004), which has happily allowed this compilation to be presented as a centennial bibliography of British and Irish postgraduate research in Russian, Soviet, Slavonic and East European studies broadly defined. So far as I can establish, it is – chronologically speaking – the longest thesis bibliography produced for any sector of area studies. While its principal purpose is to guide the academics and students of today to the extraordinary range and depth of their predecessors’ work, I hope it will also allow a fuller perception of the distinguished history of this field of scholarship in the British Isles – a history to which John Simmons was himself a notable contributor.

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I am particularly grateful to Mr Godfrey B. Simmons for permission to make use of his late brother’s thesis lists. The School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, has kindly given permission to use the 1997-2001 quinquennial list published in *The Slavonic and East European Review*. The present bibliography is indebted, like all the earlier lists, to the catalogues of many university libraries and to the *Index to Theses* (formerly *Aslib Index to Theses*), and this is again appreciatively acknowledged.

Many individuals and university departments have also contributed to my compilation of quinquennial lists since 1987 and to the present bibliography, but I should mention especially Marea Arries, Graham Dix and Nigel Hardware (Birmingham); Damien McManus (Bristol); Ray Scrivens (Cambridge); Tania Konn-Roberts (Glasgow); Joginder Khambay (Open University); Dr Barbara Wyllie (UCL-SSEES); Mark Ashworth (Surrey); and Isolde Harpur (Trinity College Dublin). Dr Jenny Brine (Lancaster), Jill Russell and Tracy Kent (Birmingham), and Rob Wilkes (Bodleian Library) have kindly advised on access to theses.

Special thanks are due to the Modern Humanities Research Association, particularly its Honorary Secretary, Professor David Gillespie, for supporting the bibliography’s publication; and to Gerard Lowe, the MHRA’s Publications Manager, for invaluable technical and editorial expertise.

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INTRODUCTION

SCOPE OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography records:

- doctoral and selected masters’ theses (see ‘Criteria for Inclusion’) which
- have been accepted by any British or Irish degree-awarding body; which
- are dated up to and including 2006; and which
- deal wholly or in significant part with any subject in the broad field of Slavonic and East European studies, including the social sciences as well as the humanities.
- Geographically the bibliography covers Russia, the whole area of the former USSR and that of the formerly communist states of Eastern Europe except the GDR.

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

The bibliography includes all doctoral theses that have been identified as falling within the scope described above, but not doctorates awarded on the basis of published work. Theses (sometimes called dissertations) for the award of two-year masters’ degrees have also been included, but not those for MAs and other one-year masters’ degrees. The lack of uniformity among universities in attaching degree titles to periods of study has sometimes made this criterion difficult to apply, since some M.Litts (in Scotland) and many M.Phils are awarded after one year. The principle has been followed as the least inconsistent means of recording substantial non-doctoral research while remaining within reasonable space limits. B.Litts and B.Phils have been included where these degrees were later made convertible to M.Litts and M.Phils.

SOURCES

The preferred source for the bibliographical details of each thesis (author, title, awarding body, degree and date) is the awarding institution’s own library catalogue record for a deposited copy. Most academic libraries now include theses in their online public access catalogues (OPACs), but in a few cases their card files or other manual catalogues have had to be consulted. If no such record has been found in the institution’s own library, the data has been drawn where possible from the catalogues of the British Library, the Senate House Library (for London University institutions), the National Library of Wales (for University of Wales colleges), or from the COPAC online union catalogue.

All entries from the original 1907–1966 list and its seven quinquennial supplements (see the Preface) have been re-checked against libraries’ own catalogue data where this is now available. As a result, 167 of the 2,250 entries appearing in the previously published lists and included in the present bibliography have been significantly amended. This has usually been done because the title of the thesis as catalogued differs — sometimes by a few words, sometimes entirely — from that originally listed. These discrepancies appear to stem largely from institutions’ failure to record changes made by authors to their thesis titles after first registration, so perpetuating the superseded titles in their own records.
A small minority of theses listed here have not been found in library catalogues but have been recorded elsewhere. At the time of closing for press (October 2007), no library catalogue record of any kind had been traced for 69 theses (2% of the total). Some of these (especially the most recent) will still be awaiting cataloguing, while others (especially the earliest) may never have been deposited. Particulars for such theses have been compiled from one or more other sources, among them the *Index to Theses*, other published thesis lists, university and departmental websites, and lists supplied by institutions. In these cases the entry has been annotated [NCR]. I am grateful to the many library and academic staff who have dealt with queries arising from conflicting and/or defective sources.

**ARRANGEMENT**

The bibliography is arranged under thirty-two subject headings, as listed in the Contents. Entries under each subject heading are sub-arranged by country/nation or language. Below that, entries are arranged in date order, then alphabetically by author within each year.

It has often been difficult to choose the most appropriate heading under which to place a thesis in which two or more disciplines come together, or which deals with more than one country or language. Alternative points of entry are provided by the indexing (see 'Indexes').

**CONTENT OF ENTRIES**

**AUTHOR’S NAME.** The spelling of the author’s name normally follows that of the preferred source (see ‘Sources’). Diacritics in the name are shown where they appear in that source or if their use elsewhere by the author has been established, but not otherwise. If the author has been found to be also catalogued or published under any name different from that recorded as appearing on the thesis, a cross-reference is given in the Author Index.

**TITLE AND SUBTITLE.** Titles and subtitles are normally given in full as they appear in the preferred source, but some very long subtitles have been abbreviated, indicated by [...] . Punctuation has been standardised by using a colon to separate title from subtitle. Diacritics have been added to non-English words (notably place and personal names) wherever they are standard in the original language. Transliterations from Cyrillic have not been standardised, but are shown as they appear in the preferred source. Minor misspellings and typos have been corrected without indication. Where titles are uninformative, an expansion or brief explanatory note has been added where possible.

**AWARDING BODY.** The name of the awarding body is given in the form – sometimes abbreviated – current at the date of the thesis. In the case of federal universities (London, Wales, National University of Ireland) and the former Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), the name of the sponsoring college or other institution is also given where known. It should be noted that the awarding body for theses from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in the University of London is shown as ‘London
(SSEES)’ up to 1999, and as ‘London (UCL)’ after that date, since the School became a constituent of University College London in 2000.

DEGREE. The title of the degree awarded is given after the name of the awarding body by one or more letters (see ‘Abbreviations’ below). The form is that current at the date of the thesis, even if the title was subsequently made convertible to another, e.g. a B.Litt to an M.Litt.

DATE. The date given is that appearing on the thesis itself, where this can be established from the preferred source. Where the catalogue record, or other available source, gives only the date of submission, approval or conferment, this has been used.

INDEXES

The Author Index contains entries for all authors’ names, including changes of name.

The Subject Index contains entries for:

- Personal and institutional names appearing in titles, subtitles or title notes.
- A standard set of subject headings (see ‘Arrangement’ above).
- Countries and other major areas.
- Specific topics appearing in titles, subtitles or title notes.
ACCESS TO BRITISH AND IRISH THESSES

Academic libraries will usually make the theses of their own institution available to bona fide researchers, either on a personal visit or by inter-library loan, although certain restrictions may apply (see below). In most cases, doctoral theses from UK universities must be requested on loan through the British Thesis Service, operated by the British Library (www.bl.uk/britishthesis). This gives access to the full text of over 170,000 British doctoral theses, mainly from the 1970s onwards. Most, though not all, UK universities now supply the BL with copies of their theses on request. The BL then sells paper copies or microfilms of the thesis. Microfilms are also available for loan to registered customers, which include most large libraries across the world. Many universities show the BL shelfmark (D-reference number) for theses listed in their own catalogues. The BTS website gives details of prices and a list of participating universities. A limited thesis search service is also available for titles from 1980 onwards. Applications for the loan of masters’ dissertations, and of doctoral theses not available from the BL, are normally made direct to the library of the awarding institution.

At the time of writing (December 2007), theses are not yet available in any electronic format from the British Thesis Service. However, the British Library, in collaboration with UK higher education institutions, is developing EThOS (www.ethos.ac.uk) as a user-led service for providing direct links to the full electronic text of theses from summer 2008. The intention is to digitise theses requested through the BTS and make them available free at the point of use. Many universities have indicated their intention to participate. EThOS will also link to other hosts, such as Google Scholar and the online research repositories now being developed by individual universities. In some cases thesis texts are available directly from authors’ own websites.

Reasonable quotation from theses is usually allowed if proper acknowledgement is given, but more extensive copying is not permitted without the consent of the copyright holder (usually the author). In some cases authors or institutions may place restrictions on the consultation of a specific thesis. Access may be embargoed for a stated number of years after acceptance. More commonly, a Thesis Declaration Form may have to be completed. This stipulates that the thesis is for the use of the named borrower only, and that no part of the text, nor any information derived from the thesis, may be quoted or published without the prior consent of the author or institution.

For a wider search of universities’ thesis output, the principal general record of British and Irish theses is the Index to Theses (formerly Aslib Index to Theses), published by Expert Information. It is available online and in printed form, and most academic libraries in the British Isles subscribe to it. A subset of Irish theses is accessible separately. It offers bibliographical data for theses from 1716 onwards. Abstracts are provided for some theses from 1970, and for nearly all doctoral theses after 1985. Entries from 1716 to 1950 are reproduced from R.R. Bilboul and F.L. Kent, eds, Retrospective Index to Theses of Great Britain and Ireland 1716–1950 (Santa Barbara, ABC Clio, 1975. 5 vols.) After that date the Index has depended on information supplied by the awarding institutions.
ABBREVIATIONS

In title
[NCR] No catalogue record found (see ‘Sources’ above)

For Institutions
CNAA Council for National Academic Awards
KCL Kings College London
LBS London Business School
LSE London School of Economics
LSHTM London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
NUI National University of Ireland
QM Queen Mary, University of London
SOAS School of Oriental and African Studies
SSEES School of Slavonic and East European Studies
TC Trinity College
UCL University College London

For Degrees Awarded
BL B.Litt.
BP B.Phil.
D Ph.D. or (Oxford and Sussex) D.Phil.
ML M.Litt.
MP M.Phil.