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Report: *Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2006*

Description of grant supported activity

The grant was used to support research in Moscow. Research of primary documents (political directives regarding art, artistic union conference proceedings, exhibition paperwork, etc.) and secondary sources not available in the United States (peasant newspapers, exhibition travel guides, etc.) was conducted at the Tretyakov Museum archives, the Russian State Archives of Literature and Art (RGALI), the State Public Library, and the Historical Library. Paintings and sculptures in the Tretyakov Museum, New Tretyakov, Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and Mayakovsky Museum collections were observed and analyzed. In addition a day trip to The All-Union Agricultural Exhibition (VDNKh) site was undertaken for direct observation of the site, the original buildings and all subsequent additions to the grounds.

Completion of project

The purpose was to amass as many materials as possible relating to Socialist Realism in the 1930s and to the 1939 All-Union Agricultural Exhibition in particular, which were transcribed and/or copied for translation and analysis back in the states. Photographs were taken of the exhibition grounds and original buildings for future use. Copious notes were made of key works of art in the various museum collections were made for future research and teaching.

Product from research

The research as well as the observation of the exhibition site greatly enhanced an article on the 1939 agricultural exhibition that is pending publication. The editor of the anthology in which the article will be published noted that the research done on this trip, as well as my first-hand experience with the site, had a significant impact in improving the essay.

The research materials resulted in directly improving a paper on Stalinist agricultural exhibitions that was presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) national conference in the fall of 2006. In addition, consultation of the materials garnered on the trip and the personal observation of various works of art and architecture heretofore not seen allowed for a more worthwhile discussion during the question and answer session.

Future articles are being planned with the materials from this research trip.

The 2006 fall semester class, *100 Years of Russian Art and Culture*, benefited from my observations of numerous works of art that were analyzed throughout the course as having seen the actual paintings and sculptures in person added untold dimensions to the presentation of the material to the students.