Moshe Gammer, historian of the Caucasus and Central Asia, passed away on April 16, 2013. He left a void not only in the hearts of his family, friends and colleagues at Tel Aviv University, but also in the field of Caucasian, Eurasian and Russian studies.

Born in the USSR, Moshe emigrated to Israel in 1960 with his parents, arriving in a country very different from that of his childhood. As a gifted young violinist he chose to study at the Thelma-Yellin High School of the Arts. But when time came to decide whether to pursue a musician’s career Moshe opted to study at the Department of History and the Department of the History of the Middle East and Africa at Tel Aviv University.

The choice of these two departments shaped his future academic path. At the History Department he was exposed to the subject of Imperial Russia’s conquest of the Caucasus. The fact that his Russian was fluent was, of course, a great advantage. At the Department of Middle East History, he studied, among other subjects, Islam and Arabic. During his first and second degree studies he was especially attracted by the phenomenon of resistance to Russian imperial rule and by the figure of Shamil as its leader. Eventually this became the topic of his doctoral dissertation, which he defended at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1983, and subsequently of his seminal book “Muslim Resistance to the Tsar: Shamil and the Conquest of Chechnia and Daghestan” (London: Frank Cass, 1994). Immediately upon its appearance the book was assessed by one of its reviewers as “an exceptionally well-researched, intelligent and balanced work of scholarship”. The same reviewer predicted, correctly, that it would be “the definitive study of this subject for decades”. This book and Moshe Gammer’s following works, including his more recent book, “The Lone Wolf and the Bear. Three Centuries of Chechen Defiance of Russian Rule” (London: Hurst, and Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh, 2005), became mandatory for students of the Russian Empire and the Caucasus. During the last decade the range of his research expanded even further: fluent in Russian, Hebrew, English, French, Arabic and Turkish, he immersed himself in the study of the history of the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the modern Middle East, contemporary historiography, the relations between history and politics, and Russia’s relations with the Muslim world.

Professor Gammer worked intensively until the very last moment when he succumbed to his illness: one of his last articles appeared in “Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas” in April 2013, only a few days before his funeral, and the last volume he edited, devoted to the history of Daghestan, is scheduled to be published at the end of this year in the “Humaniora” series of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. We, who studied and worked with Moshe, were well aware of his encyclopedic knowledge. But only now, looking at his scholarly heritage, do we realize how much he managed to explore and contribute to various fields of research during the three decades of his prolific academic career.

Being an eminent, internationally recognized expert on Caucasian and Central Asian history, Professor Gammer played an exceptional role in the broader academic community. He organized international conferences and workshops bringing together researchers from Russia, Georgia, Daghestan and Israel and various American and European universities and research centres. Participants in these events usually kept in contact with Moshe and frequently became his personal friends. His colleagues both near and far were drawn to him by his personal charm, his openness, modesty and his willingness to build...
bridges between people from different places and cultures. He always found time to listen and respond to those who sought his help and advice.

Not surprisingly, Professor Gammer was not only an acclaimed researcher whose international reputation drew talented students from all over the world, but also an admired teacher. In his courses he opened the field of Central Asian and Caucasian studies to many students. He was a committed and considerate advisor to his numerous students and was their guide in the academic world, continuing to remain in contact with them and to take care of them years after they had finished their studies in Tel Aviv and launched their own scholarly careers. His former students now teach and research in various universities throughout the world, maintaining the high standards of devotion to their profession that Professor Gammer imparted to them.

Moshe Gammer is survived by his wife, Ruth Frankl-Gammer, Head Librarian of the School of Architecture library at Tel Aviv University, and their daughter Billie.

His colleagues and students will miss him forever; his memory and his work will live on.

Vera Kaplan and Batir Hasanov, Tel Aviv

Bericht über die Jahresversammlung der „Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia“


wusstseins förderte. Eine zentrale Rolle in ihrer Untersuchung nehmen die Aktivitäten des zeitgenössischen Politikers Georg Magnus Sprengtporten ein.


Darüber hinaus stellte Vladislav Rjeoutski ein Projekt der Universität Bristol zur Ver­wendung der französischen Sprache in Russland im 18. Jahrhundert vor. Im Rahmen die­ses Projekts ist zum einen die Veröffentlichung eines Lexikons geplant, zum anderen wird ein online verfügbarer Korpus von französischen Quellen zusammengestellt.

**ВИВЛИОΘΙКА: E-Journal of Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies**

**ВИВЛИОΘΙКА** (URL: http://vivlioﬁka.library.duke.edu/) is a new peer-reviewed, multi­disciplinary, open-access journal published by the Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association (Ecrsa) and hosted by Duke University Libraries.

**Vivlioﬁka** is now accepting submissions for its forthcoming inaugural issue. **Vivlioﬁka** accepts submissions in all relevant disciplines and in all the major languages in which eighteenth-century Russian studies is researched. It is our hope that this electronic publication will provide a forum for the promotion, dissemination and critical reception of original scholarly research on eighteenth-century Russian studies, based on a spirit of internationalism and a belief in the principle of accessibility. Article-length submissions can address any aspects of the culture and history of the Russian Empire (broadly defined to include all the ethnicities, nationalities, and confessions within and around its shifting borders) during “the long eighteenth century” (1660–1830).

Authors are required to submit their papers online. **Vivlioﬁka** does not accept submis­sions on paper. All submissions to **Vivlioﬁka** go through the traditional anonymous peer­review process. Full submission guidelines can be found on the journal’s website at: http://vivlioﬁka.library.duke.edu/about/submissions#authorGuidelines.

**ВИВЛИΟΘΙΚΑ Editorial Board**

Ernest Zitser, Duke University (USA): ernest.zitser@duke.edu

Robert Collis, University of Sheffield (UK): r.collis@sheffield.ac.uk

Olga Tsapina, The Huntington Library (USA): otsapina@huntington.org

Gary Marker, State University of New York at Stony Brook (USA): gmarker@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Elena Smilianskaia, Russian State University for the Humanities (Russian Federation): esmilian@mail.ru