The Monash Ada Booth Slavic Collection, its Contribution to Research on Asia and the Ada Booth Research Fellowship

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The Ada Booth Slavic Collection at Monash University Library houses the Library’s Slavic language resources. The collection was established in 2011 as a result of the Library receiving a large benefaction from the will of the late Ada Phyllis Booth (1921-2008), physicist and lecturer at the University of Melbourne.

The main subject areas covered are Slavic literatures and language studies, history, politics and art in Eastern Europe, Russia and the Soviet Union. The collection also contains materials on communist and left-wing politics, a lifelong interest of Ada Booth. As a result of this relatively broad thematic and geographic focus, the Ada Booth Slavic collection also includes resources on the relationship between Eastern Europe and Asia, in particular during the Soviet period and present-day. The Library holds publications on the alliances and conflicts between the Soviet Union/Russia and various groups and nations on the Asian continent, such as the foreign relations between the People’s Republic of China and the USSR.

In addition to the extensive physical sources, the Ada Booth benefaction has also funded acquisition of numerous online resources. Recently the Library acquired the “Socialism on Film” digital archive of films from the British Film Institute National Archive published by Adam Matthew. The archive is a unique multidisciplinary collection of sources from the USSR, Vietnam, Cuba, China, East Germany, and Eastern Europe that allows users to gain insight into the communist world.
Ada Booth Research Fellowship

Monash University Library is calling for applications for the Ada Booth Research Fellowship, which will award up to AUD 20,000 to a research project that will make use of our extensive resources in Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies. While researchers are asked to make use of our Slavic language collections, they can complement their research with materials from our other collections, including Monash University Library’s Asian Collections and our vast electronic resources.

[The above illustration is a historical Soviet poster with of three women in dark red profile- one with a flagpole in hand - striding strongly across a background with a yellow line pattern evoking wheat. Over the image is superimposed a transparent Monash 'M' logo.]