

Russian history books donated

By Dulcie Shoener

A 5,200-volume collection of books on Russian history and culture has been donated to UNL's Love Library, but it may be several years before the collection is open to the public, said Dean Waddel, assistant dean of libraries at UNL.

The books were given by Anatole Mazour, a 1929 UNL graduate who taught for many years at Stanford University. The collection was appraised at the time of his death at approximately \$75,000.

The books are currently housed in the special Collections area on the third floor of Love Library, where library staff members are taking inventory of the collection.

It may be several years before the collection is completely sorted, cataloged and available to the public, Waddel said. Because half of the books are in the Russian language, the cataloging will take longer, he said, because not every library staff member has Russian language skills.

One staff member who is familiar with the language is receiving training to refresh his cataloging skills, Waddel said.

Cataloging takes time

He said he hopes that within a year's time, if things go reasonably well, a high percentage of the Russian portion of the collection will be cataloged.

The other half of the collection, which is mostly in English, should be completely cataloged in one to two years.

"A lot depends on the influx of other materials that come in," Waddel said. "We can't just say 'stop everything and catalog this.'"

The inventory should be completed by the end of this year, he said.

Most of the books arrived in Lincoln near the end of July, but a few boxes arrived last month. It took nearly 200 boxes to package the collection, which has been "literally stacked top to bottom" in Mazour's office in the history department of Stanford University, Waddel said. Waddel traveled to Stanford this summer to supervise the packing of the books.

He said there was not time to sort through the books at the time of packing, but any books that the university

Employment seminar offered for one credit

The College of Agriculture is offering credit hours to senior agriculture students who take the six-week Employment Seminar course next semester.

The course counts for one credit hour.

The seminar will be especially important this year, said coordinator Anne Johnson, because of the depressed job market.

"We insist that the students develop other plans for jobs besides relying on one type of job," she said. "Three years ago, the job market was good. During the past year it has gone down considerably in the numbers of jobs and areas needing new people."

Johnson said the declining agricultural employment situation is because of the bad general economy and the farm economy. She said available jobs in agricultural machinery are considerably down at the present time, but the market will get better eventually.

The employment seminar is not a new program. Johnson said it began in 1973 as a non-credit two-day seminar, but the program was given course credit because of its importance and student interest.

"When there was no credit given for the course," she said, "we'd have a great deal of students come to the first session and then lose many of them for the second session. Since the students need extra help in being prepared for interviews, we gave it a credit hour to add incentive."

Johnson said she feels this program has helped many students to find jobs.

"Employers have told us that students from UNL are well-prepared for interviews," she said. "This program is set up to help them search for jobs more effectively."

thinks do not belong in the collection will be given back to the Mazour family.

High-quality selections

James McClelland, an associate professor of history at UNL whose specialty is modern Russian history, said he was elated when he learned that the books had been given to the university, because the books are of high quality.

"What is impressive is that Professor Mazour really knew how to choose books," McClelland said.

The collection includes some first editions of important works from before and just after the 1917 Russian Revolution, he said. Only four or five other libraries in the United States may have some of the books in the collection, he added.

"This will make the University of Nebraska one of the best universities in the Midwest for studying Russian history," McClelland said.

According to a UNL press release, Mazour, who was 81 at the time of his death last year, came to the United States from Russia in 1923. He was considered a leader in the field of Russian and Soviet history and wrote extensively on the subject. In 1963 Mazour received an honorary doctor of laws degree from UNL.

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