



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
5th Floor, Hunt Library  
Carnegie Mellon University  
4909 Frew Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Telephone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [www.huntbotanical.org](http://www.huntbotanical.org)

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

#### *Usage guidelines*

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

#### *Statement on harmful and offensive content*

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Dear Sir!

I am very grateful for reprints of your papers on fungi which I have just received. I would greatly appreciate receiving other reprints of your mycological papers.

Yours sincerely  
D. S. P. Wasser

КИЇВ. Готель «Либідь» на площі Перемоги.  
КИЕВ. Гостиница «Лыбедь» на площади  
Победы.  
Фото Р. Якименка.  
Художник В. Вейшан



© «Радянська Україна», 1974. Київ

U.S.A. 1214  
Prof. B. Lowy  
Louisiana State University and Agricultural  
and mechanical college  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
70803

S.P. Wasser, U.S.S.R.  
Kiev-GSP-1, Repina 2.  
80205-37  
Inst. of Botany  
Head. sec. of Ukr. SSR

С Новым годом!

Merry X'mas  
and  
a Happy New Year!  
S. P. Wasser

N. G. Kholodny  
Institute of Botany of  
Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian S. S. R.  
Институт ботаники им. Н. Г. Холодного АН УССР

Dear sir,

Многоуважаемый коллега!

I should be very obliged if You could send me a reprint of your  
paper:

Я был бы Вам очень признателен, если бы Вы прислали мне  
оттиск Вашей статьи: Mushroom symbolism  
in Maya codices  
Myc. 1972, №4

and any other reprints on the same subject  
а также другие оттиски работ на ту же тему

Yourz sincerely  
Искренне Ваш

*C. B. Bann*

Dear Prof. B. Loxly!

I congratulate you  
on X'mas!

Best wishes in a  
New Year!

Cardially  
S. Wasser

ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ!  
СЧАСТЛИВОГО НОВОГО ГОДА!

Автор Р. Якименко

БФ 10962  
З. 03317  
Т. 3.500.000  
Ц. 3 коп.

«Радянська Україна». 1975. Київ

©

Я  $\frac{80205-086}{M227(04)-75}$  15-75

С ДНЕМ 8 МАРТА!

With the compliments  
of S. Wasser

Фото И. Дергилева

© Издательство «Изобразительное искусство», Москва, 1975

5-950. Зак. 675  
A06838-75  
Т. 2 млн. КПК  
Ц. 3 к. 3117211

Д  $\frac{80205-0422}{024(01)-75}$  Без объявл.

Пересылке по почте в от-  
крытом виде не подлежит



З Новим

роком!

С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ!

Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

S. Wasser



February 25, 1976

Dear Prof. B. Lowy:

Much thanks for the letter and stamps. In my turn, I also send you the stamps.

I list you the names of mushrooms. Really, we like together the wild-growing mushrooms and this hobby is called "the third huntin" (after game-stalking and fishing). And it was interesting to know that in the USA and some other countries people do not gather the valuable edible mushrooms in the forests. That is why artificial growing of mushrooms is, evidently, developed weakly. Now about the names.

All species of the genus Amanita are called Mukhomor but Amanita muscaria has many names, the main are: Mukhomor, Mukhomor krasny, morimukha.

Lactarius <sup>5</sup>delicious - Ryzhik;

L. piperatus - Grugd' perechny.

Armillaria mellea - Opjonok.

Coprinus comatus - Navoznik bely. (= dung mushroom white)

Boletus edulis - Bely grib, borovik, korovka.

Boletus aereus - Bronzovy grib

Boletus scaber - Podberjozovik, berjozovik.

Boletus aurantiacus - Podosinivik.

Cantharellus ciborius - Lisichki.

Morchella sp. - Smorchok.

All species of the genus Russula - Syroezhki.

✓ Lactarius vellereus - Skripitza,

I cannot give the name of *Boletus rufus* as the author of the species is not presented. I don't know what mushroom is called travjanka, but I'll write to Dr. Vasil'kov, he is an expert on the folk names of mushrooms. Then I'll give you a note.

I'll be glad if these data will be useful for your interesting and noble work on ethnomycology.

Kindly Yours

S. Wasser

C. Bauer

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

20-I-1976

Dr. S. Wasser  
Institute of Botany  
Academy of Science  
2 Repina, Kiev-GSP-1  
Ukranian SSR

Dear Dr. Wasser:

Many thanks for your reprints which have just arrived. As always, I am very glad to have the separates of your work.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in ethnomycology and from time to time I have gathered information from Mesoamerica (mostly Mexico and Guatemala). I also have some data from other areas of the world referring to the common names for mushrooms. Since many Russians are known to be great admirers of wild mushrooms, a number of terms have of course been applied to them and some of these have come to my attention. In the short list that follows, I would like to ask your kindness in checking the accuracy of the names and making any corrections or additions that you consider to be necessary. Regarding Amanita muscaria it would be of special interest to know whether this species is presently used or known among the people of Kamchatka or other regions of Siberian Russia.

My list follows:

MUKHOMOR ✓ = <u>Amanita muscaria</u> (fly killer)	BERJOZOVIK ✓ = <u>Boletus scaber</u> ?
BOROVIK ✓ = <u>Boletus aureus</u> ?	PODOSINOVIK ✓ = <u>Boletus rufus</u> ?
RYZHNIK ✓ = <u>Lactarius deliciosus</u> (rusty rings)	LISICHIK ✓ = <u>Cantharellus cibarius</u> (? little foxes)
GRUZDI ✓ = <u>Lactarius piperatus</u> ?	SMORCHIK ✓ = <u>Morchella</u> spp. ?
OPJONOK ✓ = <u>Coprinus comatus</u> ? or/ <u>Armilleriella mellea</u> ?	SYROEZHKI = ?
<u>Boletus edulis</u> = ?	SKRIPITZA = ? (screaking mushroom) is cкpипит'я =
	TRAVJANKA = ? (grass m.) is TPABa' <u>violinet</u> !
	P. 16 M R 14 herb used

I have another favor to ask you. On the envelope that you recently addressed to me, you used a very interesting stamp commemorating the "Colloquia Botanicarum" held in Leningrad last year as part of the XII International Botanical Congress. One of the 5 sections of this stamp shows a black spore print. May I beg you to send me an unused stamp if this is still available? I do not know whether mushroom stamps may interest you, but I enclose a set issued by the Rep. of San Marino in 1967, together with stamps commemorating the 1975 COIOZ-APOLLO space mission.

With kindest regards,

*B. Lowy*  
B. Lowy

Russian surnames: Borovikov  
Gribov / Gribovskij  
Opjonkin  
Lisichkin  
Gribunin  
Gribovedov = Mr. Mushroomeater son

belye gairby = white mushrooms  
berjoza = birch tree  
osina = aspen  
bor = pine forest

March 16, 1976

Dr. S. Wasser  
Institute of Botany  
Academy of Science  
2 Repina, Kiev-GSP-1  
Ukrainian SSR

Dear Dr. Wasser:

I appreciate very much your reponse to my inquiry concerning the meaning of Russian vernacular names for some mushrooms. The kindly, imaginative and even poetic names (lisichik, ryzhin) clearly indicate the love that people have for wild, edible species. There is nothing comparable to this among English-speaking people, who on the contrary, generally regard wild mushrooms with disdain, even fear. The origin of these diametrically different views would be quite interesting to investigate.

The folklore surrounding Amanita muscaria in various parts of the world is of special interest. For example, the enigmatic "Soma" of India has been identified with it and recently in my field work I have established the existence of a myth among native people of Guatemala which links Amanita muscaria with the thunderbolt.

There is convincing evidence that Amanita muscaria was used in times past as an inebriant among the Koryak, Kamchadal, Yukagir and other people of the Kamchatka Peninsula, but current data are lacking. Would it be possible for you or Professor Vasilkov to shed further light on this question?

With kindest regards,

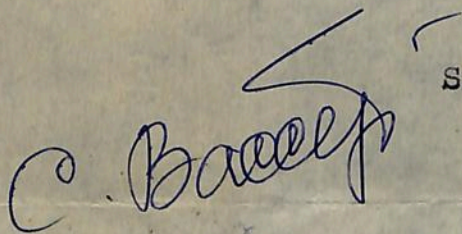
Bernard Lowy

Kiev, September 3, 1975

Dear Prof. B.Lowy!

Much thanks for help in receiving the data concerning *A.tabularis*. I've received the main evidence about it from Prof A.H.Smith.

Prof. Aaron I.Sharp told me about your being in Europe. He met with you in Paris.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Wasser', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Sincerely yours

S.Wasser

Kiev, June 16, 1975

Dear Professor B.Lowy!

I am engaged in the problem of *Agaricus tabularis* Pk. - *A. maskae* Pil. for several years. I am not sure in identity of the north-American species of Peck and European one of Pilate. I have collected a large material, I consulted on the question with Dr. A. Pilate (now the deceased) and this year I worked in the herbarium of Dr. G. Bohus (Budapest). However this problem is not yet solved. We need material from the USA on *A. tabularis* for final decision of the problem on the mentioned fungi identity. My earnest request is to send *A. tabularis* (1-2 fruit bodies) for critical and systematic study. If you are interested in any herbarium samples write and I'll send them to you.

Sincerely yours

C. Baeey

S. Wasser

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

15-VII-1975

Dear Alex,

I have just returned from Europe and found the enclosed request in my mail. If you can help Dr. Wasser, I know he would be very grateful.

Rumors have reached me that you have retired from teaching. If true, let me send you my congratulations. I suppose this means that you will be working as usual on the agarics, with the great added advantage of not having to bother about formal classes.

With admiration and respect for all that you have done and will do,

Cordially yours,  
Bernie Lowy

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

*College of Arts and Sciences*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

5-VIII-1975

Dear Dr. Wasser:

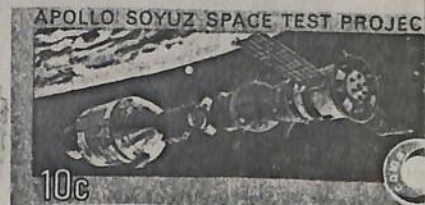
When I returned from Europe recently, I found your letter requesting collections of Agaricus tabularis Pk. for study. Since to my knowledge this does not occur in Louisiana, I have written to my colleague Dr. A.H. Smith of the University of Michigan, asking him to send you this material if possible. I hope that in this way you may receive specimens of the agaric that you need.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

*B. Lowy*  
B. Lowy

Lowy  
BOTANY  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803



VIA AIR MAIL

DR. S. P. WASSER  
INSTITUTE OF BOTANY  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, UKRANIAN SSR  
GSP-1, REPRINA 2  
KIEV, UKRANIAN SSR

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

20-V-1975

Dear Dr. Wauer,

Thank you for your kindness  
in sending me a copy of the 1974  
edition of "Notulae Systematicae....."  
together with a reprint of your paper  
on Palaeopsis.

I am glad to have at hand this  
useful summary of recent work by you  
and your colleagues from Kiev.

With kindest regards,

B. Lowy  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor of Botany

## *Ukraine Grave Found To Hold Stalin Victims*

MOSCOW, March 24 (AP) — A Government commission has concluded that thousands of people buried in a mass grave outside Kiev were killed during Stalin's repressions, not by Nazi soldiers, the official press agency Tass reported today.

The commission's conclusion supports the testimony of elderly witnesses in the nearby village of Bykovnia, who said they saw trucks dripping blood en route to the site in the 1930's, before the Nazis occupied the area.

Unofficial estimates put the number of bodies in the grave at 200,000 to 300,000.

Villagers in Bykovnia broke five decades of silence to accuse Stalin's secret police after the Ukrainian government erected a monument in May 1988 blaming Nazi occupiers for the crime.

But since the last Soviet troops withdrew from the country on Feb. 15, assessments of the military situation that have been relayed to Western reporters by the Soviet Embassy here appear to have been generally reliable when they could be independently checked.

In a separate development that was reported by Soviet officials today, the Kabul authorities said they had seized a Volkswagen car loaded with high explosives and 17 rockets that were said to have been part of a guerrilla plan to attack the Soviet Embassy here on Tuesday, when Muslims in Afghanistan celebrate New Year's Day.

Afghan Government accounts of the incident that were relayed to Western reporters gave no further details, but the incident appeared to have

Until quite recently most Americans were with at least one Russian word, a word often r It was a convenient code word which supposedly opinion regarding the assessment of an entire know the meaning of "nyet"? But times have ch vocabulary boasts of two additional Russian wo quire translation: "glasnost," and "perestroif that American attitudes toward the Soviet Unio vorable than they were only a few years ago. Strident Russophobia has been largely replaced by optimism and hope. The following brief remarks are a commentary on a visit to the LSU Botany Department by a professor from the Soviet Union .

About 15 years ago, as a professor of botany at LSU, I began corresponding with a Russian colleague. Throughout that period the cold war had its ups and downs, but the chill became a deep freeze during the early years of the Reagan administration, when the president described the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." It must immediately be added that that same president, near the end of his term of office, had so altered his judgment that in a conspicuous gesture of friendship he was able to embrace the leader of that empire in his home territory. Such are the vicissitudes of political life!

Nothing of the sort happened between my Russian colleague and me. In our correspondence we ignored the cold war, and instead our interests grew broader and more cordial. Last year that colleague, Dr. Solomon P. Wasser, expressed an interest in visiting and working with me at LSU.

Jim Crain 8654  
Alumni Center  
54 V. Lakeshore Dr.  
Times Picayune, N.O.  
25-V-89  
M. 9:35 AM  
Times-Picayune Joyce Davis  
CSP. Ed. Sunday  
Wasser  
copy sent: 22-V-89  
"LSU Bot. & the Sov. Comm."

Until quite recently most Americans were on familiar terms with at least one Russian word, a word often repeated with ridicule. It was a convenient code word which supposedly reflected popular opinion regarding the assessment of an entire nation. Who does not know the meaning of "nyet"? But times have changed. Now the common vocabulary boasts of two additional Russian words that no longer require translation: "glasnost," and "perestroika." It is undeniable that American attitudes toward the Soviet Union are now far more favorable than they were only a few years ago. Strident Russophobia has been largely replaced by optimism and hope. The following brief remarks are a commentary on a visit to the LSU Botany Department by a professor from the Soviet Union .

About 15 years ago, as a professor of botany at LSU, I began corresponding with a Russian colleague. Throughout that period the cold war had its ups and downs, but the chill became a deep freeze during the early years of the Reagan administration, when the president described the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." It must immediately be added that that same president, near the end of his term of office, had so altered his judgment that in a conspicuous gesture of friendship he was able to embrace the leader of that empire in his home territory. Such are the vicissitudes of political life!

Nothing of the sort happened between my Russian colleague and me. In our correspondence we ignored the cold war, and instead our interests grew broader and more cordial. Last year that colleague, Dr. Solomon P. Wasser, expressed an interest in visiting and working with me at LSU.

With the approval of Dr. Russell Chapman, Head of the Botany Department, Dr. Wasser was invited to spend a month with us at the Baton Rouge campus.

Dr. S.P. Wasser is Head of the Department of Cryptogamic Botany of the Kholodny Botanical Institute in Kiev, capitol of the Ukraine. The Institute is affiliated with the Ukranian Academy of Sciences of which Dr. Wasser is also a member. His special interest is in the fungi, particularly the mushrooms, and he has written extensively on many aspects of mycology both theoretical and practical. Although still quite young at 43, he has published 17 books and numerous articles in professional journals both in the Soviet Union and abroad. While at the LSU Botany Department he has worked in the mycological herbarium (LSU's depository of fungus collections), and also presented a seminar illustrated with color slides, showing many regions of the Soviet Union where Dr. Wasser has made study tours which have extended from Moscow to Vladivostok.

Among Dr. Wasser's talents is his ability to communicate in five languages: Ukranian (native to him), Russian (which is similar but distinct), German, Hungarian, and English. Occasionally, when he is seeking an appropriate word or expression, he may switch languages in mid-speech (commonly from English to German), but the result nearly always clarifies, provided that you are at least bilingual.

Dr. Wasser has an insatiable curiosity about American customs and culture, and his questions sometimes seem naive to the cogniscenti among us. At a baseball game (his first ever) he asked about the basemen and fielders: "What are those men standing around for, doing nothing?" He also asked with some puzzlement: "What are the men in black suits doing?"

Dr. Wasser marveled at the automatic money machines on the LSU campus. There is nothing like that back home. At any supermarket displaying thousands of items of food, clothing, electronic equipment etc., after close inspection, his Alice in Wonderland comment was: "This is not normal!" All of this is instructive (to me). It underscores the abundance we take for granted in our consumer society.

At the university Dr. Wasser became deeply interested in the research programs being carried out by various members of the botany staff. Since his jurisdiction at the Institute in Kiev covers the entire field of cryptogamic botany, including principally algae, fungi and lichens, he was able to exchange pertinent data in these areas with specialists. He also obtained valuable current <sup>experimental and</sup> bibliographic information covering a wide spectrum of research of special interest to him. Likewise, by Dr. Wasser's generous distribution of books and articles of which he and his colleagues are the authors, members of our department became apprized of <sup>botanical</sup> current research being carried out in Kiev and elsewhere in the USSR.

at LSU

It is the hope of Dr. Wasser's colleagues <sup>at</sup> ~~here~~ that an exchange of academic personnel between our institutions may become more common. With the gradual normalization of relations between our countries, such an exchange can only result in a better understanding on all levels, and in enhanced mutual benefit.

B. Lowy  
Prof. Emeritus

# NEWS OF BIOLOGY IN THE SOUTHEAST

---

JON R. FORTMAN—*News Editor*  
Division of Science and Math  
Mississippi University for Women  
Columbus, MS 39701

## ABOUT PEOPLE AND PLACES

### KENTUCKY

*Eastern Kentucky University, Department of Biological Sciences.* Dr. Ronald Jones has received a Hesler Award from the Botany Department, University of Tennessee, for his project entitled "Continued Studies on the Vascular Flora of Cumberland Plateau Wetlands in Tennessee." The EKU Herbarium, curated by Dr. Jones, has recently been moved to a larger facility. Exchanges or gifts of vascular plant specimens, especially woody plants, aquatics, and Asteraceae of the southeastern U.S. are welcome.

### LOUISIANA

*Louisiana State University, Cooperative Extension Service.* A call for papers has been issued by the International Association of Astacology for their 8th International Symposium, to be held at the Baton Rouge Hilton Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 22–26 April 1990. The Association was founded in Minterthal, Austria in 1972. Its members are dedicated to the advancement of the study and wise utilization of all freshwater crayfishes. Officers for 1987–1990 are James F. Payne, President, Department of Biology, Memphis State University, David Holdich, Dept. of Zoology, University of Nottingham, England, Jay V. Huner, Sec./Treas., University of Southwestern Louisiana. For information contact: Mr. L. W. de la Bretonne, Jr., Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Knapp Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Phone: (504) 388-2180.

*Louisiana State University, Department of Botany.* Dr. William J. Luke, a retired associate professor of botany, has donated funds to establish a cash award recognizing outstanding teaching by graduate students in the department. The annual award will promote excellence in teaching and, because most of the graduate assistants are employed to teach undergraduate laboratory classes, the new award will also benefit undergraduate education at LSU. Dr. Luke joined the Department of Botany in 1968 and taught numerous courses until his retirement in 1980. Dr. James V. Moroney, an assistant professor, has been selected as a 1989 Presidential Young Investigator by the National Science Foundation. Moroney, a plant photosynthesis specialist who joined LSU in 1986, will receive a base award of \$25,000 annually for five years. This year, 197 awards were made nationally by the NSF in all areas of science and engineering. The award, which recognizes research and teaching achievements as well as academic potential, is designed to encourage quality scientists and engineers to serve in university faculty positions. In addition to the base award, the NSF will match other gifts from industry and individuals toward Moroney's research. The award can amount to \$500,000 over a five year period, provided matching funds can be obtained from industrial sources or non-profit foundations. Drs. Janet Keough, Jim Grace, and Glenn Guntenspergen recently received an award from the National Wetlands Research Center for a project entitled, "The Effect of Waterlogging and Salinity on Competitive Ability in Coastal Marsh Plant Species." E. A. Zimmer, D. P. Pashley, and R. M. Zink have received a \$50,000 NSF-Epscor Grant for "Development of an Interdisciplinary Program in Molecular Evolution." Congratulations to Dr. Bruce Williamson, who was honored along with other researchers of distinction from LSU, Southern University, and the Louisiana State Department of Education by Phi Delta Kappa. He was also reelected to a third term as Vice-President of Education of the Organization for Tropical Studies at its annual meeting in Costa Rica. Dr. S. P. Wasser from the Institute of Botany in Kiev, arrived on 25 April 1989 to work with Dr. Lowy on some Amazonian collections in the LSU Mycology Herbarium. Mike Arnold has accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Genetics at the University of Georgia.

PROGRAM

BATON ROUGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

JAMES PAUL  
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

NATHANIEL ROSEN  
CELLO

43!

Sunday, May 7, 1989 and Tuesday, May 9, 1989

ADAMS            The Chairman Dances (Foxtrot for Orchestra)

ELGAR            Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in E Minor, Op. 85

Adagio  
Allegro molto  
Adagio  
Allegro ma non troppo

INTERMISSION

DVOŘÁK          Symphony No. 9 in E Minor "From the New World"

Adagio; Allegro molto  
Largo  
Scherzo; Molto vivace  
Allegro con fuoco

Special funding for this program was provided by  
**Cortana Mall**

This concert was made possible in part through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana State Arts Council through the Division of the Arts, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and the Community Fund for the Arts. ♦ The Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra is a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League. ♦ This concert is being recorded for broadcast on WRKF, 89.3 FM, on Sunday, June 4, 1989 at 1:00 P.M. ♦ Photographic and recording equipment may not be used in the Centroplex Theatre.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

54 University Lakeshore Drive • 504/388-8654

Date

9/12/89

To

Dr. Lowy

Many thanks.

Sam Crow

- For distribution
- For your disposition
- For your recommendation
- For your information
- For your files

## OTHER OPINIONS | Columns

## World View

## U.S.-Russian academic exchanges can be beneficial

By BERNARD LOWY

Until recently, most Americans were on familiar terms with at least one Russian word, a word often repeated with ridicule. It was a convenient code word, which allegedly reflected popular opinion regarding an entire nation.

Who does not know the meaning of "nyet?"

But times have changed.

Now the common vocabulary boasts two additional Russian words that no longer require translation: "glasnost" and "perestroika."

It is undeniable that American attitudes toward the Soviet Union are more favorable than they were a few years ago. Strident Russophobia has largely been replaced by optimism and hope.

That was not the case 15 years ago when, as a professor of botany at LSU, I began corresponding with a Russian colleague.

Throughout that period, the Cold War had its ups and downs, but the chill became a deep freeze during the early years of the Reagan administration, when the president described the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

It must be added that the same president, near the end of his term, had so altered his judgment that in a conspicuous gesture of friendship, he embraced the leader of that empire on a visit to his territory. Such are the vicissitudes of political life.

Nothing of the sort happened between my Russian colleague and me. In our correspondence, we ignored the Cold War, and our interests grew broader and more cordial. Last year, that colleague, Dr. Solomon P. Wasser, expressed an interest in visiting and working with me at LSU.

With the approval of Dr. Russell Chapman, head of the Botany Department, Dr. Wasser was invited to spend a month with us at the Baton Rouge campus.

Wasser is head of the Depart-

*American attitudes toward the Soviet Union are more favorable than they were a few years ago. Strident Russophobia has largely been replaced by optimism and hope.*

ment of Cryptogamic Botany of the Kholodny Botanical Institute of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine. The Institute is affiliated with the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, of which Wasser also is a member. His special interest is in fungi, particularly mushrooms, and he has written extensively on many aspects of mycology, both theoretical and practical.

Although still young at 43, he had published 17 books and numerous articles in professional journals in the Soviet Union and abroad. While at the LSU botany department, he worked in the mycological herbarium (LSU's depository of fungus collections)

and presented a seminar illustrated with color slides showing many regions of the Soviet Union from Moscow to Vladivostok where he made study tours.

Among Dr. Wasser's talents is an ability to communicate in five languages: Ukrainian (his native tongue), Russian (which is similar but distinct), German, Hungarian and English. Occasionally, when he sought an appropriate word or expression, he switched languages in mid-speech (commonly from English to German), but the result nearly always clarified, provided that you were at least bilingual.

Wasser had an insatiable curi-

osity about American customs and culture, and his questions sometimes seemed naive to the cogniscenti among us. At his first baseball game, he asked about the basemen and fielders: "What are those men standing around for, doing nothing?" He also asked, puzzled, "What are the men in black suits doing?"

Dr. Wasser marveled at the automatic money machines on LSU's campus. There was nothing like that back home.

Once he was at a supermarket that displayed thousands of items of food, clothing, electronic equipment, etc. After close inspection, his Alice in Wonderland comment was: "This is not normal."

All of this was instructive to me. It underscored the abundance we take for granted in our consumer society.

At the university, Dr. Wasser became deeply interested in research programs carried out by members of the botany staff. Because his jurisdiction at the Institute in Kiev covers the entire

field of cryptogamic botany, principally including algae, fungi and lichens, he was able to exchange data in these areas with specialists. He also obtained valuable current experiments and bibliographic information covering a wide spectrum of research.

And Wasser's generous distribution of books and articles written by him and his colleagues allowed members of our department to learn of botanical research being carried out in Kiev and elsewhere in the U.S.S.R.

Dr. Wasser's colleagues here at LSU hope that an exchange of academic personnel between our institutions and our countries may become more common. With gradual normalization of relations between our countries, such an exchange can only result in a better understanding on all levels and enhanced mutual benefit.

Bernard Lowy is professor emeritus in the Botany Department of Louisiana State University.

## James Gill

## Following Jefferson money trails

Before he did a disappearing act, Carlos Amilcar Alas proved pretty adept at managing idle money for the West Jefferson Medical Center.

He did well, for instance, by depositing \$723,000 with Enterprise Federal Savings and Loan of Marrero in May 1984.

When Alas transferred the money to a bank in October 1988, it had earned \$305,362 in interest, West Jefferson Medical Center director David Smith said.

Whether a favorable rate of return was the only consideration that led Alas to put the hospital's money in Enterprise Federal is hard to say. He has been unavailable for comment since he took a powder last December, and a large amount of money was reported missing from the hospi-

*Alas, chief financial officer at the parish-owned hospital, must have pleased Bob Evans with his decision to put so much money in Enterprise Federal.*

Smith points out that Enterprise Federal paid higher interest than was available at banks. Of course. That was one of the imprudent practices that is likely to stick the taxpayer with a \$100 billion bill to clear up the mess left by the likes of Enterprise Federal.

Still, it was fun while it lasted. If West Jefferson Medical Center did well out of the Enterprise Federal, so did Evans, who was legal counsel as well as chairman of the board.

Enterprise Federal, Evans endured his share of the privations. In the last full financial year before the feds took control of Enterprise Federal Evans received a pittance for legal work — a retainer of \$33,600 and fees of \$7,295. At the time, he also had \$194,953 outstanding on a \$200,000 mortgage, again at two points below the going rate. He owned 7.27 percent of the common stock.

No doubt he was too busy to wonder whether the council chairman had any business picking up substantial fees by pro-

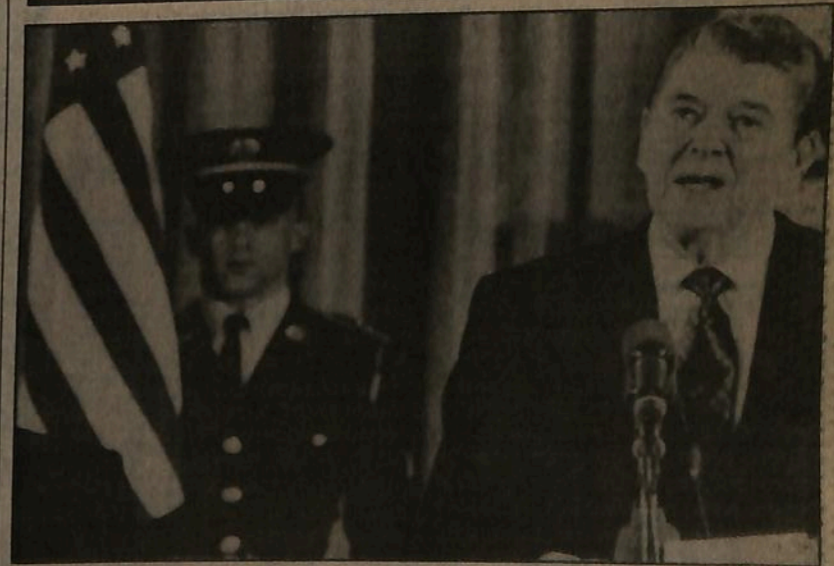
As it happens, there are sound arguments in favor of the sale, which could swell the parish coffers by at least \$100 million, and maybe twice that figure.

More to the point, perhaps, is the fact that politicians are infatuated with bond issues. Why? Because that is where the money is.

If the hospitals are sold, Gordon Konrad, thanks to his association with Evans and District Attorney John Mamoulides, is a safe bet to pick up some fat fees as bond counsel.

Undewriters will no doubt be selected in the time-honored way, and candidates will be meticulously ranked according to the size of their campaign contributions.

Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette has been outstanding in that



Former President Reagan: What his years in office cost us

FILE PHOTO

## Anthony Lewis

## After Reagan

BOSTON — Self-indulgent — Another heavy burden on the

# P R N O T E S

• PUBLISHED BY THE LSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS •

September/October 1989

Volume 4, Number 8

## News Headlines Characterize Chancellor William E. Davis

Recent headlines reveal much of what LSU's new chancellor, William E. "Bud" Davis, is all about. Here is a sampling:

**"Davis mapping strategy for LSU" — *Morning Advocate***

This story by John LaPlante, appearing just after Davis' appointment, gave some of the new chancellor's priorities: getting higher pay for faculty and staff, attracting more minorities, encouraging more of Louisiana's brighter students to stay in Louisiana, easing escalating tuition costs, and re-evaluating admission standards.

"I depend on leadership in those areas (under me), and I hold people accountable." On top-level and academic appointments: "You find out where the good ones are in the country and you go after them . . . with the same intensity used in recruiting a football coach."

**"Davis' agenda for LSU includes superior day care, recruiting 'best, brightest'" — *Morning Advocate***

In his first formal talk to faculty and staff at a September 9 convocation, he enlarged on his priorities and coined the description of the type of students he expects to recruit — the "best and brightest." Other goals: mobilize retired faculty and staff, improve undergraduate programs, seek more capital improvements, and build statewide support for LSU.

In other newspaper articles, Davis stressed the need to put women in leadership positions at LSU and to establish a state community college system.

**"Davis told departments need money" — *Morning Advocate***

Money problems are nothing new to LSU or to the new chancellor. Nonetheless, as Davis proceeded with his regular visits to campus units, he found the lack of money to be a consistent problem. Davis is trying to visit at least two departments each week.

The article pointedly illustrated how two departments were affected differently by the financial squeeze. Vincent Brenner, accounting chairman, said more than half the



Chancellor Bud Davis and Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of Great Britain's Conservative Party, chat after a recent campus talk by Fox.

faculty of his highly ranked department left LSU for higher pay elsewhere. Many left after Gov. Buddy Roemer's tax proposal failed, fearful that things were only going to get worse in Louisiana, Brenner said. Chemical engineering chairman John Collier reported more stability within the faculty ranks of his department, but passed on complaints about salary levels and lack of space to adequately accommodate research needs.

**"In Answer to a Silly Question" — the *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report***

The chancellor wrote his own column for this Baton Rouge monthly tabloid to answer the question, "Why would I want the job at LSU?" "The answer is easy," he said. LSU is a top school serving the entire state. LSU has developed great strengths in many prime academic and research areas. With so many things going for LSU, among his first tasks, he said, will be to strengthen foundations, consolidate gains, and bring "LSU to even greater

of the current LSU research will be installed on a variety of naval vessels.

If, in the end, the project is successful and the Navy approves plastic pipes for all vessels, it would open up the international shipbuilding market for the products from the little firm located on the woody end of Perkins Road. That would be an even greater jackpot.

The *Morning Advocate* Business Page previously had given the story Page-One treatment.

## Another Assist to Industry

The dean's office of the College of Engineering also made an effort to involve industry in its activities. The *Slidell Daily Sentry News* and other state papers told how the college opened up its computer "bulletin board" to Louisiana firms.

In return for a contribution to the LSU Foundation, firms can access information helpful to industry in solving engineering problems. Dean Edward McLaughlin said the gifts will be used to upgrade undergraduate laboratories in the college.

## The Botany Department's Russian Connection

The Russian connection, begun 15 years ago in the Department of Botany by Professor Emeritus Bernard Lowy, bore fruit this year. Lowy began corresponding with a Russian colleague, nurturing the relationship through the deep freeze of the Cold War and presidential slaps at the "evil empire."

Lowy and his Russian colleague ignored these twists and turns in Russophobics, and over the years, "our interests grew broader and more cordial," Lowy said. The relationship bore academic fruit — in the era of glasnost — with a visit to LSU by Lowy's colleague, Dr. Solomon P. Wasser. Wasser heads the Department of Cryptogamic Botany of the Kholodny Botanical Institute of Kiev.

The visit stimulated the department academically and scientifically, Lowy said. He urged that such exchanges become commonplace in the current era of goodwill between the two countries.

Lowy wrote about LSU's botanical Russian connection in the *Times-Picayune*. He was a guest writer for the newspaper's "Other Opinions" editorial column. Faculty are encouraged to write columns on timely subjects in the

area of international affairs for submission to the New Orleans newspaper. Several faculty members have already done so and their articles await publication. For more information on how to submit guest-columnist articles to the *Times-Picayune*, contact Jim Crain, Office of Public Relations, 388-8654.



Elizabeth McHugh, composer of "Bengal Swing" — which later became Tiger Rag, with cheerleaders at tailgate party held at Ollie Steele Burden Manor. (See Miscellany)

## Miscellany

Also appearing in the media recently were news stories, news features, or special media items involving the following items:

The achievements of LSU's award-winning composer and Boyd Professor of Music Dinos Constantinides by David Coco, music critic for the *Morning Advocate*. In addition to producing an extensive catalog of compositions and heavy teaching and performance commitments, Constantinides works every year to bring the Festival of Contemporary Music to LSU. The 45th festival is scheduled next spring.

Comments by two LSU College of Education professors in a series of stories in the *Morning Advocate* on principalship in Louisiana's secondary schools. Acting Dean James Mackey and Professor Joseph W. Licata were quoted in the stories. Also appearing in state newspapers was an article on an LSU-based intern program coordinated by Licata for newly appointed school principals. The program has been recently endorsed by the state as a "must" for new school principals and assistant principals.