JEFFERSON IN RUSSIA: ICJS scholars discuss government and policy in Moscow

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson received a plaster bust of Tsar Alexander I of Russia from the American consul general, Levett Harris, in St. Petersburg. More than two centuries later, prominent American and Russian historians convened in Russia to discuss ideas about government and foreign policy during Jefferson’s presidency.

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies (ICJS) at Monticello, the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Association for the USA History Studies teamed up for the first time to present the symposium, “Idealism, Statecraft and Foreign Policy in Jeffersonian America and Russia of Alexander I,” at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, October 13-14.

The symposium featured Professor Gary Hart, former U.S. Senator, and Professor Gordon S. Wood, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian. They were among the 20 American and Russian scholars who met to examine Russian-American relations between 1800 and 1815, the attempts of Russia and the United States to counter Napoleon, and the efforts of Thomas Jefferson and Tsar Alexander I to act as enlightened leaders.

Global Outreach

Diplomacy and Education: Discovering and Teaching Reality
Robert H. Smith Center at Montalto, June 13, 2011
Hosted by the American Academy of Diplomacy (AAD) and the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies (ICJS)

Jefferson Innovation Summit
Monticello Dinner, West Lawn, Monticello, October 11, 2011
Hosted by the University of Virginia, sponsored by Thomas Jefferson Foundation, CNBC, Accenture, Fred Friendly Seminars, Keswick Hall

Liberty Today Summit
Monticello, Robert H. Smith Center at Montalto, August 1-3, 2011
Hosted by Thomas Jefferson Foundation, grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation

Moscow Conference
Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, October 13-14, 2011
Presented by the ICJS, the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Association for the USA History Studies

Recent publications supported by ICJS scholarship


Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World and Early America, Peter S. Onuf and Nicholas P. Cole, editors, October 2011.


Monticello in Measured Drawings, William L. Beiswanger, annotator, republished 2011.