

Title: Charting Unmapped Territory: Tourist Guides from the *Belomorkanal*

Author: Julie S. Draskoczy, University of Pittsburgh

Although the Soviet Gulag and tourist guides might at first appear to be two completely incongruous phenomena, the construction of Stalin's White Sea Canal (*Belomorsko-Baltiiskii kanal im. Stalina*) marks an unusual moment in Russian history when the latter can propagandize and promote the former. Given the early completion of this forced-labor project in the summer of 1932, the Gulag was not yet a secretive element of Soviet society, but rather a source of pride; thanks to the moralizing potential of socialism, prisoners are not simply punished but rather "re-forged" into upright, productive citizens. This transformative process of *perekovka* (re-forging) was advertised through books, films and newspapers before the prison camps again became taboo in the mid-1930s.

This presentation will use tourist guides and maps found in Russian libraries as its source material, and the talk will explore the motivations and implications of creating such guides, with works including: "Karta-putovoditel'," "Foto-turist" and "BBK i zapoliar'e." Alongside the more prosaic function of disseminating information about the canal, the presence of the map becomes a key phenomenon. In the Soviet Union's ideological "war against nature" the map is to be re-drawn according to human accomplishments. Subsequent publications about the canal that do not necessarily have a touristic function make this mapping tendency clear, and the commemorative issue of *SSSR na stroike* as well as the collectively-written volume *Belomorsko-Baltiiskii kanal im. Stalina: istoriia stroitel'stva* will be used as points of comparison.

Averbakh, L., Firin, S., and M. Gor'kii, eds. *Belomorsko-Baltiiskii Kanal imeni Stalina: Istoriia stroitel'stva*. OGIZ, 1934.

*BBK i zapoliar'e*. Moscow, 1936.

*Belomorsko-Baltiiskii Kanal imeni tov. Stalina: Karta-putevoditel'*. Moscow: TsS Osvod, 1934.

*Foto-turist. BBK im. t. Stalina*. No date.

*SSSR na stroike* 11 (1933).