

Mrs. Blakeslee Returns to Salem

Russian Countess Will Lecture Here

One of the most colorful and interesting of modern authors and lecturers is Trina Skariatina, a former Russian Countess, who will speak in Memorial Hall, Thursday, December 14, at 8:30.

Although she has been a visitor in Winston-Salem on previous occasions, Countess Skariatina is always welcomed as a speaker, and Salem students will be particularly fortunate in having an opportunity to hear her on the campus.

The Countess, now Mrs. Victor Blakeslee, is the first and only aristocrat of the Old Regime in Russia who has been permitted by the Soviet officials to return to her native land. The story of her life before the downfall of the royal family and the upheaval made in her life by the Revolution has been charmingly and graphically told in her first book, *A World Can End*. Here she tells of her homes in Yvoiskoe and St. Petersburg, experiences of her childhood and girlhood, and draws a convincing picture of the wealth and extravagance which characterized the life of the nobility in the Old Regime. Approximately half of the book is in diary form—the original diary kept by the Countess during the Revolution. It was brought out of Russia by Dr. Frank A. Golder of Leland Stanford University after he had saved the young Countess from prison and starvation.

In her second book, *A World Can End*, the Countess continues the narrative of her life with her escape from Russia as a refugee. She describes in detail a year spent in miserable poverty in London, her experiences in the employ of a Middle Western family in America, and finally her marriage to an American naval officer, Mr. Victor Blakeslee.

Her third and last book, *First to Go Back* gives an account of her return to Russia after an exile of ten years—a return officially sanctioned by the Soviet Union. Because of her unprejudiced and open-minded attitude, the Countess and her husband were allowed to talk and travel freely, and the report she gives in this book of the new government is extremely fascinating, and for the most part, favorable to the U. S. S. R.

Those who have heard Trina Skariatina speak say that she is quite as charming a lecturer as she is a writer, and certainly the opportunity of hearing a young woman who has lived a life of luxury as a member of the nobility is rare.

All three of the books by Countess Skariatina are now in the college library, and it is suggested that students familiarize themselves with the books before the speaker arrives. Also helpful and interesting is an article by the Countess in the June issue of *Good Housekeeping*, entitled *A Close-Up of the New Russia*.

Too often it is the human weakness to fall into a habit of making up our minds for good and all time on some subject, forgetting that something might happen next month or next year which will upset all our calculations.

First Little Girl Has your sister begun taking music lessons yet?
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—Presbyterian Advance.

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Guests on the campus last week-end were Misses Letitia and Lucy Currie, of Davidson, both graduates of Salem.



GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club will give a recital Monday evening at 8:15 in Memorial Hall.

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