The notion that Russian women figured significantly among periodical publishers of the late nineteenth century would have come as no surprise to bibliographer Nikolai Mikhailovich Lisovskii. It was he and his wife Emiliia Fëdorovna, after all, who painstakingly documented the identities of editors and publishers, as well as the themes of their periodicals throughout the end of the nineteenth century. The Lisovskiis published Bibliograf (Bibliographer, 1885-1914), which recorded bibliographic information on Russian publishing, and together they produced an essential reference work, Russkaia periodicheskaia pechat', 1703-1900 (Russian Periodical Publishing, 1703-1900). According to data provided in this volume, Russian women constituted nearly 10 percent of all periodical publishers and editors in late nineteenth-century Moscow and St. Petersburg. Nonetheless, while the name Nikolai Lisovskii is well-known among Russian book history specialists, his wife’s work is virtually forgotten. Ironically, the fate of Emiliia Lisovskaia herself exemplifies the need for studies documenting efforts of women in Russian publishing history.

Recent studies in the history of Imperial Russian journalism are beginning to address issues of women’s participation, in particular the efforts of key indi-

1. Research for this article was partially funded by a U.S. Department of State Title VIII fellowship administered by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR/ACCELS) for research in Russia.
2. Nikolai Mikahilovich Lisovskii, 1854-1920, was a noted bibliographer and statistician of the periodical press.
3. Lisovskaia served as the publisher for Bibliograf. She also produced a short piece on book miniatures, Miniatiurnye izdaniia (St. Petersburg: Bibliograf, 1893).
4. For the sake of simplicity and continuity, the terms “publishing” and “publishing history” henceforth will be used interchangeably with “periodical publishing” and “periodical publishing history.”
Attempts at aggregate studies of writers, translators, and other women in the periodical press, however, can be frustrated by the difficulty of identifying the full extent of female participants. Women writers often used pseudonyms. The identities of translators and others who worked in publishing offices appeared only sporadically in financial records or in memoir literature. Periodical editors and publishers, on the other hand, were required to register with the Censorate under their real names, which allows for construction of a group study with a high rate of inclusion. Between 1860 and 1905, at least one hundred eighty women published or edited periodicals in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Their efforts reflect many of the major themes and increasing diversity of late Imperial publishing history.

The present typology reveals distinct periods in periodical publishing by women. The 1860s to early 1880s saw women creating initial publishing ventures focused on children, translations of literature, fashion and other women's periodicals. The 1870s saw new types of publications, such as political magazines and subsidized periodicals aimed at bettering the lives of workers and peasants. Despite harsh new censor rulings of the 1880s, an increase in periodicals with a commercial orientation appeared in this period. Many women entered publishing as a purely economic venture or as a way to support related professional pursuits. The 1890s saw several women influencing major literary journals that reflected new political and social ideologies. By 1905, the era of censored periodical publishing was coming to a close. The elimination of pre-printing censorship requirements in 1905 led to an outpouring of periodical publishing that intrinsically changed the publishing environment. In terms of


6. The term "Censorate" here refers to the Chief Administration of Press Affairs under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior.

7. This figure was derived from a compilation of data, using N. M. Lisovskii, Russkaia periodicheskai pechat', 1703-1900 (Petrograd: Tip. G. A. Shumakhera i B. D. Brukera, 1915); and Bibliografiiia periodicheskikh izdaniii Rossii, 1901-1916, L. N. Beliaeva, M. K. Zinov'eva i M. M. Nikiforov, comps., V. M. Barashenkov, ed., 4 vols. (Leningrad: Gos. publichnaia biblioteka im. Saltykova-Schedrina, 1958-61). The women discussed in this article are "official" editors and publishers by virtue of their successful application to the Censorate for permission to publish or edit a periodical.

8. A typology of social background is also of importance, but not as varied as an analysis of journal themes. The majority of women, whose social backgrounds could be identified from censor and other records, were wives or daughters of the following: civil servants, military officers, nobles, or, in a few cases, merchants. Those beginning to publish around the 1880s were more likely than earlier women publishers to have a profession, like that of woman-doctor, or to be a part of a family whose livelihood centered on commercial publishing. Women applying for the position of publisher, like men, had to demonstrate their financial ability to support a periodical venture in order to receive permission, which generally created a de facto social limitation on who could become a publisher.