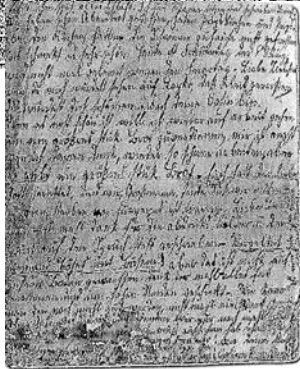
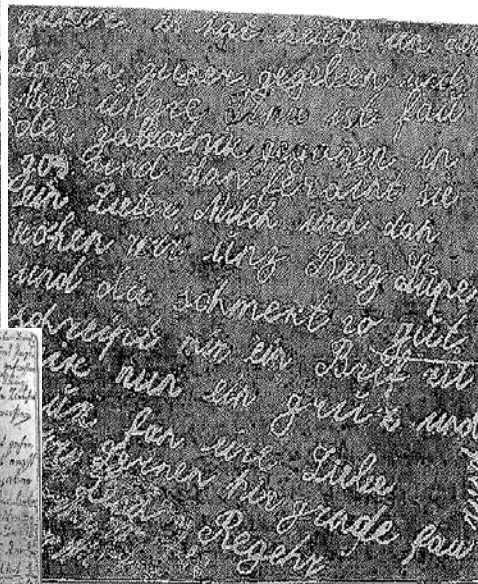
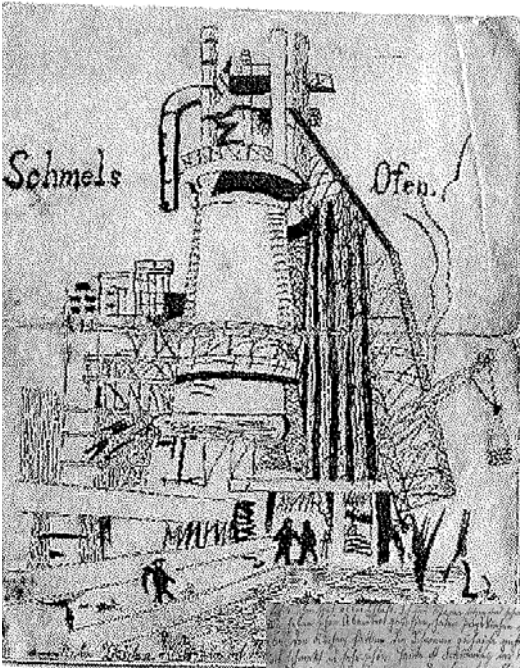


# Department of History

## Modern European Lecture Series

### Letters from Stalin's Gulags

Presented by Dr. Ruth Derksen Siemens  
University of British Columbia



Peter Bergen was just seven years old when he and his family narrowly escaped the Russian Gulag and an almost certain death. His family finally settled in Canada, but the rest of his relatives were not so fortunate.

Writing letters to the "West" during Stalin's Reign of Terror was a criminal offence. Sending or receiving a letter could result in arrest without trial. Entire families were sentenced to prison camps in Stalin's vast Gulag.

Yet 463 letters, written from the prisons of the Gulag and from home villages, arrived in a tiny town in the Canadian prairies. These letters verify a subversive network of mail delivery during one of the most horrific eras in human history.

This event is **FREE** to students and the General Public

For more information please contact:  
Simone De Santiago Ramos  
Department of History  
Wooten Hall 231  
940-565-2288



October 7th, 2009  
2:00 PM in  
Curry Hall, Room 114