

Endorsements for ***Revolution from Within***:

Revolution from Within by Catherine Baird tells the tale of the little Protestant organization that could. Faced with adversity at every corner the American Young Men's Christian Association has for well over 100 years found ingenious ways to pursue the goals of its Russian work. Baird provides thorough context behind the formation of the Russian YMCA, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the development of the various scholarly communities the YMCA sought to serve. Unlikely partners, the YMCA and the Intelligentsia of the Russian diaspora collaborated to continue a thread of Russian thought that was divergent from the Soviet line. The story of the creation and eventual repatriation of this intellectual gift is harrowing, heartwarming and should serve as inspiration for those in pursuit of big ideas.

**Ryan Bean, Reference and Outreach Archivist
Kautz Family YMCA Archives
University of Minnesota Libraries
On behalf of YMCA of the USA**

I liked the combination of great history, compelling ideas, and fascinating characters. I was intrigued to find out about these ideas on Russian spiritual philosophy, and the individuals—The 160—and how they were influenced by YMCA. Overall, this is an astounding and little-known story about a remarkable moment in time—about two or three years in the early 20s when an extraordinary conflux of historical events, outstanding individuals, and big ideas came together to help lay the groundwork for one of the greatest historical events of the 20th century—the fall of Communism. Wow!

Beth Haddon, Journalist and former Broadcast Executive of CBC

Throughout its 160+ history, the YMCA has been an organization of passionate and compassionate people uplifting the common good and upholding truth, character and social justice. YMCA Press was established in the U.S. and abroad to share information and expertise among Ys and to publish books which contribute to the making of Christian character. When 160 of Russia's most promising intellectuals were exiled, YMCA Director Dr. John Mott and the YMCA Press supported their continuing development of ideas and philosophy. The Y was committed to preserving the individual freedom of Russia's leading spiritual philosophers along with their culture, education and literature. From the Bolshevik Revolution to the fall of the Soviet Union, *Revolution from Within* tells a true story of intrigue, politics, religion, and uncertainty. A committed group of Y professionals risked their lives and livelihoods to preserve Russian culture, ideas, faith, and beliefs. In doing so, they provided relief, morale, hope, and encouragement to Russians who remained in the U.S.S.R. and to two million émigrés throughout Europe. Baird's research details the Y's involvement in the war for spiritual, economic, political, and religious freedom during a time when it was unthinkable.

**Kristen Obaranec, APR
Communications Director, Marketing and Communications
YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta**

I think that *Revolution from Within* represents an incredibly thorough, well-researched and comprehensive treatise on the critical role of the YMCA with respect to Russia's struggle for liberation from Bolshevik tyranny and the writings of The 160. While I have always been keenly interested in Russian history, along with the demise of the Soviet Union, until I read this work I was completely unaware of the integral and vital part played by the YMCA in this quest for freedom or of the power and reach of the YMCA Press. I had no idea that the YMCA played such a pivotal role in Russia and other nations with respect to political transformation; its evolution into such a prominent and seemingly health focused organization was fascinating.

Lisa Moore, The Moore Firm