

Documentary film of Ethel Lillian Voynich watching the 1955 film of her novel the Gadfly

GEN MSS 1356



Ellen Doon and Janet Lopes

January 2021

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Ethel Lilian Voynich (1864-1960)	4
Content Description	4
Collection Contents	5

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1356

CREATOR: Voynich, E. L. (Ethel Lillian), 1864-1960, author

TITLE: Documentary film of Ethel Lilian Voynich watching the 1955 film of her novel the Gadfly

DATES: Between 1955 and 1960.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.71 linear feet (4 reels + 1 box)

LANGUAGE: Russian

SUMMARY: Short black-and-white 16mm film (2 minutes, 36 seconds) documenting a visit by an unidentified filmmaker to the New York City home of Ethel Lilian Voynich, author of *The Gadfly*. The film is silent. Voynich is seen watching the 1955 Russian film version of *The Gadfly* (Овод), talking, and gesturing toward books and a reproduction of a portrait of a man by Italian renaissance painter Franciabigio. The documentary film is accompanied by a copy of the 1955 Russian film adaptation of *The Gadfly*, Овод, on three reels (16mm, in color, with sound). The film was directed by Aleksandr Faintsimmer and stars Oleg Strizhenov, Mariana Strizhenova, and Nikolai Simonov, with a score by Dmitri Shostakovitch.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.gadfly>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.gadfly>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Boxes 1-4 (films): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Ethel Lilian Voynich (1864-1960)

Ethel Lilian Voynich was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1864, the daughter of mathematicians George Boole (1815-1964) and Mary Everest Boole (1832-1916), and raised chiefly in London, England. She was a musician and composer as well as a writer and translator, and is best known for her novel *The Gadfly* (1897). Set in revolutionary Italy in the 1840s, the work was widely popular in the early twentieth century and became particularly beloved in Russia and China. Its many adaptations included a stage play by George Bernard Shaw, dance, opera, and at least three Russian film versions (1928, 1955, and 1980). Ethel Lillian Voynich married Polish émigré Wilfred Michael Voynich in 1902. The couple relocated to the United States during the first World War, and following her husband's death in 1930 Voynich carried on his business dealing in rare books and manuscripts. She died in New York City in 1960.

Content Description

Short black-and-white 16mm film (2 minutes, 36 seconds) documenting a visit by an unidentified filmmaker to the New York City home of Ethel Lilian Voynich, author of *The Gadfly*. The film is silent. Voynich is seen watching the 1955 Russian film version of *The Gadfly* (Овод), talking, and gesturing toward books and a reproduction of a portrait of a man by Italian renaissance painter Franciabigio.

The documentary film is accompanied by a copy of the 1955 Russian film adaptation of *The Gadfly*, Овод, on three reels (16mm, in color, with sound). The film was directed by Aleksandr Faintsimmer and stars Oleg Strizhenov, Mariana Strizhenova, and Nikolai Simonov, with a score by Dmitri Shostakovitch.

Collection Contents

b. 1 (cold storage)	Documentary film, black and white <i>1 Film Reel (16mm) 00:02:36 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> No audio. Film (16mm). Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	between 1955 and 1960
b. 2 (cold storage)	Овод (Gadfly): color film [1 of 3] <i>1 Film Reel (16mm) 00:19:21 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio is scratchy. Film (16mm). Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 3 (cold storage)	Овод (Gadfly): color film [2 of 3] <i>1 Film Reel (16mm) 00:41:38 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio is scratchy. Film (16mm). Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 4 (cold storage)	Овод (Gadfly): color film [3 of 3] <i>1 Film Reel (16mm) 00:41:11 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio is scratchy. Film (16mm). Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 5	Material relating to the Gadfly removed from cataloged printed items	1957 and undated
