

Guide to the Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson Papers

MS 1419



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Laurie R. Cohen

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1419

CREATOR: Yakobson, Sergius, 1901-1979

TITLE: Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson Papers

DATES: 1910-1979

BULK DATES: 1940-1969

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, and topical files which document the professional career of Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson. The papers highlight his work in the Slavic Division of the Library of Congress. Yakobson's writings on the history of Russia and the evolution of the Soviet state comprise over half the papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1419>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1419>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Slavic and East European Collection, Sterling Memorial Library, 1985.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson Papers (MS 1419). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson was born in Moscow on May 9, 1901. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Berlin and became a librarian and lecturer in Russian history at the University of London in 1926. In 1941 Yakobson began working at the Library of Congress. He became chief of the Slavic and Central European division in 1951 and served as senior specialist in Russian affairs until 1971. Yakobson died in Washington, D.C., on November 13, 1979.

Scope and Contents

The Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson Papers consist of correspondence, articles, speeches, and topical files, which document the professional career of Sergius Ossipovich Yakobson. The papers highlight his work as chief of the Slavic and Central European Division of the Library of Congress and specialist in Russian affairs. Yakobson's writings on the history of Russia and the evolution of the Soviet state comprise over half the papers.

The papers, which were transferred to the Manuscripts and Archives Department in 1985 from the Sterling Memorial Library Slavic and East European Collection, are arranged in three series: I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1920-1973; II. SUBJECT FILES, 1910-1979; and III. WRITINGS, 1943-1968.

The bulk of the material dates from 1940 to 1969 and is in English. There are some writings and other documents also in Russian and German.

Series I contains Yakobson's correspondence with friends, and other Russian scholars. Correspondence with George Vernadsky and Dimitri Fedotoff White dates from Yakobson's first years in the United States. Exchanges with Harold Lasswell concern Yakobson's article, "May Day Slogans in Soviet Russia," in *Language of Politics*.

Series II, SUBJECT FILES, contains numerous descriptive lists and bibliographies relating to Russian collections. Materials filed under "Library of Congress" relate to the Slavic Collection which Yakobson helped develop at the Library of Congress. The series also includes personal memorabilia of Yakobson and writings, photographs, and documents of other family members.

Series III, WRITINGS, is composed of drafts, notes, background material, and printed copies for Yakobson's articles, speeches, and lectures. The writings reflect Yakobson's interests in Russian history, politics, and government, particularly Russian nationalism, the evolution of the Soviet state, and the Jewish population. Files for Yakobson's studies of May Day slogans (folders 34-35), his article "Russia and Africa" (folders 54-58), and his paper "Unpublished Letters of I. Turgenev" (folders 77-79) are particularly voluminous. Lectures (folders 44-47) and speeches (folders 69-74) are arranged in chronological order.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series: I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1920-1973. II. SUBJECT FILES, 1910-1979. III. WRITINGS, 1943-1968.

Collection Contents

Series I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1920-1973

0.5 linear feet (1 box)

The correspondence in this series is arranged in alphabetical order by correspondents' names.

b. 1, f. 1	B - K	1940-1973
b. 1, f. 2	L - Z	1920-1972
b. 1, f. 3-5	Fedotoff White, D.	1940-1949
b. 1, f. 6	Lasswell, Harold D.	1945-1949
b. 1, f. 7	Rand Corporation	1948-1949
b. 1, f. 8-9	Vernadsky, George	1940-1949
b. 1, f. 10	Yale University	1945-1949
b. 1, f. 11	Unidentified	1940-1969

Series II: SUBJECT FILES, 1910-1979*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by topic.

b. 2, f. 12	French bibliographer's conference	1962
b. 2, f. 13	Katkov, M. (1841): transcribed letters	undated
b. 2, f. 14-15	Library of Congress	1941-1974
	Personal memorabilia	
b. 2, f. 16-18	Jakobson, Ljubow	undated
b. 2, f. 19	Jakobson, Roman	undated
b. 2, f. 20	Photographs	1928
b. 2, f. 21	Yakobson, Sergius	1910-1972
b. 2, f. 22	Russia	1947
b. 2, f. 23-25	Slavic collections: descriptive lists	1969-1979

Series III: WRITINGS, 1943-1968*1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by Yakobson's title or, when untitled, by subject.

b. 3, f. 26	"American-Russian Relations, 1937-1947" English	undated
b. 3, f. 27	"Aspects of Russian Nationalism" English	undated
b. 3, f. 28	"Basic Assumptions of Communist Propaganda" English	1953
b. 3, f. 29	"Birobidjan" English	1943
b. 3, f. 30	"Catherine the Great" English	undated
b. 3, f. 31	"Comparative Growth of Education in the USSR and China, The" English	undated
b. 3, f. 32	Expansion	undated
b. 3, f. 33	"Far Eastern Policy" English	undated
b. 3, f. 34-35	"First May Slogans, The" English	1943
b. 3, f. 36	"Five Letters of Jan Masaryk" English	undated
b. 3, f. 37-41	German translations	undated
b. 3, f. 42	"Growth of the Russian Population" English	1943
b. 4, f. 43	"Jews in the USSR, The" English	1950
b. 4, f. 44-47	Lectures	undated
b. 4, f. 47a	"'Mad Russian' Collector of 50 Picassos..." English	undated
b. 4, f. 48	"Making of the Russian Frontiers, The" English	undated
b. 4, f. 49-50	Notes	undated
b. 4, f. 51	"Peter the Great" English	undated
b. 4, f. 52	"Problems and Prospects of Negotiating with the Russians" English	1958

b. 4, f. 53	"Richard Cobden's Sojourn in Russia" English	undated
b. 4, f. 54-58	"Russia and Africa" English	undated
b. 5, f. 59-60	"Russia and Egypt" English	undated
b. 5, f. 61	"Russia's Early Conquest of Siberia" English	undated
b. 5, f. 62	"Siniavskii-Daniel Trial" English	1968
b. 5, f. 63	<i>Soviet Censorship</i> : book review	1973
b. 5, f. 64	"Soviet Colonization Policy" English	undated
b. 5, f. 65-66	Soviet nationalism	undated
b. 5, f. 67	"Soviet Technical Assistance Programs in Non-Communist Asia" English	undated
b. 5, f. 68	"Soviet Union and Point-Four" English	undated
b. 5, f. 69-74	Speeches	1950-1968, undated
b. 5, f. 75	"Tensions Within the Soviet Union" English	undated
b. 6, f. 76	"U.S.S.R. and Ethiopia, The" English	undated
b. 6, f. 77-79	"Unpublished Letters of I. Turgenev" English	undated
b. 6, f. 80-81	Fragments	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Historians
Jews -- Soviet Union
Librarians
Nationalism -- Soviet Union
Propaganda, Communist -- Soviet Union

Geographic Names

Soviet Union -- History
Soviet Union -- Politics and government

Names

Fedotoff White, D. (Dimitri), 1889-1950
Lasswell, Harold D. (Harold Dwight), 1902-1978
Vernadsky, George, 1887-1973
Yakobson, Sergius, 1901-1979

Corporate Body

Library of Congress. Slavic and Central
European Division