

# Guide to the Celia Shapiro Papers

MS 1684



compiled by Elizabeth Pauk

January 1996

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1684

**CREATOR:** Shapiro, Celia

**TITLE:** Celia Shapiro papers

**DATES:** 1904-1967

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Most of the papers are in Russian, with some Yiddish- and English-language material as well.

**SUMMARY:** The papers include the correspondence, writings, and memoirs of Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro and her husband, Boris Shapiro. Most of the papers are in Russian, with some Yiddish- and English-language material as well. Correspondence includes letters and postcards, primarily from the 1930s, to Celia and Boris Shapiro from friends and colleagues in Prague and Paris. Celia Shapiro's diaries and memoirs describe her journey to England, Germany, and the Soviet Union, with interesting observations on Jewish life in Germany in 1936. Writings about Celia Shapiro include book manuscripts and the memoirs of Boris Shapiro. There are also issues of various Soviet emigre publications, and photographs of the Shapiros and their associates. Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro, also known as Tsilia Savel'evna Shapiro and Tsili Kamenetskaia-Shapiro, was a young Russian, Jewish revolutionary associated with the populist Socialist Revolutionary party in the early years of the twentieth century. She emigrated to the United States prior to World War I. Shapiro returned to the USSR for a visit in 1936, writing about her trip in the New York Yiddish-language newspaper *The Jewish Daily Forward*.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1684>

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## 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.1684>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of David Posner, 1994.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Celia Shapiro has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu).

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### Preferred Citation

Celia Shapiro Papers (MS 1684). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro, also known as Tsilia Savel'evna Shapiro and Tsili Kamenetskaia-Shapiro, was a Russian-Jewish revolutionary associated with the populist Social Revolutionary party in the early years of the twentieth century. She emigrated to the United States prior to World War I. Shapiro returned to the Soviet Union for a visit in 1936, writing about her trip in the New York Yiddish-language newspaper, *The Jewish Daily Forward*.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers include the correspondence, writings, and memoirs of Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro and her husband, Boris Shapiro. Most of the papers are in Russian, with some Yiddish- and English-language material as well. Correspondence includes letters and postcards, primarily from the 1930s, to Celia and Boris Shapiro from friends and colleagues in Prague and Paris. Celia Shapiro's diaries and memoirs describe her journey to England, Germany, and the Soviet Union, with interesting observations on Jewish life in Germany in 1936. Writings about Celia Shapiro include book manuscripts and the memoirs of Boris Shapiro. There are also issues of various Soviet emigre publications, and photographs of the Shapiros and their associates. Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro, also known as Tsilia Savel'evna Shapiro and Tsili Kamenetskaia-Shapiro, was a young Russian, Jewish revolutionary associated with the populist Socialist Revolutionary party in the early years of the twentieth century. She emigrated to the United States prior to World War I. Shapiro returned to the USSR for a visit in 1936, writing about her trip in the New York Yiddish-language newspaper, .

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## Arrangement

Arranged in five series:

- [I. Correspondence, 1906-1967, n.d.](#)
- [II. Writings by Celia Shapiro, 1936-1946.](#)
- [III. Writings about Celia Shapiro, 1904-1967, n.d.](#)
- [IV. Publications, 1911-1967.](#)
- [V. Photographs, 1936, n.d.](#)

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1906-1967, undated

The correspondence series is arranged chronologically and consists chiefly of letters and postcards to Celia and Boris Shapiro from friends and colleagues, mostly sent from Prague and Paris. The bulk of the correspondence is from the 1930s and is written in Russian. Items of interest include a 1937 letter from V. Zenzinov discussing Russian emigres and party activities in Paris; letters in 1938 from V. Archangelsky regarding Russian emigres in Prague and mentioning prominent emigre Egor Egorovich Lazarev; 1906 letters from an official of Tobolskaya Gubernia who helped Shapiro to escape from Russia; a 1907 letter from the wife of Lenin's younger brother, Dmitry Ulianovych; and a 1941 report of the status of the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Group in New York. There is also some correspondence found in Series II and III.

b. 1, f. 1	1906-1907
b. 1, f. 2	1916
b. 1, f. 3	1931
b. 1, f. 4-6	1936-1941
b. 1, f. 7	1956
b. 1, f. 8	1967
b. 1, f. 9	n.d.

## Series II: Writings by Celia Shapiro, 1936-1946

The writings by Celia Shapiro consist of her diaries and memoirs, written in a mixture of Russian and English. The travel diary describes her journey in 1936 to England, Germany, and the Soviet Union, with interesting observations on Jewish life in Germany. The memoirs in letter form also make references to that trip and to other events in her past.

b. 1, f. 10	Travel diary [entries in Russian and English]	1936
	Memoirs	1936-1940, 1946
b. 1, f. 11	Notes [in Russian and English]	
b. 1, f. 12	Letters [two in Russian and one in English, making references to her life in Russia]	
b. 1, f. 13	Notebook [possibly containing notes from a conversation or interview]	
b. 1, f. 14	Diary [chiefly in Russian with a few entries in English, mostly concerning Shapiro's everyday life and philosophical observations]	1938-1940

**Series III: Writings about Celia Shapiro, 1904-1967, undated**

This series consists of writings and other material about Celia Shapiro, and is divided into three sections: book manuscripts, memoirs of Boris Shapiro, and other material. The book manuscripts consist of typed and written drafts with photographs, letters, and clippings inserted into the text. The material originally contained in Binder #1 appears to be part of the written manuscript; however, it has been kept separately in its original page order. Photographs in Binder #2 have been removed to the photograph series.

## Book manuscripts

## Manuscript for a book about Celia Shapiro [untitled]

b. 1, f. 15-19	Typed drafts [in Russian; pages numbered throughout but occasionally out of order; author unknown]	undated
b. 2, f. 20-22	Typed drafts [in Russian; pages numbered throughout but occasionally out of order; author unknown]	undated
b. 2, f. 23-25	Manuscript for a book about Celia Shapiro [untitled; written drafts in Russian; numbered as pp. 1-2, 107-230; author unknown]	Circa 1936-1944
b. 2, f. 26	Archangelsky, Vasiliy reminiscences with introduction by Boris Shapiro [typescripts in Russian]	Circa 1936-1947
Memoirs of Boris Shapiro		
b. 2, f. 27-28	"Binder #1" [written in Russian with occasional English passages; numbered as pp. 87-99, 5-86, 99-106]	Circa 1937-1943
b. 2, f. 29-32	Memoirs [written manuscript in Yiddish, 399 pp., with some clippings and photographs pasted in]	undated

## Other

b. 3, f. 33	Articles and correspondence [article containing reminiscences of Celia Shapiro; copies of letters from Russian relatives to Boris Shapiro; written translation of B. E. Makovski story by Boris Shapiro], 1943, 1956	undated
b. 3, f. 34-35	"Binder #2" [photocopied articles and pages of a book about Celia Shapiro, describing her arrest and subsequent imprisonment by Russian authorities in 1902, and two letters]	Circa 1904, 1936, 1943-1944
b. 3, f. 36	Collection of photocopied articles about Celia Shapiro inspired by a letter written by her while in a Russian prison in 1904	Circa 1904
b. 3, f. 37	Shapiro, Boris material <i>Revolyutsyonnyaya Rossiya</i> Nos. 46-48, 50, 1904, Russian-language magazine published by the Socialist Revolutionary Party, one issue containing a letter written by Shapiro; Yiddish-language magazine <i>Der Wecker</i> Vol. XLVI No.1085, 1967; and several typed pages of Shapiro's memoirs, numbered as pp. 484-495	1904, 1967, undated



## Series IV: Publications, 1911-1967

The publications series consists of issues of various Soviet emigre publications published in Paris, Tel Aviv, and New York, and a Russian-French grammar. There are also some publications in Series III, folder 36.

b. 3, f. 38	<i>Biuletén</i> (Tel Aviv: Nos. 136-139, 1967) [primarily in Russian, occasionally Hebrew and English]
b. 3, f. 39	<i>Delo Truda-Probuzhdenie</i> (New York: no. 62, 1960) [Russian language]
b. 3, f. 40	<i>Izvestia</i> (Paris: No. 13, 1911) [Russian language]
b. 3, f. 41	<i>Klueh</i> (Heidelberg, 1922) [Russian-French grammar book]
b. 3, f. 42-43	<i>Na Rubezhe</i> (Paris: Nos. 1-5, 1951-1952) [Russian language, two copies]
b. 3, f. 44-45	<i>Svaboda</i> (Paris: Nos. 2-3, 1934-1935) [Russian language]
b. 3, f. 46	<i>Znamia Truda</i> (Paris, No. 16, 1939) [Russian language]

## **Series V: Photographs, 1936, n.d.**

This series consists of photographs of Celia Kamenetzky Shapiro, her brother Berel Kamenetzky, Boris Shapiro, Social Revolutionary Yegor Lazarev, and a Mr. and Mrs. Bromberg. There are also a few photographs in Boris Shapiro's memoirs (folders 28-31).

b. 3, f. 47

Photographs

1936, undated

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## 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

Anarchism  
Jewish women  
Jews, Russian  
Jews -- Germany  
Jews -- Soviet Union  
Radicalism  
Revolutionaries -- Soviet Union  
Socialism -- Soviet Union  
Socialist parties  
Travelers -- Europe  
Women -- Soviet Union  
Working class

### Geographic Names

Russia -- History -- 1904-1914  
Soviet Union -- Description and travel  
Soviet Union -- History -- 1917-1991

### Genres / Formats

Diaries

### Names

Lazarev, E. E. (Egor Egorovich), 1855-  
Shapiro, Boris  
Shapiro, Celia

### Corporate Body

Partiia sot'sialistov-revoliutsionerov