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Guide to the Alyce Batchelder Collection of George Grebenstchikoff

GEN MSS 589



by Lisa Conathan

2007

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 589

CREATOR: Batchelder, Alyce, collector

TITLE: Alyce Batchelder Collection of George Grebenstchikoff

DATES: 1898-1995

BULK DATES: 1947-1967

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.69 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials in Russian and English.

SUMMARY: The papers in this collection document the work of Alyce Batchelder as well as the correspondence and writings of George Grebenstchikoff (in Russian, Georgii Grebenshchikov). Alyce Batchelder's correspondence documents her work as literary executor for the George Grebenstchikoff estate after Grebenshchikov's death. George Grebenstchikoff's papers include professional correspondence and a collection of Russian medals. Correspondents include Dmitri Alexandrow, Pearl S. Buck (letters related to the Russian writer Ivan Bunin), Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, George Sabo, Igor Sikorsky and Maurice J. and Lilli Swetland. The collection also contains a few early letters to George Grebenstchikoff's wife Tatiana that date from the years before her emigration to the United States. Realia in the collection include Russian military and religious medals.

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

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.greb>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Alyce Batchelder, 2002.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alyce Batchelder Collection of George Grebenstchikoff is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Alyce Batchelder Collection of George Grebenstchikoff. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Associated Materials

The University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center has a significant collection of the papers of George and Tatiana Grebenstchikoff.

George Grebenstchikoff, 1882-1964

George Grebenstchikoff (in Russian Georgii Dmitrievich Grebenshchikov) was born May 6 (April 24 Old Style) 1883 in the Tomsk Oblast of Russia. In 1917 he married Tatiana Denisovna Stadnik, whom he met when she acted in a play he wrote. He published segments of his serialized novel *Churaevy* before emigrating to Paris (1920) and then the United States (1924). In 1925 he and Ilia Tolstoi founded the Churaevka artists' colony in Southbury, Connecticut, where Grebenstchikoff also directed the Alatas publishing house. The Grebenstchikoffs later moved to Florida, where George Grebenstchikoff taught creative writing and Russian literature at Florida Southern College from 1941 to 1952.

In addition to *Churaevy*, Grebenstchikoff's principal writings include the novel *The Turbulent Giant* (1940) and *Egorkina zhizn'* (published posthumously in 1966), an autobiographical work.

Alyce Batchelder befriended George and Tatiana Grebenstchikoff in Lakeland, Florida and became the literary executor for the George Grebenstchikoff estate in 1965.

Scope and Contents

The papers in this collection document the work of Alyce Batchelder as well as the correspondence and writings of George Grebenstchikoff. Alyce Batchelder's correspondence documents her work as literary executor for the George Grebenstchikoff estate after Grebenshchikoff's death. George Grebenstchikoff's papers document a variety of personal and professional domains, including his activity to honor the Russian writer Ivan Bunin and his account of a lawsuit brought against him by Harold Hecht. The collection also contains a few early letters to George Grebenstchikoff's wife Tatiana that date from the years before her emigration to the United States.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four Series: Correspondence, Writings, Other Papers, and Personal Effects.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1913-1970

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Alyce Batchelder's correspondence documents her activities as literary executor for George Grebenstchikoff's estate and includes several folders of letters to and from members of the Grebenstchikoff family in Russia.

George Grebenstchikoff's correspondence is both personal and professional, addressing literary and religious topics as well as some of his legal troubles. Of particular interest are letters to and from Pearl Buck, chiefly relating to the writer Ivan Bunin.

Tatiana Grebenstchikoff's early correspondence documents her relationship with her first husband and his family in the years before she married Grebenstchikoff and emigrated.

Series I is organized into three subseries: Alyce Batchelder, George Grebenstchikoff and Tatiana Grebenstchikoff. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically. General Correspondence A-Z is filed at the end of the George Grebenstchikoff subseries.

Alyce Batchelder		
b. 1, f. 1	Alexandrow, Dmitri Includes a printed version of "Delo odinokoe"	1964-1967, undated
b. 1, f. 2	Buck, Pearl S.	1964
b. 1, f. 3	Grebenstchikov, Ilia Nilolaevich English	1964-1970
b. 1, f. 4-5	Grebenstchikov, Ivan Dmitrievich English	1962-1966
b. 1, f. 6	Sabo, George Includes a letter from Ivan D. Grebenstchikov to George Sabo	1964, undated
b. 1, f. 7-8	Sikorsky, Igor I. Includes one newspaper clipping about Sikorsky and a pamphlet entitled "Sikorsky Amphibion S-38, 1930 Model"	1964-1965, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Yarmolinsky, Avrahm	1965
George Grebenstchikoff		
b. 1, f. 10	Alexandrow, Dmitri	1962-1963
b. 1, f. 11-13	Buck, Pearl S. and Richard J. Walsh, incoming and outgoing	1950-1956, undated
b. 1, f. 14	Debalta, Stephen L., incoming and outgoing	1951
b. 1, f. 15	Hecht, Harold and Lillian Includes two photographs of Harold Hecht and George Grebenstchikoff and a typescript relating Grebenstchikoff's account of the lawsuit Harold Hecht brought against him	1951, 1953, undated

George Grebenstchikoff (continued)

b. 1, f. 16	Leontii, Metropolitan of all America and Canada	1954 September 18
b. 1, f. 17	Rawlins, Marjorie Kinnan	1953
b. 1, f. 18	Rognedov, Alexandre	1950
b. 1, f. 19	Sedych, Andrei	1950
b. 2, f. 20-23	Swetland, Maurice Jack and Lili Includes photographs and typescripts of poems and a memoir	1916-1945, undated
b. 2, f. 24	Tenney, George L.	1942-1950
b. 2, f. 25	Varnava, Patriarch of Serbia	1936 January 1
b. 2, f. 26	Wasson, Lacy Bell	1944-1964
b. 2, f. 27	Greeting cards	1932-1956
b. 2, f. 28-29	General correspondence A-Z Includes unidentified correpondence, two photographs of Umov and several photographs of a painting by Miguel Hrisogono	1924-1953, undated
Tatiana Grebenstchikoff		
b. 2, f. 30	Batchelder, Alyce	1962 June 26
b. 2, f. 31	Grebenstchikoff, George	1942-1944
b. 2, f. 32	Letters from Tatiana Grebenstchikoff's first husband Sasha and other members of his family Includes an excerpt of Sasha's diary	1913-1917

Series II: Writings, 1953-1967, undated*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Writings consists of four folders of notes, typescripts and printed versions of Grebenstchikoff's writings.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

b. 3, f. 33	Notes, holograph	1953, undated
b. 3, f. 34	"Sobratu," typescript	1967
b. 3, f. 35	"Russian song," proof	undated
b. 3, f. 36	Poems in English, printed versions and typescripts	undated

Series III: Other Papers, 1924-1995, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Other Papers includes photographs, prints, drawings, personal papers and clippings, chiefly relating to Russian-American emigre culture, Grebenstchikoff's death, and legal affairs.

Series III is arranged roughly chronologically.

b. 4, f. 37	Ephemera from the S.S. Leviathan	1924
b. 4, f. 38	Five pen and ink sketches of landscapes with trees	1947
b. 4, f. 39	Photographs Snapshots and portraits of George and Tania Grebenstchikoff, Dmitri Alexandrow and others	1963, undated
b. 4, f. 40	Papers related to Olga, Grand Duchess of Russia Includes: photographs, newspaper clippings and an invitation	1948-1957, undated
b. 4, f. 41-43	Legal and financial papers Includes: power of attorney, social security documents, checks signed by Alyce Batchelder	1964-1967, undated
	Drawings for Grebenstchikoff memorial Stored in: Oversize Box 6, folder 64	[1964]
b. 4, f. 44	Obituaries and memorial	1964, 1990
b. 4, f. 45	Printed cards, landscapes and portraits	undated
b. 4, f. 46	Two painted cards of Russian musicians	undated
b. 4, f. 47	Six handcolored lithographs	undated
b. 4, f. 48	Ephemera from the Churaevka Tea House	undated
b. 4, f. 49-53	Clippings	1951-1995
b. 4, f. 54	Empty envelopes and folders	undated

Series IV: Personal Effects, 1898-1955, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains some of Grebenstchikoff's personal effects, including memorial medallions, religious medals, a silver cigarette case, an oil lamp and a woven wall hanging.

Series IV is arranged chronologically.

b. 5, f. 55	Russian and German coins in a small box	1898-1948
b. 5, f. 56	Religious medal of Platon, Archbishop of North America	[1914?]
b. 5, f. 57	Silver cigarette case	1917
b. 5, f. 58	Religious medal celebrating 950 years of Christian Russia	1938
b. 5, f. 59	St. Petersburg medallion	1953
b. 5, f. 60	Defense of Sebastopol medallion	1955
b. 5, f. 61	Nicholas Roerich medallion	undated
b. 5, f. 62	Eight Christian crosses and a St. Anthony's medal, tied on a string	undated
b. 5, f. 63	Watch fob	undated
b. art	Oil lamp	undated
	Hand woven and embroidered wall hanging <i>9 feet by 3 feet</i> Stored in: Oversize Box 7	undated
	Green felt strap with metal and glass beads Stored in: Oversize Box 7	undated

Oversize*3.01 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 6, f. 64	Drawings for Grebenstchikoff memorial (series III)	undated
b. 7	Hand woven and embroidered wall hanging (Series IV)	undated
b. 7	Green felt strap with metal and glass beads (Series IV)	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

Authors, Russian -- 20th Century
Russian literature -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Medals -- Russia
Photographs

Names

Alexandrow, Dmitri
Batchelder, Alyce
Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1870-1953
Grebenshchikov, Georgii, 1882-1964
Grebenstchikoff, Tatiana
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan, 1896-1953
Sabo, George
Sikorsky, Igor Ivan, 1889-1972
Swetland, Lilli
Swetland, Maurice J.

Contributors

Batchelder, Alyce, collector
Grebenshchikov, Georgii, 1882-1964