

BORIS N. VOLKOV
A REGISTER OF HIS PAPERS
IN THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN CULTURE

PREPARED BY
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MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN CULTURE

SAN FRANCISCO

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BORIS N. VOLKOV

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

1894 May 30 [N.S.]	Born, Ekaterinoslav, Russia
1915	Medic, Russian army
1917	Completed university course, Legal Faculty, Moscow University
1918-1920	Agent of Provisional Siberian and All-Russian governments (Omsk) in Mongolia
1923	Emigrated to United States
1933	Author, <u>V pyli chuzhikh dorog</u>
1945	Translator, United Nations
1954 June 9	Died, San Francisco

BORIS N. VOLKOV PAPERS

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists mainly of the writings of the emigre poet and writer Boris Volkov. During the First World War, Volkov was a medic with the Russian army on its Western and Caucasian fronts. During the Civil War, he was active in the counterrevolutionary uprising in Irkutsk in 1918, and thereafter was an agent of the Omsk government in Mongolia, where he reported on the political and military situation, particularly with regard to the activities of Ataman G. M. Semenov and General Baron R. F. Ungern-Shternberg.

Among his writings, the most significant piece is the unpublished novel "Conscript to Paradise." The novel itself is based in part on his own experiences and in part on the diary of his wife, nee Elena Petrovna Witte, the daughter of the Russian Councilor to the Mongolian government, but the completed draft is significantly abridged from the original version. The original draft is in the form of a large volume of fragments, which may include typescript fragments of Witte's diary (or Volkov's reworked versions of it). The fragments indicate that the author had in mind a much larger autobiographical novel that would have encompassed his adventures in Siberia, the Transbaikal region of the Far East, and Mongolia during the 1917-1921 period. This material has been left largely in the order received.

Other elements of the collection include Volkov's poetry and smaller prose works, some also of an autobiographical nature, as well as evidence reflecting his anti-Communist views and work in America in the 1930s-1950s. The subject file and printed matter series contains brochures and clippings on this and other subjects.

Left unfiled due to the general accessibility of materials are a large number of boxes containing clippings and printed matter (in Russian and English, from periodicals such as the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner, Reader's Digest, American Mercury, Look, etc.) relating to diverse subjects, the most significant of which are Communism and anti-Communism in the United States (including large amounts of materials on McCarthy, espionage trials and Communist propaganda and subversion, as well as dossiers on various public figures representing these movements), international affairs (especially the spread of Communism), and domestic affairs in the USSR and its satellites and in the United States. This material covers the period from the 1930s to 1953.

Detailed processing and preservation microfilming of these materials were made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by matching funds from the Hoover Institution. The grant also provides depositing a microfilm copy in the Hoover Institution Archives.

REGISTER

BORIS N. VOLKOV PAPERS

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

<u>Box Nos</u>	<u>Series</u>
1	BIOGRAPHICAL FILE, 1915-1953. Articles about Volkov, autobiographical notes, correspondence, commercial, employment and service records, arranged alphabetically by physical form
1-2	CORRESPONDENCE, 1922-1954. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent
2-16	SPEECHES AND WRITINGS, 1913-1950. Articles, drafts of unpublished autobiographical novel, poetry, letters to the editor and reviews, arranged chronologically by title
17-20	SUBJECT FILE, 1913-1953. Mainly clippings, with some correspondence and writings by others, arranged alphabetically by subject
20	PRINTED MATTER, 1932-1953. Unsorted brochures on various topics (mainly communism and anti-communism, as well as China and Mongolia), including some rare émigré editions
21	PHOTOGRAPHS, C. 1915-1950. Ten photographs include one of Volkov, taken during the First World War, three of Russian translators and interpreters working for the United Nations, and the rest of unidentified people and places
21	OVERSIZE FILE, 1921-1963. Scrapbooks containing biographical material and writings, as well as oversize writings, arranged alphabetically by physical form

CONTAINER LIST:

Box Nos	Folder Nos	Contents
1.		BIOGRAPHICAL FILE, 1915-1953. See also SPEECHES AND WRITINGS/"A Descendant of Genghis Khan" and OVERSIZE FILE/Scrapbooks
	1	Addresses
	2	Articles about or mentioning Volkov. Includes correspondence with <u>Ripley's Believe It Or Not</u> , 1929 December 19, regarding Volkov's entry, and correspondence regarding celebrations in honor of Volkov, 1931
	3	Autobiographical notes
	4	Commercial records, 1920-1923. Includes materials generated by Volkov as an agent of J.R. Gilchrist & Co.: correspondence with Tientsin Chemical works, K. G. Baturin and Co., Gen. D. L. Khorvat and others, as well as financial documents
		Correspondence
	5	Unidentified family members (?), 1922-1938 and undated
	6	Volkov, Alexander, 1952-1953
	7	Witte, Boris, 1928 and undated
	8	Description of invention by Volkov - "Etiquette stand"
	9	Employment documents
	10	Identity documents
	11	Inventory of archive
	12	Letter of recommendation for Volkov
		Obshchestvo družei russkoi svobody. See SUBJECT FILE
	13	Service records
		Subject file - Family
	14	Volkov (Townley), Bessie Baldwin
	15	Volkov (Witte), Elena Petrovna
	16	Miscellany
		CORRESPONDENCE, 1922-1954
	17	General, 1931-1951
	18	Unidentified, undated and 1948
	19	Butenko, Vasilii, 1951
		Daniels, Camilla. Includes related correspondence with others. Consists largely of letters and postcards relating to the translation of Volkov's unpublished novel, "Conscript To Paradise." See also SPEECHES AND WRITINGS
		Incoming
	20	Undated
	21	1932-1935
	22	1936-1943
2.	1	Outgoing, 1933-1943 (and undated)
	2	Eudin, X. J., 1950
	3	Izdatel'stvo imeni Chekhova, 1952
	4	Kaun, Alexander, n.d.
	5	Konstantinov, P., n.d.
	6	Lubelski, Sergei, 1950
	7	Lutts, G., 1930
	8	Mel'gunov, S. (?), 1951

2. (Contd.) CORRESPONDENCE (Contd.)
- 9 Novoe Russkoe Slovo, 1951
- 10 Panteleieff, Maxim, 1951
- 11 Postnikova, Taisiia Anatol'evna, 1953 and undated
- 12 Rubtsova, T., n.d.
- 13 Sakovitch, 1925
- 14 Serebrennikov, I. I., 1929-1930
- 15 Serebrennikova, Aleksandra Nikolaevna, 1929-1933
- 16 Shapiro, Nadia L., 1927-1954
- 17 Shmelev, Ivan S., 1950
- 18 Solonevich, Boris, n.d. (fragment). Includes two
 attached wallet-size photos of Solonevich
- 19 Tenney, Jack B., Senator, 1948
- 20 Vasil'ev, P., 1931
- 21 Vernadsky, G., 1931
- 22 Miscellany. Consists mostly of fragments of letters
SPEECHES AND WRITINGS, 1913-1950. See also OVERSIZE FILE
General
- 23 Fragments (unidentified), n.d. Holograph and
 typescript
- 24 Letters to editor, n.d. Holograph and typescript
3. 1-3 Poems, 1913-1936 and undated. Holograph,
 typescript and printed copies
- 4 "Amerikanskoe pravopisanie," n.d. Holograph and
 typescript
- 5 "Armeiskii razskaz," n.d. Holograph
- 6 "Broshiury R. D. O.," n.d. Typescript
- 7 "Chekist li Sergei Gevlich," n.d. Typescript, and open
 letter of S. P. Mel'gunov
- "Conscript to Paradise," n.d. May include unrelated
 material
- 8-9 Background materials. Includes notes by Volkov
 and others, citations from printed sources,
 correspondence (between Volkov and various
 individuals), recollections by others of
 Mongolia and the activities of Gen. R. F.
 Ungern-Shternberg in 1918-1922
- 10 Chapter outlines
- 11 Contract for the translation of the book
4. Correspondence
- 1 General, 1925-1933
- Daniels, Camilla. See CORRESPONDENCE
- 2 Il'ina, Olga, 1927
- Drafts and fragments of drafts. Holograph and
 typescript. Includes early drafts told from
 the point of view of E. P. Volkova (Witte)
- 3-7 General
5. 1-5 General
6. 1-8 General
7. 1-10 General
8. 1-5 General

9. SPEECHES AND WRITINGS (Contd.)
 "Conscript to Paradise," (Contd.)
 Drafts and fragments of drafts
 1-3 General
10. 1-7 Primarily English translations
11. 1-9 Primarily English translations
12. 1-3 Primarily English translations
 Final draft (partial)
 4-9 Russian
13. 1-4 English
 5 List of photographs, possibly intended for
 inclusion in book
 6 Prepublication reviews
 7 Synopsis and book proposals
 8 "Deti," n.d. Holograph
 9 "Di Pi staviat khoroshii rekord v SShA," n.d.
 Typescript
 10 "Dolina Santa Klary," n.d. Typescript
 11 "Galantnyia prikliucheniia esaula Malygina," n.d.
 Typescript
 12 "Golova voina," n.d. Typescript
 13 "Goluboe tria-lia-lia," n.d. Holograph
 14 "Kak pisat'," n.d. Typescript
14. 1 "Kamuflet ili nakazannyi samokhval (iz galantnykh
 priklucheniia esaula Malygina v SShA)," n.d.
 Typescript
 2 ["Khunkhuzy"], n.d. Holograph and typescript. Includes
 background materials and drafts
 3 "Krugosvetnoe putesthestvie mistera Stobsa," n.d.
 Typescript
 4 "Kto lgal? (Soedinennye shtaty protiv Aldzher Khissa),"
 n.d. Typescript
 5 Letter to the editor, unidentified newspaper, n.d.
 Typescript
 6 "Literaturnyi roman ili svoi svoemu ponevole brat," n.d.
 Typescript
 7 "Moral'nyia kachestva 'belykh'," n.d. Typescript
 8 "Ob obychaiakh i obriadakh pri rodakh inorodcheskikh
 zhenshchin v Sibiri i Srednei Azii," n.d. Typescript
 (fragments)
 9 "Otboi," n.d. Typescript
 10 "Our Lady of Chenstohov," n.d. Holograph (in Russian)
 11 "Povest' o shestnadtsatoi neistrebimoi rote," n.d.
 Holograph and typescript
 12 "Protsess Kravchenko s tochki zreniia amerikantsa," n.d.
 Holograph and typescript. Includes background
 material (clippings)
 13 "Put' poslednikh russkikh kniaziei," n.d. Typescript.
 Includes English translation entitled "The Way of the
 Last Russian Princes"
 14 "Razgovor po dusham," n.d. Typescript
 15 Review of Vestnik Kitaia, n.d. Typescript
 16 Review of Vol'naia Sibir', n.d. Typescript

14. (Contd.) SPEECHES AND WRITINGS (Contd.)
- 17 "Rubin," n.d. Typescript. Includes English translation
entitled "The Ruby in the Ring"
- 18 "Second Sight in Tartary," n.d. Typescript
"Severo-vostochnyi ugol Pekina," n.d. See OVERSIZE
FILE
- 19 "Shtab-rotmistr Ianenko-Iankovskii," n.d. Holograph and
typescript
- 20 "Sibirskiiia chastushki," n.d. Holograph and typescript
- 21 "Sila russkago slova," n.d. Holograph and typescript
- 22 "Sinodik pogibshikh," n.d. Typescript
- 23 "Skazka pro Bielago Bychka," n.d. Typescript
- 24 "Sovnaglost'," n.d. Holograph
- 25 "A Spit," n.d. Holograph
- 26 "Stiv i Pidro - gruzchiki San-Frantsisko," n.d.
Typescript
- 27 "Strannyi sluchai gospodina Belfrans," n.d. Holograph
- 28 "Svoboda slova i Amerik. Kommun. Partiia," n.d.
Holograph and typescript
- 29 Translation of "An Open Letter to Frederic Jolio-Curie,"
signed by ten Nobel Prize Laureates, n.d. Typescript
15. 1 Translation of M. Osorgin's "Goluboi kon'," n.d.
Typescript
- 2 "Ulybka Vyshinskago," n.d. Typescript
- 3 Untitled article on Cossacks, n.d. Typescript
- 4 Untitled draft of work on U.S. recognition of U.S.S.R.,
n.d. Holograph
- 5 Untitled draft of review of Western and émigré books and
articles on U.S.S.R., n.d. Holograph
- 6 Untitled memoir of university life, n.d. Typescript
- 7 Untitled summary of notes of A. Jigalin regarding his
experiences in China in 1945-1947, n.d. Holograph
- 8 Untitled synopsis of literary work on the Russian Civil
War, n.d. Holograph
- 9 Untitled work on Eugene Lyons, n.d. Holograph and
typescript
- 10 Untitled work on experiences during the Russian Civil
War, n.d. Typescript
- 11 Untitled work on front-line experiences in 1915, n.d.
Holograph
- 12 Untitled work on Russians in San Francisco, n.d.
Typescript
- 13 "Vrediteli," n.d. Typescript
- 14 "Vziatie bielymi Troitskosavska i sobytiia na russko-
mongol'skoi granitsie (1918-1919 g.g.)," n.d.
Typescript
- 15 "Znaiut li chto tvoriat," n.d. Typescript
"Predel," 1921. See "Predel," 1930 July 11 and OVERSIZE
FILE/Scrapbooks/Clippings I
- 16 "Ob Ungernie," Novosti zhizni, 1921. Printed copy
- 17 "Poslednie dni ungerovshchiny," Zaria, 1921. Printed
copy
- 18 "Material ob Ungerne," 1921-1931. Typescript. Includes
"Ob Ungernie," "Konets Ungerna," "Zagovor protiv
Ungerna," and "Ungern v Mongolii"
- 19 "O dnevnike gen. barona A. Budberga," Russkaia zhizn',
1928 February 3. Background material and printed
copy

15. (Contd.) SPEECHES AND WRITINGS (Contd.)
- 20 "Ideal'nyi dom," Russkaia zhizn', 1928 June 3. Printed
copy
- 21 "Schast'e rotmistra Gei-Tur," Novaia zaria, 1929 January
9. Printed copy
- 22 "Istinnyia prikliucheniia," n.d. Includes English
translation entitled "A Job For a Prince" (notarized
1929 February 23) and correspondence with Pervaia
russkaia kino-studiia, 1924-1931. Typescript
- 23 "Meshchanskiia nastroeniia," Novaia zaria, 1929 April
13. Printed copy
- 24 "Sviazyvaiushchee nachalo," 1929 June 29. Typescript
(under the pseudonym of Ivan Zuda)
- 25 "Predel," Russkaia zhizn', 1930 July 11. Typescript and
printed copy. Possibly related to a 1921 article of
the same title
- 26 "A Descendant of Genghis Khan," Asia, 1931 November.
Printed copy. Includes drafts in English and
Russian, entitled "Stepnoi aristocrat." Also
includes biographical information
- 27 Untitled profiles of Russian emigrants in the United
States, 1932 or 1933. Typescript
- 28 "East and West," Novaia zaria, 1932 January 23.
Typescript of English translation. Includes review
of Grace Burrough's dance concert by Flora Reif
V pyli chuzhikh dorog [1933], Berlin
- 29-30 Typescript
16. 1 Proofs
- 2 Printed copy
- 3 Reviews and correspondence
- 4 Review of George Stewart, The White Armies, Novaia
zaria, 1933 August 1. Typescript and printed copy.
Includes abridged English translation
- 5 "Kogda roga prinosili bogatstvo," Novaia zaria, 1933
December 16. Printed copy
- 6 "Amerikanskii korrespondent," Zemlia kolumba, 1936
March. Typescript. Includes abridged English
translation
- 7 "Asia's Oldest Democracy," 1936. Typescript. Includes
Russian and English drafts and related correspondence
- 8 "Zagadochnaia smert' Krivitskago," Russkaia zhizn', 1949
August 23. Printed copy
- 9 "Komissiia Khuvera," Russkaia zhizn', 1949 September 17.
Printed copy. Includes notes, background materials,
and correspondence
- 10 "Kak Gor'kii ispol'zoval amerikanskoe mylo," Russkaia
mysl', 1950 May 12. Typescript
- 11 Letters to the editor, Russkaia zhizn', 1950 August 11
and 30. Printed copies. Includes background
material and correspondence
- 12 "Krestovyi pokhod za svobodu," 1950 September 3.
Typescript. Includes background material
- 13 "Son redaktora," 1952 September. Typescript

17. SUBJECT FILE, 1913-1953. Unless noted otherwise, files consist of clippings and other printed matter
- 1 Abductions, Political--Europe. Relates to Soviet abductions of anti-Communist figures, particularly in post-World War II Germany, and to the abduction of Gen. A. P. Kutepov in France, 1937
- 2 American-Russian Institute. Publications and printed matter
- 3 Beloff, Georgei. Includes letters to the editor and other correspondence by Volkov and others relating to Beloff's article (also included), "Still Alive," Liberty, 1933
- 4 Bridges, Harry
- 5 Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy
- 6 Cheka
- 7 Church of Christ the Savior, Berkeley, CA
- 8 Communists, California
- 9 Diplomatic and Consular Service, Soviet Union. Relates to the escape of Oksana Kasenkina from the Soviet consulate in New York in 1948 and subsequent diplomatic scandal
- Eastern Orthodox Church. SEE Catholicism
- 10 Friends of Fighters for Russian Freedom
- 11 Grebenshchikov, Georgii
- 12 Karelina, Mariia Nikolaevna. Correspondence, including letter, n.d., describing her escape from the Soviet Union
- 13 Lavrova (Shapiro), Nadia. Typescript and clippings of her articles in various newspapers
- 14 Obshchestvo družei russkoi svobody
- 15 Orthodox Eastern Church. Relates to activities of Church in Russia as well as in the United States
18. 1 Plevitskaia, Nadezhda
- 2 Press, Russian--Caricatures
- 3 Propaganda, Anti-Communist--United States. Includes clippings, correspondence and other printed matter relating to activities of Americans and Russians in this field
- 4 Pushkin, Aleksandr Sergeevich. Includes correspondence and newspaper issues for 1937 (100th anniversary of Pushkin's death)
- 5 Rasputin, Grigorii
- 6 Russian Far East. Brief memoir of life and social customs in Transbaikal region, 1900-1922, by unidentified author
- 7 Russian language
- Russians--China
- 8 General
- 9 Shanghai. Includes correspondence and drafts of newspapers articles by various journalists (M. Lidin and others), mainly relating to the post-World War II period
- Russians--Foreign countries
- 10 General
- 11 'Sovpatrioty'

