

Am-Rus Literary Agency Records

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083881>

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Collection Summary

Title: Am-Rus Literary Agency Records

Span Dates: 1927-1990

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1945-1990)

ID No.: MSS83881

Creator: Am-Rus Literary Agency

Extent: 11,900 items ; 34 containers ; 13.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Russian

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Literary agency for Soviet writers seeking publication or theatrical production in the United States and in affiliation with the Copyright Agency of the USSR. Includes correspondence with publishers, translators, and theatrical companies, contracts, writings, royalty statements, and reviews.

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.

People

Aleksin, Anatoliĭ Georgievich.

Aĭtmatov, Chingiz.

Bakhtin, M. M. (Mikhail Mikhaĭlovich), 1895-1975.

Bulgakov, Mikhail, 1891-1940.

Chukovskiĭ, Korneĭ, 1882-1969.

Fedin, Konstantin, 1892-1977.

Gorky, Maksim, 1868-1936.

Kazakov, IUriĭ, 1927-

Mayakovsky, Vladimir, 1893-1930.

Okudzhava, Bulat, 1924-1997.

Pisemskiĭ, A. F. (Aleksei Feofilaktovich), 1820-1881.

Platonov, Andreĭ Platonovich, 1899-1951.

Radzinskiĭ, Ėdvard.

Rasputin, Valentin, 1937-

Rozovskiĭ, Mark.

Rybakov, Anatoliĭ Naumovich.

Sholokhov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich, 1905-1984.

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isaevich, 1918-2008.

Tolstoy, Aleksey Nikolayevich, graf, 1883-1945.

Vladimov, Georgii, 1931-

Yevtushenko, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich, 1933-

Ėrenburg, Il'ia, 1891-1967.

Organizations

Am-Rus Literary Agency.

Mezhdunarodnaia kniga.

Vsesoiuznoe agentstvo po avtorskim pravam.

Subjects

Authors and publishers--Soviet Union.

Booksellers and bookselling--Soviet Union.

Copyright--Soviet Union.

Literary agents--Soviet Union.

Literary agents--United States.

Publishers and publishing--United States.

Soviet literature.
Theater--Soviet Union.
Theater--United States.
Translators--Soviet Union.
Translators--United States.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the Am-Rus Literary Agency were given to the Library of Congress by Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1996.

Copyright Status

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Am-Rus Literary Agency are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Am-Rus Literary Agency Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Am-Rus Literary Agency span the years 1927-1990, with the bulk of the material dating from 1945 to 1990. Through its affiliation with the Copyright Agency of the USSR (VAAP), the Am-Rus agency represented Soviet authors in negotiations with publishers and theatrical producers in the United States. Written in English and Russian, the records include correspondence, contracts, royalty statements, news clippings, printed matter, writings, and photographs. The collection has been organized in two series: [Author File](#) and [Miscellany](#).

The [Author File](#) is arranged alphabetically by name of the author. The title of the author's work, in English translation, is generally given as well. The author list contains mostly literary figures, such as novelists, playwrights, poets, short story writers, and writers of children's books, although some journalists and scientific and medical writers are also represented. Prominent Soviet writers with substantial material in the [Author File](#) include Georgievich Aleksin, Chingiz Aitmatov, Anatoliĭ, M. M. Bakhtin, Mikhail Bulgakov, Korneĭ Chukovskiĭ, Il'ia Ėrenburg, Konstantin Fedin, Maksim Gorky, IUriĭ Kazakov, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Bulat Shalvovich Okudzhava, Aleksei Feofilaktovich Pisemskiĭ, Andreĭ Platonovich Platonov, Ėdvard Radzinskiĭ, Valentin Grigor'evich Rasputin, Mark Rozovskiĭ, Anatoliĭ Naumovich Rybakov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich Sholokhov, Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenit'syn, Aleksey Nikolayevich Tolstoy, Georgii Vladimov, and Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Yevtushenko.

With the exceptions of Aitmatov, Aleksin, Chukovskiĭ, and Rozovskiĭ, the [Author File](#) contains little correspondence between authors and the Am-Rus Agency. Most correspondence is between Am-Rus staff and American publishers, theaters, translators, VAAP, or Mezhdunarodnaia Kniga, the official Soviet book import/export firm. Sometimes an author's wishes are transmitted to Am-Rus through correspondence from VAAP or Mezhdunarodnaia Kniga; for example see "Vladimov" and that author's concerns about an English translation. The [Author File](#) also contains contracts, royalty statements, material from theater productions, reviews, and material on issues relating to English language translations and introductions. Am-Rus placed many of its files in labeled, letter-size manila envelopes. The contents of these envelopes have been kept together in a folder or paper sleeve. A photocopy of the envelope has been placed in the paper sleeve or folder.

The Miscellany is the smaller of the two series and includes a variety of material. Folders on the Copyright Agency of the USSR furnish financial information about the Am-Rus Agency. There are files for specific theater companies and publishers, extended correspondence with translators, and material on the publication of dictionaries and anthologies. The Am-Rus Agency occasionally helped with contract negotiations for the publication or production of American works in the Soviet Union, and the Miscellany series includes folders on “Books by American writers for publication in the USSR” and “Plays by American writers for production in the USSR.”

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- Author File, 1936-1990
- Miscellany, 1927-1990

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-22

Series

Author File, 1936-1990

Correspondence, contracts, writings, royalty statements, reviews, printed matter, and photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by name of author and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 23-34

Miscellany, 1927-1990

Correspondence, financial records, contracts, royalty statements, news clippings, and printed matter. This series contains all files not identified by the name of a Soviet writer.

Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, individual, or subject and chronologically thereunder.

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- Kapp, Yvonne (editor), *Short Stories of Russia Today*, 1957-1963, 1970, undated
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- Katayev, Valentin, *The Magic Flower* and *The Wife*, 1945-1946
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- Mamlin, Gennandi, *Hey, There—Hello!*, 1986-1987 [See also Container 34, Trips to Moscow, visit with Gennandi Mamlin](#)
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- Perovskaia, Ol'ga, *The Wolf in Olga's Kitchen*, 1968-1980, undated
- Perventsev, Arkadii Alekseevich, *The Ordeal*, 1943-1949
- Petrov, Demitri, "Son of the Don Steppes," 1961
- Pisenskii, Aleksei Feofilaktovich, *One Thousand Souls*, 1958-1971
- Platonov, Andrei Platonovich, *The Fierce and Beautiful World*, 1967-1986, undated
- Poliakov, Aleksandr, *Russians Don't Surrender* and *White Mammoths*, 1942-1945
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- In the Absence of Love and Death and An Old Actress in the Role of Dostoevsky's Wife*, 1986
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- Shishkov, Viacheslav Iakovlevich, 1945, 1956
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BOX 22

BOX 23-34

Miscellany, 1927-1990

Correspondence, financial records, contracts, royalty statements, news clippings, and printed matter. This series contains all files not identified by the name of a Soviet writer. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, individual, or subject and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 23

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Miscellany, 1927-1990

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BOX 26	Dictionaries Akhmanova (editor), 1959-1963 Lapidus and Shetsova, Folokina and Weiser (editors), 1962-1987 (2 folders) <i>Meyer's Technical Dictionary</i> , 1942 Muller, V. K., and A. I. Smirnitsky (editors), 1943-1951, 1958-1986, undated (3 folders) Zaimovsky, S. G. (compiler) and Ivy Litvinov (editor), 1958-1970
	Drama correspondence, 1977-1990, undated (3 folders)
	E. P. Dutton 1963-1966
BOX 27	1967-1981 (3 folders)
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	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, Conn., 1980-1989, undated (3 folders)
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- Hayden, Terese, 1977-1980, undated
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BOX 31 Plays by American writers for production in the USSR
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Luce, William, *The Belle of Amherst*, 1982-1985
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- Medoff, Mark, *Children of a Lesser God*, 1983
Rintel, David, *Clarence Darrow*, 1980-1981, undated
Sabath, Bernard, *The Boys in Autumn*, 1983-1985
Simonov, Elena and Vladimir (translators), 1984-1988
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Stevens, Olive (translator), 1969-1980
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White, Anne Terry (reviewer and translator), 1965-1967
Women in Film International, 1987, undated
Writer's Union of the USSR, 1987-1989