

Guide to the Andrei Sedykh Papers

GEN MSS 100



by Keith Langston

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 100

CREATOR: Sedykh, Andreï, 1902-

TITLE: Andreï Sedykh papers

DATES: 1887-1965

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Russian

SUMMARY: The papers contain correspondence, writings, photographs, and other papers concerning the lives of such Russian émigrés to the West as Mark Aldanov, Ivan Bunin, Marc Chagall, Aleksei Remizov, and N. A. Tëffi.

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

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.sedykh>.

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

The Papers were donated to the Yale University Library by Andrei Sedykh in 1964.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 3: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Andrei Sedykh Papers are 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

Andrei Sedykh Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Slavic names, titles, and quotations in their original languages have been transliterated in accordance with Library of Congress guidelines.

ANDREI SEDYKH (1902-)

Andrei Sedykh (pseudonym of Iakov Moiseevich TSvibak/Jacques Zwibak) is the author of 18 books of short stories, essays, history, travelogs and reminiscences. For most of his life he worked as a journalist, writing prolifically on a wide range of subjects. A prominent figure of the first wave of Russian emigration, he numbered among his friends and acquaintances most of the notable Russian émigrés in France and the United States, many of whom are represented in the papers.

Sedykh was born in Feodosiia, Russia on August 14 (August 1), 1902. He emigrated from Russia in 1920 and, after a brief period in Istanbul, settled in Paris where he studied at the Ecole des sciences politiques receiving his degree in 1925. He worked as a correspondent for *Poslednie novosti*, *Segodnia* (Riga) and *Novoe russkoe slovo* (New York), and in 1932 married the actress and singer Evgeniia Osipovna Lipovskaia (Jenny Grey). When Ivan Alekseevich Bunin was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1933, Sedykh accompanied him to Stockholm for the ceremonies as his secretary. During World War II Sedykh was forced to flee Paris, and in 1942 he emigrated to New York, where he began working as the city editor for *Novoe russkoe slovo*. He served as its managing editor from 1960-65 and in 1973 became editor in chief and president.

In addition to his career as a writer, journalist, and editor, Sedykh was active in philanthropic organizations. He created the Fond srochnoi pomoshchi at *Novoe russkoe slovo* to aid needy Russian emigrants and promoted the yearly collection for the Russian Literary Fund. He served as president of the Russian Literary Fund and vice-president of the American ORT (Obshchestvo rasprostraneniia truda) Federation, and for many years was the chairman of the executive committee of the American-European Friends of ORT. [Sources used: Kasack, Wolfgang, *Dictionary of Russian Literature Since 1917* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988); *Tri iubileia Andreia Sedykh*, ed. Leonid Rzhetskii (New York: Litfund, 1982); *Who's Who in American Jewry*, ed. Harold M. Glass (Los Angeles: Standard Who's Who, 1980).

Scope and Contents

The Andrei Sedykh Papers consist of 2 boxes of correspondence, writings by various authors, and other papers. Box 3 holds restricted fragile papers (mostly newspaper clippings) for which preservation photocopies have been made. The papers span the dates 1887-1965.

[Series I, Correspondence](#), contains incoming letters from notable Russian émigrés living in France and the United States, such as Mark Aleksandrovich Aldanov, Konstantin D. Bal'mont, Marc Chagall, Z. N. Gippius, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Marina TSvetaeva. The bulk of the letters are in Russian; there are a few postcards and letters in French, and a letter in English from Pearl Buck discussing plans for a celebration in honor of Bunin's eightieth birthday.

The papers contain 62 letters and notes and 17 postcards from Ivan Alekseevich Bunin over a period of 28 years dealing with personal and business matters. Beginning in 1942 a number of the letters discuss the publication of Russian and English editions of *Temnye allei* and other works. Bunin's letter of October 9, 1942 includes corrections to the manuscripts of the first New York edition of *Temnye allei*. Several letters (e.g., August 18, 1947 and December 19, 1948) contain Bunin's reactions to criticism of him that had appeared in print. In later letters, Bunin becomes increasingly preoccupied with his poor health and desperate financial situation.

In addition to the letters of Bunin, there are 22 letters from his wife, Vera Nikolaevna, covering the period from 1950-57. Her description of Bunin's final days and death in her letter of November 18, 1953 was printed by Sedykh in *Novoe russko slovo* (Box 2, folder 72).

Aleksei Remizov is represented by 36 mostly brief items which display his well-known fondness for fanciful calligraphy. Most of the letters contain information for publication in the newspapers for which Sedykh worked as a correspondent.

The *Correspondence* includes 61 letters and 1 postcard from N. A. Teffi. She writes in a lively manner about personal affairs and her work, and often complains about her absentmindedness. In a letter of 1951 she gives a series of humorous anecdotes, "from the life of a crazy person," chronicling some of the more spectacular instances of her forgetfulness. Teffi also discusses Bunin in a few of the letters, portraying him in an unfavorable light; for example: "Na schet Bunina skazhu, chto ia ego boius'...On (kak eto ni grustno) po nature predatel'...Moi sovet -- otoidite poka ne pozdno." [December 1949] (With regard to Bunin I'll say that I'm afraid of him...He is (sad as it may be) a traitor by nature... My advice -- get away while it's not too late.)

In addition to the incoming correspondence, there are 11 letters written by Aldanov, Bunin, and others to third parties.

[Series II, Writings](#), consists primarily of works written by other writers. Sedykh himself is represented only by newspaper clippings, mostly concerning Bunin, and a typescript of an interview with Bunin. Aside from one article by Sedykh in French, all of the writings are in Russian. There are a number of manuscripts by Bunin, most notably the stories printed in the first New York edition of *Temnye allei*. *Writings* also include two editorials by P. N. Miliukov, a chapter from a book by Vladimir L'vovich Burtsev, a short (4-line) poem by Bal'mont addressed to A. I. Kuprin, and a number of short items by Aldanov, Bal'mont, Remizov, and Teffi, presumably for publication in *Segodnia* or *Poslednie novosti*. Remizov, indulging in his enthusiasm for jokes, occasionally included information about fictitious authors or works in his notes to Sedykh, and sometimes succeeded in fooling him into publishing them. For example, in an "innocent-looking note" (Sedykh's words) headed "Literaturnaia khronika," Remizov informed Sedykh that TSvetaeva, who had recently moved to Paris, was to become the head of the monthly journal *Shchiptsy* ("Tongs"). Sedykh promptly published this item and on the following day received an irate letter from TSvetaeva (Box 1, folder 40), who apparently did not share Remizov's sense of humor.

[Series III, Other Papers](#), includes addresses, newspaper clippings, photographs, and two sketches by Remizov. The bulk of the series consists of newspaper articles, programs, and photographs related to Bunin's Nobel Prize in 1933.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1925-62

0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Series I, *Correspondence*, is divided into two subseries, *Incoming* and *Third-Party* and is arranged alphabetically by author.

INCOMING

b. 1, f. 1-5	Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich	1926-56, n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	Bal'mont, Konstantin Dmitrievich	1925-27
b. 1, f. 7	[Benois, Alexandre?]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	Berdiaev, Nikolai Aleksandrovich	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	Buck, Pearl S.	1950 Jun 12
b. 1, f. 10-15	Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich	1925-52, n.d.
b. 1, f. 16-17	Bunina, Vera Nikolaevna	1950-57
b. 1, f. 18	Burtsev, Vladimir L'vovich	1927-31
b. 1, f. 19	Chagall, Marc	1943, 1962
b. 1, f. 20	Chekhov, Mikhail	1951 Jul 16
b. 1, f. 21	Gippius, Z. N. (Zinaida Nikolaevna)	1924-28
b. 1, f. 22	Grebenshchikov, Georgii	1951, 1953
b. 1, f. 23	Grechaninov, Aleksandr Tikhonovich	1951, n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	Grigor'ev, Boris Dmitrievich	1929
b. 1, f. 25	Jabotinsky, Vladimir	1931 Mar 10
b. 1, f. 26	Khodasevich, Vladimir Felitsianovich	1928, 1933
b. 1, f. 27	Kuprin, Aleksandr Ivanovich	1929, n.d.
b. 1, f. 28	Maklakov, Vasilii Alekseevich	1927-28, n.d.
b. 1, f. 29	Nemirovich-Danchenko, Vladimir	1926, 1931
b. 1, f. 30	Rachmaninoff, Sergei	1942 Mar 20
b. 1, f. 31-32	Remizov, Aleksei Mikhailovich	1925-53
b. 1, f. 33	Shmelev, Ivan Sergeevich	1925-29
b. 1, f. 34	Shukhaev, Vasilii Ivanovich	1926 May 31
b. 1, f. 35	Sudeikin, Sergei IUr'evich	n.d.
b. 1, f. 36-39	Teffi, N. A.	1948-52, n.d.

INCOMING (continued)

b. 1, f. 40	TSvetaeva, Marina Ivanovna	1925 Mar 12
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b. 1, f. 41	Unidentified	1926 Oct 30
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THIRD PARTY

Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich to:

b. 1, f. 42	Aleksandr Abramovich Poliakov	1946 Dec 4
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b. 1, f. 42	Mikhail Osipovich TSetlin	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 42	David Efimovich (surname?)	[1927?] Sep 7
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Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich to:

b. 1, f. 43	Boris Aleksandrovich de Tan'ko	1947 Apr 29
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b. 1, f. 43	Mar'ia Samoilovna TSetlina	1948 Jan 1
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Bunina, Vera Nikolaevna to:

b. 1, f. 44	Maks Aleksandrovich (surname?)	1948 Jul 19
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Ivanov, Georgii Vladimirovich to:

b. 1, f. 45	Aleksandr Eduardovich Kagan	n.d.
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Miliukov, Pavel Nikolaevich to:

b. 1, f. 46	N. V. Miliukova	1940 Sep
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Shestov, Lev to:

b. 1, f. 47	I. P. Demidov	1927 Dec 8
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Wreden, Nicholas to:

b. 1, f. 48	Nicholas Miliukov	1951 Dec 10
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Series II: Writings, 1923-61*0.25 linear feet (.5 box)*

The papers are arranged alphabetically by surname of author.

Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich		
b. 2, f. 49	Interview conducted by A. Sedykh: holograph manuscript	n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	Note: [Kak ia provedu leto?]	n.d.
Bal'mont, Konstantin Dmitrievich		
b. 2, f. 50	Note: K kalendariu pisatelei	1926 Jun 28
b. 2, f. 51	Poem: I. A. Kuprinu	1923 [Mar?] 14
Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich		
b. 2, f. 52	Preface to <i>Zvezdochety s Bosfora</i> of A. Sedykh: typescript, corrected	1948 Mar 17
b. 2, f. 53	Speech for Pushkin celebration: holograph manuscript, signed	1949 Jun 21
<i>Temnye allei</i> : typescript, corrected		
b. 2, f. 54	"Aprel"	1938 Mar 9
b. 2, f. 55	"Ballada"	1938 Feb 3
b. 2, f. 56	"Kavkaz"	1937 Nov 12
b. 2, f. 57	"Muza"	1938 Oct 17
b. 2, f. 58	"Natali"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 59	"Pozdnii chas"	1938 Oct 19
b. 2, f. 60	"Rusia," 2 pages from	n.d.
b. 2, f. 61	"Smaragd"	1940 Oct 3
b. 2, f. 62	"Stepa"	1938 Oct 5
b. 2, f. 63	"Zlokliucheniiia I. A. Bunina v Germanii": newspaper clipping	1936 Nov 1
Burtsev, Vladimir L'vovich		
b. 2, f. 64	<i>Kak prikhodilos' razoblachat' Azefa</i> , 1 chapter: typescript, corrected	n.d.
Miliukov, Pavel Nikolaevich		
Editorials		
b. 2, f. 65	"Pravda' o respublikantsakh- demokratakh": holograph manuscript	1924 Aug 20
b. 2, f. 65	"Psikhologiiia kazachestva": holograph manuscript	1923 Jun 28
Remizov, Aleksei Mikhailovich		
b. 2, f. 66	Dlia kalendaria	n.d.

Remizov, Aleksei Mikhailovich (continued)

b. 2, f. 66	Inostrannaia knizhnaia khronika	n.d.
b. 2, f. 66	Kak ia provedu leto? and Dlia kalendaria	n.d.
b. 2, f. 66	Kak ia provodil leto?	n.d.
b. 2, f. 66	Literaturnaia khronika	n.d.
b. 2, f. 66	Note	n.d.
Sedykh, Andrei		
b. 2, f. 67	Newspaper articles: clippings	1953-61, n.d.
b. 2, f. 68	"V dome I. A. Bunina": typescript, corrected	n.d.
Teffi, N. A.		
b. 2, f. 69	Note: Kak ia provedu leto?	n.d.

Series III: Other Papers, 1887-1965*0.25 linear feet (.5 box)*

The papers in Series III are alphabetically arranged by subject and individual.

b. 2, f. 70	Addresses	n.d.
	Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich	
b. 2, f. 71	Bill with note by Bunin	1924 May 1
b. 2, f. 72	"Bolezn' i smert' Bunina": newspaper clipping	n.d.
b. 2, f. 73	Nobel Prize: newspaper clippings and programs	1933
b. 2, f. 74	Photographs See also: Box 2, folder 78	1887, n.d.
	Drawings	
	Remizov, Aleksei Mikhailovich:	
b. 2, f. 75	Self-portrait	n.d.
b. 2, f. 75	Sketch of B. K. Zaitsev	n.d.
	Photographs	
b. 2, f. 76	Bal'mont, Konstantin D.	1926 May 7
b. 2, f. 77	Grigor'ev, Boris D.	n.d.
	Groups: Bunin's Nobel Prize	
b. 2, f. 78	Bunin's departure from Paris for Stockholm: Bunin, Aldanov, TSetlina, Sedykh, L'vov, Struve	1933
b. 2, f. 78	Bunin's arrival in Stockholm: Sedykh, Vera Bunina, Serge de Chessin Galina Kuznetsova, Dr. G. P. Oleinikov, Bunin, Gen. Consul N. Brosset	1933
b. 2, f. 78	Nobel Prize ceremony: the royal family	1933
b. 2, f. 78	Speech of the Palace Marshal	1933
b. 2, f. 78	King Gustav awarding diploma and medal to Bunin	1933
b. 2, f. 79	List of donated items prepared by Sedykh	1964-65

Restricted Fragile Papers

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 3, f. 80	Box 1, folders 1-2
b. 3, f. 81	Box 1, folder 6
b. 3, f. 82	Box 1, folder 10
b. 3, f. 83	Box 1, folder 21
b. 3, f. 84	Box 1, folder 27
b. 3, f. 85	Box 1, folder 33
b. 3, f. 86	Box 1, folder 38
b. 3, f. 87	Box 1, folders 42, 47
b. 3, f. 88	Box 2, folder 51
b. 3, f. 89	Box 2, folder 62
b. 3, f. 90	Box 2, folder 63
b. 3, f. 91	Box 2, folder 64
b. 3, f. 92	Box 2, folder 67
b. 3, f. 93	Box 2, folder 72
b. 3, f. 94	Box 2, folder 73

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

Occupations

Authors

Names

Aldanov, Mark Aleksandrovich, 1886-1957
Bal'mont, Konstantin Dmitrievich, 1867-1942
Benois, Alexandre, 1870-1960
Beřdĭaev, Nikolaĭ, 1874-1948
Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1870-1953
Chagall, Marc, 1887-1985
Chekhov, Michael, 1891-1955
Gippius, Z. N. (Zinaida Nikolaevna), 1869-1945
Grebenshchikov, Georgĭi, 1882-1964
Grechaninov, Aleksandr Tikhonovich, 1864-1956
Grigor'ev, Boris, 1886-1939
Ivanov, Georgĭi, 1894-1958
Jabotinsky, Vladimir, 1880-1940
Khodasevich, V. F. (Vladislav Fēlĭtsianovich), 1886-1939
Kuprin, A. I. (Aleksandr Ivanovich), 1870-1938
Maklakov, V. A. (Vasilĭi Alekseevich), 1870-1957
Mĭiukov, P. N. (Pavel Nikolaevich), 1859-1943
Muroĭtseva-Bunina, V. N. (Vera Nikolaevna), 1881-1961
Nemirovich-Danchenko, Vladimir I. (Vladimir Ivanovich), 1858-1943
Rachmaninoff, Sergei, 1873-1943
Remizov, Alekseĭ, 1877-1957
Sedykh, Andreĭ, 1902-
Shestov, Lev, 1866-1938
Shmelev, I. S. (Ivan Sergeevich), 1873-1950
Shukhaev, Vasilĭi Ivanovich, 1887-1973
Soudeikine, Serge, 1882-1946
Tēffi, N. A. (Nadezhda Aleksandrovna), 1872-1952
TSvetaeva, Marina, 1892-1941