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Leonid Cherepen'kin Papers 9051624

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Description is written in: English.

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Cherepen'kin, Leonid Vasil'evich
Title:	Leonid Cherepen'kin Papers
ID:	9051624
ID:	BA#0532
Date [inclusive]:	1910s-1980s
Physical Description:	.25 linear feet 8 folders
Language of the Material:	English .
Box [box]:	BAR Shared MS 11
Abstract:	The papers comprise Leonid Cherepen'kin's recollection about bombing of Dresden during World War II, his poetry, postcards, and family photographs.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Leonid Cherepen'kin Papers; Bakhmeteff General Manuscripts Collection; Bakhmeteff Archive, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Leonid Vasil'evich Cherepen'kin was born in Pskov in 1922. His life, in many ways, was the typical life of a member of the intelligentsia from that time period - he lived through the war, survived prison camps, worked in mines and construction, and was always under surveillance by the KGB.

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Biographical / Historical

Leonid's father was a mathematics teacher. A first generation intellectual, he was scrupulously honest and had an extraordinary appreciation for books. He managed to acquire them even in the most straitened circumstances, building an excellent library with many rare books and lifetime editions. He instilled in his son a similar passion for books and broad knowledge of good literature. Leonid's mother, whom he adored and honored all his life, was from a family of priests. Her father, Ivan Kulikov, was a true pastor to his parishioners, and many of them voluntarily followed him when he was sent to exile after the revolution. After the German occupation of Pskov in 1941, Leonid's father agreed to become mayor in order to ameliorate the living conditions of Pskov citizens. During the occupation, he helped hide Jewish families. Nineteen-year-old Leonid was not called to serve in the army because he was then ill with jaundice. He started working at the library during Pskov's occupation. In 1943, the Germans in Pskov sent valuable books to Germany, accompanied by those people who had prepared the books for shipment. Thus Leonid ended up in the enemy's territory. While working in various places, he managed to establish contacts with anti-fascists. Through these contacts, Leonid then began to complete small assignments related, as he learned long after, to the family affairs of those who were preparing an attempt on Hitler's life. Leonid was fluent in German, and he even knew a few dialects. In 1945, he reported to the Soviet commandant, and was immediately arrested and accused of collaboration with the enemy. Only by chance did he escape execution and was instead sentenced to ten years. (His father was sentenced to serve eight years in prison camps. In the novel "V chas dnia, vashe prevoskhoditel'stvo" by Arkadii Vasil'ev, Leonid's father figures under the name Cherepenin, as a traitor, a servant of the occupiers, etc.). Leonid served his sentence in Kazakhstan, in Dzheskazgan, working there as a rate-fixer. He participated in the revolt of prisoners in Kengir (this uprising was later described by Solzhenitsyn), which was suppressed by tanks. In the camp, Leonid met many wonderful people, who later became well known as dissidents, writers, and scientists. He personally knew all the prototypes of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Solzhenitsyn. He was released in 1955. He could not return to Pskov, because it would be impossible for him to get a job and live a normal life there. So, he married and lived in Kharkov, then Lipetsk, where there was a need for construction workers. He graduated from the Faculty of Philology at the Pedagogical Institute. Though he wrote a promising thesis on Dante, he continued to work as a fixer, as it was difficult to make a living as a teacher.

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Biographical / Historical

Leonid Vasil'evich Cherepen'kin died in 1991. He was buried in Pskov, next to the grave of his mother, according to his wish.

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Scope and Contents

The collection consists of Leonid Cherepen'kin's writings and photographs. The manuscript "Dies Irae i mnogoe drugoe," written in the beginning of 1980s, is a recollection of author's experience in Dresden in early 1945. Describing the bombing of Dresden, which Leonid Cherepen'kin miraculously survived, author presents the scenes of German order and chaos in the face of inevitable capitulation; conversations with people he met, the mood of the civilian population, his first love to a German girl, refugees who were running to the West fearing of the advancing Red Army. Of all his ordeals and tribulations in Germany, the author chose this episode of his life, because it was the most terrible of the nearness of death and left the most lasting impression. There are also Leonid Cherepen'kin's poetry, family photographs, and biographical note written by Tatiana Shmulevich in 2010.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized in four series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2011-10-18 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site as part of the BAR General Manuscripts Collection.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Family. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--2009.

Processing Information

Papers processed Katia Shraga 10/--/1999.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Katia Shraga 10/--/1999.

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Processing Information

Formerly part of Bakhmeteff (BAR) General Ms Collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Memoirs

- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Series I: Writings, 1970s-1980s

Scope and Contents

The series consists of the manuscript "Dies Irae i mnogoe drugoe..." and poetry (mostly cards and greetings to Tania) by Leonid Cherepen'kin.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Dies Irae i mnogoe drugoe...", [1980s] Scope and Contents (manuscripts in three notebooks)	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 1 to 3 of 7
Poetry, [1970s-1980s] Scope and Contents (mostly cards and greetings to Tania)	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 4 to 5 of 7

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Series II: Correspondence, undated

Scope and Contents

2 New York greetings post cards.

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Series III: Photographs, 1910s-1979

Scope and Contents

The series comprises photographs of Leonid Cherepen'kin, his grandfather Ivan Kulikov and other family members.

Title/Description	Instances	
Cherepen'kin, Leonid, 1924-1979 <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 photographs	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7
Fedotova, Ania, 1929		

	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7
Kharlamova, M. I., 1929	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7
Kulikov, Ivan (Cherepen'kin's grandfather, priest), [1910s] <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 photographs	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7
Shmulevich, Tatiana, 1978 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 photographs	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7
Volodina, Elia, 1929	box BAR General Manuscripts	folder 6 of 7

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Series IV: Biographical Note, 2010

Scope and Contents

Biographical note written by Tatiana Shmulevich, Cherepen'kin's friend.

Title/Description	Instances
Biographical note written by Tatiana Shmulevich, 2010	box BAR General Manuscripts

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