

AMHERST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN CULTURE

**Churaevka Russian Village Collection  
1906-2000**

Summary: The Churaevka Russian Village Collection contains correspondence, printed materials, photographs, manuscripts by Georgii Grebenshchikov and other authors, press releases and various advertisement materials related to Alatas publishing house and Churaevka, a Russian village in Connecticut. The collection focuses on Russian émigré life in the United States and reflects émigré life of Russian novelist Georgii Grebenshchikov (1883-1964).

Quantity: 2.5 linear feet

Containers: 2 document manuscript box, 1 flat box

Processed: August 2012

By: Tanya Chebotarev

Listed: September 2012

By: Tanya Chebotarev

Finding Aid: September 2012

Prepared by: Tanya Chebotarev  
Edited by: Stanley Rabinowitz, Director, Center for Russian Culture

Access: There is no restriction on access to the Churaevka Russian Village Collection for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish from the Churaevka Russian Village Collection should be sent to the Director of the Amherst Center for Russian Culture. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

## INTRODUCTION

### Historical Note

Georgii Grebenshchikov (1883-1964) was a Russian writer from the Tomsk region in Siberia. In 1917, he married Tatiana Stadnik, whom he met when she acted in a play he wrote. In 1920, he escaped from Russia with the White army and spent several years in Paris. In 1924, Grebenshchikov left France and settled down in the United States. In 1925, together with Leo Tolstoy's son Il'ia Tolstoy, Georgii Grebenshchikov founded the Churaevka village in Southbury, Connecticut for Russian émigré writers and intellectuals. He later became a director of the Alatas publishing house and professor at Florida Southern College where he taught creative writing and Russian literature. In addition to *Churaevy*, Grebenshchikov writings include the novel *The Turbulent Giant* (1940) and *Life of Egorka* (Egorkina zhizn') published posthumously in 1966.

### History of the Papers and Their Organization

In 2008, the Churaevka Russian Village Collection was donated to the Amherst Center for Russian Culture by Mieke Maas Crider.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Scope and Content Note

The Churaevka Russian Village Collection contains correspondence, professional, research, personal material, photographs and documents related to the Churaevka Russian village in Connecticut. Also included are newspaper and journal clippings, announcements and programs about Russian émigré life, writings by Grebenshchikov and other authors and materials about the Alatas publishing house. The collection will be of particular interest to scholars studying the history of Russian literature in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Russian émigré life in the United States.

### Organization and Arrangement

The Churaevka Russian Village Collection is organized into five series:

1. Correspondence (1921-1989)
2. Writings (n.d.)
3. Professional Activities (n.d.)
4. Photographs (1906-2000)
5. Printed Materials (1921-1938)

Series Descriptions

**Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE (1921-1989)** contains letters and notes to Georgii Grebenshchikov, Leo Nolde, M.A. Obolensky, and others.

**Series 2, WRITINGS (n.d.)** consists of typescripts by Georgii Grebenshchikov, M.A. Obolensky, Irina Yagmina and unidentified authors.

**Series 3, PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (n.d.)**, includes information on the Alatas publishing house, receipts, historical maps and other documents on the history of Churaevka, as well as personal documents of some residents.

**Series 4, PHOTOGRAPHS (1906-2000)** consists of photos of Georgii Grebenshchikov, Il'ia Tolstoy, Nicholas Roerich, and others.

**Series 5, PRINTED MATERIALS (1921-1938)** contains brochures, broadsides, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, postcards, programs, publicity material, and invitations.

Container List

**Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE (1921-1989)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	n.d.	Baker, Bertha to G. Grebenshchikov
1	2	1931, Apr 13	Beier, A. to G. Grebenshchikov, 1 postcard
1	3	1921, Sep 1	Bertrand, A. to Leo Nolde, 1 letter
1	4	1922 Sep 5	Crider, Mieke Maas to Richard Perry, 1 letter, 1 note
1	5	1987 -1989	D'Alessio, Irene to various persons
1	6	1968 Oct 9- 1969 Jun16	Father Dmitrii to M.A. Obolensky, 1 letter, 1 note
1	7	1988 May 6	Labinsky, Nick to I. and V. D'Alessio (plan of Churaevka)
1	8	1967-1968, n.d.	Obolensky, M.A. to father Dmitrii, 4 notes, 1 letter
1	9	1988 Aug 11	Paschkis, Marcia to Mieke Crider, 1 letter

## Churaevka Russian Village Collection

---

1	10	1920-1921	Porsh, T. to Leo Nolde, 4 letters, 1 photo
1	11	1926 Feb 18	Scull, William to Metropolitan Platon, copy of a letter
1	12	1989 Jan 15	Siemer, Helen to I. and V. D'Alessio, 1 letter
1	13	1940 Nov 26	Williams, Elaine to unidentified, 1 postcard
1	14	1954-1959	Yagmina, Irina to Helen Alexandrow, 1 note, 3 postcards, 6 letters
1	15	1936-1946	Unidentified, 3 postcards, 1 letter

### **Series 2: WRITINGS (n.d.)**

1	16	n.d.	Church Slavonic calligraphy, 3 pages
1	17	n.d.	<i>Churaev Brothers</i> by G. Grebenschchikov, in English, typescript with typed corrections, pp.1-155
1	17a	n.d.	<i>Churaev Brothers</i> by G. Grebenschchikov, in English, typescript with typed corrections, pp. 156-322
1	18	n.d.	<i>Mistika Ikony</i> by M.A. Obolensky, in Russian, typescript with holograph corrections; copy of typescript, 15 pages, English translation, handwritten, incomplete, 18 pages, 1 photograph
1	19	n.d.	Poems by Irina Yagmina, holograph, 8 pages

### **Series 3: PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (n.d.)**

1	20	n.d.	Alatas Press, contact information, business cards, lists of contacts
1	21	n.d.	Alatas Press, lists of contacts
1	21a	n.d.	Alatas Press, woodblock prints, book covers
1	22	n.d.	National Register of Historic Places, registration form
1	23	n.d.	Copy of receipts, maps of Churaevka, press releases, etc.
1	24	n.d.	<i>History of Churaevka</i> , typescript, 21 pages, memos, lists of residents, personal documents of residents

### **Series 4: PHOTOGRAPHS (1906-2000)**

2	1	n.d., 1906	Grebenschchikov, Georgii, 7 photos with negatives, (three photocopies); G. Grebenschchikov with his wife Tatiana and a dog (four copies); G. Grebenschchikov with his wife Tatiana and Il'ia Tolstoy (two copies of prints), one strip of
---	---	------------	---

			negatives; G. Grebenshchikov with Nicholas Roerich, photocopy of a photo; Grebenshchikov's wife with a friend (two copies of print), one strip of negatives; S. Konenkov, N. Plevitskaia one print, H. Mikulichev, six prints, one contact sheet, three strips of negatives; N. Plevitskaia, one print; I. Sikorsky, five slides; I. Tolstoy, six prints, three strips of negatives
2	2	1929-1989	Churaevka buildings, celebrations, 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian-Ukrainian Baptist Union, prints and photographs
2	3	n.d., 1960-1988	Churaevka village, contact sheets, negatives
2	4	n.d., 1928-2000	Churaevka village, newspaper and magazine clippings and copies
2	5	n.d., 1928-2000	Churaevka village, newspaper and magazine clippings and copies
2	6	n.d., 1938-1988	Émigré life in the United States, newspaper clippings
2	7	n.d., 1938-1939	Émigré life in the United States, programs, invitations
2	8	n.d., 1938	Georgii Grebenshchikov, newspaper clippings
2	9	n.d., 1926-1950	Georgii Grebenshchikov, announcements, programs, publicity materials, broadsides
2	10	n.d., 1930	Roerich Museum, pamphlets, postcards, copy of a certificate
2	11	1987-1989	Nicholas Roerich, newspaper clippings
2	12	n.d., 1989	VARIA, newspaper clippings
2	13	n.d., 1930, 1940	VARIA, invitations, pamphlets

**Series 5: PRINTED MATERIALS (1921-1938)**

3	1	1921-1924	Georgii Grebenshchikov, scrapbook of newspaper clippings, notes, invitations, book reviews, programs
3	2	1921-1924, 1938	Georgii Grebenshchikov, scrapbook of newspaper clippings, notes, invitations, book reviews, programs