

Amherst Center for Russian Culture

**Marina Ledkovsky Papers**

**1981-2008**

Accession Number: CRC13-005

Summary: The collection consists of Marina Ledkovsky's personal and professional correspondence; scholarly articles and conference presentations; various materials related to Vladimir Nabokov; photographs; newspaper clippings; third party materials.

Quantity: 1/3 linear foot

Containers: 1 document manuscript storage box

Processed: December 2015

Processed by: Triin Vallaste, Russian Center Assistant

Finding Aid Date: December 2015

Prepared by: Triin Vallaste, Russian Center Assistant

Edited by: Stanley Rabinowitz, Director, Center for Russian Culture

Access: There is no restriction on access to the Marina Ledkovsky Papers for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from the Marina Ledkovsky Papers should be directed 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.

## Description of the Collection

### Biography

Marina Viktorovna Ledkovsky (née Fasolt) was born in Berlin, Germany on May 12, 1924. Among Marina Ledkovsky's family and relatives were the old noble families of the Nabokovs, the Falz-Feins, the von Korffs, and the Fasolts. Marina Ledkovsky's mother Sophie Fasolt (née Nabokov) was writer Vladimir Nabokov's cousin. She grew up and lived in Berlin until 1951. During World War II, Marina received her university education, was arrested and released, got married to Boris Ledkovsky, a prominent choral director and later professor of Orthodox liturgical music at St. Vladimir's Seminary (Yonkers, NY). In New York City, where she emigrated in 1951, Marina raised four children, taught French, resumed her education at Columbia University, and in 1960 joined the Russian Department as a professor of Slavic languages at Barnard College, becoming one of the first woman professors at Columbia.

Marina Ledkovsky wrote an important book "The Other Turgenev: From Romanticism to Symbolism" (Würzburg: Jal-Verlag, 1973). Towards the end of her career, Marina completed her largest scholarly project: she edited "Dictionary of Russian Women Writers" (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994). Essays in that volume focus on women in the following diverse areas of Marina Ledkovsky's research: nineteenth-century Russian literature, autobiography, Russian culture in emigration, and contemporary feminism in Russia.

Marina Ledkovsky died on November 25, 2014 in Freeport, NY.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of Marina Ledkovsky's personal and professional correspondence as well as her scholarly articles and conference presentations (with rough drafts, notes, and final redactions). A large part of the collection consists of various materials related to Vladimir Nabokov, who was related to Marina Ledkovsky. In addition, there are photographs, newspaper clippings, and third party ephemera.

### **History of the Collection**

The Marina Ledkovsky Papers were a part of materials from her estate that were auctioned in 2013. This small collection was procured by Mark Wooton (co-owner of Amherst Books in Amherst, MA), who gave it to Professor Rabinowitz.

## **Organization and Arrangement**

The Marina Ledkovsky Papers are organized in five series.

Series I: Writings

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Vladimir Nabokov related materials

Series IV: Third Party materials

Series V: Photographs

**Series I: Writings**

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	1	1981	“Nabokov and America” (in Russian), 15 pp., 3 copies; handwritten notes and revisions on one of the copy
1	1	1981	“Nabokov’s View of America,” 12 pp., 2 typed copies with revisions, 1 handwritten copy
1	2	2006	“Fate’s Oddities: An Exploration of Romantic Muses,” typed copy of a presentation for the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
1	2	2006	“Fate’s Oddities: An Exploration of Romantic Muses,” handwritten manuscript, 29 pp.+ 4 pp. endnotes
1	2	n.d.	“Notes on the Nabokovs” (in Russian)
1	2	n.d.	Handwritten notes

**Series II: Correspondence**

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	3	1999 Jan 31 – Sep 14	Marina Ledkovsky to various people
1	3	1999 May 19 – 2005 Sep 5	Various people to Marina Ledkovsky
1	3	1999 Feb 19 – Feb25	Correspondence between Marina Ledkovsky and Elizabeth Langeron (emails)
1	3	1999 Feb 6 – Jul 28	Correspondence between Marina Ledkovsky and Nick and Mary Rumin (emails)
1	3	1999 Mar 1 – Mar 29	Correspondence between Marina Ledkovsky and Olga Voronina (emails)

**Series III: Vladimir Nabokov related materials**

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	4	n.d.	A photo of Vladimir Nabokov and Svetlana Sievert
1	4	n.d.	Vladimir Lazarev's article about Vladimir Nabokov
1	4	1958	A copy of the cartoon "Go get your own copy of 'Lolita'"
1	4	1981; 1999	Vladimir Nabokov related correspondence
1	4	1999	Vladimir Nabokov's centennial related materials
1	4	2000	Lev Grossman "Brother's secret reveals Nabokov's shame and bias" at CNN.com
1	4	2000	Statutes for establishing the Nabokov Library at the Nabokov Museum in St. Petersburg
1	4	2002	E. Belodubrovski's article on Vladimir Nabokov's letter to Svetlana Sievert in Zvezda no. 9 (2002) (in Russian)

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	4	2004	S. Gedroitz's review of Bryan Boyd's "Vladimir Nabokov: The American Years" in Zvezda no. 10 (2004) (in Russian)
1	4	2008	Viktor Borzenko's article about Vladimir Nabokov's last novel "The Original of Laura" (in Russian)



**Series IV: Third Party materials**

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	5		Third party ephemera
1	5	2000	Review of A.A. Olenina's "Diary" in Russkaia Mysl
1	5	2003	An issue of Pravoskavnaia Rus'. Sept 1/14 (2003)

Series V: Photographs

Box No.	Folder No.	Date	Description
1	6		Various photographs
1	6		A copy of Marina Ledkovsky's passport picture page