

Boris Brasol Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by B. K. Zobrist



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011021>

Collection Summary

Title: Boris Brasol Papers

Span Dates: 1919-1954

ID No.: MSS13672

Creator: Brasol, Boris, 1885-1963

Extent: 22,000 items; 64 containers; 25.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Russian

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

Abstract: Russian author and critic, criminologist, and lawyer. Correspondence, speeches, drafts and typescripts, notes, memoranda, and other material relating to Russia and the Soviet Union and to Brasol's writings and work as a criminologist.

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

Brasol, Boris, b. 1885.

Poe, Edgar Allan, 1809-1849.

Subjects

Criminology.

Russian literature.

Soviet literature.

Zionism.

Places

Russia.

Soviet Union.

Occupations

Authors.

Criminologists.

Lawyers.

Lecturers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Boris Brasol, Russian author and critic, criminologist, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by Brasol between 1938 and 1959. An additional gift was made in 1955 by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Processing History

The papers of Boris Brasol were arranged and described in 1953. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Boris Brasol in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Boris Brasol 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, Boris Brasol Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1885, Mar. 31	Born, Poltava, Russia
1908	B.L., University of Petrograd, Petrograd, Russia
1910-1916	Prosecuting attorney in the Russian Ministry of Justice
1912	Studied forensic science, Lausanne University, Lausanne, Switzerland
1914-1916	Served as second lieutenant, Imperial Russian Guard, on the Polish front
1916	Russian representative in the United States, Interallied Conference
1917	Stayed in the United States as an emigrant following the October Revolution in Russia
1918-1963	Practised law, New York, N.Y., specializing in Russian law, while pursuing a career as a literary critic and criminologist
1920	Published <i>Socialism vs. Civilization</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1921	Published <i>The World at the Cross Roads</i> . Boston: Small, Maynard and Co.
1922	Published <i>The Balance Sheet of Sovietism</i> . New York: Duffield
1927	Published <i>Elements of Crime</i> . New York: Oxford University Press
1934	Published <i>The Mighty Three: Poushkin, Gogol, Dostoievsky</i> . New York: William Farquhar Payson
1938	Published <i>Oscar Wilde: the Man, the Artist, the Martyr</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1949	Translated Fyodor Dostoyevsky's <i>The Diary of a Writer</i> . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons
1963, Mar. 19	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Boris Leo Brasol (1885-1963) span the years 1919-1954. The collection consists of correspondence, drafts and typescripts, notes, memoranda, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Russia and the Soviet Union, criminology, the Zionist movement, and Brasol's writings and various subjects of his literary criticism. The papers are in English and Russian and are organized into the following series: [Political Correspondence](#), [Personal Correspondence](#), [Anti-Soviet Campaign](#), [Jewish File](#), [Post-Revolutionary Russia](#), [Legal File](#), [Vladimir von Koeppen File](#), [Speeches](#), [Literary File](#), [Newspaper Clippings](#), and [Addition](#).

Subjects of interest include investigations into the assassinations of the Romanovs and crime detection in European countries as compiled by the Criminological Survey of the Columbia University Law School. The [Literary File](#) contains material relating to Oscar Wilde including correspondence with Vyvyan Holland, John H. Wheelock, and Allan Wade concerning Wilde and typescript copies and extracts of Wilde's letters located in other repositories which Brasol used for his book *Oscar Wilde: the Man, the Artist, and the Martyr*. The series also includes the printer's typescript draft with handwritten corrections of Brasol's translation of *Diary of a Writer* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and material relating to Edgar Allan Poe including correspondence of the Edgar Allan Poe Society.

Brasol was purported to have aided in the translation of the American edition of the anti-Semitic tract *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and the papers contain correspondence and related reference material exploring various Jewish issues in the [Jewish File](#) and the [Newspaper Clippings](#) series. Brasol also participated in arranging a series of commentaries on the protocols that were to be published in Henry Ford's paper the *Dearborn Independent*. The [Legal File](#) contains correspondence and other papers concerning the legal case brought against Ford by Henry Bernstein, who, in 1921, had written a book exposing the protocols as fraudulent and sued Ford to retract their publication.

The [Anti-Soviet Campaign](#) series highlights efforts of White Russian émigrés to deny the Soviet Union official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [Political Correspondence, 1922-1952](#)
- [Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952](#)
- [Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948](#)
- [Jewish File, 1920](#)
- [Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922](#)
- [Legal File, circa 1925-1950](#)
- [Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927](#)
- [Speeches, circa 1922-1930](#)
- [Literary File, 1920-1954](#)
- [Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921](#)
- [Addition, 1925-1941](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-6	<u>Political Correspondence, 1922-1952</u> Correspondence, publicity material, book reviews, political criticism. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7-11	<u>Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952</u> Correspondence and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 12-15	<u>Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948</u> Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning efforts to deny the Soviet Union official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16	<u>Jewish File, 1920</u> Correspondence and miscellaneous material. Unarranged within the year 1920.
BOX 17-22	<u>Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922</u> Notebooks containing correspondence and miscellaneous material. Organized numerically by notebook number.
BOX 23-25	<u>Legal File, circa 1925-1950</u> Correspondence, legal records, and miscellaneous material. Organized into two groups: Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford and miscellaneous records
BOX 26-32	<u>Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927</u> Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning Vladimir von Koeppen. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-34	<u>Speeches, circa 1922-1930</u> Speeches. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 35-52	<u>Literary File, 1920-1954</u> Correspondence, drafts, notes, proofs, typescripts, and miscellaneous material relating to Brasol's books, translations, and literary criticism. Arranged by subject or topic.
BOX 53	<u>Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921</u> Newspaper clippings mostly regarding Jewish topics. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 54-64	<u>Addition, 1925-1941</u> Correspondence, articles, reports, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged by subject, topic, or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-6	Political Correspondence, 1922-1952 Correspondence, publicity material, book reviews, political criticism. Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 2	1933
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BOX 4	1950-1952
BOX 5-6	Publicity, book reviews, and political criticism
BOX 7-11	Personal Correspondence, 1934-1952 Correspondence and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7	Chronological file
BOX 7	1934
BOX 8	1934-1937
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BOX 10	1949-1952
BOX 11	Miscellaneous correspondence
BOX 12-15	Anti-Soviet Campaign, 1919-1948 Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning efforts to deny the Soviet Union official international recognition as the legitimate government of Russia. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 12	1919, 1933
BOX 13	1933-1935
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BOX 16	Jewish File, 1920 Correspondence and miscellaneous material. Unarranged within the year 1920.
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BOX 17-22	Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922 Notebooks containing correspondence and miscellaneous material. Organized numerically by notebook number.
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Post-Revolutionary Russia, circa 1919-1922

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 18	Nos. 13 and 15-16
BOX 19	Nos. 17-19
BOX 20	Nos. 20-22
BOX 21	Nos. 23-25
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BOX 23-25	Legal File, circa 1925-1950 Correspondence, legal records, and miscellaneous material. Organized into two groups: Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford and miscellaneous records
BOX 23-24	Herman Bernstein v. Henry Ford, circa 1925-1927
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BOX 26-32	Vladimir von Koeppen File, 1921-1927 Correspondence and miscellaneous material concerning Vladimir von Koeppen. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 26-32	1921-1927
BOX 33-34	Speeches, circa 1922-1930 Speeches. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-34	circa 1922-1930
BOX 35-52	Literary File, 1920-1954 Correspondence, drafts, notes, proofs, typescripts, and miscellaneous material relating to Brasol's books, translations, and literary criticism. Arranged by subject or topic.
BOX 35	Books
BOX 35	<i>Socialism and Civilization</i> , 1920
BOX 36	<i>The World at the Crossroads</i> , 1921
BOX 37	<i>The Mighty Three: Poushkin, Gogol, Dostoievsky</i> , 1934
BOX 38	<i>Oscar Wilde: The Man, the Artist, and the Martyr</i>
BOX 38	Photostats, 1938
BOX 39	Correspondence
BOX 39	To 1954
BOX 40	1938
BOX 41	Translations and miscellaneous writings
BOX 41	Cartwright, Beatrice, correspondence and notes concerning memoirs, 1944
BOX 41	"The Nobel Dynasty," typescript, 1943
BOX 42	Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, <i>Diary of a Writer</i> , translated by Brasol
BOX 42	Draft
BOX 43	Draft and page proof
BOX 44	Miscellaneous material

Literary File, 1920-1954

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 45	Varneke, B. V., <i>History of the Russian Theatre</i> , draft and typescript of Brasol's translation, 1951
BOX 46-47	"Walter Pater," correspondence, draft, and typescript 1946-1952
BOX 48	"Avinoff: a Study in Genius," notes, 1952
BOX 49	"Criminal Institutes on the Continent of Europe," draft
BOX 50	Sikorsky, "Ideas inspired by the Lord's Prayer"
BOX 50	Miracle Letter Club
BOX 51-52	Poe, Edgar Allan, correspondence concerning, 1920-1928, 1939, undated
BOX 53	Newspaper Clippings, circa 1919-1921 Newspaper clippings mostly regarding Jewish topics. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 53	circa 1919-1921
BOX 54-64	Addition, 1925-1941 Correspondence, articles, reports, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by subject, topic, or type of material.
BOX 54	Correspondence
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BOX 58	"Methods of Criminal Investigation," English translation of Brasol's Russian text
BOX 58	National Crime Commission, 1927
BOX 59	Columbia University, New York, N.Y., correspondence, 1929-1930
BOX 60	"Columbia Reports," 1929-1930, undated
BOX 61	"International Criminalistic Academy, International Congress," Lausanne, Switzerland, 1938
BOX 61	"Police Scientifique Centers in Europe," 1926-1929
BOX 62-63	Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, <i>Diary of a Writer</i> , translation by Brasol
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