

Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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assistance of Andrei Pliguzov



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Papers

Span Dates: 1855-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1890-1960)

ID No.: MSS84271

Creator: Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, 1876-1965

Extent: 140 items; 15 containers plus 1 oversize; 8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in Russian and Russian shorthand, with English

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

Abstract: Head of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America. Chiefly bound volumes of diaries and correspondence records listing outgoing letters (1921-1960), documenting Leontiĭ's role as an educator, editor of the *Russian American Orthodox Messenger* (*Russko-amerikanskĭ pravoslavnyiĭ viestn*), advisor to Russian Orthodox bishops, and advocate of Russian American Orthodox autonomy.

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

Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, 1876-1965.

Organizations

Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America.

Russkaĭa pravoslavnaĭa tserkov'.

Russkaĭa pravoslavnaĭa tserkov'. Pomestnyiĭ sobor.

Subjects

Orthodox Eastern press--United States.

Places

Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.

Titles

Russko-amerikanskĭ pravoslavnyiĭ viestnik.

Occupations

Clergy.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Metropolitan Leontiĭ (secular name Leonid Ieronimovich Turkevich), head of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America, were given to the Library of Congress in 1998 by Nicholas Turkevich.

Processing History:

The papers of Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, 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, Leontiĭ, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1876, Aug. 20	Born Leonid Ieronimovich Turkevich, Kremenetz, Province of Volhynia, Russian Empire (present-day Ukraine)
1889-1895	Student, Theological Seminary of Volhynia, Province of Volhynia, Russia
1896-1898	Student, Kiev Theological Academy, Kiev, Russia
1900	Assistant to the dean, Ekaterinoslav Theological Seminary, Russia
1902	Teacher, Kursk Theological Seminary, Russia
1905	Married Anna Chervinsky (died 1925) Consecrated a deacon by Archbishop Antonii and a priest to the Saint Nikolaevskii Church, Kremenetz, Russia
1906-1915	Rector, Russian Orthodox Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. (seminary relocated to Tenafly, N.J., in 1912)
1914-1930	Editor, official church organ, <i>The Russian American Orthodox Messenger</i> (<i>Russko-Amerikanskii Pravoslavnyi Viestnik</i>)
1915-1924	Dean, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral, New York, N.Y.
1917-1918	Represented the American diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church at the Great Sobor (Church Council), Moscow, Russia
1933	Took the monastic vow with name Leontiĭ Consecrated Bishop of Chicago, Ill.
1950-1964	Metropolitan of all America and Canada of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of North America
1965, May 14	Died, Syosset, N.Y., buried at Saint Tikhon Cemetery, South Canaan, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Metropolitan Leontiĭ (1876-1965) span the years 1855-1962, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1890-1960. Leontiĭ's secular name was Leonid Ieronimovich Turkevich. He assumed the name Leontiĭ (often spelled Leonty) when he took his monastic vows in 1933.

Leonid Turkevich was born in Volhynia, then part of the Russian Empire, today part of Ukraine. After seminary studies, two teaching positions, and an appointment as a parish priest in Russia, he was chosen by Bishop Tikhon of the North American diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church to become rector of the new Orthodox seminary in Minneapolis. Thereafter, Leontiĭ's life was dedicated to the Orthodox Church in America. The Russian Revolution created great chaos in the Russian Orthodox Church. The American diocese became estranged from the mother church in Russia, leading to schisms in American Orthodoxy. The confusion created by the Revolution sparked the separation of many ethnic groups from the Russian Orthodox Church into their own national churches. Within Russian Orthodoxy, the Living Church (attached to the Soviet-controlled Russian Church) and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia both claimed to hold legitimate leadership of Russian Orthodoxy in America. Most parishes, however, remained with the leadership of the original American diocese which claimed autonomy and wished to establish a pan-national American Orthodox Church. Leontiĭ, as an educator, editor of the *Russian-American Orthodox Messenger*, and leading advisor of the ruling bishops, advocated autonomy. When elected Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America in 1950, he continued the pursuit of full Orthodox autonomy, or autocephaly, which was eventually realized in 1970.

Almost all of Metropolitan Leontiĭ's papers are in bound volumes of correspondence records and diaries. The correspondence records are small books arranged and numbered sequentially by Leontiĭ with a comprehensive numerical listing of the Metropolitan's outgoing letters, 1921-1960. Most entries are annotated, and many, especially in the 1930s, include complete copies of letters sent.

The books containing Leontiĭ's correspondence records and diaries served a variety of purposes. Leontiĭ's poetry is scattered throughout the diaries and correspondence records. Financial notes appear in the correspondence records, and occasional correspondence records appear in the diaries.

Leontiĭ served as a representative of the American diocese at the Great Sobor in Moscow in 1917-1918. This meeting of Russian Orthodox Church leaders convened during the Provisional Government and remained in session during and after the Bolshevik revolution in October. At the Great Sobor, church leaders worked to organize the church as a body separated from the state. Metropolitan Leontiĭ's papers contain two notebooks from the Great Sobor, most of them written in Russian shorthand.

Russian shorthand also appears in several of the notebooks from Leontiĭ's student days in Volhynia and Kiev. One was kept by his brother Benedict. Benedict Turkevich became an Archpriest in the Russian Orthodox Church and preceded his brother in the North American missionary field, serving from 1898-1914. In 1914 he returned to Russia and after the Revolution settled in Warsaw, Poland.

The papers are almost entirely in Russian or Russian shorthand, with only a small amount of material in English. Many of the dates on the documents are based on the Julian calendar or written as both Julian and Gregorian dates (old style, new style).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Appointment book, 1956
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1908-1916, 1924, 1929-1938 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence records
BOX 1	1921, Jan.-1929, Feb. (2 folders)
BOX 2	1929, Oct.-1934, Apr. (3 folders)
BOX 3	1934, May-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 4	1934, Dec.-1935, Aug. (3 folders)
BOX 5	1935, Aug.-1937, Aug. (3 folders)
BOX 6	1937, Aug.-1941, Aug. (3 folders)
BOX 7	1941, Aug.-1947, Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 8	1948, Jan.-1955, Mar. (3 folders)
BOX 9	1955, Mar.-1960, Nov.
BOX 9	Diaries
BOX 9	1912-1927 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1931-1942 (4 folders)
BOX 11	1943-1952 (3 folders)
BOX 12	1950-1960 (2 folders)
BOX 12	Financial material, 1924, 1947-1958
BOX 12	Great Sobor of 1917-1918, Moscow, Russia, notes, diary, and miscellaneous writings, 1917-1932
BOX 13	Miscellany, 1921-1927, undated
BOX 13	Photographs, undated
BOX 13	Printed matter, 1896-1905, 1917-1923, circa 1940, 1962, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 13	Student notebooks
BOX 13	Turkevich, Benedict, circa 1888
BOX 13	Turkevich, Leonid
BOX 13	Kiev Theological Academy, Kiev, Russia
BOX 13	1896-1897 (2 folders)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 14	1897-1898 (3 folders)
BOX 14	Theological Seminary of Volhynia, province of Volhynia, Russia, 1890-1891 (3 folders)
BOX 15	Writings
BOX 15	Church history, 1928, undated <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i>
BOX 15	Miscellany, 1923, 1959, undated
BOX 15	Notes, circa 1932-circa 1948
BOX 15	Sermons and speeches, circa 1855-circa 1923, 1938 (2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Correspondence, enclosure to letter of June 1924, undated (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Printed matter, schedule of courses in jurisprudence, St. Vladimir University, Kiev, Russia, 1898 (Container 13)
BOX OV 1	Writings
BOX OV 1	Church history, newspaper clippings, 1928 (Container 15)