Register of the Papers of Michael Ivanovitch Rostovzeff

Special Collections Library

Duke University
2003

Contact Information
Special Collections Library
Duke University
P.O. Box 90185
Durham, North Carolina 27708-5822
USA
Phone: 919/660-5822
Fax: 919/660-5934
Email: specoll@mail.lib.duke.edu

Processed by: Daniel Daily
Assisted by: Sallie Locke and Brent Johanson
Date completed: Nov. 20, 1992
Encoded by: Daniel Pitti

©2003 Duke University. All rights reserved.
Table of Contents

1 Descriptive Summary ........................................................................................................................................... 1
2 Administrative Information ...................................................................................................................................... 1
  2.1 Provenance ...................................................................................................................................................... 1
  2.2 Copyright ......................................................................................................................................................... 1
3 Biographical Note .................................................................................................................................................. 1
  3.1 Chronology ....................................................................................................................................................... 1
4 Scope and Content Note ......................................................................................................................................... 2
5 Local Catalog Headings ......................................................................................................................................... 3
6 Description of Series/Container List ...................................................................................................................... 4
  6.1 Correspondence Series ....................................................................................................................................... 4
    6.1.1 Individuals Subseries .................................................................................................................................... 4
    6.1.2 Subjects Subseries ....................................................................................................................................... 5
    6.1.3 Languages Subseries ................................................................................................................................... 6
  6.2 Miscellaneous Series ........................................................................................................................................ 7
    6.2.1 Biographical Materials Subseries ................................................................................................................ 7
    6.2.2 Pictures Subseries ....................................................................................................................................... 7
    6.2.3 Writings Subseries ...................................................................................................................................... 7
    6.2.4 Financial Papers Subseries ......................................................................................................................... 7
    6.2.5 General Subseries ...................................................................................................................................... 8
  6.3 Oversized Materials ........................................................................................................................................... 8
Descriptive Summary

Title: Papers of Michael Ivanovitch Rostovzeff, (1897-1968)
Creator: Rostovzeff, Michael I., 1870-1952.
Languages Represented: English, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Italian.
Extent: Linear ft. of shelf space occupied: 4.5; Number of items: ca. 2,500
Repository: Duke University. Special Collections Library.
Abstract: The Michael I. Rostovzeff Papers span the years 1897 to 1968 with the bulk dated 1926 to 1954. The collection chiefly consists of the correspondence of Michael Rostovzeff and C. Bradford Welles, a colleague of Rostovzeff's at Yale University, with other scholars in the fields of ancient history, archaeology, and philology. Other materials include autobiographical writings by Rostovzeff, photographs, financial papers, and clippings. The papers primarily reflect Michael Rostovzeff's tenure as a faculty member of the Classics Department at Yale University.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Michael I. Rostovzeff papers (1897-1968) were donated to the Special Collections Library in 1992 by the American Society of Papyrologists.

Copyright

The copyright interests in the Michael I. Rostovzeff papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the Special Collections Library.

Biographical Note

Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870, Nov. 10</td>
<td>Born, Zhitomir (the Ukraine), Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Graduated from the First Classical Gymnasium, Kiev, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>B.A., University of St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Master of Latin Literature, University of St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Married Sophie M. Kulezycki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Doctor of Latin Literature, University of St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1918</td>
<td>Member, Constitutional Democratic Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date | Event
--- | ---
1916-1919 | Member, Russian Academy of Sciences
1918 | Emigrated to Great Britain
1918-1920 | Lecturer, Queen's College,
1920-1925 | Professor of Ancient History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1925-1939 | Sterling Professor of Ancient History, Yale University
1926-1927 | Published *A History of the Ancient World*
1926 | Published *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire*
1928-1937 | Director of the Yale University Expedition at Dura-Europos
1938 | Published *Dura-Europos and Its Art*
1939 | Appointed Director of Archaeological Studies, Yale University
1941 | Published *The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World*
1944 | Appointed as the Sterling Professor of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, Emeritus
1952, Oct. 20 | Died, New Haven, Conn.

Professor Rostovzeff received honorary degrees from the University of Leipzig (1909), Oxford University (1919), University of Wisconsin (1924), Cambridge University (1934), Harvard University (1936), Athens University (1937), and the University of Chicago (1941). He was also a member of numerous national academies and learned societies, both in the United States and Europe. Included among these are Phi Beta Kappa, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philological Society, La Pontificia Accademia Romana di Archeologia, Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, and the Polish Academy of Science.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Michael I. Rostovzeff Papers span the years 1897 to 1968 with the bulk dated 1926 to 1954. The collection chiefly consists of the correspondence of Michael Rostovzeff and C. Bradford Welles, a colleague of Rostovzeff's at Yale University, with other scholars in the fields of ancient history, archaeology, and philology. Other materials include autobiographical writings by Rostovzeff, photographs, financial papers, and clippings. The papers primarily reflect Michael Rostovzeff's tenure as a faculty member of the Classics Department at Yale University.

The Papers of Michael I. Rostovzeff provide information on the scholarly study of the ancient world during the first half of the twentieth century. In the Correspondence Series, letters from scholars in England, America, and Europe focus on matters of historical interpretation, archaeological work at Dura-Europos, and philological analysis. Notable scholars include Rene Mouterde, W. W. Tarn, Franz Cumont, Athur D. Nock, Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz, Tadeusz Zielinski, Walter Otto, and Fritz Heichelheim.
The Biographical Materials Subseries contains Rostovzeff's narrative of the Provisional Government's fall during the Russian Revolution of 1917, his opposition to Bolshevism, and his eventual emigration from Russia. The Correspondence Series also documents Rostovzeff's assistance to European scholars seeking teaching and research positions in the United States during World War II. A number of letters between Rostovzeff and Alvin Johnson, Director of the New School for Social Research, concern efforts by Johnson to identify refugee scholars for faculty positions at the New School for Social Research.

**Local Catalog Headings**

Rostovzeff, Michael Ivanovitch, 1870-1952.
Welles, C. Bradford (Charles Bradford) 1901-.
Yale University--Faculty.
Yale University--Dept. of Classics.
Johnson, Alvin Saunders, 1874-
Heichelheim, Fritz M. (Fritz Moritz).
Otto, Walter Gustav Albrecht, 1878-1941.
Arangio-Ruiz, Vincenzo, 1884-1964.
Nock, Arthur Darby, 1902-
Bickerman, E. J. (Elias Joseph), 1897-
Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1859-1944.
History, Ancient.
Excavations (Archaeology)--Dura-Europos (Ancient City).
Russia--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.
Refugees, Political--20th Century.
Dura-Europos (Ancient City).

**Description of Series/Container List**

**Correspondence Series**


Divided into three subseries: Individuals, Subjects, and Languages. Letters to and from an individual, or letters pertaining to a subject may be located within more than one subseries. Correspondence in English, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Italian is scattered throughout the subseries.

**Individuals Subseries**


Consists of letters to Rostovzeff or copies of letters sent by him. Included are letters which did not originate from, nor were addressed to Professor Rostovzeff, including a substantial number of letters either to or from C. Bradford Welles. Many of the letters pertain to Professor Rostovzeff's teaching positions at Oxford University, the University of Wisconsin, and Yale University; his study of ancient history; and his work as Director of the Yale Expedition at Dura-Europos.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, organization or society. Arranged chronologically under the correspondent when there is more than one letter to or from a correspondent. Following the A-Z arrangement are folders arranged alphabetically by surname.

**Box**  **Contents**
1 A: 1934, Oct.-1955, June
1 B-C: 1937, Apr.-1947, July
1 L: 1936, Mar.-1948, Jan.
1 N-O: 1934, Jan.-1960, May
1 P: 1932, Jan.-1968, Mar.
1 Se: 1930, Feb.-1965, Sept.
1 Sh-Sn: 1933, Jan.-1964, May, n.d.
1 Sok-Sz: 1933, May-1965, Feb., n.d.
1 Arangio-Ruiz, Vicenzo, 1938, Feb.-1953, May
Box | Contents
---|---
1 | Heichelheim, Fritz M., 1933, Jan.-1942, Sept.
   | (3 folders)
1 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., and Russian relatives, 1918-1941, n.d.
1 | Rostovzeff, Michael I., letters not sent to the addresses, 1942,
   | Sept.-1950, June, n.d.
   | (2 folders)
   | (2 folders)
1 | Rostovzeff, Sophie to C. Bradford Welles, 1944, Oct.-1954, June
1 | Schubart, Wilhelm, 1933, Jan.-1960, Aug., n.d.
1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Mrs. F.S. Merrill, 1944, Sept.-1946, July
1 | Welles, C. Bradford to Michael I. Rostovzeff, 1930, Nov.-1946, July
1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Mariano San Nicolo, 1933, Aug.-1955, May
1 | Welles, C. Bradford and Toll, Nina, 1932, Nov.-1936, July 2
2 | Wilammitz to Michael I. Rostovzeff, 1926, May.-1930, July
2 | Zielinski, Tadeusz, 1929, Apr.-1940, June

Subjects Subseries


Includes correspondence concerning Rostovzeff's contribution to *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Also contains other correspondence from publishers in England, as well as in Germany and France, concerning the publication of Rostovzeff's works. Correspondence from the British publishers comment on the effects of World War II upon publishing and everyday life.

The focus of a substantial number of letters is Professor Rostovzeff's efforts to aid refugee European scholars in obtaining faculty positions in the United States during World War II.

Arranged alphabetically.

Box | Contents
---|---
   | (2 folders)
   | (2 folders)
2 | Harvard University: Offer of an appointment as a university professor, 1938
Box  Contents
2  Publications: German correspondence, 1928, Apr.-1939, July

(Restricted)
2  Refugee scholars: Curriculum vitae, 1938-1941; n.d
2  Refugee scholars: English, French, German, and Italian languages, 1937-1942, n.d.
2  Refugee scholars: Johnson, Alvin, 1940, Aug.-1941, Apr.
2  Refugee scholars: Slavic, French, and Italian languages, 1929-1943, n.d.
2  University appointments, 1918, Apr.-1944, June.
2  Yale Research Funds, 1938, Aug.-1943, May

Languages Subseries

Correspondence: Languages, 1920-1951

Primarily letters received by Rostovzeff from scholars in Great Britain and Europe. Contains correspondence in English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. Included are letters concerning Rostovzeff’s archaeological work at Dura-Europos and matters of historical interpretation and philological analysis. Included in the German correspondence are letters from scholars hoping to emigrate from Germany due to political changes after World War I or anti-semitism. A letter dated April 15, 1938 is written from a concentration camp in Germany and describes the conditions within the camp. In the Russian correspondence, the topics of the letters include humanitarian aid to people in Russia, censorship of mail, and archaeology.

Arranged alphabetically by language and chronologically within each language.

Box  Contents
2  English, 1921, Dec.-1951, Nov., n.d.
    (9 folders)
2  French, 1926, May-1944, Jan.
    (4 folders)
2  Italian, July, 1927-May, 1940, n.d.
2  Latin, March, 1926-1939, 1930s
2  Russian, 1920-1945, 1940s, n.d.
    (5 folders)
3  Spanish, 1940, Sept.-1946, Feb.
Miscellaneous Series

Miscellaneous, 1897-1961, n.d.

Comprised of five subseries Biographical Materials, Pictures, Writings, Financial Papers, and General. Each subseries primarily documents Rostovzeff’s professional affiliations.

Biographical Materials Subseries

Biographical Materials, 1918-1954 and n.d.

Box Contents
3 Awards and honors, 1918-1951
   (2 folders)
3 Autobiographical Writings, 1940; n.d.
3 Curriculum vitae and lists of publications, 1951
3 Obituary notices, clippings, 1952-1963

Pictures Subseries

Pictures, 1909-1941, n.d.

Primarily black and white photographs. Subjects include Michael and Sophie Rostovzeff, scenes in Russia, and archaeological sites, possibly Dura-Europos.

Box Contents
3 Rostovzeff, Michael I., 1926-1933, n.d.
3 Rostovzeff, Michael I., and colleagues, 1931-1941, n.d.
3 Rostovzeff, Michael I., and Russia, 1909, n.d.
3 Rostovzeff, Michael I. and Sophie, n.d.

Writings Subseries

Writings, 1926-1961


Arranged chronologically.

Box Contents
3 1926-1961

Financial Papers Subseries

Financial Papers, 1921-1932 and n.d.
Box
3 Contents
   Papyri and antiquities, accounts and purchases, 1930-1932, n.d.
3 Publications, accounts and receipts relating to, 1921-1932, n.d.

General Subseries

General, 1897-1952, n.d.

Includes notes for a lecture series and the preparation of a bibliography of Rostovzeff's works.

Arranged chronologically.

Box
3 Contents
   1897-1952

Oversized Materials

Oversized Materials.

Correspondence Series

Oversize
III:1 Contents
   Individuals Subseries, 1927-1962
   Subjects Subseries, 1929-1950

Miscellaneous Series

Oversize
III:1 Contents
   Biographic Materials Subseries, 1918-1953, n.d.
   Writings Subseries, 1941-1942, n.d.
   Financial Papers Subseries, 1931
   General Subseries, 1919, 1943, and n.d.