Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary Microfilm Collection

Project Description

In 2007, the Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace received a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for an eighteen-month-long project to preserve, process, and microfilm a number of significant collections of Holy Trinity Seminary's archival holdings. The primary goal was to preserve the materials and make them accessible to researchers in the reading rooms of both the Hoover Institution and Holy Trinity Seminary in microfilm form, as those materials had previously not been generally available to outside researchers.

The project resulted in the full processing (including conservation), creating finding aids, cataloging, and microfilming of twenty-nine collections, comprising 298 boxes of archival materials.

Matching contributions in materials, labor, and training were provided by the Hoover Institution. John Raisian, director of the Hoover Institution, served as principal investigator. Richard Sousa, Linda Bernard, and Anatol Shmelev of the Hoover Institution also assisted in the project. On behalf of Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, Michael Herrick, Slavic librarian, and Sergei Jakubov, archival assistant, along with other volunteers provided the necessary support to complete the project on time. The project archivist was Vladimir von Tsurikov.

Collections Microfilmed

Among the collections microfilmed as part of this project, the largest is the collection of Vladimir Konkordovich Abdank-Kossovskii. Encompassing sixty boxes, of which fifty-six were microfilmed, it consists mainly of materials collected and organized by Abdank-Kossovskii for an exhibit on Russian emigration, which he put on regularly in Paris, where he lived. Mostly pasted on panels, and organized chronologically from 1916 to 1962, these displays include photographs, correspondence, identification documents, announcements, and various memorabilia chronicling the life of Russians in the diaspora.

Another collection of papers, which originated in France, is the archive of the Russian secondary school in Paris that was open from 1920 to 1961 and graduated more than 1,200 students during that time. The school was begun with the support of the Russian consulate in 1920. As a major educational center, the Russkaia sredniaia shkola v Parizhe received applications from children of Russian émigrés of many social backgrounds, including those of the Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich, Tikhon Nikolaevich Kulikovskii, Nicholas Zernov, and others. The organizational files include student files, financial documents, and curricula.

Several collections focus on the history of Don Cossacks and their activities in emigration. Among these collections are the papers of General S. V. Denisov and General I. A. Poliakov, as well as the papers of the Don Cossack ataman and writer General Petr

Nikolaevich Krasnov. Most of Krasnov's writings on emigration focus on the events leading up to the Russian Revolution, as well as the revolution itself and its aftermath. Krasnov also wrote on the history of the Don Cossacks. His writings have been published in English, German, and other languages.

Holy Trinity Seminary's archives hold the records of various military and veterans' organizations, including those of the Suvorovskii kadetskii korpus, the Ob''edinenie chinov Kornilovksogo udarnogo polka, and ROVS, the Russkii Obshche-Voinskii Soiuz. The last collection is especially valuable, as it complements collections of ROVS held at other repositories, such as the Bakhmeteff archive at Columbia University and some private collections. In addition to organizational correspondence, circulars, orders, and reports, this collection includes approximately 20,000 index cards with personal information on the organization's members dating from the 1920s.

Important aspects of the history of the Russian diaspora are the role and activities of the Russian Orthodox Church. Its activities in the United States and its role in the lives of émigrés are well represented in the papers of several important figures. Among them, those of Archbishop Apollinarii (Koshevoi) occupy a central place. As archbishop of North America and Canada, his assignment coincided with difficult jurisdictional controversies and influential movements within Russian Orthodoxy on the North American continent. Historians will find his correspondence of great significance to their research, as well as several other collections of well-known church historians and theologians.

Most prominent among them is Vladislav Al'bionovich Maevskii, church historian and theologian. Among his writings are works relating to the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century history of the Eastern Orthodox Church, especially Russian Orthodoxy, Mount Athos, and the Orthodox Church in the United States. His papers include the collected correspondence of church hierarchs in the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America and the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, as well as conciliar minutes, epistles, and other related documents.

Historians of science will find the papers of Constantine L'vovich Zakhartchenko, a Russian émigré and aeronautical engineer, of interest. In the course of his engineering career, Zakhartchenko helped design and develop numerous aircraft, aircraft components, and missiles, including the jet engine afterburner, the McDonnell ZHJD-1 twin engine helicopter, and the ZAUM-N-Z cruise missile.

Literary scholars as well as historians will find the manuscript collection of interest. Consisting of forty works by various émigré writers, these manuscripts include fiction, historical essays, and memoirs. Likewise the personal letters of the famous émigré writer Ivan S. Shmelev, collected in the papers of Raissa Zemmering, provide a look at his life and work.

From this brief overview of the processed collections, it is evident that these materials provide previously unavailable, important primary sources for the study of Russian

history, including the immigrant experiences of those who settled in the United States. Researchers in the areas of Russian history, church history, and the Russian diaspora will find materials well worth their interest, as the availability of these previously hidden resources makes possible reexamining the scholarly discourse in these areas.

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Detailed processing and preservation microfilming for these materials were made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by matching funds from the Hoover Institution and Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary. Microfilm copies of the collections are available in the Hoover Institution Archives reading room. The original materials remain in the Holy Trinity Seminary Archives, Jordanville, New York. Requests to publish should be directed to Holy Trinity Seminary Archives: info@hts.edu

All information on this website is provided for noncommercial educational or scholarly purposes only.

For additional information, contact Vladimir von Tsurikov, project archivist.

List of Collections

The finding aids are available on the Online Archive of California.

- 1 Vladimir Konkordovich Abdank-Kossovskii
- 2 Vasilii Ivanovich Alekseev
- 3 Archimandrite Amvrosii (Konovalov)
- 4 Ivan Mikhailovich Andreev (Andreevskii)
- 5 Archbishop Apollinarii (Koshevoi)
- 6 Konstantin Stavrovich Cherkassov (Lagoridov)
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Biographical Sketches

Vladimir Konkordovich Abdank-Kossovskii, 1885-1962

Vladimir Abdank-Kossovskii was born in Vitebskaia guberniia, Russia, on June 16, 1885. He was educated in the Lazarevskii institut vostochnykh iazykov, the Aleksandrovskoe voennoe uchilishche, the Ofitserskaia elektrotekhnicheskaia shkola, and the History and Philology Department of the Imperatorskii Novorossiiskii universitet.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

During World War I, Abdank-Kossovskii, who served as an engineer officer, received several medals for his service, including the St. George Cross and the Order of St. Anna. He then enlisted in the White Army; after the end of the Civil War he was evacuated to Tunis. In the early 1920s, he arrived in France, where he became active in Russian émigré monarchist organizations. Sharing the fate of numerous émigrés unable to find employment in their profession, Abdank-Kossovskii found work in factories and as a cab driver in Paris.

Being interested in journalism, Abdank-Kossovskii frequently contributed to Vozrozhdenie and other Russian émigré newspapers and was thus able to indulge his passion for Russian history and the fate of the Russian diaspora. He began collecting materials on the lives of Russian émigrés on different continents and established an

exhibit entitled "Zarubezhnaia Rus'," which chronicled the fate of Russians abroad from 1916 to 1961.

Vladimir Konkordovich Abdank-Kossovskii died on April 19, 1962, in Grasse, France.

Vasilii Ivanovich Alekseev, 1906-2002

Vasilii Ivanovich Alekseev was born in Vladimir, Russia, on October 6, 1906. He graduated from Moscow University in 1930 and fell victim to the repressions of the Soviet government the same year, being arrested and sentenced to five years of labor in a prison camp. In 1941 he was drafted; by 1942 he was in a German POW camp. Fleeing repatriation to the Soviet Union, Alekseev managed to immigrate to the United States, where he arrived in 1951.

In the United States, Alekseev begins his career as writer and historian, publishing numerous books on Russian history, such as *Nevidimaia Rossiia, Rossiia soldatskaia, The Foreign Policy of the Moscow Patriarchate, 1939–1945, The Two Russian Revolutions of 1917, The Great Revival: the Russian Church under German Occupation, and Rol' Tserkvi v sozdanii russkogo gosudarstva.*

Alekseev taught Russian history at the University of Minnesota from 1955 to 1975 and defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the same institution in 1967.

He died on October 8, 2002, in Minneapolis, MN.

Archimandrite Amvrosii (Konovalov), 1890-1971

Victor Andreevich Konovalov was born in St. Petersburg in 1890, joined the White Army during the Civil War in Russia in 1918, and was forced to evacuate to Constantinople in 1920. From 1921 to 1923 Konovalov was actively involved in the Russian Orthodox Church in Constantinople. He soon immigrated to Canada, where he became a self-proclaimed missionary. Konovalov subsequently became a Russian Orthodox monk and abbot of the Pokrov convent in Bluffton, Alberta, Canada

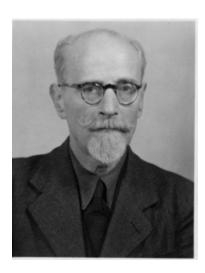


Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

Archimandrite Amvrosii (Konovalov) died in 1971 at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, N.Y.

Ivan Mikhailovich Andreev (Andreevskii), 1894-1976

Born on March 14, 1894, Ivan Mikhailovich Andreevskii studied at the Sorbonne from 1912 to 1914 and graduated from the Psikhonevropatologicheskii institut in St. Petersburg in 1918. As a student, Andreevskii participated in philosophical circles, along with Dmitri Likhachev; as a result both were sent to the Solovetsk concentration camp, where Andreevskii spent five years.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

In 1950, he arrived in the United States, where he resumed his activities as writer, editor, and academic. For two decades, Andreevskii taught various subjects at Holy Trinity Seminary and published and edited numerous works, among them *O polozhenii* pravoslvanoi tserkvi v Sovietskom siuze, *O kharaktere nauchno-ateisticheskoi* propagandy v Sovietskoi Rossii, and Russkii natsional'nyi kalendar'.

Ivan Mikhailovich Andreevskii died on December 30, 1976, in Jordanville, N.Y.

Archbishop Apollinarii (Koshevoi), 1874-1933

Andrei Vasil'evich Koshevoi was born in Valok, Russia, in the Poltava guberniia, on October 16, 1874. He grew up in a pious Russian Orthodox family, went through the traditional theological education, graduating from the Romenskoe dukhovnoe uchilishche in 1888 and the Poltavskaia dukhovnaia seminariia in 1894. Early on, Koshevoi chose his path, and in 1898 he was tonsured a monk by his spiritual mentor Archbishop Antonii (Khrapovitskii), given the name Apollinarii, and subsequently ordained. He then continued his education at the famous Kievskaia dukhovnaia akademiia, graduating in 1905.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

In 1917, Apollinarii (Koshevoi) was consecrated bishop of Belgorod, having spent the preceding years teaching and carrying out administrative functions at theological institutions. Archbishop Apollinarii arrived in Serbia in 1920, as a result of the Russian Revolution, and was sent to Jerusalem in 1922 to oversee the activities of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission. Two years later, he arrived in New York, having been assigned as vicar bishop to Metropolitan Platon (Rozhdestvenskii). Although his time in the United States coincided with difficult jurisdictional controversies, he played an important role in the formation of Russian Orthodox parishes there. From 1929 to 1933, he was archbishop of North America and Canada; he died in New York in 1933.

Konstantin Stavrovich Cherkassov (Lagoridov), born 1921

Konstantin Stavrovich Cherkassov was born Konstantin Lagoridov in Taganrog, Russia, on March 2, 1921. He adopted his new name after World War II to escape forced

repatriation to the Soviet Union. During the war, he joined General Andrei Vlasov's Russkaia osvoboditel'naia armiia and was a captain in the Fifth Cossack Division under the command of General Ivan Kononov, serving later as reconnaissance officer. In the postwar period, Cherkassov lived in a displaced persons camp in Parsch, Austria, where he assumed the last name Dulshers. In 1949 he immigrated to Australia, where he worked as a gardener. The collection contains Cherkassov's novel "Mezhdu dvukh ognei" in manuscript form, for which he drew on his firsthand experience as a member of the Russian Liberation Army (Russkaia osvoboditel'naia armiia).

Sviatoslav Varlaamovich Denisov, 1878-1957

After he arrived in the United States in 1923, Sviatoslav Denisov became a prominent and active figure in the Russian Cossack community, becoming chair of the Cossack Union and a member of various Cossack organizations.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

Born in Stanitsa Piatiizbianskaia, Russia, on September 10, 1878,to a traditional Cossack family, he embarked on a military career, graduating from the Donskoi kadetskii korpus in 1896 and the Mikhailovskoe artilleriiskoe uchilishche in 1898. He served in the Twenty-first Don Cossack battery and completed the Nikolaevskaia akademiia general'nogo shtaba in 1908. In 1918, he was a commanding officer in the Don Cossack uprising; that same year he was elevated to the rank of major general and commanding officer of the Don Cossack Army.

Denisov immigrated to Constantinople in 1919 and then to the United States, where (as noted above) he played an important role in the formation of Cossack organizations and charitable associations and was an outspoken activist on issues relating to Cossack life in general. He also published a history of the White Army, entitled *Belyi al'bom*.

Sviatoslav Varlaamovich Denisov died on April 19, 1957, in Stratford, Connecticut.

Vladimir Sergeevich Khitrovo, 1891-1968

Vladimir Sergeevich Khitrovo, born in 1891, graduated from the Pazheskii korpus in 1910 and participated in World War I. During the Civil War in 1918 he enlisted in the White Army, serving as an officer in General Lev N. Kirpichev's Kievskaia dobrovol'cheskaia druzhina; the following year he transferred to the Svodno-gvardeiskii polk Vooruzhennykh sil iuga Rossii. Having been evacuated from Novorossiisk, Khitrovo became chief of the Russian press bureau in Constantinople and subsequently immigrated to France. He was active in the alumni association of the Pazheskii korpus and the Soiuz pazhei. He was a contributor to the journal Voennaia byl' and authored an unpublished memoir of World War I, "Vospominaniia i materialy dlia istorii. Leibgvardii konnaia artilleriia. Chast' II-aia. Voina 1914-1917. Pokhod v vostochnuiu Prussiiu."



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Vladimir S. Khitrovo died on February 24, 1968, in Grasse, France.

Petr Nikolaevich Krasnov, 1869-1947

Petr Nikolaevich Krasnov was born into a Cossack military family: his father was a lieutenant-general, his grandfather, a general. Krasnov graduated from the Pavlovskoe voennoe uchilishche in 1888. He began his literary career early, authoring a log of his travels in the Far East in 1903. In 1910, Krasnov served as colonel and commanding officer of the First Siberian Cossack regiment. By 1914, Krasnov had risen to the rank of major general of the First Don division. Fleeing to the Don region to escape the Russian revolution, Krasnov was elected ataman of the Don Cossacks in 1918, after which he ousted the Soviets from the Don region and headed up the Don Cossack uprising. After suffering the ensuing defeat, Krasnov immigrated to Germany, retired from military life, and devoted himself to his literary career.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

During his retirement, General Krasnov published numerous books, many of which were translated into German, English, and other languages. He came out of his military retirement in 1943 to organize and lead Cossack units in the German Army. After Germany's defeat, General Krasnov was turned over to the Soviet authorities by the British Army. He was hung in Moscow in 1947.

Reverend Stefan Liashevskii, 1899-1986



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

Stefan Liashevskii was born in Taganrog, Russia, on June 17, 1899, and educated at the Novecherkassk tekhnikum, graduating in 1934. He worked as senior geologist for the Azov-Black Sea Trust in Rostov-on-Don until he was arrested in 1936 and imprisoned in a Siberian concentration camp for three years. On his release, Liashevskii returned to working as geologist. In 1943, however, he was ordained to the priesthood by the Russian Orthodox Church. As the Reverend Stefan Liashevskii, he immigrated to Germany in 1944, where he served in various parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, including the Saint Prokopius church in Lübeck. Liashevskii arrived in the United States in 1957 and served briefly in the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate before being assigned to a parish in Maine under the auspices of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. He was also a biblical scholar, historian and writer, publishing several works on various topics, including biblical archeology and lives of the saints.

Reverend Stefan Liashevskii died in 1986 in Augusta, Maine.

Vladislav Al'bionovich Maevskii, 1893-1975

Born on April 4, 1893, Vladislav Al'bionovich Maevskii began his literary career early, publishing his first work, a travelogue, in 1913, after enlisting as volunteer in the Balkan War of 1912-1913. During the Civil War, he joined the White Army as staff captain in 1919, evacuating to Constantinople from the Crimea in 1920 and then immigrating to Serbia, where he enrolled in the Theology Department of Belgrade University, graduating in 1931. Maevskii was a close friend of Patriarch Varnava (Rusich), serving both as his secretary and as librarian of the patriarchal library. In Serbia, Maevskii, who regularly contributed to Russian émigré periodicals, published several monographs on Russian and

Serbian church history, Russian history and Mount Athos, which he visited several times and which occupied an important place in his writings.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

In 1945, Maevskii immigrated to the United States, having been invited to teach at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. During his time at St. Tikhon's, Maevskii invited Bishop Nikolaj (Velimirovic), subsequently canonized by the Serbian Orthodox Church, to join the seminary's faculty. Maevskii taught a wide variety of subjects, both theological and historical, and continued to publish not only books but also articles in the Russian émigré press until his death.

Vladislav A. Maevskii died on January 16, 1975, in New York.

Konstantin Nikolaevich Nikolaev, 1884-1965

Konstantin Nikolaevich Nikolaev was born on April 12, 1884, in Kiev, Russia. A graduate of the Law Department of Kiev University of St. Vladimir, Nikolaev worked as an attorney in Kiev until 1918. In 1920 he immigrated to Warsaw, Poland, where he served as legal adviser to the Orthodox Church and held other diocesan assignments. In 1933, Nikolaev was exiled to Belgrade, Serbia, where he continued to advise church hierarchy on legal affairs. In this capacity, he worked closely with Patriarch Varnava (Rusich) of the Serbian Orthodox Church and Metropolitan Anastasii (Gribanovskii) of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia. Leaving Belgrade in 1944, Nikolaev spent the next two years in Germany involved in defense of human rights, especially concerning Russian refugees. In 1946 he founded the Union of Former Russian Jurists in Germany, reestablishing this organization in the United States after his arrival there in 1950. As chair of this organization, Nikolaev continued his efforts on behalf of the Russian émigré community.

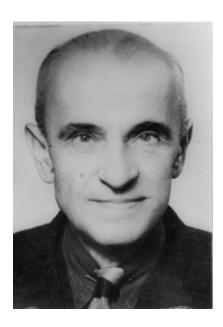


Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

Nikolaev authored several books on jurisprudence and church history, was a contributor to various émigré periodicals, and published and edited the journal *Za pravo i pravdu*. He died in New York on June 26, 1965.

Ivan Alekseevich Poliakov, 1886-1969

Ivan Alekseevich Poliakov was born into a Don Cossack family in Novocherkassk on August 10, 1886. His officer father sent Ivan to Donskoi kadetskii korpus, after which he went on to the Nikolaevskoe inzhenernoe uchilishche, graduating in 1914. Poliakov served in the Ninth Army as captain, joining General Petr N. Krasnov's Don Cossack Army in 1917 and being elevated to the rank of major general in 1918. Poliakov immigrated to Serbia in 1919. He returned to active military life during General Krasnov's involvement in organizing Cossack divisions within the German Army from 1942 to 1945; unlike Krasnov, however, Poliakov joined Vlasov's Russkaia osvoboditel'naia armiia.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

Poliakov was elected Don Cossack ataman in 1947, a position he continued to hold through 1965. Arriving in the United States in 1952, he published two memoirs, one dealing with the Don Cossack anti-Bolshevist struggle from 1917 to 1920 and another on General Krasnov's and General Vlasov's activities during World War II. He died in New York in 1969.

Aleksandr Kallinikovich Svitich, 1890-1963

Aleksandr Kallinikovich Svitich was born March 15, 1890, the son of a Russian Orthodox priest, in Vilno, still part of the Russian empire at that time. Following the usual path of children of clergy, he pursued a theological education, graduating from the Theological Faculty of Warsaw University in 1930 and teaching at the Vilno Theological Seminary. Svitich served on the editorial board of *Za svobodu*, a Russian émigré newspaper, to which he contributed numerous articles, at times using his pen name Tuberozov, and edited *V ograde tserkovnoi* from 1930 to 1933. As legal adviser to the Orthodox Church in Poland, Svitich actively defended the interests of the Orthodox Church versus the Catholic Church in Poland.

Forced to leave Poland for Serbia in 1937, he settled in Belgrade, where he advised the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in legal matters. In 1938 Svitich participated in the Second Russian Orthodox All-Diaspora; in 1945, he immigrated to Germany, where he lived in displaced persons camps before arriving in the United States in 1950. Reflecting on his years in Poland and his activities in the Orthodox Church there, he published a historical monograph in 1959 on the Orthodox Church in Poland and the issue of church autocephaly titled *Pravoslavnaia Tserkov' v Pol'she i ee avtokefaliia*.

Aleksandr Svitich died on August 17, 1963, in Denver, Colorado.

Nikolai Dmitrievich Talberg, 1886-1967

Nikolai Dmitrievich Talberg was born in Korostyshev, Russia, on July 10, 1886. B His family, of Swedish origin, moved to Russia from Finland during the reign of Catherine the Great. Both his father and grandfather were affiliated with Kiev University. Talberg studied at the Imperatorskoe uchilishche pravovedeniia, graduating with a gold medal in 1907. For the next ten years he served in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

In 1917, after the Russian Revolution, Talberg moved to the Caucasus but returned to Petersburg the same year and joined a secret monarchist organization headed by N. E. Markov. In 1919, Talberg left Russia, arriving in Berlin in 1920, where he continued to be affiliated and actively involved in Markov's monarchist organization, the Vysshii monarkhicheskii sovet.

With his move to Belgrade, Talberg also became more involved with the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia, eventually moving to the United States, where he accepted a teaching position at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York. Talberg authored several history textbooks, some still in use today at theological seminaries. He also published widely on Russian secular and church history.

Nikolai Dmitrievich Talberg died on May 29, 1967, in Jordanville, New York.

Constantine L. Zakhartchenko, 1900-1987

Constantine L'vovich Zakhartchenko was born in Lublin, Russia, on January 17, 1900. A graduate of the Imperial Naval Academy, he served as a midshipman, second mate, and second officer from 1916 to 1920. Immigrating to the United States, Zakhartchenko enrolled at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he graduated in 1923 and embarked on an engineering career. Zakhartchenko began work as an assistant chief engineer at the Shiuchow Aircraft Works in Kwangtung, China, from 1934 to 1943 and later worked for the McDonnel Aircraft Corporation and the United States Naval Ordnance Experimental Unit at the Potomac River Naval Command.



Courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary

He helped design and develop numerous aircraft, aircraft components, and missiles, including the jet engine afterburner, the McDonnell ZHJD-1 twin engine helicopter, and ZAUM-N-Z cruise missile. In 1956, he received the U. S. Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award

Constantine L. Zakhartchenko died in 1987 in Washington, D.C.

-Hoover Institution Archives, ca. 2009