

AMHERST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN CULTURE

The Olga Carlisle Collection
1960s-1970s

Summary: The Olga Carlisle Collection consists of material collected by Olga Carlisle, writer and granddaughter of Leonid Andreyev (1871-1919). Documents include early drafts of her mother Olga Chernova-Andreyeva's memoir *Cold Spring in Russia*, Carlisle's own memoir *Island in Time*, and a galley copy with editorial corrections of Solzhenitsyn's *The First Circle*.

Quantity: 2.00 linear feet

Containers: 2 record storage boxes

Processed: November 2012

By: Ethan Gates
Stanley Rabinowitz

Listed:

By:

Finding Aid: November 2012

Prepared by: Ethan Gates, Russian Center Assistant
Edited by: Stanley Rabinowitz, Director, Center for Russian Culture

Access: There is no restriction on access to the Olga Carlisle Collection for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish from the Olga Carlisle Collection should be sent 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.

INTRODUCTION

Historical Note

Olga Carlisle was born in Paris in 1931 into a prominent emigré literary family. Her father, Vadim Andreyev (1902-1975) was the son of major Russian writer Leonid Andreyev (1871-1919) and a well-regarded poet in his own right. Her mother, Olga Chernova-Andreyeva (1903-1978), was the stepdaughter of Viktor Chernov (1873-1952), a founder and major thinker of the Socialist-Revolutionary Party who was forced to flee the country when the Bolsheviks rose to power. Through her family's connections, Olga Carlisle grew up familiar with such figures as Maria Tsvetaeva, Boris Pasternak and Andrei Sinyavsky. Her family stayed in France during the Nazi occupation of World War II, as detailed in her memoir *Island in Time* (1980).

Carlisle attended Bard College in New York from 1949-1953. During her time in America she met her husband Henry Carlisle (1927-2011), and the two moved to New York City in 1953. Her first acclaimed memoir, *Voices in the Snow*, detailing a visit to Russia and her encounters with several prominent writers and cultural figures there, was published in 1962. Several other similar accounts would follow over the years, including *Under a New Sky* (1993) and *Far from Russia* (2000).

During one of her visits to the Soviet Union, Carlisle was introduced to Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, and assisted the dissident author in smuggling manuscripts of both *The First Circle* and *The Gulag Archipelago* to the West for publication. Together with her husband, Carlisle provided English translations for both works and found American publishers, although their relationship with Solzhenitsyn eventually soured, as Carlisle described in her memoir *Solzhenitsyn and the Secret Circle* (1978).

History of the Papers and Their Organization

In 1991, the Olga Carlisle Collection was donated to the Amherst Center for Russian Culture by Thomas Whitney, AC Class of 1937.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Scope and Content Note

The Olga Carlisle Collection consists of mainly of manuscripts collected by Olga Carlisle. Some of these documents were written by Carlisle herself or members of her family – others are related to prominent Russian and emigré writers such as Aleksander Solzhenitsyn and Sylvia Brui. Also included are some newspaper clippings related to Russian events gathered by Carlisle in the 1960s.

Organization and Arrangement

The Olga Carlisle Collection is organized into two series:

1. Andreyev Family Manuscripts (1970s)
2. Collected Material (1960s-1972)

Series Descriptions

Series 1: ANDREYEV FAMILY MANUSCRIPTS (1970s) contains drafts of Olga Chernova-Andreyeva's *Kholodnaya Zima (Cold Spring in Russia)* and Olga Andreyeva-Carlisle's *Island in Time*, as well as some unidentified manuscripts that may be attributed to the Andreyev-Carlisle family.

Series 2, COLLECTED MATERIAL (1960s-1972) consists of manuscripts by various Russian and emigré authors, a galley copy of the first edition of Solzhenitsyn's *The First Circle*, and newspaper clippings on Russian affairs from the 1960s.

Container List

Series 1: ANDREYEV FAMILY MANUSCRIPTS (1970s)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	no date	Carlisle, Olga, complete draft of her memoir <i>Island in Time</i>
1	2a	n.d.	Chernova-Andreyeva, Olga, typescript draft of her memoir <i>Kholodnaya Zima</i> (published in English as <i>Cold Spring in Russia</i>), chapters 1-21, with notes
1	2b		<i>Kholodnaya Zima</i> , chapters 21-39, with notes
1	3	n.d.	Handwritten manuscript for last chapter of <i>Kholodnaya Zima</i>
1	3	n.d.	Note from Olga Chernova-Andreyeva to Olga Carlisle
1	4	n.d.	Unidentified portion of a memoir, written in French
1	5a	n.d.	Unidentified typescript draft of a translation of a Russian

			Novel, with holograph corrections and notes from Thomas Whitney, chapters 39-54
1	5b		Unidentified typescript, chapters 55-74
1	5c		Unidentified typescript, chapters 75-86

Series 2: COLLECTED MATERIAL (1960s-1972)

2	1	n.d.	Bruil, Sylvia, "Dvadtsat' let," 136 pp.
2	2	n.d.	Hegge, Per, "Solsjenitsyn Can't Be Invited", draft translation of excerpts by Robert Dickerman, 50 pp.
2	2	n.d.	Louis, Victor, "Solzhenitsyn," photocopy, 8 pp.
2	3	n.d.	Poplavsky, Boris, photocopy of personal journal, 1921-1922
2	4	n.d.	Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander, <i>The First Circle</i> , galley copy of first edition with edits
2	5	1960s	Newspaper clippings on Russian affairs
2	6	1960s	Newspaper clippings on Russian affairs
2	7	1972	Varia – fragments, lecture notes