

AMHERST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN CULTURE

**Sophia Zernov (1899-1972) Papers
1930s**

Summary: The Sophia Zernov Papers contain research material, correspondence, organizational records and family material related to Sophia Zernov's activities of the 1930s.

Quantity: .5 linear feet

Containers: 1 archival box

Processed: March 2012

By: Natalia Ermolaev

Finding Aid: March 2012

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Access: There is no restriction on access to the Sofia Zernov Papers for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from the Sofia Zernov Papers should be directed 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

Sophia Zernov was born in Moscow on December 24, 1899. She fled Russia with her family in 1921, first to Constantinople, and then to Serbia. Zernov finished the Faculty of Philosophy at Belgrade University in 1925.

Zernov moved to Paris in 1925, where she became active in various Russian émigré relief, educational and religious organizations. She served as the General Secretary of the Russian Student Christian Movement (*Russkoe studencheskoe khristianskoe dvizheniie*) from 1925-1931, and from 1932-34 headed the employment office of the Russian All-Military Union (*Russkii obshche-voinskii soiuz*, ROVS). In 1935, Zernov founded the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France (*Tsentr pomoshchi russkim v emigratsii*, Centre d'aide aux réfugiés russes en France), and was General Secretary of this organization from 1935-1969. In 1939, Zernov opened an orphanage for Russian children in Montgeron outside of Paris. She was also involved in the Anglican-Orthodox Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius.

Sophia's brother Nikolai (1898-1980) and his wife Militsa (1899-1994) were also involved with various religious-intellectual émigré organizations France, and later England, where Nikolai taught at Oxford University and wrote several books on Russian Orthodoxy and ecumenism. Sophia's sister Maria (1902-1965) was married to Gustave Kullmann (1894-1961), a leader in the YMCA's work among Russians. Sophia's brother Vladimir (1904-?) was a doctor.

Sophia Zernov died in Paris on January 18, 1972.

References:

Za rubezhom. Belgrad-Parizh-Oksford (Khronika sem'i Zernovykh, 1921-1972). Ed. N.M. and M.V. Zernov. Paris: YMCA Press, 1973.

History of the Papers and Their Organization

In 1991, the Sophia Zernov papers were donated to the Amherst Center for Russian Culture by Thomas Whitney (AC class of 1937).

Custodial History: The Sophia Zernov Papers were housed with the following collections: The Russian Pedagogical Society in France Records, the M.M. Chatayu-Korvinoy Papers, the G.I. Novitsky Papers, the Zarochintsev Papers, the Cossack Bank Records, and the Kolokol'nikov Papers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Scope and Content Note

The Sophia Zernov Papers contain professional, research, personal, published material and correspondence related to Zernov's work with Russian émigré relief organizations in the 1930s, most notably the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France. The collection reflects Zernov's work on a broad range of assistance programs and collaboration with organizations and individuals in France, England, Switzerland and America. The collection traces the beginning of the Center's work with the Bern Relief Organization for Refugee Children (Bernisches Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder), which sent Russian émigré children to Switzerland for the summer. Included here is Zernov's frequent correspondence with her counterpart in Bern, Suzanne Blum. Letters of thanks from children Zernov's organization sent to Switzerland and England are also included.

The collection contains Zernov's professional and personal correspondence from the 1930s, such as a series of letters she wrote to Konstantin Nikolaevich (Kovarsky?). There are letters from friends and donors in England and America, inducing her "Russian mother" Mary Baker, who Zernov befriended during a trip to the USA in 1928. Included also are letters from Sophia Zernov's siblings, especially her sister Maria.

Languages: Russian, English, French, German

Organization and Arrangement

The Sophia Zernov Papers are organized into three series:

1. Materials related to the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France (1933-1938)
 - Sub-Series 1. Sophia's Zernov's Research Materials, 1933-37 (bulk 1936-37)
 - Sub-Series 2: Collaboration with the Bern Relief Organization for Refugee Children (Bernisches Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder) (1935-1938)
2. Correspondence (1930s)
3. Zernov Family Materials (1930s)
 - Sub-Series 1. Maria Kullmann
 - Sub-Series 2: Nikolai Zernov
 - Sub-Series 3: Mikhail Stepanovich Zernov
 - Sub-Series 4: Sofia Zernov varia

Series Description

Series 1. MATERIALS RELATED TO THE CENTER OF HELP TO RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN FRANCE (1933-1938)

Sub-Series 1. Sophia's Zernov's Research Materials, 1933-37 (bulk 1936-37)
Research materials gathered by Zernov for lectures, presentations, funding campaigns and publicity related to the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France. Contains official documentation, pamphlets, lecture notes and drafts, newspaper clippings, and correspondence with other refugee aid organizations. This series also contains letters Zernov received from children assisted by her organization.

Sub-Series 2: Collaboration with the Bern Relief Organization for Refugee Children (Bernisches Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder) (1935-1938)
Correspondence with Suzanne Blum, official documents, receipts, student rosters, and notes related to the Center's program sending Russian émigré children to Switzerland.

Series 2. CORRESPONDENCE (1930s)

Personal and professional correspondence. Zernov's letters to Konstantin Nikolaevich (Kovarsky?) 1932-1934, from members of the Russian émigré and refugee assistance communities in Western Europe, UK, and USA, including Mary Baker.

Series 3. ZERNOV FAMILY MATERIALS (1930s)

Sub-Series 1. Maria Kullmann. Photograph, correspondence (includes letters/notes from Vladimir Zernov and Gustav Kullmann)

Sub-Series 2: Nikolai Zernov. Correspondence, manuscript of article "A Russian Confessor" (1939)

Sub-Series 3: Mikhail Stepanovich Zernov (father of S. Zernov). Correspondence, clippings and letters related to his death (1938)

Sub-Series 4: Sofia Zernov varia. An unidentified letter, with photographs

Series 1. MATERIALS RELATED TO THE CENTER OF HELP TO RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN FRANCE

Sub-Series 1: Sophia's Zernov's Research Materials, 1933-37 (bulk 1936-37)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1933-1937 | Drafts of Zernov's letter regarding the work of the Russian Free Information Agency (<i>Russkoe bezplatnoe informatsionnoe biuro</i>), 1933 |

Drafts of Zernov's letters, lecture notes, publicity, official pamphlets, appeals, clippings and correspondence related to the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France, 1936-37

Letters to Zernov from children assisted by the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France, 1936-37

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|---|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 1936-1937 | Drafts of Zernov's letters, lecture notes, appeals and correspondence related to the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France, 1936-37 |
|---|---|-----------|--|

Pamphlets and other official literature of various branches of the Swiss Relief Organization for Refugee Children (Schweizer Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder) and the Save The Children Fund, 1934-37

Clippings from Russian émigré newspapers about the work of the Center of Help to Russian Refugees in France (n.d.);
Illustrirovannaia Rossiia (12 December 1936);
Sergievskie listki (No. 11-12, 1935)

Sub-Series 2: Collaboration with the Bern Relief Organization for Refugee Children (Bernisches Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder) (1935-1938)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 3 | May-Dec. 1935 | Zernov and Suzanne Blum correspondence, rosters, various documents, receipts, and notes |
| 1 | 4 | Jan-Aug. 1936; 1937, Dec. 19 | Zernov and Suzanne Blum correspondence, rosters, various documents, receipts, and notes |

Series 2. CORRESPONDENCE (1930s)

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 5 | 1932-1934 | Zernov letters to Konstantin Nikolaevich (Kovarsky?) |
| | | 1937 | 2 letters from Mary Baker |
| | | 1932-1937 | Correspondence from others (USA, England, France) |

Series 3. ZERNOV FAMILY MATERIAL

Sub-Series 1: Maria Kullmann

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 6 | 1930s | Maria Kullmann photograph (n.d); 22 letters, 2 postcards to from M. Kullmann to S. Zernov (includes letters/notes from Vladimir Zernov and Gustav Kullmann) (most undated) |

Sub-Series 2: Nikolai Zernov

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | 6 | 1932-39 | 3 letters form N. Zernov to S. Zernov (1932, 1934, 1937); Manuscript of article "A Russian Confessor" (1939) |

Sub-Series 3: Mikhail Stepanovich Zernov

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 6 | 1936-39 | 1 letter from M. Zernov to Vladimir Zernov (?) (n.d.) 1 letter from M. Zernov to Ilya Nikolaevich Kovarsky (1936) 2 letters from S. Zernov to Ilya Nikolaevich Kovarsky on occasion of M. Zernov's death and memorial service by the Society of Russian |

Doctors (*Obshchestvo russkikh vrachei*) (1938),
Clippings related to death of M. Zernov (1938)

Sub-Series 4: Sofia Zernov varia

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 7 | n.d. | 1 letter to Sofia Zernov from unidentified; 3 copies of a photograph |