Overview of the H. Lucas Ginn Letters Received

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Collection Summary
Title: H. Lucas Ginn letters received  
Collection Number: 2012C5  
Creator: Ginn, H. Lucas  
Collection Size: 4 manuscript boxes (1.6 linear feet)  
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives  
Stanford, California 94305-6010  
Abstract: Letters from pen pals in the Soviet Union, relating to social conditions and youth culture in the Soviet Union.  
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives  
Languages: Russian  
Access  
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], H. Lucas Ginn letters received, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information
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Accruals
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Biographical Note
In 1989, H. Lucas Ginn, then a California high school student, wrote to a Soviet magazine saying he was seeking a pen pal in the Soviet Union. Ginn's letter and address were published in Studencheskii meridian, a youth magazine; he subsequently received some two thousand missives from young Soviet citizens. The era of glasnost had just begun, making corresponding with their peers in the West a novelty for Soviet youth, which explains the exuberance with which they responded to Ginn's letter.

Scope and Content of Collection
Most letters, which came from all over the USSR, are brief (and in Russian) but do allow some glimpses of the interests of Soviet youth at the time, including music, current events, and AIDS. Historians and sociologists will find the letters interesting for what they tell us about how Soviet youth, ranging from fourteen to sixteen years old, viewed the world, the United States, and their own society in the crucial years preceding their state's collapse.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Youth--Soviet Union.