Overview of the Peter Kudrik papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff
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Title: Peter Kudrik papers
Date (inclusive): 1906-1991
Collection Number: 2017C25
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: English and Russian
Physical Description: 1 manuscript box (0.4 linear feet)
Abstract: Correspondence, diaries, other writings, reports, personal documents, and photographs relating to conditions in Poland during World War II and to Slavic librarianship in the United States.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
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Acquisition Information
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Accruals
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Biographical Note
Peter Kudrik was born Petr Aleksandrovich Kudrin in 1914. His family lived in Vilnius (now Lithuania, then Poland) between the two world wars, changing their last name to Kudrik. After World War II, Kudrik lived in a displaced persons camp in Germany before moving to the United States in 1950. He studied at the University of North Carolina, where he received his degree in library science, following which he worked as a Slavic librarian and curator at the University of Michigan and at Stanford University. Kudrik was Slavic curator at Stanford University Libraries in the 1970s. After retiring, he worked for a time as manager of the local Russian newspaper Russkaia zhizn' (San Francisco). Kudrik died in San Francisco in 1991.
Scope and Content of Collection
The papers of Peter Kudrik consist of photographs, personal documents, correspondence, and reports (in part relating to Soviet book trade and librarianship.
The key documents in this collection are Kudrik’s diaries and autobiographical writings related to his life in Poland during the Second World War. In these he describes the onset of the war and gives details on the early days of the Nazi and Soviet occupation of Poland from the point of view of a Russian émigré residing in the country. Particularly significant are the detailed diary entries describing Kudrik’s experience in Warsaw in 1944. These experiences formed the basis of an unpublished autobiographical novel, drafts of which are also among the papers. All of these materials are in Russian.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945--Poland.
Poland--History--Occupation, 1939-1945.
Libraries--United States.